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CLINICAL AND FORENSIC PSYCHOLOGY

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Child, Adolescent, Adult

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PTSD Neuroblast Trauma and Other Neurobiological Traumatic Events

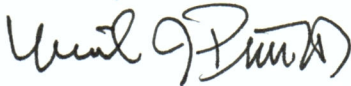
The United States is seeing more and more young men returning from Afghanistan and Iraq with horrendous results in terms of family integration, societal integration, and domestic violence. Some of these individuals, according to Cernak, are found on the battlefield dead with no marks whatsoever on them. These individuals have been the victims of blast or shock neurotrauma. This examiner has, in fact, seen individuals who were in buildings that were blown up and walked away from these situations. Cernak writes how, with blast neurotrauma, there can be a shockwave going up the spinal cord to the brainstem and damage being caused at the DNA level. There is a great need to conduct correct imaging studies and to evaluate these individuals for blast-induced neurotrauma. There is the unwieldy difficult situation of many young men coming back with symptoms of posttraumatic stress disorder (i.e., hypervigilance, alteration of structures in the brain regulating anger). Individuals who are angry and depressed prior to PTSD become exponentially more depressed after PTSD. Only a proper comprehensive neuropsychological assessment as well as comprehensive brain imaging studies would highlight the problems in these young men returning home.

There then also is the problem of medications (i.e., frequently only purely psychiatric medications are used for returning veterans, such as antidepressants). However, many of these individuals need neuroleptics, which is a class of medicines that treat neurological disorders. Indeed, this is an area that needs to be evaluated by psychology, neurology, and psychiatry. Ideally, a multidisciplinary team approach would be useful. Ideally, these disciplines involved in the triage of these individuals coming home would hopefully result in treating the problems before they reach the crisis stage that they do with the young men returning home with these problems untreated and having to integrate themselves into society and their homes.

Brain chemistry and brain neurophysiology is the next frontier in psychology in terms of our understanding of the relation between brain pathology and brain injury and problems in an individual. Yudofsky (2011) writes in a textbook on traumatic brain injury that personality change and changes in an individual (i.e., anger and agitation) can be present up to 12-15 years later in an individual. Moreover, a base rate of 10-15% of individuals with closed-head injuries has been shown in the research to show syndromes of brain injury 10-15 years later.

This *frontier* of neurological problems and issues certainly is deserving of emphasis and study in the behavioral sciences.

Yodofsky, Stuart et al. (2011). *Textbook of Traumatic Brain Injury*. American
Psychiatric Press



Michael J. Perrotti, Ph.D.

Certified Forensic Expert

Expert Witness Panel, San Bernardino County Superior Court

Expert Witness Panel, Juvenile Court San Bernardino County

Expert Witness Panel, Orange County Superior Court

Expert Witness Panel, Juvenile Court Orange County

Expert Witness Panel, Los Angeles County Superior Court

Expert Witness Panel, Juvenile Court Kern County

Expert Witness Panel, Kern County Superior Court

Member, National Academy of Neuropsychology

Member, American Psychological Association

Member, California Psychological Association

Member, National Register of Health Services Providers in Psychology

Expert Evaluator, Orange County Family Law Court

Expert Witness, State of California, Department of Consumer Affairs, Enforcement
Division, Board of Behavioral Science Examiners

Member, American College of Forensic Psychiatry

Invited Lecturer, CLE Presentation to Orange County Superior Court, Minor's Counsel
Section, *Analysis of Sexual Deviance in Child Sexual Abuse Allegations*, November
2005

Assistant Clinical Professor of Psychiatry and Behavior Sciences, USC Keck School of
Medicine, 2005-2006

Medical Expert, Social Security Administration, Office of Disability Adjudication and
Review

Medical Expert, United States Department of Health and Human Services

Orange County Sheriff, Professional Services Reserve

Invited Lecturer, California Coalition Against Sexual Offending, May 2008

Invited Peer Reviewer, upcoming Kaplan and Sadock's *Comprehensive Textbook of
Psychiatry*, Lippincott, Williams & Wilkins, 2009

Invited Lecturer in Neuropsychology, California Psychological Association, April 2009,
Oakland, California

Doctoral Dissertation Committee Member, Pacifica University

Medical Reviewer, *National Medical Review*, Elite Physicians Ltd., Evidence-Based
Medical Reports

Invited Lecturer, American College of Forensic Psychology, April 2010

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