

Curriculum VITAE
Gesenia Sloan-Pena, Psy.D.
Neuropsychologist

Psychologist School Related Psychological Assessments and
Clinical Interventions (SPACI) Clinic
College of Psychology
NOVA Southeastern University
3301 College Avenue
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33314
Email: gsloanpe@nova.edu

EDUCATION

Pepperdine University- Los Angeles, CA
APA accredited Clinical Psychology Program
Dissertation Title: Assessment and Diagnosis of
Autism Spectrum Disorder in Latino Children
Degree conferred 2015

Master of Arts in Clinical Psychology
Pepperdine University, Los Angeles CA
Degree conferred 2005

Bachelor of Arts in Communication and Speech
Northwestern University, Evanston IL
Degree conferred 1998

LANGUAGES

Bilingual Spanish - Native Fluency

TRAINING

October 2016- March 2018 Post-Doctoral Neuropsychology Fellow
Comprehensive MedPsych Systems
Recognized by AABN
 Fort Myers & Sarasota, FL
 Supervisors: John Meyers, Psy.D., ABN, ABPdN, Kathy Baum, Ph.D., ABN, Geoffrey Kanter, Ph.D., ABN, ABPdN

- Conducted comprehensive adult and pediatric neuropsychological evaluations
- Inpatient and outpatient medical consultation

March 2015- April 2016 Post-Doctoral Registered
Neuropsychological/Psychological Assistant
Fullerton Neuropsychological Services
 Brea, CA
 Supervisor, Priscilla Armstrong, Psy.D., ABPdN

- Comprehensive neuropsychological assessment for children and young adults
- Play therapy, CBT, family therapy with children, young adults and their families

August 2009- August 2010 Doctoral Psychology Intern
Orange County Healthcare Agency
Clinical Evaluation & Guidance Unit (CEGU)
Recognized by CPA and CAPIC
 Orange, CA

- Evaluations for minor dependents of the Orange County Court from birth to 17 years of age
- Comprehensive neuropsychological testing of children and adolescents exposed to trauma, abuse and neglect
- Provided brief CBT, family therapy, crisis intervention and case management to children, adolescents, families
- Assisted in crisis calls and psychiatric hospitalizations; conducted mental status and risk assessment evaluations
- Consulted with County Social Services, therapeutic behavioral service coaches (TBS), group counselors and psychiatrists

July 2008- July 2009 Doctoral Psychology Intern
Kaiser Permanente Behavioral Health
Department of Psychology/Psychiatry
Recognized by CPA and CAPIC
 Tustin/Santa Ana, CA

- Neuropsychological assessment of children, adolescents, and adults including the Autism Clinic
- Provided inpatient hospital consultation/interventions
- Individual, family, and couple's psychotherapy
- Psychoeducational and psychotherapy groups for children/adolescents and adults
- Provided evaluations, consultations and brief psychotherapy in a community based Diabetes Clinic and Behavioral Medicine Clinic

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- November 2023- Present Psychologist/Neuropsychologist
School Related Psychological Assessments and Clinical Interventions (SPACI) Clinic
Assistant Clinical Professor
NOVA Southeastern University**
- Train and supervise specialists, doctoral level interns and post-doctoral residents in NOVA Health Clinics
 - Facilitate didactic seminars and grand rounds
 - Provide crisis coverage with the Psychology Service Center (PSC)
 - Provide consultation and manage grant funding and research with the Shepard Broad College of Law
 - Teach psychology and neuroscience classes with the College of Psychology
- May 2021- Present Chief Neuropsychologist
Florida Neuropsychology Associates
Offices throughout Florida**
- Conduct comprehensive neuropsychological evaluations for pediatric (beginning at 18 months of age) and adult patients in English and Spanish
 - Civil forensic evaluations including medical malpractice, birth injury, and personal injury
 - Worker's compensation and fitness for duty evaluations
- October 2020- July 2021 Consulting Psychologist/Neuropsychologist
Kindred Hospital
Hollywood & Fort Lauderdale, FL**
- Neuropsychological and psychological evaluations, mental status examinations and brief psychotherapeutic interventions for patients within a hospital including a

rehabilitation unit, general medical floors, oncology, and Emergency Department

- Patient population: Stroke, spinal cord injury, pain management, oncology, pulmonary and sleep medicine, and endocrinology

June 2020- August 2023

**Staff Psychologist/Neuropsychologist
Comprehensive MedPsych Systems**

Fort Myers and Coral Springs, FL

- Comprehensive neuropsychological evaluations
- Civil forensic evaluations and workers compensation

June 2020- July 2021

Staff Neuropsychologist

The Neurology Institute/The Neurobehavioral Institute

Coral Springs, FL

- Conduct comprehensive neuropsychological evaluations for children, adults, and geriatric patients in English and Spanish
- Assessments to evaluate TBI/concussion, stroke, neurocognitive disorders, epilepsy, memory and dementia, ADHD, learning disabilities, Tic Disorder/Tourette's, anxiety disorders, depressive disorders, substance abuse disorders, somatic/conversion disorders, personality disorders, pain disorders, movement disorders, degenerative disorders, and various medical conditions
- Evaluations of toddlers and children using the ADOS-2 and other measures to assess and diagnosis Developmental Delays and Autism Spectrum Disorder

October 2019- July 2020

**Staff Psychologist/Neuropsychologist
Segel Psychological Center**

Coconut Creek, FL

- Neuropsychological, psychological, and psychoeducational evaluation and psychotherapy for children and adults
- Patient population: neurocognitive impairment, learning disabilities, personality disorders, ADHD, Tic Disorder/Tourette's, Autism Spectrum Disorder, Vocational Interest and Aptitude, intellectual disability, dementia and memory dysfunction, stroke, traumatic brain injury, epilepsy/seizures, and medical disability
- Referral sources: primary care physicians, neurologists, Center for Autism and Related Disorders (CARD), worker's compensation/civil attorneys, Vocational

Rehabilitation (VR) counselors, medical disability adjudicator (SSI), schools and families

**March 2018- October 2019 Staff Psychologist/Neuropsychologist
Comprehensive MedPsych Systems**

Fort Myers & Sarasota, FL

- Comprehensive neuropsychological test batteries in English and Spanish for children, adolescents, adults, older adults with TBI, concussion, strokes, neurocognitive disorders, spinal cord stimulators, deep brain stimulation, bariatric surgery, epilepsy, ADHD, learning disabilities, Autism Spectrum Disorder, developmental delays, anxiety disorders, depressive disorders, substance abuse disorders, somatic/conversion disorders, personality disorders, pain disorders, movement disorders, and various medical conditions including cancer, Lupus, and Multiple Sclerosis
- Civil forensic evaluations and workers compensation
- Evaluations of toddlers and children using the ADOS-2 and other measures to assess and diagnosis Autism Spectrum Disorder
- Gifted testing for children

**March 2018 - October 2019 Consulting Psychologist/Neuropsychologist
Fawcett Memorial Hospital**

Port Charlotte, FL

- Neuropsychological and psychological evaluations, mental status examinations and psychotherapy for inpatients within a hospital stroke rehabilitation unit, general medical floors, and Emergency Department including pain management evaluations and substance use/abuse assessment

**August 2013- April 2016 Post-Doctoral Resident
Neuropsychological/Psychological Assistant
Private Practice**

Newport Beach, CA

Supervisor, Christopher Ingalls, Ph.D., Q.M.E.

- Comprehensive neurocognitive and psychological assessment for children and adults: intellectual disability, dementia and memory dysfunction, stroke, learning disorders, ADHD, Autism Spectrum Disorder, TBI, concussion, sports injury/CTE and epilepsy/seizure surgery

July 2010- April 2016

**Independent Mental Health Consultant
Hannah's Children's Homes
Adoption Program & Foster Program
Orange, CA**

- Psychosocial assessments of children and families
- Devised thorough and comprehensive Structured Analysis Family Evaluation (SAFE) Home Studies for foster/adoption families
- Directed in home, school and community interventions for foster children and families

July 2010- July 2011

**Independent Mental Health Consultant
Rancho Santiago Community College District
Early Headstart Program
Santa Ana, CA**

- Parent/child interaction therapy, play therapy, caregiver consultation and attachment oriented interventions, for infants and toddlers and their families/caregivers
- Crisis intervention, couple's/family therapy and individual psychotherapy
- Developed Spanish and English infant-child mental health, infant-parent dyad, child development and behavioral training programs for teachers, staff and parents of children in the program
- Consulted and collaborated at IFSP meetings and with multidisciplinary treatment team members

October 2007- June 2009

**Registered Psychological Assistant
Private Practice
Los Angeles, CA**

- Comprehensive psychological and educational assessments to evaluate for cognitive delays, emotional difficulties, learning disorders, memory and attention problems, Autism Spectrum Disorder and giftedness

August 2005- August 2008

**Independent Mental Health Consultant
Mexican American Opportunity Foundation (MAOF)
& Inglewood Headstart
Huntington Park, South Gate & Inglewood, CA**

- Implemented cognitive-behavioral interventions for preschool children; social skills training groups for children with behavioral and attentional issues, speech and language disorders, developmental delays, and Autism Spectrum Disorder

- Crisis intervention, domestic violence counseling, couple's therapy and individual psychotherapy
- Created and conducted Spanish psycho-educational, child development and behavioral workshops for teachers and parents of children in the program

June 2004- September 2005 Mental Health Specialist

Starview Community Services

Long Beach, CA

- Developed behaviorally based treatment goals and comprehensive service plans as part of a treatment team
- Provided in home, school and community based cognitive behavioral therapeutic interventions for severely emotionally disturbed children, adolescents and their families
- Provided Co-occurring Disorder/Dual Diagnosis and wraparound services individually and through after school groups, relapse prevention, crisis intervention, medication support and skills development

RESEARCH

October 2016- 2019

Primary Researcher & Co-Author

Comprehensive MedPsych Systems (CMPS)

Fort Myers & Sarasota, FL

Supervisor: John Myers, Ph.D., ABN, ABPdN

- Determine validity of the MNB with Spanish speaking individuals
- Identify differences in gender scores when using the MNB with transgender adolescents
- ImPACT Normative Extension site to establish the validity and reliability of ImPACT Online for adults age 60 through 80

June 2004- June 2006

Research & Project Assistant

Pepperdine University, Psy.D. Department

Los Angeles, CA

Supervisor: Shelly Harrell, Ph.D.

Organized, collected and coded qualitative data using *NVIVO*, formulated and determined emerging themes from the narrative data

- Aided in the research, peer review, publication and editing process of articles in the *American Journal of Community Psychology*
- Facilitated dissemination of the Racism and Life Experience Scales (RALES) (Harrell, S.P., 1997) data and psychometric properties, assisted in the design and composition of the scoring manual
- Assisted in the writing and composition of grants for narrative research and project funding

August 2003- March 2004 Research Assistant

Bellevue Hospital & NYU School of Medicine

New York, NY

Supervisors: Purnima Thyagarjin-Valdez, M.D. & Allen Mendelsohn, M.D.

- Assessed motor, cognitive and behavioral skills using the Dial-3, the ESI-R, the STIM-Q, the ADDES, the BASC, the EBPS, and other behavioral and developmental assessments/ tests in English and Spanish
- Conducted inclusive evaluation of school readiness in 3-6 year old children, reviewed medical charts, referred patients found to have developmental, social/emotional or behavioral delays for further evaluation and determined standard deviation and cut-off rates for referrals
- Compiled and reviewed data with SPSS to determine what qualifies school readiness and what intervention pediatricians and mental health professionals can provide for children who exhibit deficits and developed early intervention research
- Results of research published in the *Journal of Developmental and Behavioral Pediatrics*.

PUBLICATIONS

Bond, M.A. & Harrell, S.P. (2006). Diversity stories in community research and action: The story of a special issue of AJCP. *American Journal of Community Psychology*

Harrell, S.P. & Bond, M.A. (2006). Listening to diversity stories: Principles for practice in community research and action. *American Journal of Community Psychology*.

Harrell, S. P., & Sloan-Pena, G. (2006). Racism and discrimination. In Y. Jackson (Ed.), *Encyclopedia of Multicultural Psychology*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications.

Valdez, P., Dreyer, B., Estrada, P., Ko, S., Sloan-Pena, G., Mendelson, A. (2004). Screening for educational readiness in pediatric primary care. *Journal of Developmental and Behavioral Pediatrics*, 25 (5): 371-373.

PRESENTATIONS

Sloan-Pena, G (2020, September). Neuropsychological Assessment: A Multidisciplinary Approach. Presentation provided for neuropsychologists, employees, and staff of The Neurology Institute.

Sloan-Pena, G. (2017). Neuropsychological Assessment with Transgender Adolescents. Presentation provided for neuropsychologists, employees, and staff of Comprehensive MedPsych Systems.

Sloan-Pena, G. (2010, September). Early Childhood Mental Health (0-5) and Trauma. Training provided for Orange County Healthcare Association- Behavioral Health Services. CAPIC Intern Training Program.

Sloan-Pena, G. (2011, April). Detection of Autism Spectrum Disorders in Infants and Toddlers. Training provided for the Rancho Santiago Community College Headstart and Early Headstart Staff.

Sloan-Pena, G. (2011-2013). Attachment and Trauma in Foster Children. Training provided for Hannah's Children's Homes Staff and Foster Families.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Graduate

- Child and Adolescent Psychopathology, NOVA Southeastern University
- Adult Intervention, NOVA Southeastern University

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

American Psychological Association of Graduate Students-Committee on Ethnic Minority Affairs (CEMA) Peer Mentoring Program Mentor
Co-Chair/Founder of the Latino Students Psychological Association at Pepperdine University

Pepperdine University Psy.D. Steering Committee and Diversity Council
 Pepperdine University Psy.D. Student Government Class Representative
 Pepperdine University Multicultural Research and Training Lab
 American Psychological Association Multicultural Conference and Summit
 American Psychological Association Expert Summit on Immigration

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

Division 37 (Society for Child and Family Policy and Practice), American Psychological Association, Member & Past Graduate Student Representative to the Executive Board
 Division 33 (Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities/Autism Spectrum Disorder), American Psychological Association, Member
 Division 40 (Society for Clinical Neuropsychology), American Psychological Association, Member
 Psi Chi National Honor Society, Member
 American Psychological Association (APA)
 California Latino Psychological Association (CLPA)
 Florida Psychological Association (FPA)
 National Academy of Neuropsychology (NAN) Member & Previous Professional and Organizational Development Student Committee Member
 Hispanic Neurological Society (HNS) Member and Mentoring & Education Committee
 American Academy of Pediatric Neuropsychology (AAPdN) Member
 International Neuropsychological Society (INS) Member

HONORS & AWARDS

Pepperdine University Diversity Scholarship- 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010
 California Psychology Internship Council (CAPIC) Stipend Program Recipient (2010)