

Amy E. West, Ph.D.,
SCCAP (Division 53), Candidate for Member-at-Large for Practice and Science

Biography

Dr. West, Ph.D., is a Licensed Clinical Psychologist, Associate Professor in the Department of Pediatrics, and Associate Director for Psychology Training at Children's Hospital Los Angeles (CHLA) and USC Keck School of Medicine. Dr. West's clinical work and research focus on pediatric mood disorders, with a particular concentration on understanding predictors and mechanisms of treatment response for psychosocial treatments. She received funding from the National Institutes of Mental Health to develop and rigorously test a family-based intervention for children with bipolar spectrum disorders. This treatment, called child- and family-focused cognitive-behavioral therapy (CFF-CBT), or the RAINBOW program, was subsequently published as part of Oxford University Press's "Treatments that Work" series and is one of only a few evidence-based treatments for youth with bipolar disorder. Dr. West also has an interest in intervention development for culturally unique populations, and has partnered with urban American Indian communities and been funded to develop community-based, culturally-competent mental health services. Dr. West received a B.A. in Psychology from Stanford University, her Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology from the University of Virginia, and completed her pre-doctoral internship and post-doctoral fellowship at Harvard Medical School/Children's Hospital Boston.

Candidate Statement

I have a strong commitment to enhancing the availability and use of science-based psychosocial treatments to children and families affected by mental health issues. I am especially motivated to ensure that the most vulnerable children and families (e.g., ethnic minorities, socio-economically disadvantaged, underserved) have access to high quality, evidence-based clinical care. These commitments are reflected in several of my ongoing professional activities. I am currently a practicing psychologist and researcher within the Community Mental Health Program at Children's Hospital Los Angeles, where our mission is to provide high quality evidence-based interventions to diverse and underserved children and families funded by Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health. I also serve as the Associate Director for Psychology Training at USC/CHLA and in that role co-direct our large psychology internship (N=10) and fellowship (N=22) programs. Our training programs specifically emphasize preparing professional psychologists to integrate science and clinical practice effectively in order to provide a high standard of clinical care to diverse, vulnerable, and underserved populations. My involvement in multiple levels of the continuum – creating scientific evidence, applying science-based interventions in real-world community settings with diverse and underserved populations, and training and supervising the next generation of psychologists – requires me to consistently evaluate how clinical science actually translates to practice in vulnerable and complex clinical populations, and to reflect on the skills and knowledge necessary to navigate the intersections of science, real-world clinical practice, training, ethics, and diversity issues.

I would be honored to serve as SCCAP's next Member-at-Large for Practice and Science. I have been fortunate to serve APA in the past as the Division 37 (Child and Family Policy and Practice) Program Chair for the 2008 APA annual convention. In addition, I am an Associate Editor for the Journal of Clinical Child and Adolescent Psychology and have served in various leadership positions in other relevant organizations (e.g., Association for Cognitive and Behavioral Therapy, Society for Prevention Research, and the Anxiety and Depression Association of America). If elected to this position, I hope to contribute to exciting new and ongoing initiatives relevant to advancing the Society's missions around professional development, ethical standards, and education in the clinical practice of child and adolescent psychology.