

## **BETTER TOGETHER**

2018 ATSA Conference | Thursday October 18 | 10:30 AM – 12:00 PM

**T-07**

### **Community Based Treatment for Individuals Who Have Sexually Offended: Application of the Risk, Need, and Responsivity (RNR) Model**

Christine Sribney, MSc, RPsych  
Alberto Choy, MD, FRCP(C)  
Theresa Van Domselaar, PhD, RPsych  
Forensic Assessment and Community Services (FACS)

The Risk-Need-Responsivity (RNR) model (Bonta & Andrews, 2017) has gained substantial empirical support for rehabilitation efforts with individuals who have sexually offended (ISO). Further, it has been demonstrated that treatment programs that adhere to the core principles of the RNR model yield more positive outcomes than those that do not. As a result, the RNR principles should be a primary consideration in the design, implementation, and evaluation of interventions for ISO. This workshop will focus on bridging the gap between research and clinical practice. Practical strategies and detailed treatment resources will be provided in order to illuminate methods of translating the RNR principles into clinical practice in a community based treatment setting for adult ISO. These strategies will help address the unique challenges that arise as community-based treatment often simultaneously acts as a complement to institutional programs (i.e., follow-up after incarceration) *and* as a comprehensive program for individuals with no prior treatment. Participants will leave this workshop with program design frameworks, treatment planning information, and treatment intervention resources that are informed by empirically-supported principles that aid in addressing responsivity factors.

Collectively, the strategies and resources offered in this workshop will provide clinical guidance in applying the central tenets of the RNR model within the framework of community-based ISO treatment.

#### **Learning Goals:**

Upon completion of this educational activity, learners will:

- Be able to describe the key components of the RNR model and be better equipped with “how - to” strategies for using the risk principle to differentiate, design, and implement appropriate group formats for individuals of varied risk levels.
- Acquire treatment framework ideas, treatment worksheets, participant exercises, and interactive group activities to help address empirically-supported criminogenic needs and responsivity issues.
- Gain an understanding of the critical issues and challenges that arise when translating the RNR principles into everyday clinical practice.

## ***BETTER TOGETHER***

2018 ATSA Conference | Thursday October 18 | 10:30 AM – 12:00 PM

**Christine Sribney** is a Registered Psychologist at Forensic Assessment and Community Services (FACS) in Edmonton, Alberta. She is the clinical lead for the sexual violence team and is involved in program development and coordination of assessment and treatment services. She also provides sexual violence risk evaluations, treatment assessments, and, for over 17 years, has participated in both individual and group treatment for individuals who have sexually offended (ISO). She is currently involved in research that relates to community-based treatment for ISO.

**Dr. Alberto Choy** is the Section Chief of Forensic Psychiatry with Alberta Hospital Edmonton and an Assistant Professor with the University of Alberta since April 2004. Dr. Choy finished his psychiatric training with a fellowship in forensic psychiatry at the University of Toronto, subspecializing in sexual offenders and risk assessment. Subsequently, he worked at the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health in Toronto, in the original mental health courts in Toronto, and in correctional clinics throughout Toronto and northern Ontario. With the police services and through the Universities of Toronto and Alberta, he has provided courses and lectures internationally on various aspects of forensic psychiatry, violence, sexual offenders, risk assessment and treatment.

**Theresa Van Domselaar** Ph.D, R. Psych - has been a psychologist at Forensic Assessment and Community Services (FACS) for the past six years. In her current role, she conducts court- ordered forensic mental health assessments, including those pertaining to Dangerous Offender/Long Term Offender applications. She also engages in individual and group treatment with a diverse range of individuals who have been in conflict with the law. Previously, she gained extensive experience in the Alberta provincial correctional system providing psychological services to incarcerated individuals coping with acute and chronic mental illness.