

Outline

Use Neuroscience in the Treatment of Anxiety

Positives: We know more about anxiety-based disorders than any other disorders
Science gives explanations, evidence, authority, destigmatizes difficulties
Concerns: It can be difficult to explain, answer questions
Clients may feel a lack of responsibility
Oversimplification is inevitable

Enhancing Engagement in Treatment

Don't neglect the therapeutic relationship!
Address the challenges of anxious clients
Remember that strategies are effortful
Guide the process using client's goals
Maintain motivation

Neuroplasticity

Define Neuroplasticity in everyday language
Therapy is about creating a new self
"Rewiring" as an accessible concept for change
Re-consolidation: the modification of emotional memories

Identify Two Neural Pathways to Anxiety

Amygdala – bottom-up triggering of emotion, physicality of anxiety
Cortex – top-down emotion generation based in cognition
Explain the two pathways to clients
How anxiety is initiated in each pathway and how pathways influence each other

Client Friendly Explanations

Use illustrations to create concrete understanding
Fight/flight/freeze responses
The "language of the amygdala"
Anxiety and the cortex
Help clients recognize the two pathways to anxiety

Neuroplasticity in the Amygdala (Essential for all Anxiety Disorders, PTSD, OCD, Depression)

Sleep and the amygdala
The influence of exercise
Breathing techniques to reduce activation
Relaxation, meditation, and yoga to modify responses
Exposure as opportunities for the amygdala to learn combatting avoidance

When anxiety indicates that the amygdala can learn new responses
Push through anxiety to change the amygdala

Neuroplasticity in the Cortex (Essential for GAD, SAD, OCD, PTSD, Depression)

"Survival of the busiest" principle—strengthen or weaken specific circuitry
The healthy (adaptive) use of worry in the cortex
"You can't erase: You must replace."
Recognize and modify the impact of uncertainty
Training correct uses of distraction
Left hemisphere techniques- cognitive defusion, coping thoughts, fighting anticipation
Right hemisphere techniques – imagery, music
Mindfulness and anxiety resistances

Neuroplasticity and Medications for Anxiety Disorders, OCD, PTSD, Depression

Medication's effects in the rewiring process
The myth of the chemical imbalance
The danger of sedating the brain with benzodiazepines
Promoting neuroplasticity with SSRIs, SNRIs
The effectiveness of CBT and meds

Move Beyond Diagnostic Categories to Focus on Anxiety Pathways

Anxiety is a component of many diagnoses (depression, substance abuse, etc.)
Amygdala- and cortex-based techniques help in other disorders
Targeting brain-based symptoms rather than disorders
Worry, obsessions, rumination respond to similar cortex-based techniques
Panic, phobic responses, and compulsions respond to amygdala-based techniques

Research, Risks and Limitations

Empirical versus clinical and anecdotal evidence
Clinical considerations for specific clients and settings
Efficacy of particular interventions may vary



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Rewire the Anxious Brain

Neuroscience-Informed Treatment of Anxiety, Panic and Worry

LIVE Interactive Webcast
Friday, October 23, 2020

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Rewire the Anxious Brain

Neuroscience-Informed Treatment of Anxiety, Panic and Worry

Featuring neuroscience and anxiety expert,
Janene M. Donarski, PhD, LP, LMSW

- Apply brain-based strategies for Panic, Social Anxiety, OCD, GAD and PTSD
- Understand the difference between cortex-based and amygdala-based anxiety
- Motivate clients and calm the anxious brain using the power of neuroplasticity
- Increase client engagement by focusing on changing the brain - not simply decreasing anxiety

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Other Mental Health Professionals

Rewire the Anxious Brain

Neuroscience-Informed Treatment of Anxiety, Panic and Worry

Join neuroscience and anxiety expert, Dr. Janene M. Donarski and learn her keys for successful anxiety treatment. Dr. Donarski integrates brain-based strategies for calming the anxious mind with client communication techniques that motivate change in your clients. Janene's approach promotes adherence to treatment and strengthens the therapeutic alliance - which is essential when working with anxious, worried, traumatized, or obsessive clients.

Dr. Donarski will give you proven tools and techniques to:

- Identify and treat the roots of anxiety in both the amygdala and the cortex
- Explain "the language of the amygdala" in an accessible, straight forward way
- Identify how the cortex contributes to anxiety, and empower clients with strategies to resist anxiety-igniting cognitions

Register today for this transformational workshop and put the power of neuroplasticity to work for you and your anxious clients!

Speaker

Janene M. Donarski, PhD, LP, LMSW, is a fully licensed clinical psychologist and licensed master social worker who works in counseling therapy as well as psychological testing for mental health issues. Dr. Donarski specializes in neuropsychological assessment of children, adolescents, adults and geriatric populations including head injury, organic issues, emotional and complex behavior disorders. Dr. Donarski works extensively with anxiety issues including panic, hypervigilance and PTSD. She trains others in techniques of relaxation, reduction of fear, and exposure therapies to reduce triggers and symptoms in daily life. She assists in testing within the academic areas including ADHD, learning disabilities and autism for IEPs and/or 504 plans/behavior plans. Dr. Donarski works with all populations in counseling/therapy, including individual, marital/couple, family, LGBTQ, and group counseling. She is a certified EMDR Level II counselor, as well as a certified hypnotherapist and practitioner for Neuro-Linguistic Programming and Time Line Therapy®. Dr. Donarski is also experienced in working with victims of violence, foster care/adoption issues, sexual issues, as well as those who are seeking sex offender treatment. She often works with attorneys as a forensic psychologist/expert witness for legal cases involving custody, guardianship, social security benefits, and criminal cases. Dr. Donarski has spoken on a variety of mental health issues, including somatic ailments, behavioral disorders and mental health concerns in the geriatric population.

Speaker Disclosures:

Financial: Janene Donarski has an employment relationship with Family Therapy & Development Centers, Inc. She receives a speaking honorarium from PESI, Inc.

Non-financial: Janene Donarski is a member of the American Psychological Association; Michigan Psychological Association; and National Association of Social Workers.

Live Webcast Schedule (Times listed in Mountain)

8:00 Program begins

11:50-1:00 Lunch Break

4:00 Program ends

There will be two 15-min breaks (mid-morning & mid-afternoon).
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