## **Outline**

## **Use Neuroscience in the Treatment of Anxiety**

Positives: We know more about anxietybased 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

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

Sleep and the amydgala 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

how these symptoms inform treatment interventions.

relationship.

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

Efficacy of particular interventions may vary

**Objectives** 

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# Rewire the Anxious Brain

Neuroscience-Informed Treatment of Anxiety, Panic and Worry

# LIVE Interactive Webinar Friday, July 16, 2021

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## Join us online for this live training!

# Rewire the Anxious Brain

Neuroscience-Informed Treatment of Anxiety, Panic and Worry

Featuring neuroscience and anxiety expert, Catherine M. Pittman, Ph.D., HSPP

- 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

# **Live Interactive Webinar** Friday, July 16, 2021

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6. Analyze how psychotropic medication impacts neuroplasticity in the brain; identify related treatment implications.

2. Develop client engagement in treatment using personalized goals and attending to the therapeutic

3. Evaluate the differences between amygdala-based and cortex-based anxiety symptoms and identify

4. Demonstrate strategies for calming and training the amygdala in order to alleviate symptoms of anxiety. 5. Develop methods for teaching clients to retrain the cortex so that anxiety is resisted rather than

1. Analyze the underlying neurological processes that impact anxious symptoms for clients.

# Rewire the Anxious Brain

## Neuroscience-Informed Treatment of Anxiety, Panic and Worry

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

Dr. Pittman 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!

#### Live Webinar Schedule (Times listed in Central)

**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) Actual lunch and break start times are at the discretion of the speaker A more detailed schedule is available upon request.

## **Target Audience:**

Social Workers • Psychologists • Counselors • Marriage and Family Therapists • Case Managers Addiction Counselors • Speech-Language Pathologists • Therapists • Nurses Physicians • Occupational Therapists • Other Mental Health Professionals



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## **Meet Your Speaker**

Catherine M. Pittman, Ph.D., HSPP, is a professor of Psychology at Saint Mary's College, Notre Dame, IN. Dr. Pitman is the author of the popular book Rewire Your Anxious Brain: How to Use the Neuroscience of Fear to End Anxiety, Panic, and Worry. She has a background in cognitive behavioral therapy, neuropsychology, fear-conditioning research, and treated anxiety-based disorders in clinical practice for over 25 years. Catherine's experience makes her uniquely qualified to provide a clear understanding of neuroscience and how that informs the selection and application of successful anxiety treatment strategies. She regularly presents workshops at national conferences and national webinars on anxiety treatment, and is an active member of the Public Education Committee of the Anxiety and Depression Association of America.

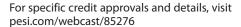
#### Speaker Disclosure:

Financial: Catherine Pittman is an associate professor at Saint Mary's College. She is an author for New Harbinger and receives royalties. Dr. Pittman receives a speaking honorarium from PESI, Inc.

Non-financial: Catherine Pittman is a member of the Anxiety and Depression Association of America.

## **CE CREDITS AVAILABLE FOR LIVE WEBINAR**

This continuing education activity is designed to meet state board requirements for the following professionals: Social Workers, Psychologists, Counselors, Marriage and Family Therapists, Addiction Counselors, Speech-Language Pathologists, Nurses, Occupational Therapists, and Physicians.



### **National CE Credit Approvals For Live Webinar**

Credits listed are for full attendance at the live webcast only. The CE certificate can be downloaded/printed after completing the webcast and passing the online post-test evaluation (80% passing score). Please see schedule for full attendance start and end times. NOTE: Boards do not allow credit for breaks or lunch.



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· Self-study CE certificate available

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## **Recommended Reading:**



The Anxiety, Worry & Depression Workbook 65 Exercises, Worksheets & Tips to

Improve Mood and Feel Better Jennifer L Abel, Ph.D.

\$2<del>9.99</del> \$22.99\*



## The CBT Deck for Anxiety, Rumination, & Worry 108 Practices to Calm the Mind.

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