

Melissa M. Santiago, Psy.D
Licensed Psychologist
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Education

Doctor of Psychology, Clinical Psychology – Distinction **August 2013**
Concentration: Neuropsychology
Albizu University
Miami Campus- Doral, Florida
APA accredited program

Master of Science in Clinical Psychology - Utmost Distinction **December 2006**
Albizu University
Miami Campus- Doral, Florida
APA accredited program

Bachelor of Arts **February 2002**
Clinical Psychology
Universidad Católica de Santiago de Guayaquil
Guayaquil, Ecuador
Affiliated with the International Federations of Catholic Universities (IFCU).

Work Experience

Licensed Psychologist/Owner **Dec 2015-present**
Productive Minds, LLC
Miami Lakes, Florida

Duties:

Provide psychotherapy and psychological assessments at an independent private practice to a multicultural population in both English and Spanish. Specialized in anxiety disorders, anger management, adjustment disorders, and posttraumatic stress disorder. Treat military personal and their families as well as evaluate military veterans for posttraumatic stress disorder. Offer psychoeducational, personality, emotional, adaptive, and attention deficit assessments to children and adults. Perform psychological evaluations for immigration including hardship waivers, VAWA, and citizen exam waivers due to disabilities. Perform personality assessments for parental custody.

Licensed Psychologist (Independent Contractor) **Dec 2016-Nov 2017**
ABC for Success, LLC
Coral Gables, Florida

Duties:

Provided initial psychotherapeutic assessments (intakes) at a community behavioral health center. Formulated treatment plans to a multicultural population servicing people of all ages in both English and Spanish.

Psychological Evaluator

Institute for Child and Family Health
Miami, Florida

Oct 2008–Dec 2016
(intermittently)

Duties:

Provided assessments at an non-for-profit outpatient mental health treatment center to a multicultural population in both English and Spanish. Performed psychotherapy to adolescents at their homes and at Jann Mann Educational Center. Offered psychoeducational, personality, emotional, adaptive, ADHD, and autism assessments to children ages 5 to 17. Administered English and Spanish versions of test. Offered recommendations to the clients' parents, teachers, and therapists. Children tested presented with developmental delays and medical conditions such as encephalopathy, cancer, seizures, and genetic disorder.

Supervisor: Aileen Mendoza, Psy.D , Mercedes Garcia, Psy.D

Clinical Experience

Post-doctoral Psychology Resident

Institute for Child and Family Health

Nov. 2013 – Dec. 2014

Duties:

Provided psychotherapy and assessments at an non-for-profit outpatient mental health treatment center to a multicultural population in both English and Spanish. Responsible for carrying a case load of ten ongoing individual psychotherapy cases. Performed psychotherapy to adolescents at their homes and at Jann Mann Educational Center. Conducted psychotherapy to adults at the outpatient center. Offered psychoeducational, personality, behavioral, emotional, adaptive, ADHD, and autism assessments to children ages 5 to 17. Participated in weekly individual supervision, didactic trainings, and case presentations. Administrative duties included scheduling appointments with clients and organizing testing materials.

Supervisor: Eileen Calderon, Psy.D.

Pre-doctoral Psychology Intern

Goodman Psychological Services Center
Doral, Florida.

Sept. 2012 – Aug. 2013

Duties:

Provided psychotherapy and assessments at an outpatient mental health treatment center to a multicultural adult population in both English and Spanish. Responsible for carrying a case load of ten ongoing individual and couples psychotherapy cases. Offered psychoeducational and neuropsychological assessments to children and adults. Participated in weekly individual and group supervision, didactic trainings, and case presentations. Administrative duties include staffing and reassignment of cases, scheduling appointments with clients, and answering telephone calls from potential clients with therapy or assessment related questions.

Supervisors: Maria Alonso-Mahoney, Psy.D., Evangelina Alonso, Psy.D, and Eileen Calderon,

Psy.D.

Psychology Extern/Volunteer

Apr. 2010 –Sept. 2010

Health Psychology Group of South Florida
Miami, Florida.

Duties:

Provided individual psychotherapy and assessments at an outpatient treatment center to adults and children in both English and Spanish. Conducted psychotherapy and offered vocational, psychoeducational, and neuropsychological assessments to individuals with a variety of emotional, psychological and medical problems. Performed pre-surgical clearance evaluations for spinal cord stimulator, interventions for caregivers and surgery preparations. Presented monthly case conferences and case conceptualizations. Trained and supervised new practicum students on providing clinical interviews, and the administration, scoring, and interpretation of intelligence, achievement, and neuropsychological tests.

Supervisor: Linette Castillo, Psy.D.

Psychology Extern

Apr. 2009 – Sept. 2009

Polytrauma/Post-Deployment Neuropsychology Clinic

Miami Veterans Affairs Healthcare System
Miami, Florida.

Duties:

Provided neuropsychological assessments to outpatient OEF/OIF veterans with known or suspected cognitive impairments. Performed structured clinical interviews and behavioral observations. Utilized cognitive, achievement, personality, neuropsychological, and behavioral measures. Administered, scored, interpreted, and provided written reports. Trained and monitored new practicum students on neuropsychological test administration and scoring. Taught practicum students how to use and navigate the CPRS system, schedule appointments and perform clinical interviews.

Didactics:

Attended educational activities, such as, Neurology Grand Rounds and Neuroanatomy Review Series.

Supervisor: Alison Donnell, Ph.D. ABPP

Psychology Extern, Neuropsychology Clinic

Mar. 2008– Mar. 2009

Miami Veterans Affairs Healthcare System
Miami, Florida.

Duties:

Provided neuropsychological assessments to inpatient and outpatient elderly adults with known or suspected cognitive impairments. Performed structured clinical interviews and

behavioral observations. Administered, scored, interpreted, and provided written reports of personality and neuropsychological tests. Trained new practicum students on neuropsychological test administration, scoring, and other responsibilities.

Didactics:

Attended educational activities, such as, Neurology Grand Rounds, Brain Cutting Seminars, Neuroanatomy Review Series, and Psychiatry Grand Rounds.

Supervisors: Carlton Gass, Ph.D., ABAP; Alison Donnell, Ph.D. ABPP

Psychology Extern, CIIRP

Sept. 2006- May 2007

Comprehensive Integrated Inpatient Rehabilitation Program (CIIRP)
Miami Veterans Affairs Healthcare System
Miami, Florida.

Duties:

Provided therapy to patients in the inpatient rehabilitation unit including brief psychotherapy, breathing techniques, relaxation therapy, guided imagery, pain management, and psychoeducation. Conducted substance abuse interventions, as well as guidance and brief psychotherapy to patients with a variety of disruptive behaviors. Completed intake evaluations, mental status evaluations, and briefly screened for cognitive impairments. Led and co-led weekly groups (Traumatic Brain Injury Group, Stroke Group) and a biweekly group (Outpatient Posttraumatic Stress Group). Developed progress notes, group notes, integrated reports, and treatment plans. Offered consultation and feedback to a multidisciplinary team including: medical staff, occupational therapists, physical therapists, speech pathologists, social workers, and recreational therapists. Facilitated in the training of new practicum students and psychology interns. Gave training to the nurses working in the CIIRP on specific techniques on how to manage disruptive behaviors.

Supervisor: Diane Polakoff, Psy.D.

Practicum Student

May 2005-Aug. 2006

Goodman Psychological Services Center
Doral, Florida

Duties:

Provided individual psychotherapy to individuals from diverse ethnic backgrounds with a variety of psychological problems using cognitive-behavior empirically supported treatments. Conducted structured and semi-structured clinical interviews. Completed treatment plans, case conceptualizations, and progress notes. Participated in didactic trainings.

Supervisor: Mercedes Fernandez, Ph.D.

Clinical Psychology Intern, Cardiology Department

Apr. 2001- Feb. 2002

Regional Hospital Dr. Teodoro Maldonado Carbo (IESS)
Guayaquil, Ecuador.

Duties:

Completed internship at a regional hospital. Conducted brief psychotherapy to pre and post-surgical patients in the inpatient Cardiology unit. Conceptualized cases and formulated treatment plans. Provided consultation and feedback to a multidisciplinary team including medical staff, nurses, case managers, and social workers. Informed psychoeducational details to patients regarding their current cardiac condition. Assisted individuals in need of family therapy.

Supervisor: Nora Guerrero de Medina, Ph.D.

Practicum Student

Sept. 2000-Jan. 2001

Psychiatric Hospital Lorenzo Ponce
Guayaquil, Ecuador

Duties:

Assessed adolescent females for clinical diagnosis through the use of various projective tests and patient interviews.

Volunteer Experience

Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion

2017-present

Our Lady of the Lakes Catholic Church
Miami Lakes, Florida

Duties:

Serve by distributing Holy Communion during mass, as well as to homebound parishioners who due to age or illness are not able to attend mass.

Why Catholic Core Team Member

2015-2021

Our Lady of the Lakes Catholic Church
Miami Lakes, Florida

Duties:

Why Catholic is a parish based evangelization and adult formation program and ministry. Completed the four year training and served in the Why Catholic ministry.

Catholic Hospice Volunteer

Feb. 2011-Aug. 2012

Catholic Hospice, St. Catherine's Rehabilitation Hospital
Hialeah Garden, Florida

Duties:

Provided support for patients and families at a hospice inpatient care center. Worked with a multidisciplinary team including: nurses, physicians, chaplains, social workers, patient care secretaries and other volunteers.

Research Experience

Santiago, M., Bravo, I., & Santana, N. (2011). Cognitive changes after childbirth: visuospatial memory, spatial reasoning, and processing speed in mothers.
Carlos Albizu University-Miami Campus, Doral, Florida
Doctoral Project: Empirical study, original data collection.

Cevallos, M. & Sanchez, O. (2002). El recurso a la droga en la adolescencia. (The allure of abusive substances in adolescence).
Universidad Católica de Santiago de Guayaquil, Guayaquil, Ecuador.
Clinical Psychology Thesis

Cevallos, M. (2002). Las enfermedades físicas como desencadenantes a la psicopatología clínica. (Physical illnesses as a trigger to clinical psychopathology).
Universidad Católica de Santiago de Guayaquil, Guayaquil, Ecuador.
Clinical Psychology Internship Monograph

Presentations and Citations

Walker, M. (2013, April). The mommy myth. *American Baby*, 37

Rettner, R. (2012, August 3). Good news for moms: having a kid boost your memory. *My Healthy News Daily*. Retrieved from <http://www.myhealthnewsdaily.com/2919-motherhood-brain-memory-smarter.html>

Santiago, M., Bravo, I., & Santana, N. (August, 2012). Cognitive changes after childbirth. Poster presented at the 120th Annual American Psychological Association Convention, Orlando, Florida

Certifications and Training

Why Catholic Program	2019
Medical Errors	February 2022
Florida Adult Forensic Examiner Training	August 2019
HIV / AIDS / TB / HEP C Education	April 2019
Revolutionizing Diagnosis & Treatment Using the DSM-5	December 2012
FARS Certification	October 2012
CFARS Certificate	June 2008
Stroke Education Series	June 2007

Additional Skills

Experienced in multicultural environments.
Bilingual-Bicultural. Speak, read and write English and Spanish fluently.
Outstanding interpersonal skills.
Proficient in Microsoft Office (Word, Excel, and PowerPoint) and the Computerized Patient Record System (CPRS).