

## Outline

### Use Neuroscience in the Treatment of Anxiety

Positives: We know more about anxiety-based disorders than any other disorders  
Science gives explanations, evidence, authority, destigmatizes difficulties  
Concerns: It can be difficult to explain, answer questions  
Clients may feel a lack of responsibility  
Oversimplification is inevitable

### Enhancing Engagement in Treatment

Don't neglect the therapeutic relationship!  
Address the challenges of anxious clients  
Remember that strategies are effortful  
Guide the process using client's goals  
Maintain motivation

### Neuroplasticity

Define Neuroplasticity in everyday language  
Therapy is about creating a new self  
"Rewiring" as an accessible concept for change  
Re-consolidation: the modification of emotional memories

### Identify Two Neural Pathways to Anxiety

Amygdala – bottom-up triggering of emotion, physicality of anxiety  
Cortex – top-down emotion generation based in cognition  
Explain the two pathways to clients  
How anxiety is initiated in each pathway and how pathways influence each other

### Client Friendly Explanations

Use illustrations to create concrete understanding  
Fight/flight/freeze responses  
The "language of the amygdala"  
Anxiety and the cortex  
Help clients recognize the two pathways to anxiety

### Neuroplasticity in the Amygdala (Essential for all Anxiety Disorders, PTSD, OCD, Depression)

Sleep and the amygdala  
The influence of exercise  
Breathing techniques to reduce activation  
Relaxation, meditation, and yoga to modify responses  
Exposure as opportunities for the amygdala to learn

Combating avoidance  
When anxiety indicates that the amygdala can learn new responses  
Push through anxiety to change the amygdala

### Neuroplasticity in the Cortex (Essential for GAD, SAD, OCD, PTSD, Depression)

"Survival of the busiest" principle—strengthen or weaken specific circuitry  
The healthy (adaptive) use of worry in the cortex  
"You can't erase: You must replace."  
Recognize and modify the impact of uncertainty  
Training correct uses of distraction  
Left hemisphere techniques- cognitive defusion, coping thoughts, fighting anticipation  
Right hemisphere techniques – imagery, music  
Mindfulness and anxiety resistances

### Neuroplasticity and Medications for Anxiety Disorders, OCD, PTSD, Depression

Medication's effects in the rewiring process  
The myth of the chemical imbalance  
The danger of sedating the brain with benzodiazepines  
Promoting neuroplasticity with SSRIs, SNRIs  
The effectiveness of CBT and meds

### Moving Beyond Diagnostic Categories to Focus on Anxiety Pathways

Anxiety is a component of many diagnoses (depression, substance abuse, etc.)  
Amygdala- and cortex-based techniques help in other disorders  
Targeting brain-based symptoms rather than disorders  
Worry, obsessions, rumination respond to similar cortex-based techniques  
Panic, phobic responses, and compulsions respond to amygdala-based techniques

### Research, Risks and Limitations

Empirical versus clinical and anecdotal evidence  
Clinical considerations for specific clients and settings  
Efficacy of particular interventions may vary

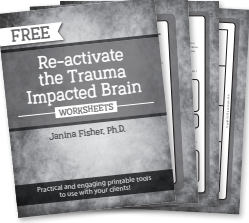
## Objectives

1. Ascertain the underlying neurological processes that impact anxious symptoms for clients.
2. Develop client engagement in treatment using personalized goals and attending to the therapeutic relationship.
3. Evaluate the differences between amygdala-based and cortex-based anxiety symptoms and identify how these symptoms inform treatment interventions.
4. Communicate strategies for calming and training the amygdala in order to alleviate symptoms of anxiety.
5. Implement methods for teaching clients to retrain the cortex so that anxiety is resisted rather than exacerbated.
6. Analyze how psychotropic medication impacts neuroplasticity in the brain; identify related treatment implications.



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# Rewire the Anxious Brain

Neuroscience-Informed Treatment of Anxiety, Panic and Worry

**Timonium, MD**

Monday, March 2, 2020

**Columbia, MD**

Tuesday, March 3, 2020

**Annapolis, MD**

Wednesday, March 4, 2020

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# Rewire the Anxious Brain

Neuroscience-Informed Treatment of Anxiety, Panic and Worry

- Apply brain-based strategies for Panic, Social Anxiety, OCD, GAD and PTSD
- Understand the difference between cortex-based and amygdala-based anxiety
- Motivate clients and calm the anxious brain using the power of neuroplasticity
- Increase client engagement by focusing on changing the brain - not simply decreasing anxiety

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# Rewire the Anxious Brain

## Neuroscience-Informed Treatment of Anxiety, Panic and Worry

Join Dr. Heidi Schreiber-Pan and learn her keys for successful anxiety treatment. Dr. Schreiber-Pan integrates brain-based strategies for calming the anxious mind with client communication techniques that motivate change in your clients. Heidi's approach promotes adherence to treatment and strengthens the therapeutic alliance - which is essential when working with anxious, worried, traumatized, or obsessive clients. Dr. Schreiber-Pan will give you tools and techniques to:

- Identify and treat the roots of anxiety in both the amygdala and the cortex
- Explain "the language of the amygdala" in an accessible, straight forward way
- Identify how the cortex contributes to anxiety, and empower clients with strategies to resist anxiety-igniting cognitions

Register today for this workshop and put the power of neuroplasticity to work for you and your anxious clients!

## Speaker

**Heidi Schreiber-Pan, Ph.D., LCPC, NCC**, is a successful psychotherapist, author, clinical director and sought-after nationwide speaker on topics of resilience, anxiety, neuroscience, and occupational burnout. As an affiliate and former faculty member of Loyola University, Maryland, her past research has focused on resiliency and psychological well-being, including nature-based mental health.

Dr. Schreiber-Pan has worked with various organizations, schools and corporations to reduce stress on a communal level and to increase structural well-being through training in positive psychology as well as emotional intelligence coaching.

Dr. Schreiber-Pan has developed unique continuing education courses that combine established clinical methods such as CBT with innovative treatment approached including nature-based psychotherapy and neuro-counseling. She is the author of *Taming the Anxious Mind: A guidebook to relieve stress and anxiety*.

### Speaker Disclosures:

Financial: Heidi Schreiber-Pan is in private practice. She receives a consulting fee from Loyola University. Dr. Schreiber-Pan receives a speaking honorarium from PESI, Inc.

Non-financial: Heidi Schreiber-Pan is a member of the Association for Counselor Education and Supervision; the American Counseling Association; and Maryland Association for Counseling and Development.

**Questions?** Visit our FAQ page at [www.pesi.com/faq](http://www.pesi.com/faq) or contact us at [www.pesi.com/info](http://www.pesi.com/info)

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**Taming the Anxious Mind**  
A Guidebook to Relieve Stress & Anxiety

By Heidi Schreiber-Pan, Ph.D., LCPC **YOUR SPEAKER**

*Taming the Anxious Mind* deconstructs the complex treatment of anxiety and stress disorders into a user-friendly and action-oriented guidebook. It emphasizes that anxiety represents an opportunity to re-train the mind away from destructive thinking towards a healthy mindset.



**Melt Worry and Relax Card Deck**  
56 CBT & Mindfulness Strategies to Release Anxiety

By Jennifer L. Abel, Ph.D.

Do you worry too much? Feel anxious, stressed, or tired? This deck provides you with 56 useful and effective anti-anxiety strategies to help you relax. Based in cognitive therapy, mindfulness, relaxation and behavioral therapy, each card will help you melt worry and anxiety quickly and easily.

**Target Audience:** Social Workers ■ Psychologists ■ Psychiatrists ■ Counselors ■ Case Managers  
Marriage and Family Therapists ■ Occupational Therapists ■ Occupational Therapy Assistants  
Speech Language Pathologists ■ Addiction Counselors ■ Therapists ■ Nurses ■ Other Mental Health Professionals

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*If your profession is not listed, please contact your licensing board to determine your continuing education requirements and check for reciprocal approval. For other credit inquiries not specified below, or questions on home study credit availability, please contact [cepesi@pesi.com](mailto:cepesi@pesi.com) or 800-844-8260 before the event.*

*Materials that are included in this course may include interventions and modalities that are beyond the authorized practice of mental health professionals. As a licensed professional, you are responsible for reviewing the scope of practice, including activities that are defined in law as beyond the boundaries of practice in accordance with and in compliance with your profession's standards.*

*PESI, Inc. offers continuing education programs and products under the brand names PESI, PESI Healthcare, PESI Rehab and Psychotherapy Networker.*

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**Maryland Counselors:** This intermediate activity is approved for 6.25 clock hours of continuing education instruction. The Maryland Board of Professional Counselors recognizes courses and providers that are approved by the NAADAC. A certificate of attendance will be awarded at the end of the program to counselors who complete the program evaluation, to submit to their state board.

**Marriage & Family Therapists:** This activity consists of 380 minutes of continuing education instruction. Credit requirements and approvals vary per state board regulations. You should save this course outline, the certificate of completion you receive from the activity and contact your state board or organization to determine specific filing requirements.

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**Speech-Language Pathologists:** This course is offered for .6 ASHA CEUs (Intermediate level, Professional area).

**Social Workers:** PESI, Inc., #1062, is approved to offer social work continuing education by the Association of Social Work Boards (ASWB) Approved Continuing Education (ACE) program. Organizations, not individual courses, are approved as ACE providers. State and provincial regulatory boards have the final authority to determine whether an individual course may be accepted for continuing education credit. PESI, Inc. maintains responsibility for this course. ACE provider approval period: January 27, 2017 - January 27, 2020. Social Workers completing this course receive 6.25 Clinical Practice continuing education credits. Course Level: Intermediate. Full attendance is required; no partial credits will be offered for partial attendance. A certificate of attendance will be awarded at the end of the program to social workers who complete the program evaluation.

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