

News RELEASE

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NEW TAKES ON CRIMINAL MIND, BEHAVIOR IN POST 9/11 ENVIRONMENT AT APA'S ANNUAL MEETING

MAY 17-22, 2003, SAN FRANCISCO

Arlington, Va., April 28, 2003 – In a country gripped by violence and the specter of terrorism, predicting and assessing criminal behavior has moved to the top of the research agenda for many psychiatrists. How do you assess the competency to stand trial of an alleged terrorist? What motivates terrorists – are they all ‘killing in the name of God’? These are among several compelling topics to be discussed by renowned researchers at the **American Psychiatric Association’s 156th Annual Meeting in San Francisco, May 17-22 – the world’s largest psychiatric conference.**

Sessions that will feature some of the latest research include:

Thursday, May 22

Does Performance of Professionals in Court Predict Court Decisions?

Can the combined ratings of the quality of the psychiatrist’s testimony and the performance of the state’s attorney and public defender differ, and affect the case outcome? Results indicate a positive correlation between the psychiatrist and state’s attorney ratings.

Jagannathan Srinivasarghavan, M.D., Southern Illinois University

New Research Poster 850, 12:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m., Moscone Center, Exhibit Level, Hall D

Neurological Soft Signs in Criminals and Schizophrenia Patients and Their Implications

Researchers studied chronic schizophrenia patients, schizophrenic patients with criminal offenses, and criminals, to identify and link possible neurologic deficits. Soft neurologic signs were found in all, which may influence violent acts of these individuals, thus diminish their liability.

Mary W.E. Ilaga, M.D., University of Sto, Tomas Hospital

New Research Poster 851, 12:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m., Moscone Center, Exhibit Level, Hall D

Assessing Competence to Stand Trial in an Alleged Terrorist: The Role of Psychological Testing

There are many issues surrounding the psychological assessment of an alleged terrorist: potential impact of extended incarceration, language barriers, solitary confinement, malingering, and deception. This presentation will focus on the application of these issues to a particular case involving an alleged terrorist referred for evaluation of competency to stand trial.

Barry Rosenfeld, Ph.D., Fordham University

Symposium 95, 2:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m., Moscone Center, Esplanade Level, Room 302

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Differentiating the Motivations and Constraints for Weapons of Mass Destruction Terrorism

Substantial resources have been devoted to protect the United States from possible catastrophic, domestic chemical or biological terrorist attacks. Dr. Post examines who might launch an attack and why, who might not, and why not, and differentiates the motivations and constraints for the different types of terrorists.

Jerrold M. Post, M.D., George Washington University

Symposium 99, 2:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m., Moscone Center, Esplanade Level, Room 308

- **Note to Media:** Additional topics include but are not limited to: ADHD, death and dying, somatoform disorders, women's health, addictions, workplace mental health, suicide, violence, AIDS and HIV-related disorders, terrorism, personality disorders, geriatric issues, treatment techniques and outcome studies. For information about other scientific sessions, please visit <http://www.psych.org/am2003/searchspc.cfm>. Final Program books will be available by May 1, contact Jean Jackson at jjackson@psych.org for a copy.
- **Annual Meeting presentations are embargoed for local date and time of presentation.**
- Media interested in attending the meeting can contact Jean Jackson at jjackson@psych.org or visit APA's Annual Meeting online pressroom, http://www.psych.org/news_stand/onlinepressroom.cfm, for further information.

The American Psychiatric Association is a national medical specialty society, founded in 1844, whose 35,000 physician members specialize in the diagnosis, treatment and prevention of mental illnesses including substance use disorders. For more information, visit the APA Web site at www.psych.org.

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