### Behavioral Assessment of Youth: Where Comorbidity is the Norm, Not the Exception

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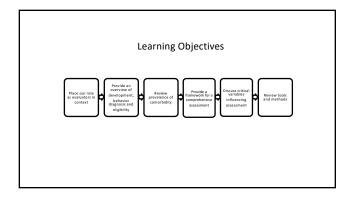
@doctorsamgoldstein



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### Disclosure

- My expenses for this talk are supported by Multi-Health Systems.
- I have developed tests marketed by Multi-Health Systems, Pro-Ed and Western Psychological Services.
- I have authored books marketed by Springer, Wiley, Guilford, Double Day, McGraw Hill, Brookes, Kluwer and Specialty Press.
- I am Editor in Chief of the Journal of Attention Disorders (Sage) and Co-Editor of the Encyclopedia of Child Development (Springer)

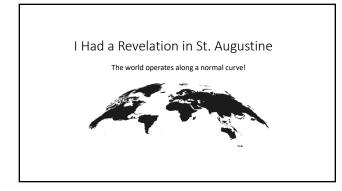


Preschool Graduation Part I

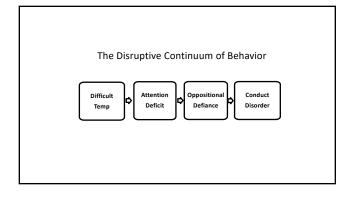


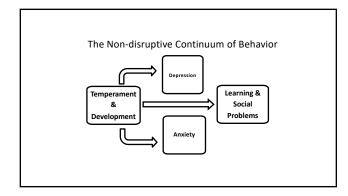








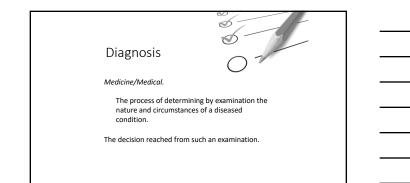






How Shall We Understand, Define and Categorize Mental Illness and Developmental Problems?

- By etiology or cause?
  - By emotions, abilities, behaviors and thoughts?
  - By impaired function in activities of life?

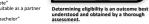


### Eligible

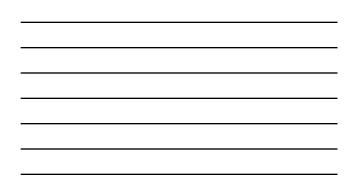
adjective Having the right to do or obtain something; satisfying the appropriate conditions. "Customers who are eligible for discounts" Synaryms: entitled, permitted, allowed, qualified, able



"Those people eligible to vote" (of a person) desirable or suitable as a partner in marriage. "The world's most eligible bachelor" Synonyms: desirable, suitable



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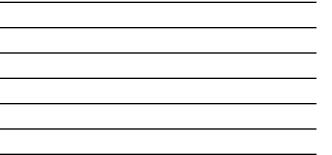


How distinct are these disorders from each other? Much less so than makes me comfortable!



### Co-Occurrence/Comorbidity

Dx	ASD	ODD	CD	Anx	Dep	LD
ADHD	59%	47%	22%	35%	41%	45%
ASD		4% to 37%	1% to 10%	42%	1.4% to 38%	70%+
ODD			42%	62%	39%	55%+



# How distinct are these disorders from each other?

Although the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH) has prepared well for this undertaking, much remains to be done. Rigorous diagnostic procedures are available for some mental disorders, but not all. Studies to identify the genes that influence the onset of mental disorders have been initiated, but too few are large enough to efficiently detect these genes. Dedicated investigators are working on various aspects of mental disorders, but more researchers with training in molecular and statistical genetics are required (NIH, 1997)



# How distinct are these disorders from each other?

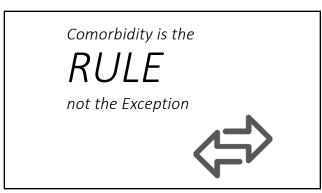
For over a century, psychiatric disorders have been defined by expert opinion and clinical observation. The modern DSM has relied on a consensus of experts to define categorical syndromes based on clusters of symptoms and signs, and, to some extent, external validators, such as longitudinal course and response to treatment. In the absence of an established etiology, psychiatry has struggled to validate these descriptive syndromes, and to define the boundaries between disorders and between normal and pathologic variation.

> Equations Notified B1 January 2021 Psycholartic generatics and the structure of psychopathology Janter K. Smith <sup>40</sup>, 64. A determine, Neural J. Edithery, Stephen Y. Faranes, Stephen J. Galf Kannah K. Smith

# How distinct are these disorders from each other?

Before the modern era of genomic research, family and twin studies demonstrated that all major psychiatric disorders aggregate in families and are heritable. Over the past decade, the success of large-scale genomic studies has confirmed several key principles: (1) psychiatric disorders are highly polygenic, reflecting the contribution of hundreds to thousands of common variants of small effect and rare (often de novo) SNVs and CNVs; (2) genetic influences on psychopathology commonly transcend the diagnostic boundaries of our clinical DSM nosology. At the level of genetic etiology, there are no sharp boundaries between diagnostic categories or between disorder and normal variation

> Eventine - National Clause 2018 Psychiatric genetics and the structure of psychopathology Literativ Studies (Cat Advances, Neural J. Literates, Styles J. Cat A Neural S. Studies



How Shall We Understand, Define and Categorize Mental Illness?

- By etiology or cause?
- By emotions, behaviors and thoughts?
- By impaired function in activities of life?

### What is the Goal of a Comprehensive **Evaluation**? · Identify and define symptoms? Identify and define strengths and weaknesses? Appreciate the relationship of a set of symptoms to a unitary condition? Define limits of functional impairment to set a baseline for intervention?

### Components of a Thorough Assessment

- History
- Broad Spectrum Questionnaires (Parent and Teacher)
- Impairment. Risk. . **Executive Functioning**
- Narrow Spectrum • **Questionnaires** (Parent and Teacher)



Self report Questionnaires

Achievement Assessment

Interview with student

Ability Assessment

### General Guidelines for a Comprehensive Evaluation

- A distinction should be made between acute vs. chronic problems.
- Person and environment protective factors need to be understood.
- Assessment should be strength and risk focused.
- Test results should be presented in ways that are useful to consumers (e.g. family, school, etc.).
  The least amount of assessment needed to answer
- referral questions should be completed.











Determining eligibility is an outcome best understood and obtained by a thorough assessment.



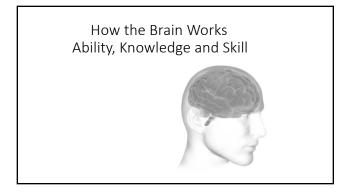
### Critical Issues In Assessment

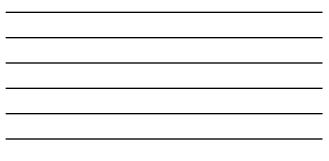
- Demographics
- Symptoms vs. consequences
- Categories vs. dimensions
- Eligibility vs. diagnosis
- Developmental pathways: accept a moment in time
- There are no shortcuts
- Assess the environment

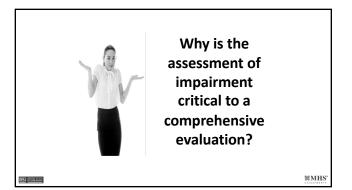


### Critical Issues in Assessment

- Ì
- Assess for intervention
- Understand positive and negative predictive power
- Understand sensitivity vs. specificity
- Begin with the disruptive/non-disruptive continuum
- Keep low incidence problems in mind
- Consider resilience (protective) factors
- Measure impairment







An exhaustive review of the literature demonstrates that the relationship between symptoms and functioning remains unexpectedly weak and often bidirectional (McKnight and Kashdan, 2009).

RSI BETTER SCALE

歸MHS<sup>。</sup>

Impairment is the reduced ability to meet the demands of life because of a psychological, physical, or cognitive condition.

### SYMPTOMS VS. IMPAIRMENT Impairment is not the same as symptoms

□Symptoms are physical, cognitive or behavioral manifestations of a disorder.

□Impairments are the functional consequences of these symptoms.





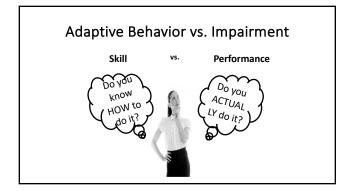
### SYMPTOMS VS. IMPAIRMENT

Impairment can exist absent of formal diagnosis. (Balazs et al., 2013; Wille et al.,

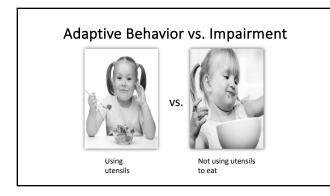
2008)

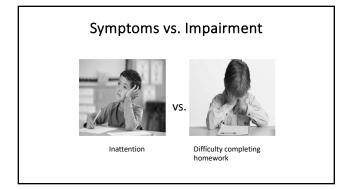
In one study 14.2% of a sample of children were significantly impaired without a formal diagnosis. (Angold et al.,

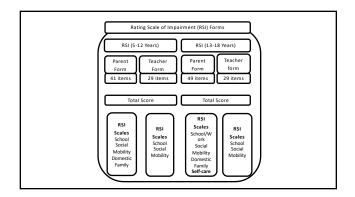
1999)





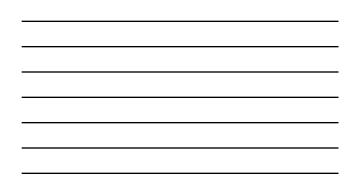


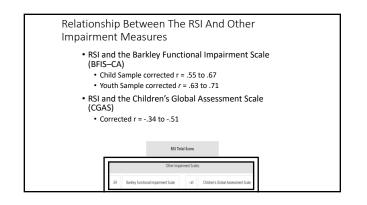






Relations Measure	ship Between <sup>-</sup> s	Th	e RSI And Ot	he
	RSI Tota	l Score		
Г	Adaptive Behavior		Psychopathology	
	.54 Adaptive Behavior Assessment System-II	.26	Conners CBRS — Content Scales	
ī	Social-Emotional Competency	.29	Conners CBRS — Symptom Scales	
	-71 Devereux Student Strength Assessment		Ability & Achievement	
E F	Executive Function	05	Wechsier Intelligence Scale for Children-IV	
	-78 Comprehensive Executive Function Inventor	06	Woodcock Johnson III Tests of Achievement	
L	Comprehensive Decome Forction Interests	03	Cognitive Assessment System	





### What do we mean by the term Executive Function(s)?

### Executive Function (s)

- In 1966 Alexandr Luria first wrote and defined the concept of Executive Function (EF)
- He credited Bianchi (1895) and Bekhterev (1905) with the initial definition of the process

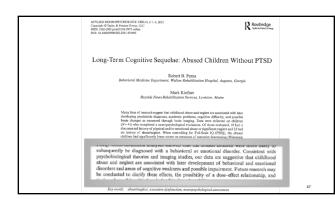


1902 - 1977



# Does Experience Shape EF? The Family Life Project has demonstrated that poverty is associated with elevated cortisol in infancy and early childhood. This association is mediated through characteristics of the household. Parenting sensitivity mediates the relationship between poverty and stress physiology. In combination parenting sensitivity and elevated cortisol mediate the association between poverty and poor EF in children.





### What Neural Activities Require EF?

- Those that involve planning or decision making.
- Those that involve error correction or troubleshooting.
- Situations when responses are not well-rehearsed or contain novel sequences of actions.
- Dangerous or technically difficult situations.
- Situations that require the overcoming of a strong habitual response or resisting temptation.

Goldstein, Naglieri, Princiotta, & Otero (2013)

- We found more than 30 definitions of EF(s).
- Executive function(s) has come to be an umbrella term used for many different abilities, including planning, working memory, attention, inhibition, self-monitoring, self-regulation and initiation carried out by pre-frontal areas of the frontal lobes.

### What is Executive Function(s)

- 1. Barkley (2011): "EF is thus a self-directed set of actions)" (p. 11).
- Dawson & Guare (2010): "Executive skills allow us to organize our behavior over time" (p. 1).
- 3. Delis (2012): "Executive functions reflect the ability to manage and regulate one's behavior (p. 14).

### What is Executive Function(s)

- Denckla (1996): "EF (is) a set of domain-general control processes..." (p. 263).
- 5. Gioia, Isquith, Guy, & Kenworthy (2000): "a collection of processes that are responsible for guiding, directing, and managing cognitive, emotional, and behavioral functions" (p. 1).

### What is Executive Function(s)

- 6. Pribram (1973): "executive programmes ...to maintain brain organization " (p. 301).
- Roberts & Pennington (1996): EF "a collection of related but somewhat distinct abilities such as planning, set maintenance, impulse control, working memory, and attentional control" (p. 105).

### What is Executive Function(s)

- Stuss & Benson (1986): "a variety of different capacities that enable purposeful, goal-directed behavior, including behavioral regulation, working memory, planning and organizational skills, and self-monitoring" (p. 272).
- Welsh and Pennington (1988): "the ability to maintain an appropriate problem-solving set for attainment of a future goal" (p. 201).

### What is Executive Function(s)

10. McCloskey (2006): "a diverse group of highly specific cognitive processes collected together to direct cognition, emotion, and motor activity, including ...the ability to engage in purposeful, organized, strategic, self-regulated, goal directed behavior" (p. 1)

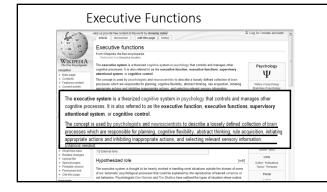
"think of executive functions as a set of independent but coordinated processes rather than a single trait" (p. 2).

### What is Executive Function(s)

- 10. Lezak (1995): "a collection of interrelated cognitive and behavioral skills that are responsible for purposeful, goal-directed activity," ...
- 11. "how and whether a person goes about doing something" (p. 42).

....

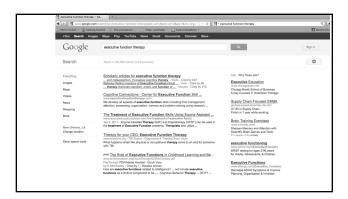
12. Luria (1966): "... ability to correctly evaluate their own behavior and the adequacy of their actions" (p. 227).

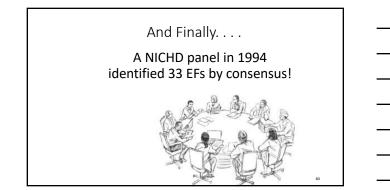


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Everything	Executive functions - Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia	
Images	en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Executive_functions The executive system is a theorized cognitive system in psychology that controls and	
Maps	manages other cognitive processes. It is responsible for processes that are	
Videos	14 Neuroanatomy - Hypothesized role - Historical perspective - Development	
News	What is Executive Function? - National Center for Learning Disabilities www.cid.ordasseutive-functioning/what-is-executive-function	
Shopping	Dec 17, 2010 – Executive Function is a term used to describe a set of mental processes that helps us connect past experience with present action. We use	
Books	processes that helps us connect pass experience was present accord, we use	
More	Executive function - effects, person, people, used, brain, personality www.minddisorders.com > Del-FI	
New Orleans, LA Change location	The term executive function describes a set of cognitive abilities that control and regulate other abilities and behaviors. Executive functions are necessary for	
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Any time Past hour Past 24 bours	www.christendroccnreaseutute.htm However, today's navry parents and educators realize that defoils in critical cognitive skills known as <b>executive functions</b> (EF) are slower to makare in many	
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	5-Day Courses in Downtown Chicago.	
New Orleans, LA Change location	What is Executive Function? - National Center for Learning Disabilit	
Show search tools	www.rcld.org/executive-functioning//whati-executive-function Doe:17,2010 - The brains continues to mature and develop connections well into adulthood. A person's executive function abilities are shaped by both physical	
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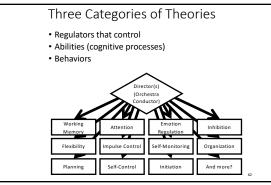




### The Top Six Were:

- Self-regulation
- Sequencing of behavior
- Flexibility
- Response inhibition
- Planning
- Organization of behavior





A similarly named ability and behavior (e.g. planning) may only overlap to a small extent in explaining outcome. In fact EF ability likely forms the foundation reflected in behavior, achievement, emotional regulation and socialization. The contributed variance likely is impacted by a host of other variables. Ability and knowledge interact with these variables to shape skillful behavior.



## EF and ADHD

EF deficits are not necessarily unique to ADHD. They are neither necessary nor sufficient to make a diagnosis of ADHD. When EF impairments are measured in children with ADHD they tend to reflect specific rather than global impairments.

### EF and Other Disruptive Disorders (ODD & CD)

Early reviews reported that EF deficits were not characteristic of children and adolescents with ODD and CD after comorbid ADHD was factored out. More recent studies, however, suggest that inhibition deficits may be characteristic of both ADHD and CD but whether children with CD display impairments on additional EF measures is equivocal.

EF and Tourette's

Distinct and robust impairments in EF do not appear to be characteristic of children with TD.

### EF and Anxiety Disorders

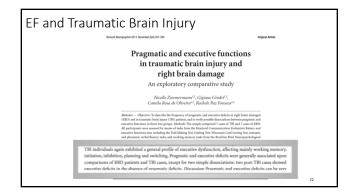
EF deficits in set-shifting, cognitive flexibility, concept formation, interference control, and verbal fluency have been documented among children with separation anxiety disorder, overanxious disorder, and PTSD. EF in OCD has not been well addressed.

### EF and Depression

Scant research has been conducted on the EF abilities among youth with depression. Studies that have included older adolescents have suggested some degree of sensitivity of EF tasks in identifying unipolar depression, but less specificity.

### EF and Bi-Polar Disorder

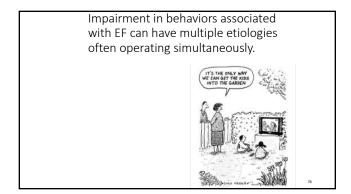
There is a growing consensus about the nature of BD among children. Several studies have targeted its EF concomitants. Although results often have been confounded with significant co-morbidity issues, children and adolescents with BD reliably have demonstrated impairments relative to those without any history of mood disorders on several EF measures (e.g. working memory, set shifting).







If all of these conditions are statistically related to behaviors and abilities reflecting EF than a common denominator must exist.

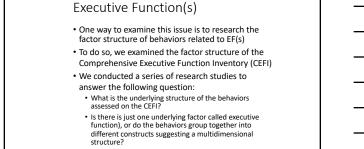


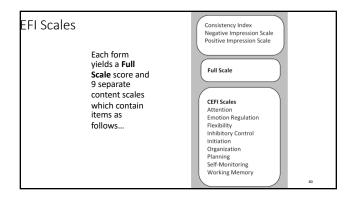
### Impaired Behavior Associated With Poor EF Can Result From:

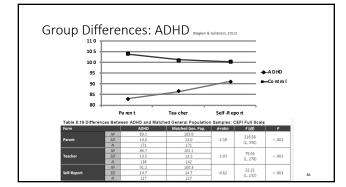
- Lack of ability.
- Lack of knowledge.
- Lack of motivation.
- Internalizing symptoms.
- Externalizing symptoms.
- Poor impulse control.

Starting with an assessment of EF behaviors defines the real life landscape and can be used as a foundation to than explore etiologies.

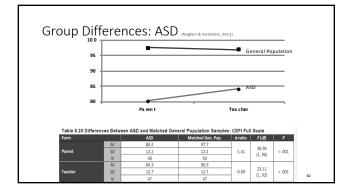




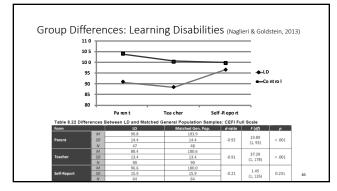




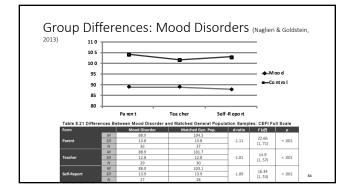












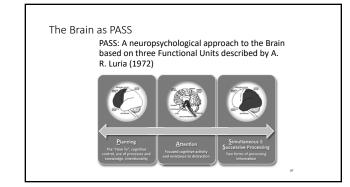


### Ability and Achievement

### PASS Theory

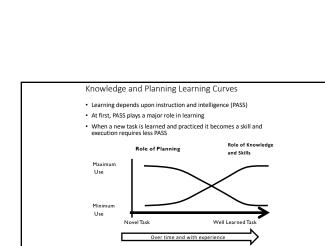
• **PASS** theory is a modern way to define 'ability' based on measuring neurocognitive abilities

- **P**lanning = THINKING ABOUT THINKING
- Attention = BEING ALERT
- Simultaneous = GETTING THE BIG PICTURE
- **S**uccessive = FOLLOWING A SEQUENCE

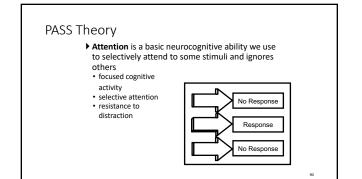


### PASS Theory: Planning

Planning is a neurocognitive ability that a person uses to determine, select, and use efficient solutions to problems
 problem solving
 developing plans and using strategies
 retrieval of knowledge
 impulse control and self-control
 control of processing





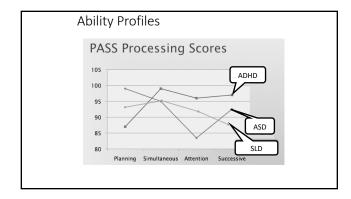


### PASS Theory

- Simultaneous processing is a basic neurocognitive ability which we use to integrate stimuli into groups and solve problems
  - Stimuli are seen as a whole
  - Each piece must be related to the others

### PASS Theory: Successive

- Successive processing is a basic neurocognitive ability which we use to manage stimuli in a specific serial order
   Stimuli form a chain-like progression
- Stimuli are not inter-related





### Organizing the Data

- A day in the life
- Ability/Knowledge/SkillTake a chronological perspective.
- Risk and Protective factors Determining eligibility
- Suggesting possible diagnoses
- Recommending needs
- Considering continuum of services

Roby You lied and said that you would spend time Kathleen Same with you

I am hat going to do my homewark untile i have a toy in my hand.

DEAR GOD, I wish I could be better in School. Can you help me.



Adopt a Learning to Ride a Bicycle Mindset!





