

Melissa Castro, PsyD, LP, ABPP

Clinical Neuropsychologist

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Professional Qualifications and Certification

- Board Certified by the American Board of Clinical Neuropsychology (ABCN) – American Board of Professional Psychology (ABPP)
- Licensed in Minnesota (LP#5620) and Wisconsin (#3131-57).
- Certified with National Register of Health Providers in Psychology (#1114202744).
- Qualified Provider for the NFL Concussion Settlement Program.
- Fluent in English, Spanish, and French.

Areas of Expertise: Traumatic Brain Injury, Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder, Mild Cognitive Impairment and Dementia, Cross-Cultural Assessments

Education

Doctorate in Psychology **September 2011**

Ponce School of Medicine & Health Sciences, Ponce, Puerto Rico

Bachelor of Arts **May 2003**

Concordia University, Montreal, Quebec, Canada

Clinical Experience

Clinical Neuropsychologist **August 2016 - present**

Minneapolis Clinic of Neurology, Minneapolis, MN

Clinical Neuropsychologist **October 2013 - June 2016**

Department of Neurology, Dean Clinic, Madison, WI

Post-Doctoral Neuropsychology Fellowship **September 2011 - August 2013**

Department of Psychiatry & Psychology, Mayo Clinic, Rochester, MN

Pre-Doctoral Neuropsychology Residency **August 2010 - September 2011**

Department of Clinical Health Psychology, University of Manitoba, Winnipeg, Canada

Pre-Doctoral Neuropsychology Externship **January 2009 - July 2010**

Department of Neurology, Medical College of Wisconsin, Milwaukee, WI

Pre-Doctoral Medical Psychology Practicum **January 2008 - May 2008**

Cardiovascular Center, Damas General Hospital, Ponce, PR

Pre-Doctoral Practicum

July 2007 - December 2008

Clinic of Psychological Services, Ponce School of Medicine, Ponce, PR

Pre-Doctoral Practicum

July 2006 - July 2007

United Way Community Center, Guanica, PR

Research Experience

Laboratory Technician

February 2005 - December 2011

Department of Physiology, Ponce School of Medicine (PSM), Ponce, PR

Research Assistant

September 2002 - December 2004

Center for Studies in Behavioral Neurobiology, Concordia University, Montreal, Canada

Awards & Honors

- Achievement Award from Splantsin First Nations (2016)
- Physician's Award from the Alzheimer's Association (2015)
- Early Career Psychologist Scholarship from National Register of Health Psychologists (2015)
- Academic Honors Award from Ponce School of Medicine (2011)
- Clinical Psychology Award from Canadian Psychological Association (2009)
- Women and Psychology Award from Canadian Psychological Association (2009)
- Travel Grant from Canadian Psychological Association (2009)
- Scientific Early Career Development Grant, APA Division of Clinical Neuropsychology (2008)
- Award for Most Distinguished Paper Presentation, PSM 4th Scientific Conference (2008)
- Health-Emotions Research Institute Fellowship, University of Wisconsin-Madison (2006)
- Grant for cross-cultural youth exchange sponsored by government of Quebec, Canada (2004)
- Concordia University Bursary (2003)
- Eric Harrison Memorial Award (2002)
- Liberal Arts College Contribution to Student Life Award (2002)

Committee & Administrative Work

State:

- Culture & Diversity Committee: *Alzheimer's Disease Working Group – Preparing MN for Alzheimer's (2018)*

National :

- State Leader, American Psychology Association (2015 - 2017)
- Culture and Diversity Committee - National Academy of Neuropsychology (2009-2014)

Institutional:

- Diversity and Inclusion Committee – Mayo Clinic (2012 – 2013)
- Continuing Education Committee – University of Manitoba (2010-2011)
- President – Liberal Arts Society – Concordia University (2001-2002)
- VP External – Liberal Arts Society – Concordia University (2002-2003)
- Secretary – Liberal Arts Society – Concordia University (2001)
- VP Finance – Concordia University Psychology Association (2001-2002)
- Arts & Science Federation of Associations – Concordia University (2000-2002)

Publications

- O'Shea, D.M., De Wit, L., Yutsis, Y, **Castro, M.** & Smith, G.E. (2017). Repetition Priming in Mild Cognitive Impairment and Mild Dementia: Impact of educational attainment. *Journal of Clinical and Experimental Neuropsychology*. DOI=10.1080/13803395.2017.1347253.
- **Castro, M.** & Smith, G.E. (2015). Mild Cognitive Impairment & Alzheimer's Disease. In B. Mast & P. Lichtenberg (Eds.), *APA Handbook of Clinical Geropsychology*. APA Books.
- Liewluck, T., Milone, M., Mauermann, M., **Castro-Couch, M.**, Cerhan, J., & Murthy N.S. (2014). A novel VCP mutation underlies scapuloperoneal muscular dystrophy and dropped head syndrome featuring lobulated fibers. *Muscle Nerve*, 50: 295–299.
- Yutsis, M., **Castro-Couch, M.**, Fields, J. & Smith, G. (2012). Implicit memory differences in Mild Cognitive Impairment and Alzheimer's Disease, [Abstract]. *The Clinical Neuropsychologist*, 26(3):443.
- **Castro-Couch, M.** & Bergquist, T.F. (2012). [Review of the book *Neuroplasticity and Rehabilitation*, Edited by S. Raskin. Guilford Press, New York]. *Archives of Clinical Neuropsychology*, ISBN 978-1609181376, 35.
- Martinez, K., ***Castro-Couch, M.**, Franco-Chaves, J.A., Ojeda-Arce, B., Segura, G., Milad, M.R. & Quirk, G.J. (2012). Psychological tests predict physiological responses during fear conditioning and renewal. *Biology of Mood and Anxiety Disorders*. 2:16. doi: 10.1186/2045-5380-2-16. * shared first authorship.
- **Castro-Couch, M.** & Quirk, G.J. (2009). Psychological tests as predictors of fear acquisition and extinction in healthy humans. [Abstract]. *Canadian Clinical Psychologist*, 20 (1).
- Pfaus, J.G., Wilkins, M.F., DiPietro, N., Benibgui, M., Toledano, R., Rowe, A., **Castro-Couch, M.** (2009). Inhibitory and disinhibitory effects of psychomotor stimulants and depressants on the sexual behavior of male and female rats. *Hormones and Behavior*, 58 (1), 163-176.

Scientific Presentations

Longitudinal Changes in Memory Spanning Mild Cognitive Impairment to Early Alzheimer's Disease. International Neuropsychological Society, Seattle, WA. **(February 2014)**

Understanding Effectiveness of a Multi-Component Intervention for Mild Cognitive Impairment. International Conference on Alzheimer's and Parkinson's Disease Research, Florence, Italy. **(March 2013)**

Procedural and Declarative Memory Differences in Mild Cognitive Impairment. International Neuropsychological Society, Waikoloa, Hawaii. **(February 2013)**

Training Disparities in Neuropsychology: results of the NAN Culture and Diversity Survey. National Academy Neuropsychology Conference, Nashville, TN. **(November 2012)**

Implicit Memory Differences in patients with Mild Cognitive Impairment and Alzheimer's Disease. American Academy of Clinical Neuropsychology, Seattle, WA. (June 2012)

Neuropsychological Tests Predict Fear Acquisition and Extinction. American Psychological Association Convention, Toronto, Canada. **(June 2009)**
Canadian Psychological Association Convention, Montreal, Canada. (August 2009)

Predicting Fear Conditioning and Extinction with Psychological Tests: Preliminary findings. Puerto Rico Neuroscience Conference, San Juan, Puerto Rico. **(December 2008)**

Speaking Engagements

Cognition in Multiple Sclerosis, MCN Patient Education Series, Minneapolis, MN. **(September 2017)**

Early Identification in Diagnosis and Treatment of Dementia, Presentation to Aging & Disability Resource Center, Janesville, WI. **(November 2015)**

Neuropsychology & Worker's Compensation, Presentation to Occupational Medicine, Dean Clinic, Madison, WI. **(June 2015)**

Neuropsychology & Concussion. Presentation to interdisciplinary concussion group, Dean Clinic, Madison, WI. **(May 2015)**

Cross-cultural neuropsychology: Training and practice considerations, webinar sponsored by the American Psychological Association - The Society for Clinical Neuropsychology (SCN) Ethnic Minority Affairs Committee (EMA) & Association of Neuropsychology Students in Training (ANST). **(February 2015)**

Broken Brain – Brilliant Mind: Using Mindfulness to Overcome the Limits of the Brain, 20th Annual Brain Injury Conference, Mayo Clinic, Rochester, MN. **(June 2013)**

Procedural and Declarative Memory Differences in Mild Cognitive Impairment, Grand Rounds, Department of Psychiatry & Psychology, Mayo Clinic, Rochester, MN. **(January 2013)**

Preparing for the Next Stage: Advice from Peer Mentors, Workshop, National Academy of Neuropsychology Conference, Nashville, TN. **(November 2012)**

Peer Mentoring: A Developmental Approach to Mastering the Next Step. Workshop, National Academy Neuropsychology Conference, Marco Island, FL. **(November 2011)**

Other Scholarly Activities & Community Involvement

Guest Speaker, Ask the Experts - Weekend Wellness Radio Show, 1310 WIBA AM, Madison, Wisconsin **(2015)**

Facilitator, Cross-Cultural Communication Workshop, Department of Psychiatry & Psychology, Mayo Clinic, Rochester, Minnesota **(2013)**

Instructor, PGY III Psychotherapy Seminar on evidence-based techniques, Mayo Graduate School of Medical Education, Rochester, Minnesota **(2012)**

Guest Lecturer, Multicultural Psychology Course, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee **(2009)**

Teaching Assistant, Cognitive Assessment Course, Ponce School of Medicine **(2008)**

Clinical Supervisor, Clinic for Psychological Services, Ponce School of Medicine **(2008)**

Tutor, Introduction to Neuroscience Course, Ponce School of Medicine **(2006)**

Community Outreach Organizer, Brain Awareness Week, elementary and high schools in Puerto Rico **(2005-2008)**

Group facilitator, Philosophy of Science Retreats, Puerto Rico **(2005-2008)**

Professional Memberships & Societies

- American Academy of Clinical Neuropsychology (AACN)
- Hispanic Neuropsychological Society (HNS)
- Midwest Center for Seizure Disorders

Last updated on February 26, 2018