

Susan S. Miller, Psy.D.
Licensed Clinical Psychologist
Specialty Areas: Child and Pediatric Psychology
Assistant Professor
CA license # PSY19995
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EDUCATION

- 1998-2002 **Azusa Pacific University**
Department of Graduate Psychology
Clinical Psychology and Family Psychology
Doctorate Clinical Psychology
Graduated: May 4, 2002
APA Accredited Program
- 1996-1998 **Palm Beach Atlantic College**
Department of Graduate Psychology
Master of Science, 1998 – Counseling Psychology
- 1979-1980 **University of Missouri—St. Louis**
Department of Education
Bachelor of Science, 1983 – Education

CLINICAL EXPERIENCE

- 4/1/08- Present **University of New Mexico, Albuquerque, NM**
Department of Pediatrics
School of Medicine, Assistant Professor
Carrie Tingley Rehabilitation Unit
- In patient
 - Out patient (Pain Clinic and Behavioral Clinic)
- Medical Facility:** Clinic and Pediatric psychologist
- Cognitive Rehabilitation Therapy (computerized)
 - Individual and Family therapy for children and family members
 - Parent Group
 - Developmental, Neuropsychological, Educational and Emotional testing with patients 3 months – 21 years of age.
 - Pain Clinic
 - Supervision of Psychology Interns and graduate students
 - Teaching Residents
 - Didactic Trainings for Nurses/Techs/ Students
 - Presentations
 - Psychoeducational Seminars
 - Guest Lecturing

- 1/07 – 11/2007 **Cedars Sinai Medical Center, Beverly Hills, CA**
Medical staff; Clinical and Pediatric psychologist for the Division of Neurosurgery; member of Craniofacial Team since 6/05
- Bayley III pre- and post-surgery testing of babies with brain tumors and craniofacial diagnoses
 - Individual and Family therapy for children and families
- 1/06- 2007 **Mending Kids, Cedars Sinai Medical Center, Los Angeles, CA**
Clinical and Pediatric Psychologist
Mending Kids is a non profit organization that brings children from around the world to Cedars Sinai Medical Center for urgent medical care. While the child is in the hospital Mending Kids provides services for the child's complete recovery. This includes psychological care as well as medical care.
- 1/05- Present **Private Practice, Beverly Hills, CA**
- Individual therapy for adults and children
 - Family therapy
- 8/04 – 12/06 **Childrens Hospital Los Angeles/USC University Affiliated Program/University of Southern California Keck School of Medicine**
Medical Staff, Clinical Psychologist, Division of Plastic Surgery and Member of the Pediatric Faculty for Division of Mental Health
- Provide psychological services in a pediatric medical setting.
- Individual, family and group therapy
 - Psychological assessments
 - Developmental assessments
 - Consultation/liaison services with interdisciplinary medical team
 - Member of Craniofacial Team
 - Supervision and training of Interns and Fellows
 - Research
 - Psychoeducational seminars
 - Didactic training
 - Presentations
 - In Service Trainings for Interns and Fellows
- 9/02 – 8/04 **Childrens Hospital Los Angeles/ USC University Affiliated Program/University of Southern California Keck School of Medicine**
Pediatric Rotation, Division of Plastic Surgery
- Post-Doctoral Fellowship (2 years to become a pediatric psychologist)
- Supervisors: Dr. Stephanie Marcy and Dr. Jennifer Rafeedie
- Individual therapy with patients (ages 3-21) who have anxiety, adjustment problems, depression, body image difficulty, PTSD, developmental delays, cognitive impairment, and psychosocial issues.

- Craniofacial and Craniosynostosis Team member, interfacing with the MD's, nurses, social workers, Regional Centers, and School Districts (IEP's)
- Provided in-house training on psychological treatment of pre- and post-surgical patients
- Provided educational testing for pediatric population
- Designed and implemented parallel patient and parent groups to alleviate depression and anxiety, and increase self-esteem due to disfigurement
- Expanded community outreach and involvement in psychological treatment programs
- Designed and implemented pediatric/family obesity group
- Supervision of psychology intern for the Craniofacial Team
- Conducted school re-entry program for Craniofacial population; trained educators and parents to conduct school re-entry program
- Facilitated longitudinal research program designed to evaluate the effects of early surgical intervention on cognitive functioning of Craniosynostosis patients
- Attended weekly didactic trainings in pediatric and plastic surgery departments

9/01-8/02

Childrens Hospital Los Angeles/ USC University Affiliated Program/University of Southern California Keck School of Medicine
Division of Plastic Surgery, Pediatric Rotation

Pre-Doctoral Internship

Supervisors: Dr. Jennifer Rafeedie and Dr. Stephanie Marcy

- Pre- and post surgery pediatric assessment
- Individual therapy with patients who have anxiety, adjustment, depression, and acting out issues due to medical conditions
- Group therapy work with children who suffer from body image difficulties
- Craniofacial team member interfacing with MD's, Nurses, Social Workers, Regional Centers and School Districts (IEP, AB3632 meetings)
- Child therapy and pediatric assessment
- Provided group therapy, including multicultural team member to better handle monolingual Spanish-speaking parents
- Conducted intake assessments based on Department of Mental Health guidelines, including goal setting and diagnosis
- Provided case management
- Attended weekly grand rounds training sessions including both medical and psychosocial topics applicable to the pediatric population

7/00-6/01

Childrens Hospital Los Angeles
Allergy/Immunology and Division of Plastic Surgery
Pre-Internship Practicum
Supervisor: Dr. Karen Rathburn

- Pre- and post surgery pediatric assessment
- Individual therapy with teen patients who have anxiety issues due to medical conditions

- Group therapy work with teens who suffer from body image difficulties
- Craniofacial team member
- Allergy/Immunology/HIV team member
- Interface with MD's, Nurses, Social Workers, Regional Centers and School Districts
- Child therapy and pediatric assessment
- Developed and implemented a 10-week, closed therapy group to help girls ages 10-13 develop social skills that include learning how to be assertive, how to handle staring and rude remarks, how to relax, as well as beauty tips on ways they can help themselves look their best
- Provided parent support group component running concurrent with the girl's group. The parent group teaches the same skills and techniques, giving them a safe place to vent and be heard.

9/99- 8/00

Verdugo Mental Health Center, Glendale CA

Day treatment facility for adult psychotics and their families

Pre-Internship Practicum

Supervisor: Anat Cohen, Ph.D.

- Crisis intervention
- Intakes
- Testing
- Social skills training
- Group therapy
- Self-control training
- Problem solving skill
- Facilitated understanding of dysfunctional grieving and low self-esteem
- Eating disturbances
- Provided education on medication compliance
- Stress/relaxation training
- Made community referrals
- Psycho-social rehabilitation model used at this center

9/99-1/00

Azusa Pacific Student Counseling Center, Azusa, CA

Student Counseling Center

Supervisor: Beth Houskamp, Ph.D.

Clerkship

- Testing, evaluation and feedback.

1/99-6/99

Azusa Pacific Family Counseling Center, Azusa, CA

Family Counseling Center

Supervisors: Beth Houskamp, Ph.D. and Sheryn Scott, Ph.D.

Pre-Internship Practicum

- Intake interviews; adult, weekly, individual clients.

10/97-4/98

Center for Group Counseling, Boca Raton, FL

Counseling Center

Supervisor: Mike Walczak, Ph.D.

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

2009- Completed **The Role of Parental Stress on Treatment Outcome in Pediatric Feeding Disorders**

University of New Mexico, Department of Pediatrics

PI: Susan Miller, Psy.D. Completed. Presented for Peer review at Pediatric Grand Rounds

2007 – Completed **Effects of Art Workshops on Childrens Distress Behaviors While Waiting for Medical Appointments or Procedures**

Childrens Hospital Los Angeles/ USC University Affiliated Program/University of Southern California Keck School of Medicine

Designer and Researcher

Supervisor: Mark Urata, MD

Presented for Peer review at the 66th Annual Conference for Cleft-Palate Association in AZ.

Manuscript phase of editing for publication

2007 -2008 **Interim Study of Bayley Testing for Children, its Effectiveness to Diagnose.**

Childrens Hospital Los Angeles/ USC University Affiliated Program/University of Southern California Keck School of Medicine and University of Washington/Northwestern University

Researcher

Supervisor: Mark Urata, MD

Topic

An Assessment of Neuropsychological Functions in Patients Diagnosed with Craniosynostosis.

Summary

The aim of this retrospective study is to review, quantify, and correlate the pre and postoperative Bayley Scales of Infant Development-II (BSID-II) scores in this select patient population. The findings of this study may have future treatment, education, and counseling implications in patients with craniosynostosis.

2003-2006 **Group Therapy to Enhance Adjustment in Girls with Craniofacial Scarring**

Childrens Hospital Los Angeles/ USC University Affiliated Program/University of Southern California Keck School of Medicine

Author and Researcher

Supervisor: John Reinisch, MD

Abstract

The purpose of this investigation was to determine the impact of group therapy on the psychological adjustment of girls with craniofacial scarring. Children with visible deficits are at significant risk for low self-esteem, poor body image, depression, and anxiety.

This study involved 8 girls aged 10 to 13 with craniofacial scarring who were nearing completion of their corrective facial surgeries. Parents were also involved and participated in a psychoeducational group simultaneously with bilingual facilitators to meet the needs of Spanish-speaking participants.

The framework of this group stemmed from REHM theory, which promotes the use of introspection as a means of self-soothing and reframing negative thoughts. Group therapy utilized both cognitive behavioral techniques and educational techniques that focused on perception of control and appearance enhancing procedures. The educational techniques included the use of role-play and mirrors to help address the issues of rude remarks and staring. Pre and post testing was done to assess perceptions of control, self-esteem, body image issues, and symptoms of depression and anxiety. Parent pre- and post testing included measures of awareness and coping skills.

Seven of the eight girls increased their perceptions of control, self-esteem, and body image with group therapy. A decrease in symptoms of depression and anxiety were also noted in these patients. Evaluation of parent questionnaires and measures demonstrated an increase in parent awareness of their child's facial differences and improved coping skills.

It was concluded that girls with craniofacial scarring experienced positive psychological adjustment following group therapy. Educational techniques increased perceptions of control, self-esteem, enhanced a positive body image, and coping skills. These findings suggested that group therapy represents a valuable component that should be included in craniofacial team care. Implications for psychosocial interventions will be discussed.

8/99- 2000

Task Force Member

Harvard University, Boston MA
Task Force Chair: Jessica Henderson, Ph.D.
Researcher

Topic

Women of Color in Films and Documentaries

Summary

I reviewed multi-cultural films for theme, female role in the film, and psychological impact of the film on the audience. I wrote up my findings for the committee. These findings were then analyzed and presented at the multi-cultural convention.

Completed July, 2000.

This work was presented January 2001, at the Multi-Cultural Convention, Santa Barbara, CA

1998-2000

Doctoral Dissertation

Azusa Pacific University, Azusa CA
Chair: Beth Houskamp, Ph.D.
Committee: Sheryn Scott, Ph.D., Traci Mann, Ph.D., Michael Donahue, Ph.D.

Topic

Body Image Disturbance in Males: An Antecedent to Eating Disorders

Summary

This study assessed disturbed body image in males as an antecedent to eating disorder symptomology. Participants were males in a prestigious military academy (n = 1707). Participants were assessed using the Multidimensional Body-Self Relations Questionnaire (MBSRQ) to measure body image disturbance, the Eating Disorder Examination Questionnaire, version 4 (EDE-Q4) to measure eating disorder symptomology, and the Marlowe Crowne Social Desirability Scale (MCSDS) to measure socially desirable responding. Results indicate that body image satisfaction decreased across academic years, while eating disorder symptomology increased across academic years. This study provides a step toward understanding the risk for both body image disturbance and eating disorders in young adult males.

Stage of development: Complete

Defended: October 25, 2000.

HONORS AND AWARDS

Clinical Competency Exam (CCE): Passed with distinction
Outstanding Dissertation Award (one awarded each year)

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

- 2009 **Amazing Baby Conference: The Role of Parental Stress on Treatment Outcome in Pediatric Feeding Disorders.**
- 2009 **Pediatric Grand Rounds: The Role of Parental Stress on Treatment Outcome in Pediatric Feeding Disorders.**
- 2009 **Southwest Disability Conference, ABQ, NM, Case Presentation: A team approach to TBI using cognitive behavioral therapy.**
- 2008 **Disability Conference, ABQ, NM, The Road Home: The In Patient Clinical and Pediatric Psychologist Perspective (Pediatric TBI)**
- 2008 **Childrens Hospital, Carrie Tingley Rehabilitation Unit, University of New Mexico. Behavioral Management of Adolescent**
- 2008 **Childrens Hospital, Carrie Tingley Rehabilitation Unit, University of New Mexico. Self Image and Cleft Children**
- 2007 **UNM Carrie Tingley Hospital, Psychosocial Grand Round; Group therapy for adolescents to enhance adjustment with facial scarring.**

- 2007 **Cedars-Sinai Medical Center, Beverly Hills, CA:** Girl Talk: Group therapy to enhance adjustment with facial scarring.
- 2007 **University California Davis, Mind Center.** Social Skills Training
- 2006 **Childrens Hospital Los Angeles/ USC University Affiliated Program/University of Southern California Keck School of Medicine**
Didactic training on the Bayley III Scales of Infant and Toddler Development for speech and language specialists
- 2004-2006 **Childrens Hospital Los Angeles/ USC University Affiliated Program/University of Southern California Keck School of Medicine**
Annual in-service training and didactic training of Interns and Post-Doc Fellows
- 2003-2004 **Childrens Hospital Los Angeles/ USC University Affiliated Program/University of Southern California Keck School of Medicine**
Division of Plastic Surgery
Supervisor: Dr. John Reinisch and Dr. Jennifer Rafeedie
- Undergraduate student field placement for observational/educational practicum.
 - Supervised clinical Intern for Craniofacial Team
 - Didactic training on psychological needs of pediatric craniofacial patients
 - Case presentations made to interns for diagnostic training
- 2002-2003 **Childrens Hospital Los Angeles/ USC University Affiliated Program/University of Southern California Keck School of Medicine**
Division of Plastic Surgery
Supervisor: Dr. John Reinisch and Dr. Jennifer Rafeedie
- Didactic training on psychological needs of pediatric craniofacial patients
 - Case presentations made to interns for diagnostic training

PUBLICATIONS

Miller, S.; C. Munoz; M. Carson; M. Nguyen, J. Rafeedie; Childrens Hospital Los Angeles and K. Rathburn; Harbor UCLA Medical Center (Winter 2007). Girl Talk: Group therapy to enhance adjustment with facial scarring and disfigurement, *The Family Psychologist*, Vol. 23, No. 1, Pgs. 28-30.

Miller, S., Wolff, M. & Scott, S. (2001). Eating disorders, childhood maltreatment and post-traumatic stress in women. *Family Violence and Sexual Assault Bulletin*, 16, 17-22.

PRESENTATIONS

S. Miller (2009, November) Amazing Baby Conference: The Role of Parental Stress on Treatment Outcome in Pediatric Feeding Disorders.

S. Miller and M. Pedrotty (2009, November) Pediatric Grand Rounds UNM: The Role of Parental Stress on Treatment Outcome in Pediatric Feeding Disorders.

- S. Miller, C. Leas, K. Shannon, C. Jabar (2009, October) Southwest Disability Conference, ABQ, NM, Case Presentation: A team approach to TBI using cognitive behavioral therapy.
- Johns, A. & Miller, S. (April, 2009). Effects of visual art project on children in craniofacial pediatric waiting room. Paper presented at 66th annual American Cleft Palate-Craniofacial Association Conference, Scottsdale, AZ.
- S. Miller, M. Pedrotty, D. Taylor, S. Root, K. Shannon (2008, October) Disability Conference, ABQ, NM, The Road Home: The In Patient Clinical and Pediatric Psychologist Perspective (Pediatric TBI)
- S. Miller, (2007, May). Neurofibromatosis Symposium, to teach social skills and techniques to the families of patients who have NF1 and NF2 to help them overcome teasing and rude remarks. UC Davis, MIND Institute, Sacramento, CA, Northern California Foundation for Neurofibromatosis.
- S. Miller, (2006, September). Neurofibromatosis Symposium, to teach social skills and techniques to families of patients who have NF1 and NF2 to help them overcome teasing and rude remarks., Saban Auditorium, Childrens Hospital Los Angeles, Los Angeles, CA., Southern California Foundation for Neurofibromatosis.
- Rafeedie, J., Miller, S., Griffen, A. (2005, August). Family Therapy Obesity Group. Symposium presented at the annual convention of the American Psychological Association (APA), Continuing Education Course. Washington, DC.
- Miller, S., Munoz, C., Lopez, L., Rathburn, K., Carson, M. (2004, July), Group Therapy to Enhance Adjustment in Girls with Craniofacial Scarring. Seminar at annual convention of the American Psychological Association (APA), Honolulu, HI.
- Nguyen, M., Miller, S. (2004, July). Neurodevelopment in Infants with Craniosynostosis. Poster presentation at the annual convention of the American Psychological Association (APA), Honolulu, HI.
- Miller, S., Munoz, C., Lopez, L., Rathburn, K., Carson, M. (2004, April). Group Therapy to Enhance Adjustment in Girls with Craniofacial Scarring. Poster presentation at the annual convention of the Society of Pediatric Psychology (SPP), Charleston, SC.
- Miller, S. (2003, October). Didactic training: Psychological Services Within the Craniofacial Setting. Pediatric didactic, Childrens Hospital Los Angeles, Los Angeles, CA.
- Miller, S. (2003, April). Didactic training: Group Therapy to Enhance Adjustment in Girls with Craniofacial Scarring. Pediatric didactic, Childrens Hospital Los Angeles, Los Angeles, CA
- Miller, S. (2003, February). Case Presentation: Clinical Review of Complex Craniofacial Patient. Pediatric didactic, Childrens Hospital Los Angeles, Los Angeles, CA.
- Rathburn, K., & Miller, S. (2002, May). The Effectiveness of Group Therapy and Education About Appearance Enhancing Techniques on Psychological Adjustment to Craniofacial Differences in Adolescents. Presentation at the annual meeting of the American Cleft-Palate and Craniofacial Conference, Seattle, WA.

Rathburn, K. & Miller, S. (2002, February). The Effectiveness of Group Therapy and Education About Appearance Enhancing Techniques on Psychological Adjustment to Craniofacial Differences in Adolescents. Presented at Grand Rounds for Harbor UCLA, Torrance, CA.

Miller, S., Houskamp, B., & Wolff, M. (2001, August). Body Image Disturbance in Males: An Antecedent to Eating Disorders. Poster session presented at the annual meeting of the American Psychological Association, San Francisco, CA.

Miller, S., List, E., & Stout, D. (2000, April). Armenia – Traumatic Events: A Precursor to Mental Illness. Presentation at the Student Affiliation for a Multicultural Mental Health (SAMMH) Conference, Azusa, CA.

Miller, S., Wolf, M., & Scott, S. (2000, March). Eating Disorders and Post Traumatic Stress. Poster session presented at the annual meeting of the California Psychological Association, San Jose, CA.

Miller, S. (1999, March). Anorexia nervosa: Only a disease of adolescent women? Poster session presented at the annual meeting of the California Psychological Association, San Diego, CA

CERTIFICATIONS AND SPECIAL TRAINING

- Disaster Trauma Certification
- Multicultural Counseling
- Child Abuse Workshop
- Cognitive Rehabilitation Therapy (CRT) certification
- Nonviolent Crisis Intervention
- Systematic Training for Effective Parenting (STEP)
- Prepare/Enrich
- Couples Communication – Instructor Training

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

- American Psychological Association (APA)
- APA Division 38, Health Psychology
- APA Division 54, Society of Pediatric Psychology
- APA Division 43, Family Psychology
- New Mexico Psychological Association