

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Lawrence V. Amsel, MD, MPH
Assistant Professor of Clinical Psychiatry

Education

BA, Mathematics, Columbia College, Columbia University, 1979
MD, Medicine, Yale University School of Medicine, 1988
MPH, Public Health/ Biostatistics, School of Public Health – Columbia University, 1998

Personal Statement

I have been working in psychiatry and public health since graduating from Yale University School of Medicine in 1988. I joined the faculty of Columbia University performing research in suicide prevention and applications of Decision Science and Game Theory to psychiatry. In 2003, I organized the first ever American Psychiatric Association symposium on applications of Game Theory to psychiatry, and have published articles and presented posters on Game Theory modeling of suicide, OCD, and PTSD.

After 9/11, I joined the Trauma Studies and Services division at the New York Psychiatric Institute, and have been involved in treating victims of 9/11 and their families, in training community clinicians in cutting edge treatments for PTSD and Complicated (Traumatic) Grief, as well as in doing research on optimal methods of disseminating this training. I was recently involved in preparing the training materials for the National VA PTSD CBT training program in conjunction with Edna Foa's group at University of Pennsylvania. I have worked with Joy Hirsch at the Program in Imaging and Cognitive Science (PICS) and with Elke Weber and Eric Johnson at the related Decision Imaging Group (DIG) as Director of Mathematical Psychiatry, with the goal of creating innovative collaborations involving fMRI and Decision Science, as applied to psychiatric disorders. Over the last several years I have been collaborating with Dr. Hoven at the Child Psychiatric Epidemiology Group (CPEG) working on understanding the connection between decision deficits, trauma and psychiatric disorders in the developing brain of children/adolescents. I have extensive clinical expertise within psychiatric research, as well as expertise in applying decision science tasks in psychiatric research settings.

I will contribute to the proposed study, "Adolescent and Family Decision Making In Time of Disaster," as Co-Principal Investigator and will serve as the team expert on decision tasks, helping to incorporate the selected tasks into the overall study design. I will be involved in supervising the collection of data related to these tasks and will help guide study design, data collection and analysis, and assist in the interpretation and publication of research findings.

Positions and Employment

1992-1993	National Institute of Mental Health Fellowship in Mental Health Statistics, Columbia University School of Public Health
1995-1996-1998	Assistant Attending in Psychiatry Columbia Presbyterian Hospital Director of Clinical Education, In-Patient Psychiatry Columbia Presbyterian Hospital
1997-1998	Assistant Unit Chief, In-Patient Psychiatry Service. Columbia Presbyterian Hospital
1993-	Course Director, <i>Introduction to Psychiatry for Epidemiology</i> Columbia University School of Public Health

1994-1995	Freedom Forum Center Fellow in Health Care Reform and the Mass Media. New York, NY
1995-1997-	Assistant Professor of Clinical Psychiatry, P&S Columbia University Research Associate for Education in Bioethics. The Hastings Center, Garrison, NY
1998-1999	Research Psychiatrist, New York State Psychiatric Institute
1999-2001	Research Fellow, Division of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, Columbia University
2001-	Research Psychiatrist, Division of Therapeutics, New York State Psychiatric Institute and Columbia University
2008-	Research Psychiatrist, Child Psychiatric Epidemiology Group, New York State Psychiatric Institute and Columbia University

Fellowships

1992-1994	Fellowship Training: National Institute of Mental Health Fellowship in Mental Health Statistics and Psychiatric Research Methods at Columbia University School of Public Health.
1994-1995	Freedom Forum Center Fellow, Research Topics: Analysis of healthcare reform, and journalistic representations of the reform process.
1999-2000	NIMH Research Fellow, Division of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, Columbia University

Selected Peer-reviewed Publications Most Relevant (in chronological order)

1. Amsel, L. (2001). The role of decision science in the understanding and prevention of suicide. Society for Medical Decision Making, Abstract, October, 2001.
2. Amsel, L.V. & Pilpel, A. (2002). A game theory model of suicidal behavior: Improving prediction and prevention. American Psychiatric Association Abstract, May 2002. Component paper in APA Symposium on Application of Decision Theory and Game Theory to Psychiatry, organized and chaired by L. Amsel.
3. Mann, J.J., Currier, D., Stanley, B., Oquendo, M.A., Amsel, L.V. & Ellis, S.P. (2005). Can biological tests assist prediction of suicide in mood disorders? International Journal of Neuropsychopharmacology, 9(4), 465-474. PMID: 15967058
4. Amsel, L., Suh, E. J., Marshall, R. & Neria, Y. (2006). Training therapists to practice evidence-based psychotherapy after 9/11. In Yuval Neria, Raz Gross, Randall Marshall & Ezra Susser (Eds.). 9/11: Mental Health in the Wake of Terrorist Attacks, Cambridge University Press. Cambridge, UK.
5. Marshall, R.D., Bryant, R., Amsel, L., Suh, E.J., Cook, J. & Neria, Y. (2007). The psychology of ongoing threat: relative risk appraisal, the September 11 attacks, and terrorism-related fears. American Psychologist, 62(4), 304-316. PMID: 17516775
6. Amsel, L. & Pilpel, A. (2008). Towards a mathematical psychiatry – Game theory modeling of OCD. Society for Judgment and Decision Making Annual Meeting Abstract, 2008.
7. Jensen, P.S., Goldman, E., Offord, D., Costello, E.J., Friedman, R., Huff, B., Crowe, M., Amsel, L., Bennett, K., Bird, H., Conger, R., Fisher, P., Hoagwood, K., Kessler, R.C. & Roberts, R. (2011). Overlooked and underserved: "action signs" for identifying children with unmet mental health needs. Pediatrics, 128(5), 970-9. PMID: PMC3387881
8. Amsel, L.V., Hunter, N., Kim, S., Fodor, K.E. & Markowitz, J.C. (2012). Does a study focused on trauma encourage patients with psychotic symptoms to seek treatment? Psychiatr Serv, 63(4), 386-9. PMID: PMC3617213