

# Psychiatry Expert Witness CV #8001

Publications, presentations, and references available upon request. Contact Dora:

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## PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

Board Certified Psychiatrist with an active New York license and with an interest in Telepsychiatry and Public Psychiatry. FCVS certified. Currently being credentialed in Illinois, Arizona and Texas.

## PSYCHOTHERAPY TRAINING/DIPLOMA

August 2009- August 2011

### NYU Psychoanalytic Institute

Two Year Diploma in Psychodynamic Psychotherapy

## PSYCHIATRY RESIDENCY TRAINING

*February 2008- December 2010*

### Mount Sinai School of Medicine Elmhurst Hospital

- PGY-2-PGY-4

Training both in inpatient and outpatient, CPAP, Emergency Room, Partial Hospitalization and Forensic training. Special residency experience includes working in a city hospital, covering patients from multicultural and multilingual backgrounds, and use of translators for both inpatient and outpatient pharmacological and other therapeutic treatments as well as Emergency room evaluation, stabilization and admissions from Rikers Island jail.

*July 2006-August 2007- January 2008-February 2008*

### Mount Sinai School of Medicine- Cabrini Medical Centre

- PGY-1-PGY-2

Training, special experience includes coverage of Borderline Personality Disorder Unit, during inpatient training. Six month break following closure of Cabrini Medical Center and Transfer to Elmhurst Medical Centre in 2007-2008.

## MEDICAL EDUCATION

*November 2010*

- USMLE **Step 3** 86

*February- December 2004*

- USMLE **Step 1** 95 USMLE **Step 2** CS Passed (Clinical Skills) USMLE **Step 2** CK 99 (Clinical Knowledge)

*January 1995-2000*

- **United Medical and Dental Schools of Guys Kings and St Thomas's Hospital - MBBS**

## PRE MEDICAL SCHOOL EDUCATION

*1988-1995*

**The Henrietta Barnett School**, Hampstead Garden Suburb London, England

June 1995

A-Level Mathematics A, Chemistry A, Biology A

### **PROFESSIONAL SOCIETY MEMBERSHIPS**

- *American Psychiatric Association*
- *American Telemedicine Association*
- *American Association of Public Health Physicians*

### **EXPERT WITNESS EXPERIENCE**

- Appeared in Court regularly as an Expert Witness while working in the State Hospital System and Forensic State Psychiatric Unit at Manhattan Psychiatric Center.
- Interpreting 730 final evaluations, treating psychiatric symptoms whilst evaluating for fitness to stand trial.
- Provided recommendations as an Expert Witness based on clinical need, safety to patient and community, and current Mental Hygiene Law.
- Completing Violence Risk Evaluations in relation to safety to discharge to the community.
- Testified in Court as an Expert Witness with regards to a patient's current violence risk, based on current and retrospective data.
- Completing thorough psychiatric evaluations whilst evaluating diagnostic criteria in relation to DSM IV and DSM V.
- Evaluating capacity to sign for consent and to refuse medical procedures including amputations and other Emergency Medical Procedures.
- Prepared Court documents for application for treatment over objection including inpatient hospitalization, medication over objection, and electroconvulsive therapy over objection.
- Testified in Court, reported events and diagnosis, psychiatric history and response to previous treatments as per patient chart and personal observation.
- Testified Psychiatric Diagnosis based on information in the patient's chart, personal observation, DSM IV and DSM V criteria, and verified literature including pub med publications.
- Challenged Psychiatric Literature provided by opposing counsel, based on studies providing alternative outcomes and flaws in presented studies.
- Challenged DSM diagnosis provided by opposing counsel in patients considered to be malingering in the forensic setting.
- Prepared applications for Assisted Outpatient Treatment and testified as an Expert Witness.
- Provided treatment recommendations as an Expert Witness for Assisted Outpatient Treatment and Inpatient Treatment over objection.
- Testified in court as an Expert Witness with regards to risk to the patient and community, should a patient be discharged from the state or forensic system without adequate outpatient provisions.
- Completed 9.29 forms and Application for Court Retention.\*Testified in court as an Expert Witness for Application for Court Retention and Treatment over objection submitted by other psychiatrists.
- Completed suicide evaluations using the Columbia Suicide Scale.
- Testified in court as an Expert Witness with regards to patient's current and future suicide risk based on retrospective and current data.
- Completed disability evaluations with specific documentation as to why a patient is unable or it is not recommended to perform certain tasks despite resolution of psychotic or manic symptoms.

- Participated and in some occasions led in Manhattan Psychiatric Hospital Forensic and Ethics Committee. Discussed difficult cases and formulated treatment plans based on clinical needs, duty to the patient, patient and community safety and Mental Health Law.
- Answering questions in Court, providing expert witness opinion, differentiating the subjective from the objective, basing opinions on clinical evidence as well as APA guidelines, DSM, academic literature, medical ethics, mental health law and current observation.
- Differentiating bipolar disorder from borderline personality disorder.
- Differentiating causes of brief psychotic episode.
- Differentiating schizophrenia and bipolar disorder from substance induced psychosis and brief psychotic episode.
- Differentiating psychosis secondary to exacerbation of borderline personality and major depression from other forms of psychosis.

### **EXPERT WITNESS PERSONAL STATEMENT**

I have an extensive experience in writing applications for Mental Health Court and liaising with Mental Health Legal services. From my experience working for both the state and the forensic system, I can say that I am a confident and effective expert witness due to my ability to write accurate and relevant court applications and present my opinion in a logical and concise manner. I have a thorough understanding of the need to stay focused and present the facts which are relevant to the case as well as providing explanations for documentation which may be inconsistent with the individual's treatment plan or current diagnosis. I am also able to differentiate subjective from objective and make sure that all my opinions are justified by knowledge of the patient's chart, my own personal observation as well as knowledge of current and past literature, APA and NICE guidelines, the DSM and Mental Health Law. I have served as a participant and as a lead in the Manhattan Psychiatric Center Forensics and Ethics Committee and I am able to discuss medical ethics in relation to mental health law.

I have completed a two year research attachment in HIV Psychiatry and PTSD, where my job was to find relevant research papers to support a theory or provide explanations for unusual outcomes. Throughout my career, I have read thousands of research articles and case reports. I am able to understand and interpret medical literature, justify my diagnosis, treatment plan and conclusions with medical literature. This is useful especially when prior to documenting in a patient's clinical chart which does not strictly meet the criteria for a DSM diagnosis.

My psychodynamic psychotherapy training at the NYU Psychoanalytic Institute has been extremely useful while testifying in court and while writing explanations for behavior and predictions for current and future behavior with regards to personality and complex PTSD. A useful skill as an expert witness is being able to verbalize effectively how symptomology and presentation may be tied to or independent of what was previously considered and exclusively axis one diagnosis. I am also able to effectively explain dual diagnosis and triple diagnosis. For example, a diagnosis of borderline personality disorder and PTSD may not be mutually exclusive. Likewise, an individual can have both borderline personality and bipolar disorder. Experience with treating and evaluating borderline, narcissistic and antisocial personality has been particularly useful while conducting violence risk assessments. My experience enables me to review charts and prepare reports in an efficient manner.

Recently, I have started a telepsychiatry private practice. Being in private practice gives me the flexibility to travel and continue to work as an Expert Witness in the private sector. Being available for meetings and evaluations in the daytime and for court appearances makes expert witness work more productive

and easier for the client. I also have access to HIPAA Compliant cloud-based teleconferencing equipment, so I can conduct interviews and testify in court over a secure video platform, if requested. The use of videoconferencing when requested saves time, cuts costs and allows me to be more available at the client's convenience.

Being an Expert Witness does not mean having qualifications and opinions, it is about being able to identify the relevant facts and justify an opinion with evidence and data in order to ensure that a client has the best possible chance that his or her case is not just presented but also heard.

## **SKILLS**

- Psychiatric Evaluation including Telepsychiatry evaluation.
- Pharmacotherapy, including prescription of Clozapine and long-acting antipsychotic injection.
- Supportive Psychotherapy, Cognitive Behavioral Therapy and Psychodynamic psychotherapy.
- Violence Risk Assessments, suicide and safety for discharge evaluation in both civil and forensic setting.
- Patient admission documentation, including involuntary admission and 2PC evaluation.
- Preparing court documents including application for 'Involuntary Retention', and both inpatient and outpatient 'Treatment Over Objection' applications.
- Teaching, supervising and evaluation of Medical Students and Residents.
- Testifying in court as an expert witness, for inpatient and outpatient treatment over objection, and involuntary admission, in both the forensic and civil setting.
- Leading inpatient and outpatient treatment groups, including medication education, and therapeutic community groups.
- Assess a patient's suitability for both voluntary and involuntary ECT.
- Liaise with ECT providers and participate in ECT preparation and follow up.
- Clinical case conference and grand rounds presentation.
- Administration of emergency safety measures, including STAT intramuscular medication, seclusion and restraints, when concerning immediate concern to safety of patient and staff.
- Evaluation of patients' capacity to consent and refuse medical procedures, including emergency treatment interventions.
- Patient and staff debriefing following psychiatric emergencies.
- Inpatient and outpatient treatment plans including listing of goals and objectives and evaluating progress towards objectives.
- Leading a multidisciplinary team during inpatient and outpatient rounds.
- Panel participation and lead in Ethics Committee, Forensic Committee, Psychiatric Medication Prescriber Safety Committee.
- Panel participation and lead in Hospital Committee including forensic and ethics committee at Manhattan Psychiatric Center.
- Negotiating with MHLS attorneys to foster safe outpatient treatment plans and facilitate discharge from the State Hospital system.

## **PSYCHIATRY PRIVATE PRACTICE**

I started a telepsychiatry private practice, GABA APP in 2015, operating under the name of GABA Telepsychiatry providing consults and outpatient telepsychiatry services to individuals in New York State. The practice follows American Psychiatric Association Telepsychiatry Guidelines. Skills include:

- Legal assessment

- Intake forms
- Utilization of cloud-based EHR, billing and practice management software
- Supervising medical assistants and ensuring HIPAA compliance.
- Completing psychiatric evaluations, formulating treatment plan, documentation of symptoms, progress, treatment plan
- Prescribing medication
- Virtual prescription and bloodwork prescribing
- Liaising with Primary care, sleep medicine, endocrinology, hematology, neurology and other subspecialties
- Utilization of cloud-based accounting software.

### **RESEARCH VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE**

*September 2004-March 2006*

#### **Mount Sinai School Of Medicine**

Research Volunteer

Jack Martin Clinic for HIV psychiatry

- Conducted literature searches
- Data entry chart review
- Interviewed patients
- Worked on a retrospective chart review, screening for PTSD symptoms and constructional Apraxia in patients with HIV at the Jack Martin Clinic.

### **UNITED KINGDOM EMPLOYMENT EXPERIENCE**

*August 2002-August 2004*

**Locum Tenens, Senior House Officer Emergency Medicine Barnet and Chase Farm Hospitals.**

*February 2002-August 2002*

**Senior House Officer Accident & Emergency Medicine, Barnet and Chase Farm NHS TRUST**

*August 2001-February 2002*

**Senior House Officer Pediatric Surgery, University Hospital Lewisham, London**

*February 2001-August 2001*

**Senior House Officer PRHO Medicine, Medway Maritime Hospital, Kent**

*November 2000-February 2001*

**Pre-registration House Officer PRHO General & Vascular Surgery, Greenwich District Hospital, London**

*August 2000-November 2000*

**Pre-registration House Officer PRHO Urology, Guy's and St Thomas Hospital, London**

### **CERTIFICATIONS**

**Neuroscience Educational Institute** - Currently participating in online Psychopharmacology Master's Program.

### **TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

- Teaching weekly lectures for medical students on core curriculum topics at MPC.

- Supervising medical students during psychiatry rotations, assigning patients, teaching core curriculum as well as supportive Psychotherapy and Cognitive Behavioral Therapy at MPC.
- Evaluating medical students for clinical skills examinations at MPC.
- Supervising medical students on power point presentations, literature review, case conference and grand round presentations at MPC.
- Supervising NYU residents with medication education groups, and violence risk evaluation assessments.

### **COMMUNITY SERVICE**

Volunteer Duchene Muscular Dystrophy Support group 1985-1995 Fundraising & organizing events

### **LANGUAGES**

Basic French, Basic Spanish, Fluent Telugu

### **INTEREST**

I have trained in Goju Rue Karate and achieved brown belt.