



California Medical Evaluators
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Justin LaPilusa, Psy.D., QME Psychologist

EDUCATION

- Psy.D., Clinical Psychology, Magna Cum Laude, Alliant International University, San Diego, California, Spring 2011
- M.A., Clinical Psychology, Alliant International University, San Diego, California, Spring 2008
- B.A., Psychology, Magna Cum Laude, with honors, California State University, Sacramento, Fall 2004 - Spring 2006

HONORS AND AWARDS

- Deans List, California State University, Sacramento, 2004-2006
- Deans List, Sacramento City College, 2002-2003
- Psi Chi National Honors Society, 2003-2006

VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE

- **Republican Clinical Hospital, Tartu, Estonia, LVN; Physician Assistant**
06/1985 – 04/1988

CLINICAL EXPERIENCE

CEO and Founder: Auxilium Mental Health, San Diego, California, June 2013-Present

- Private practice focused on evaluation and treatment with patients dealing with a variety of mental health problems and challenges
- Conduct long-term and short-term individual psychotherapy with injured workers dealing primarily with chronic pain, trauma, depression, and other psychological work related injuries
- Facilitate a chronic pain management group offered to a diverse workers compensation population in terms of functioning, ethnicity, pain diagnosis
- Provide short and long-term treatment to a large community of clientele from the southern California region dealing with issues from relationship problems to existential dilemmas such as fear of death or lack of meaning
- Provide extensive evaluations and reports utilizing clinical interviews, personality assessment measures, and intelligence measures
- Serve as a Qualified Medical Evaluator for the state of California
- Conduct fitness for duty examinations

- Conduct clearances for surgery and other medical procedures including implantation of spinal cord stimulators
- Conduct pre-employment screening evaluations for California Highway Patrol (CHP), San Diego Police Department (SDPD), San Diego Sheriff's Office, Chula Vista Police Department (CVPD), and California Border Patrol
- Skilled in biofeedback treatments

Clinical Director: Pain Solutions Center of San Diego, Chula Vista, California, January 2014-January 2017, Medical Director: Joel Mata, M.D

- Clinical Director for an interdisciplinary team dedicated to increasing functional capacity for individuals dealing with chronic pain related injuries
- Managed all team members in the Psychology Department
- Oversaw recruitment efforts for candidates applying for a position in the Psychology Department program
- Created, planned, and conducted training and various developmental programs for new and existing program participants
- Worked closely with Program Manager and Medical Director to develop, link, and communicate best practice strategies
- Conducted long-term and short-term individual psychotherapy with injured workers dealing primarily with chronic pain, trauma, depression, and other psychological work related injuries
- Facilitated a chronic pain management group offered to a diverse workers compensation population in terms of functioning, ethnicity, pain diagnosis
- The group members focus on developing improved interpersonal and intrapersonal functioning utilizing a variety of techniques (i.e., acceptance commitment, and cognitive behavioral therapy)
- Facilitated a relaxation and wellness group, which incorporates cognitive behavioral relaxation skills, diaphragmatic breathing, meditation, mindfulness, progressive muscle relaxation, and music therapy
- Responsible for conducting the majority of all psychological evaluations for program participants
- Responsible for writing comprehensive reports that are used to help guide the course of treatment for patients dealing with intractable chronic pain and injury
- Utilizing nine years of experience working with chronic pain patients, I assisted in formulation and improvement of the Functional Restoration Program (FRP)
- In charge of marketing to the greater San Diego area with responsibilities that include purchasing, cold calling, office visits, development of marketing presentations, and educating providers about the benefits functional restoration
- Responsible for peer to peer consultations with utilization review doctor's
- Authored a 100-page participant manual
- Authored an 80-page therapist training manual

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Clinical Director: Southern California Pain and Wellness Center, San Diego, California, August 2012-August 2013, Sami Maywood, M.D.

- Lead Clinical psychologist and Clinical Director for an interdisciplinary team dedicated to increasing functional capacity for individuals dealing with chronic pain related injuries
- Conducted long-term and short-term individual psychotherapy with injured workers dealing primarily with chronic pain, trauma, depression, and other psychological work related injuries
- Facilitated a chronic pain management group offered to a diverse workers compensation population in terms of functioning, ethnicity, pain diagnosis
- The group members focus on developing improved interpersonal and intrapersonal functioning utilizing a variety of techniques (i.e., acceptance commitment, and cognitive behavioral therapy)
- Facilitated a support group to provide a safe and appropriate place for patients to discuss thoughts and feelings about chronic pain and associated difficulties. Utilize Irving Yalom's group therapy model
- Facilitated a relaxation and wellness group, which incorporates cognitive behavioral relaxation skills, diaphragmatic breathing, meditation, mindfulness, progressive muscle relaxation, aromatherapy, and music therapy
- Provided psychological evaluations to assess appropriateness for the functional restoration program
- Developed and helped build a state of the art biofeedback center utilizing Stress Erasers and Em-Wave biofeedback technology
- Utilizing seven years of experience working with chronic pain patients, I helped formulate and improve the concepts and structure of the Functional Restoration Program (FRP) and the Early Intervention Program (EIP) by writing new and improved department and program summaries
- Implemented the Future Is Today (F.I.T.) program to improve participants understanding of current technology, including the internet, email, and word applications
- Developed the Volunteer Initiative, which is a program dedicated to increasing volunteer opportunities for participants so that they can integrate into the community while working toward acquiring gainful employment
- Provided peer to peer consultations with utilization review doctors. These consultations involved in depth discussions about patient care to address the need for future treatment

Post-Doctoral Placement; Psychological Assistant, Psychological Health Center, San Diego, California, March 2011-August 2012, Supervisor: Lynne Deboskey, Ph.D.

- Provided long-term and short-term individual psychotherapy with injured workers dealing primarily with chronic pain, as well as trauma, depression, and other psychological work related injuries
- Facilitated a chronic pain management group offered to a diverse workers compensation population in terms of functioning, ethnicity, pain diagnosis

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- The group members focused on developing improved interpersonal and intrapersonal functioning utilizing a variety of techniques (i.e., gestalt, mindfulness, and cognitive behavioral therapy)
- Provided psychological clearance assessments and reports (i.e., spinal cord stimulator clearance)
- Administered and interpreted I.Q. testing
- Responsible for administering over 100 sessions of biofeedback utilizing Em-Wave biofeedback equipment

Post-Doctoral Placement; Registered Psychologist, Jewish Family Services, San Diego, California, October 4, 2010-September 1, 2011, Supervisors: Julie Kuck, Ph.D., & Oded Shezifi, Psy.D. (Primary)

- Devised and implemented a psychotherapy group offered to a diverse population in terms of functioning, diagnosis, and ethnicity
 - The group members focus on developing improved interpersonal and intrapersonal functioning utilizing a variety of techniques (i.e., psychodynamic, gestalt, mindfulness, and narrative therapy)
- Conducted long-term individual psychotherapy, family, child, and couples therapy with a high functioning population dealing with a broad range of issues from chronic pain and trauma, to spiritual conflict in relationships.
- Collaborated with a multidisciplinary team made up of mental health workers, social workers, adjunctive therapists, and psychiatrists to coordinate patient care

Half Time Internship; Jewish Family Services, San Diego, California, August 24, 2009-August 27, 2010, Supervisor: Bruce Sachs, Ph.D.

- Co-facilitated a domestic violence group with a diverse population of women
- The group utilized a variety of techniques, but was structured mainly as a process group, which provided an opportunity for group members to share their thoughts and feelings regarding the domestic violence they are experiencing
- Administered and wrote reports for neuropsychological evaluations under the supervision of a neuropsychologist
- Devised a chronic pain group, which occurred twice a day four days per week

Half Time Internship; Alvarado Parkway Institute Psychiatric Hospital, San Diego, California, August 2008-August 2009, Supervisor: Andrew Noorollah, Ph.D.

- Private inpatient and outpatient psychiatric hospital, which serves mainly low to mid-functioning patients
- Devised and implemented four outpatient pain management groups with a diverse population in terms of functioning, ethnicity, and diagnoses
 - Evaluated psychological and cognitive functioning of adults using:

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- Intellectual assessment measures: WAIS-IV, WAIS-III, WMS-III, K-fast, K-snap,
- Personality measures: MMPI-2, MCMI-II, BDI, SRI, SIMS, TOMM, ADD rating scale, and others
- Projective tests: Rorschach, TAT, Sentence Completion, Family kinetic drawing
- Facilitated and co-facilitated both process and psycho-education groups, utilizing a variety of techniques (i.e., cognitive behavioral, motivational interviewing, psychodynamic, interpersonal, logotherapeutic, etc.)
- Conducted short- and long-term individual therapy, family therapy, crisis intervention, milieu therapy, self-harm prevention plans, and conjoint therapy with both inpatient and outpatient populations
- Collaborated with multidisciplinary team of nurses, mental health workers, social workers, adjunctive therapists to coordinate patient care

Practicum; Jary Barreto Crisis Center, San Diego, Ca, September 2007-July 2008

- Conducted Individual Psychotherapy
- Facilitated and Co-facilitated group therapy on a number of topics including: Self esteem, interpersonal skills, stress relief, coping with depression, boundaries, addiction, and chronic pain to name only a few
- Developed treatment and service plans
- Conducted detailed and comprehensive intake assessments
- Participated in milieu therapy

Clerkship; Jary Barreto Crisis Center (JBCC), San Diego, California, September 2006–June 2007

- JBCC maintains a psychosocial rehabilitation philosophy designed to help adult, low income, co-morbid, low to mid functioning clients who are in crisis, either transitioning from a hospital or merely in need of safe and appropriate temporary housing
- Provided substance abuse treatment utilizing a variety of techniques: Cognitive behavioral therapy & motivational interviewing
- Provided individual brief psychotherapy with a chronically mentally ill population
- Co facilitated group therapy on a number of topics including: Self esteem, interpersonal skills, stress relief, coping with depression, boundaries, addiction, and chronic pain and many others.
- Developed treatment and service plans which emphasized the individuals strengths, weaknesses, intervention strategies, and proof of improvement
- Developed working knowledge of community resources for the homeless and mentally ill
- Participated in milieu therapy
- Co-facilitated a fundraising for the 2006 holiday season

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RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Research Assistant, California University, Department of Psychology, June 2005-June 2006

Ethnic awareness study examining the ethnic composition of social settings to determine if they were related to perceptions of race and ethnicity and related attitudes and emotions among ethnic minority members. Duties: data entry, data analysis, data collection, literature review. Supervisor: Greg Kim-Ju, Ph.D.

Research Assistant, California State University, Department of Psychology, January 2005-January 2006.

Multiple Roles and Coping: Examining the Impact of Multiple Roles on Stress. Duties: data collection, data entry, data analysis, literature review. Supervisor: Rebecca Cameron, Ph.D.

Research Assistant, California State University, Department of Psychology, January 2005-January 2006.

Post Traumatic Effect and the Iraqi War, Examining Coping Strategies for Returning Iraqi War Veterans Dealing with Post Traumatic Stress and Post War Neurosis. Duties: data entry, data analysis, literature review. Supervisor: Laura Riolli, Ph.D.

Research Assistant, Hiram Johnson High school, June 2005-June 2006

Examining Academic Achievement and Delinquency Among Ethnic Minority High School Students. Duties: data collection, data entry, data analysis, grant proposal write up. Supervisor: Greg Kim-Ju, Ph.D.

POSTERS AND PRESENTATIONS

Presentation, *Chronic Pain Conceptualization and Treatment*, Aurora Behavioral Health, San Diego, Ca, February 23, 2016

Presentation, *Use of an Interdisciplinary Evaluation*, Palm Desert, Ca, February 7, 2016

Presentation, *Chronic Pain: Advances in Clinical Treatment and Forensic Assessment*, San Diego Psychological Association, San Diego, Ca, October 10, 2015

Presentation, *From Worried Well to Mentally Ill: How to Diagnose Mental Health Issues in a 15 minute appointment*, Sharp-Rees Stealy, October 24, 2015

Presentation, *Advances in Chronic Pain Management*, U.S. Healthworks, Palm Desert, Ca, March 11, 2015

Presentation, *Functional Restoration Programs*, Pain Solutions Center of San Diego, San Diego, Ca, February, 2014

Presentation, *Functional Restoration*, NASSCO, San Diego, Ca, January, 2012

Hospital Inservice, *Cognitive Behavioral Therapy*, Alvarado Parkway Institute, Outpatient Services, San Diego, Ca, February, 2009

Hospital Inservice, *Chronic Pain Conceptualization and Treatment*, Jewish Family Services, San Diego, Ca, April, 2010

Case presentation, Grand Rounds, Community Research Foundation, San Diego, Ca, January, 2008

Poster, *Hispanics and Workers Compensation: An Examination of Over-reporting on the MMPI-2*, Society of Personality Assessment, Chicago, IL, April 2012

Poster, *Examination of the MMPI-2-RF: A Comparison of Americans and Mexican Women Entering into Substance Abuse Treatment*, Institute of Violence and Trauma, San Diego, Ca, September 2010

Poster, *Examination of the MMPI-2-RF: A Comparison of Americans and Mexican Women Entering into Substance Abuse Treatment*, San Diego Psychological Association, San Diego, Ca, October 2010

Poster, *An Examination of the MMPI-2-RF: Comparing Two Hispanic Populations Dealing with Substance Abuse*, California Psychological Association, Anaheim, Ca, April 2010

Poster, *An Examination of the MMPI-2-RF Disability Claimant Profile: Comparing Chronic Low Back Pain to Non-Chronic Low Back Pain Workers Comp Litigants*, Society of Personality Assessment, San Jose, Ca, March 2010

Poster, *Cross-cultural Equivalence of the MMPI-2-RF: A Preliminary Examination of an Israeli and an American Normal Sample*, Society of Personality Assessment, San Jose, Ca, March 2010

Poster, *A Preliminary Analysis of MMPI-2-RF Profiles of Inpatient Women with Eating Disorders*, Society of Personality Assessment, San Jose, Ca, March 2010

Poster, *Academic Achievement and Delinquency: A Cross Cultural Examination the Impact of Gangs and Violence on High School Students*, Western Campus Conference, Seattle, Washington, April 2006

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Poster, *The Interaction between Ethnic Composition and Social Setting: An Examination of Multicultural Settings on College Campuses*, Western Psychological Association Conference, Palm Springs, Ca, March 2006

**TEACHING
ASSISTANTSHIP**

Teaching Assistant, California State University, Sacramento; Business leadership, January 2005-June 2005. Duties: graded papers and tests, administrative responsibilities. Supervisor: Laura Riolli, Ph.D

Teaching Assistant, California State University, Sacramento; Multicultural Psychology, January 2006-June 2006. Duties: graded papers and tests, lectured two undergraduate classes, administrative responsibilities. Supervisor: Greg Kim-Ju, Ph.D.

**CURRENT
AFFILIATIONS**

Member of the American Psychological Association since September 2006

Member of the American Psychological Association, Division 22: Rehabilitation Psychology, since September 2013

Member of the American Psychological Association, Division 56: Psychological Trauma, since January 2017

Member of the American Psychological Association, Division 41: Psychology and Law, since January 2017

Member of the San Diego Psychological Association since September 2007

COMPUTER SKILLS

Microsoft Excel, Word, Powerpoint, SPSS, Epidata, RIAP 5.0, Q-local, M-wave, Alteer, Anasazi

REFERENCES

Dominic Addario, M.D., 3010 First Avenue, San Diego, Ca, 92103 (619) 295-2189

Joel Mata, M.D., 690 Otay Lakes Road, Suite 110, Chula Vista, Ca, 91910 (619) 941-2377

Andrew Noorollah, Ph.D., 7050 Parkway Drive, La Mesa, Ca, 91942 (619) 667-6093

Blaise Reidlinger, Ph.D., 2865 Logan Avenue, San Diego, Ca, 92113 (760) 458-5041

Oded Shezifi, Psy.D., 8804 Balboa Avenue, San Diego, Ca, 92123 (760) 215-3387

Bruce Sachs, Ph.D., 8804 Balboa Avenue, San Diego, Ca, 92123 (858) 674-6441

Ruth Samad, Ph.D., 8804 Balboa Avenue, San Diego, Ca, 92123 (858) 733-2254

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