Introduction to the Use and Interpretation of the Personality Assessment Inventory (PAI)

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Presenter:

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Workshop Description:

This workshop offers a basic introduction to the use and interpretation of the Personality Assessment Inventory (PAI). No previous experience with the PAI is necessary; however, attendees should be familiar with basic principles of psychometrics. The workshop will address the unique features of the PAI, including an overview of the full scales and subscales. The process of PAI scale development will be described to illustrate the use of construct validation principles in the construction of the instrument. Four approaches to evaluating protocol validity will be described, including the detection of careless or random responding, negative distortion versus malingering, and positive distortion versus overt defensiveness. Several empirical approaches to making psychodiagnostic inferences and clinical decisions will also be presented. Supplemental indexes for the evaluation of suicidal risk and violence potential will be introduced, and the use of the PAI for evaluating prognosis for psychotherapy and for selecting appropriate treatment strategies will be described. Case studies will be presented to illustrate each of the various procedures presented in the workshop.

Learning Objectives:

1) Understand the development of the PAI as an example of construct validation strategies in test construction.
2) Know the advantages and unique features of the PAI.
3) Know multiple strategies for establishing the validity of PAI protocols.
4) Know three approaches to PAI interpretation for personality assessment and psychodiagnosis.
5) Know how to use PAI scales and indices in assessment of suicidal risk and violence potential.
6) Know how to use treatment scales and supplemental indexes to inform clinical decisions and plan appropriate treatments.
Presenter Biography:

John E. Kurtz, Ph.D. is professor of psychology at Villanova University and a licensed clinical psychologist in Pennsylvania. He completed undergraduate studies at the University of California, Berkeley, doctoral studies in clinical psychology at Vanderbilt University, a clinical internship at the Veterans Affairs and University of Michigan hospitals in Ann Arbor, Michigan, and an NIH post-doctoral fellowship in clinical neuropsychology and rehabilitation research at Wayne State University Medical School. Currently, Dr. Kurtz is Associate Editor of the *Journal of Personality Assessment*. He conducts research on the Personality Assessment Inventory, adult personality development, and the use of knowledgeable informants in personality assessment.

Outline of Workshop:

8:00  Structural Features, Full Scales, and Subscales of the PAI  
     Conceptual Rationale and Scale Development  
     Alternate Versions and Normative Samples

9:30  Break

9:45  Detection of Random/Careless Responding  
     Assessment of Negative Response Distortion  
     Assessment of Positive Response Distortion

11:00  Full Scale and Subscale Profile Interpretation  
       Psychodiagnosis Using Fit Coefficients and LOGIT Functions  
       Cluster-based Interpretation

11:30  Lunch Break

1:00  Assessment of Substance Abuse Issues  
     Assessment of Violence Potential  
     Assessment of Suicidal Risk

2:30  Break

2:45  Assessment of Motivation and Amenability for Treatment  
     Use of the PAI for Treatment Selection  
     Interpersonal Style; Self and Other Issues  
     Case Studies

4:00  Adjourn