MOXO and the Future of ADHD Evaluation and Diagnosis

Sam Goldstein, Ph.D.

Assistant Clinical Professor

University of Utah School of Medicine

www.samgoldstein.com

info@samgoldstein.com

@drsamgoldstein

@doctorsamgoldstein

@CommonSenseScience

MOXO™

MOXO and the Future of ADHD Evaluation

- As psychiatry advances into a new data-driven era, the diagnosis of ADHD is being transformed by tools that blend traditional assessment with cutting-edge technology.
- At the center of this transition stands MOXO, a digital platform that offers real-time, quantifiable insights into attention and impulsivity.
- This talk briefly explores how MOXO exemplifies the shift from categorical diagnoses to dynamic, biologically informed frameworks in ADHD evaluation.

The DSM at a Crossroads

- The Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM), once a revolutionary document in psychiatry, now stands at a pivotal historical juncture.
- Initially designed to provide standardized diagnostic criteria in a time of limited biological understanding, the DSM's authority today is sustained more by institutional tradition than by scientific necessity.
- As neuroscience and computational models evolve, the DSM's categorical foundation reveals its limitations in capturing the spectrum of human mental variability.

The Shift to Precision Psychiatry

- The field of psychiatry is shifting from rigid, population-based diagnostic categories toward individualized, biologically informed approaches.
- Precision psychiatry seeks to tailor diagnostic and treatment processes based on a patient's unique neurobiological, genetic, and behavioral profile.
- This shift is not simply theoretical.
- It redefines how clinicians understand conditions like ADHD, emphasizing variability, dimensionality, and prediction over fixed classification.

The Role of MOXO

- MOXO exemplifies the transitional tools bridging traditional diagnosis and the emerging era of precision psychiatry.
- Unlike paper-based tests or observational scales, MOXO collects objective performance data in real-time.
- It tracks reaction time, attention, impulsivity, and motor activity under various distracting conditions.
- This generates a rich dataset for individualized analysis, offering a more precise picture of cognitive function.

Categorical vs. Dimensional Models

- Psychiatric diagnosis has long relied on categorical frameworks: a person either meets the criteria for ADHD, or they do not.
- However, this binary logic contrasts sharply with contemporary understandings of mental function as existing along continua.
- Dimensional models suggest that traits like attentional control or emotional regulation vary across populations.
- MOXO provides a platform for operationalizing such models, measuring performance along spectrums rather than fitting behavior into boxes.

Digital Phenotyping in ADHD

- Digital phenotyping (the use of digital devices to collect behavioral data in naturalistic settings) is transforming the way clinicians evaluate ADHD.
- Mobile sensors, voice analysis, and real-time cognitive tracking can capture patterns of distraction, hyperactivity, and executive dysfunction with far greater sensitivity and specificity.
- MOXO, with its capacity to simulate real-world distractibility, is a key contributor to this expanding digital toolkit.

Neuroinformatics and ADHD

- Neuroinformatics connects computational science with brain data, enabling a granular understanding of disorders like ADHD.
- By integrating brain imaging, genetics, and behavioral data, researchers can begin to map the underlying neurocognitive networks that shape attention and self-regulation.
- MOXO's multimodal output can be used alongside neuroinformatics systems to develop more accurate and predictive models of ADHD.

Attention Tracking

- A unique feature of MOXO is its ability to track attention and related behaviors simultaneously.
- It doesn't just measure whether a participant responds correctly, it captures how quickly, under what conditions, and with what physical behaviors.
- These additional data points open new diagnostic possibilities.
- Motion tracking, in particular, provides insight into hyperactivity that is often missed in purely verbal or cognitive assessments.

MOXO's Multimodal Capabilities

- What makes MOXO future-ready is its capacity to simulate complex environments with auditory and visual distractors while capturing multiple performance metrics.
- This multimodal approach mirrors the real-world contexts in which ADHD symptoms most impair functioning.
- By aggregating different behavioral signals, MOXO builds a richer, more sensitive and specific diagnostic profile.

ADHD as a Dynamic Condition

- Rather than viewing ADHD as a fixed disorder, it is increasingly understood as a condition shaped by dynamic patterns of cognitive regulation.
- Symptoms may fluctuate across time and context, making static tests inadequate.
- MOXO's ability to measure responses across time and under varying conditions aligns with this understanding, supporting a shift toward dynamic assessment models.

Beyond the DSM: RDoC and Dimensions

- The Research Domain Criteria (RDoC) initiative represents an effort to move beyond DSM categories toward dimensions grounded in neurobiology and behavior.
- RDoC sees attention, arousal, and regulation not as isolated symptoms but as transdiagnostic domains.
- MOXO can be viewed as an operational tool for this model, translating abstract constructs into measurable data.

The Role of AI in Diagnosis

- Artificial intelligence brings a new paradigm to psychiatric assessment.
- AI models can detect patterns in complex datasets that clinicians cannot, offering early identification of ADHD traits or responses to treatment.
- MOXO's structured data streams are ideal for feeding into AI systems, enabling predictive analytics that support clinical decision-making.

Computational Nosology

- The future of psychiatric diagnosis may lie in computational nosology, a classification system built from patterns in data, rather than committee consensus.
- Algorithms trained on data from platforms like MOXO can cluster patients not by DSM categories but by shared cognitive and behavioral signatures.
- This will create a more flexible and biologically grounded taxonomy of ADHD.

DSM and ICD Integration

- The DSM no longer functions alone.
- The global shift toward integration with the International Classification of Diseases (ICD) reflects a growing consensus that mental disorders must be coded in ways that support cross-border research, clinical trials, and public health surveillance.
- For tools like MOXO to have widespread impact, they must align with both systems and serve as bridges in global mental health infrastructure.

Predictive Modeling in ADHD

- Modern psychiatry aspires not just to describe symptoms, but to predict outcomes.
- Machine learning models trained on MOXO and similar datasets can forecast which children with early attention problems are most likely to develop academic or social difficulties.
- This allows clinicians to intervene earlier and more effectively, shifting care from reactive to proactive.

Real-time Data and Diagnostic Evolution

- In traditional psychiatry, diagnostic systems evolve slowly, typically over decades.
- But digital platforms like MOXO generate real-time data, enabling dynamic updates to our understanding of disorders like ADHD.
- Instead of waiting for the next DSM, the future diagnostic landscape will evolve continuously, shaped by empirical evidence in real-time.

DSM's Institutional Entrenchment

- Despite its limitations, the DSM remains entrenched within the institutions of psychiatry due to its role in insurance reimbursement, research design, and legal systems.
- MOXO and similar platforms must navigate this landscape carefully, offering compatibility with existing categories while gently pushing the field toward innovation.

Ethics of AI in Psychiatry

- While AI promises unprecedented diagnostic accuracy, it also raises ethical questions.
- Who controls the data?
- Can patients contest algorithmic classifications?
- MOXO, as an early example of AI-ready diagnostics, must lead in establishing ethical standards around transparency, privacy, and consent.

Algorithmic Empathy

- One of the most important challenges in computational psychiatry is ensuring that models reflect not just statistical accuracy but human empathy.
- MOXO's design, if informed by diverse populations and cultural variability, can serve as a foundation for more inclusive and ethically aware diagnostic tools.

Pharmaceutical Economics and the DSM

- The relationship between diagnosis and treatment is deeply influenced by pharmaceutical economics.
- The DSM's expansion over time has mirrored the growth of markets for psychotropic drugs.
- As MOXO and similar tools gain ground, they must resist commodification and maintain their scientific and clinical integrity.

ADHD in a Global Context

- ADHD is not a culturally neutral concept. Expressions of attention and impulsivity vary across cultures, as do norms around childhood behavior.
- For MOXO to succeed globally, its models must incorporate cultural sensitivity and avoid imposing Western-centric norms onto diverse populations.

Dimensional Models in Childhood

- Childhood psychiatry is beginning to embrace dimensional models that see behavior as unfolding along developmental trajectories rather than within static categories.
- Tools like MOXO, when adapted for children, can help capture these dynamic patterns and distinguish between normal developmental variation and clinically significant concerns.

MOXO in Pediatric Precision Psychiatry

- By collecting high-resolution behavioral data during interactive tasks, MOXO enables clinicians to build detailed cognitive profiles for children.
- These profiles can guide individualized interventions, offering a more tailored and developmentally informed approach to ADHD diagnosis and management.

Governance of Future Diagnostics

- As diagnostic tools become digital, questions of governance become critical.
- Who sets the standards for platforms like MOXO?
- How do we ensure transparency, oversight, and public accountability in a system increasingly guided by algorithms and data science?

Data Ownership and Patient Rights

- In a digital diagnostic landscape, patients must retain control over their data.
- Platforms like MOXO should be designed with privacy and autonomy at the core, allowing users to understand, access, and manage their personal diagnostic information.

Three Possible Futures for the DSM

- The first possibility is evolutionary continuity.
- In this scenario, DSM-6 largely preserves the existing categorical framework, refining diagnoses incrementally while improving alignment with ICD-12.
- Dimensional specifiers may be added to increase nuance, but the core structure remains stable.
- This pathway prioritizes reliability, administrative usability, and global interoperability, meeting the needs of clinicians, insurers, and policymakers.
- Its limitation is scientific: consensus-based categories would continue to lag behind advances in precision psychiatry, machine learning, and neurobiological modeling, preserving practicality at the cost of deeper validity.

Three Possible Futures for the DSM

- The second possibility is digital integration.
- Here, the DSM becomes a fully digital, continuously updated platform rather than a static book.
- Diagnostic constructs would be probabilistic and data-driven, informed by real-time inputs from clinical records, research databases, and digital phenotyping.
- Artificial intelligence could support differential diagnosis, treatment prediction, and longitudinal monitoring.
- This approach could finally reconcile reliability with validity, but it raises serious ethical and governance challenges, including algorithmic bias, data ownership, transparency, and the need for human oversight.

Three Possible Futures for the DSM

- The third and most radical possibility is a post-DSM era.
- In this future, psychiatry abandons categorical manuals entirely in favor of individualized computational models of mental functioning.
- Diagnosis becomes a dynamic process focused on deviations within neural, cognitive, and social systems rather than discrete disorders.
- While intellectually compelling and scientifically powerful, this approach risks destabilizing shared clinical language, insurance systems, legal frameworks, and public health policy.
- It's success would depend on building new infrastructures capable of preserving coherence, equity, and accountability

Three Futures of the DSM

- Together, these scenarios illustrate a central tension facing psychiatry: how to balance scientific innovation with social responsibility. The DSM's future will likely emerge from negotiation among these paths rather than a clean transition to any single one.
- MOXO supports the second path of digital integration, by demonstrating how diagnostics can be both clinically grounded and computationally agile, offering a living, adaptive diagnostic model.

Post-DSM Diagnostic Landscape

- A post-DSM era may eventually arrive, in which psychiatric knowledge is no longer codified in a manual but modeled dynamically through networks of data.
- In this world, MOXO and similar tools are not supplements to the DSM but core components of a new diagnostic architecture.

AI-Driven Clinical Dashboards

- The future of ADHD assessment may involve intelligent dashboards that integrate MOXO data with other health records.
- These platforms could suggest diagnoses, track progress, and recommend interventions, offering clinicians real-time decision support based on massive, integrated datasets.

MOXO as Strategic Infrastructure

- MOXO should be viewed not simply as a diagnostic tool, but as strategic infrastructure for 21st-century psychiatry.
- It's architecture enables integration with AI models, neuroscientific databases, and clinical workflows.
- It is a prototype of the diagnostic ecosystems to come.

Conclusion: From Manual to Ecosystem

- The story of ADHD diagnosis is no longer just about matching symptoms to checklists.
- It's about weaving cognitive science, real-time data, and computational models into a living system of understanding.
- MOXO is one of the first signs of this transformation.
- As we move from manual to ecosystem, from static codes to dynamic models, psychiatry must embrace humility, inclusion, and innovation.
- The goal is not just diagnostic accuracy, but a deeper, more human understanding of how minds work, adapts, and sometimes suffers.

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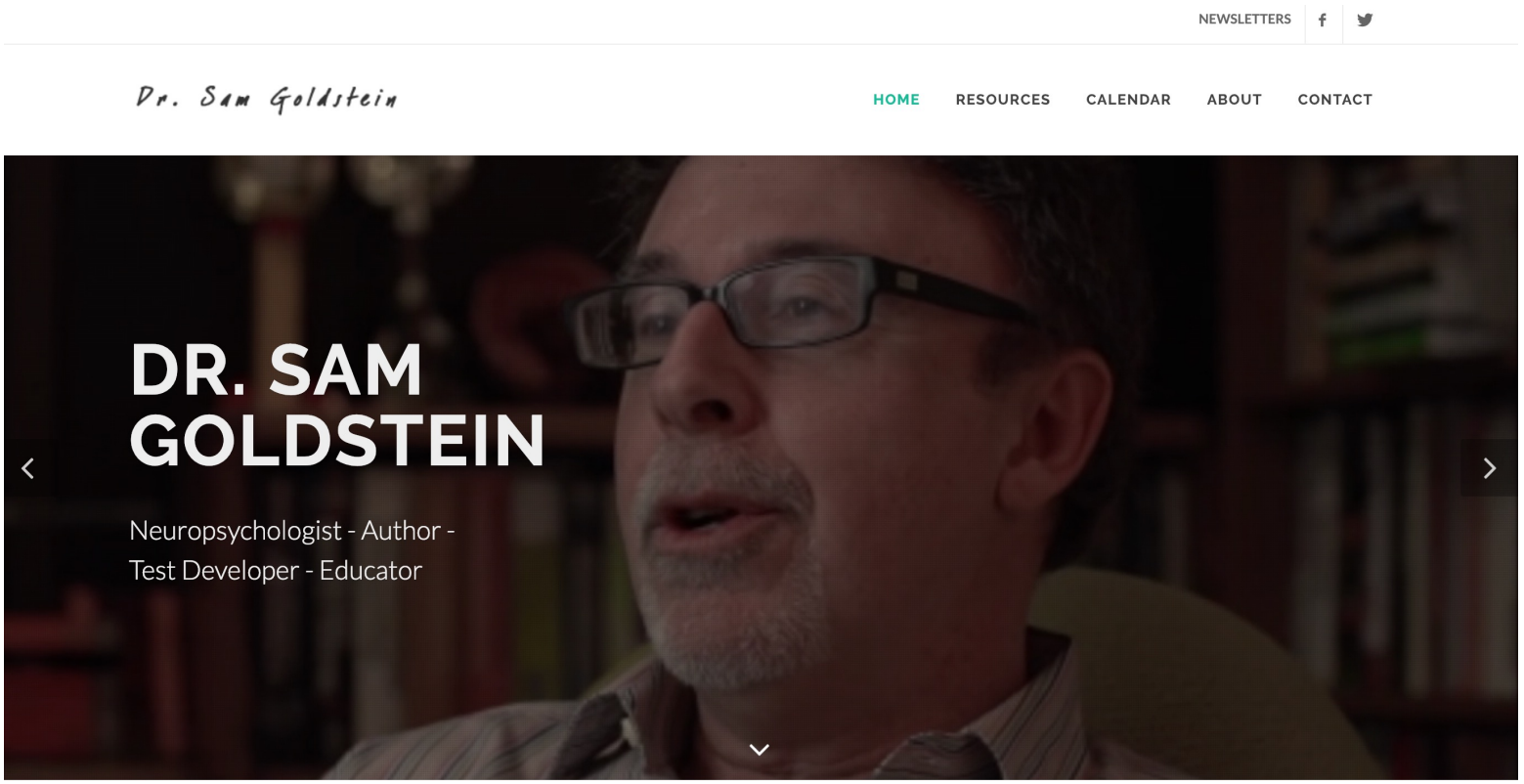

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www.samgoldstein.com

info@samgoldstein.com

@drsamgoldstein

@doctorsamgoldstein

@CommonSenseScience