

## ***SHAPING THE FUTURE***

2019 ATSA Conference | Friday November 8 | 1:30 PM – 3:00 PM

**F-24**

### **Exploring the Role of Treatment Responsivity in Client Success**

Robin J. Wilson, Ph.D., ABPP

McMaster University & Wilson Psychology Services LLC

It has been more than three decades since the Risk-Need-Responsivity model revolutionized modern correctional interventions, including those for persons who have sexually offended. However, while tools have emerged to assist in addressing the risk (e.g., Static-99R, VRAG-R) and need (e.g., SRA-FV, VRS:SO, Stable-2007) principles, developing objective approaches to enhancing responsivity has proven more difficult. It appears that most seasoned clinicians have a reasonable working definition of what responsivity is, but many examples exist of less than optimal application of this construct in clinical practice. Development and implementation of responsive interventions requires a frank assessment of your client population and a dedication to being creative in ensuring that every clinical act promotes client engagement in furthering our shared goal of making society safer.

Nonetheless, there are likely both theoretical and practical obstacles to always providing clients with treatment options to which they can respond; however, the following – among other possibilities – have been attempted (with varying success):

- Inclusion of treatment readiness modules
- Development of specialized treatment tracks
- Awareness of the effects of trauma
- Provision of enhanced training to staff working with special needs clients
- Including client perspectives and ideas in curriculum development
- Consideration of “user satisfaction data” from clients and staff
- Employment of specialized techniques, such as motivational interviewing and feedback-informed treatment

This presentation will briefly review the RNR model with a focus on the Responsivity Principle before delving into theoretical and practical aspects of ensuring that clients in treatment receive the best possible opportunities for lasting personal change. Group discussion will be promoted.

**Financial Interest:** The presenter is the co-author of three workbooks that will be referenced during this presentation and receives royalties from the sale of two of them. The third workbook’s profits are channeled back into the clinic where it was developed.

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### **Learning Goals:**

- To promote evidence-based approaches in treatment for persons who have sexually offended.
- To highlight the relative inattention paid to treatment responsiveness.
- To provide participants with practical examples of how to adapt program curricula to ensure optimal outcomes.

**Robin J. Wilson** is a board certified clinical psychologist with 35 years' experience in sexual violence prevention. He has written and presented broadly on the assessment, treatment, and risk management of persons who have sexually offended. He maintains an international evaluation and consultation practice in Sarasota, Florida and is a Clinical Assistant Professor (Adjunct) of Psychiatry and Behavioural Neurosciences at McMaster University in Hamilton, ON.