

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

Moving Beyond Diagnostic Categories to Focus on Anxiety Pathways

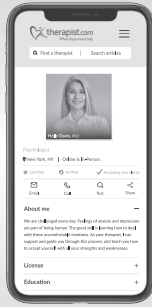
Anxiety is a component of many diagnoses (depression, substance abuse, etc.)  
Amygdala- and cortex-based techniques help in other disorders  
Targeting brain-based symptoms rather than disorders  
Worry, obsessions, rumination respond to similar cortex-based techniques  
Panic, phobic responses, and 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 Webinar  
Thursday, July 6, 2023

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# Rewire the Anxious Brain

Neuroscience-Informed Treatment of Anxiety, Panic and Worry

- 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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Objectives

1. Ascertain the underlying neurological processes that impact anxious symptoms for clients.
2. Develop client engagement in treatment using personalized goals and attending to the therapeutic relationship.
3. Evaluate the differences between amygdala-based and cortex-based anxiety symptoms and identify how these symptoms inform treatment interventions.
4. Communicate strategies for calming and training the amygdala in order to alleviate symptoms of anxiety.
5. Implement methods for teaching clients to retrain the cortex so that anxiety is resisted rather than exacerbated.
6. Analyze how psychotropic medication impacts neuroplasticity in the brain; identify related treatment implications.

# Rewire the Anxious Brain

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

Join Dr. Heidi Schreiber-Pan and learn her keys for successful anxiety treatment. Dr. Schreiber-Pan integrates brain-based strategies for calming the anxious mind with client communication techniques that motivate change in your clients. Heidi's approach promotes adherence to treatment and strengthens the therapeutic alliance - which is essential when working with anxious, worried, traumatized, or obsessive clients. Dr. Schreiber-Pan will give you 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 workshop and put the power of neuroplasticity to work for you and your anxious clients!

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

**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 • Psychiatrists • Counselors • Case Managers  
Marriage and Family Therapists • Occupational Therapists • Occupational Therapy Assistants  
Speech Language Pathologists • Addiction Counselors • Therapists • Nurses  
Physicians • Other Mental Health Professionals



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## Meet Your Speaker

**Heidi Schreiber-Pan, PhD, LCPC, NCC**, is a successful psychotherapist, author, clinical director and sought-after nationwide speaker on topics of resilience, anxiety, neuroscience, and occupational burnout. As an affiliate and former faculty member of Loyola University, Maryland, her past research has focused on resiliency and psychological well-being, including nature-based mental health.

Dr. Schreiber-Pan has worked with various organizations, schools and corporations to reduce stress on a communal level and to increase structural well-being through training in positive psychology as well as emotional intelligence coaching.

She has developed unique continuing education courses that combine established clinical methods such as CBT with innovative treatment approached including nature-based psychotherapy and neuro-counseling. She is the author of *Taming the Anxious Mind: A guidebook to relieve stress and anxiety*.

#### Speaker Disclosure:

Financial: Heidi Schreiber-Pan maintains a private practice and has an employment relationship with Chesapeake Mental Health Collaborative. She receives royalties as a published author. Heidi Schreiber-Pan receives a speaking honorarium and recording royalties from PESI, Inc. She has no relevant financial relationships with ineligible organizations.

Non-financial: Heidi Schreiber-Pan is a member of the Association for Counselor Education and Supervision, the American Counseling Association, and the Maryland Association for Counseling and Development.

## CE CREDITS AVAILABLE FOR LIVE WEBINAR

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

For specific credit approvals, details, and planning committee disclosures, please see the "credit approvals and details" URL below. For speaker disclosures, please see speaker bios.

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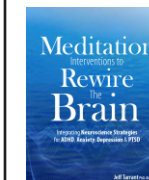
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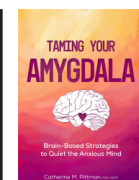


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