



Jake Epker, Ph.D.
Curriculum Vitae

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Education:

Amherst College
Bachelor of Arts in Psychology (January, 1993)

University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center at Dallas
Doctorate (Ph.D.) in Clinical Psychology (August, 1998)

University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center at Dallas
Two-Year Post-Doctoral Fellowship in Health Psychology (September, 2000)

Clinical Experience:

January 2020 –
Present

Certified Forensic Examiner, State of Alabama:

Contracted with the Alabama Department of Mental Health, through the Jefferson-Blount-St. Clair Mental Health Authority, to perform forensic evaluations of defendants to determine issues such as competency to stand trial and mental state at time of offense.

September 2000 –
Present

Private Practice

Mobile, Alabama: Private practice with a focus on evaluation and treatment of individuals with work-related injuries, chronic pain, or emotional distress; evaluations include: presurgical (e.g., spine surgery, bariatric surgery), independent medical evaluation/second medical opinion, forensic evaluation, and physician referrals; treatment emphasis includes: behavioral medicine treatment and general adult psychotherapy.

September 1998 -
September 2000:

Post-Doctoral Fellowship in Health Psychology

Texas Back Institute: Provided psychological services at one of the nation's leading centers for the treatment of spinal cord injury and back pain. Activities included performing comprehensive behavioral medicine evaluations of potential surgery candidates, providing individual psychotherapy for patients, and conducting group therapy for patients in a "return-to-work" program.

University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center: Helped to develop and implement a psychosocial program for patients with brain tumors in the Neuro-oncology Center. Responsibilities within this biobehavioral program included co-moderating a 6-week psychoeducational group for patients and their spouses, providing individual therapy for patients, collecting outcome data, and supervising graduate students.

- August 1997 -
August 1998: **APA-Approved Internship in Medical Psychology**
Children's Medical Center, Cystic Fibrosis Clinic: Worked as part of a multidisciplinary team treating children and adults with Cystic Fibrosis. Conducted individual cognitive behavioral therapy, behavior management, group therapy, personality assessment, and made treatment recommendations.
- August 1996 -
August 1997: **APA-Approved Internship in Forensic/Medical Psychology**
Federal Medical Center, Carswell: Developed a treatment program for female inmates with a history of substance dependence that included neurofeedback, relaxation training, and imagery techniques. Also received training in forensic evaluation of inmates using interviews, personality testing, and intellectual assessment to determine issues of competency and responsibility for the Department of Justice.
- June 1996 -
August 1996: **Practicum in Medical Psychology**
Parkland Memorial Hospital: Performed intellectual, personality, and neuropsychological assessments to assist in diagnosis and treatment of inpatients and outpatients.
- August 1995 -
May 1996: **Practicum in Pediatric Psychology**
Dallas Independent School District, Department of Special Education: Served as a consultant to teachers and administrators working with children and adolescents of all grade levels to facilitate communication between special education classes, faculty, and administration. Conducted group therapy with students. Testing experience included intellectual, academic, and personality assessments.
- May 1995 -
August 1995: **Practicum in Clinical Psychology**
Terrell State Hospital, Child and Adolescent Unit: Completed individual, group, and family psychotherapy with individuals ranging in age from 7-17 years. Testing experience included intellectual, academic, and personality assessments.
- May 1995 -
August 1998: **Practicum in Adult Outpatient Psychotherapy**
Southwestern Adult Outpatient Clinic: Carried a regular caseload of weekly individual psychotherapy clients through a student operated clinic.
- May 1995 -
August 1997: **Psychiatry Emergency Room Intern**
Parkland Memorial Hospital, Psychiatric Emergency Room: Responsibilities included assessment of psychopathology, suicidality, psychosis, and need for additional treatment for patients presenting in acute psychiatric crises.

Publications:

Marek, R.J., Ben-Porath, Y.S., Epker, J., Kreymer, J.K. & Block, A.R. (2018). Reliability and Validity of the Minnesota Multiphasic Personality Inventory–2–Restructured Form (MMPI-2-RF) in Spine Surgery and Spinal Cord Stimulator Samples. *Journal of Personality Assessment*.

Boettcher, A., Hill, B. D., & Epker, J. (2017). The relation of self-report pain scales to neuropsychological test performance using structural equation modeling. Poster presented at the 45th annual conference of the International Neuropsychological Society, New Orleans, LA

Epker, J. & Block, A.R. (2014). Psychological Screening for Spine Surgery: Avoiding Failed Surgery Syndrome. *Psychological Injury and Law*, 7, 317-324.

Epker, J. (2013). Psychometric Methods for Measuring Pain. *The Clinical Neuropsychologist*, 27(1), 33-48.

Epker, J. & Ogden, M. (2012). The Impact of Pain and Pain-Related Factors on Cognitive Functioning. In Arnett, P. (Ed.): *Secondary Influences on Neuropsychological Test Performance*. Oxford University Press

Epker, J. & Block, A. (2006). Biopsychosocial Assessment for Low Back Syndromes. In Morris, C.E. (ed.): *Low Back Syndromes: Integrated Clinical Management*. McGraw-Hill.

Epker, J. & Block, A. (2001). Presurgical Psychological Screening in Back Pain Patients: A Review. *Clinical Journal of Pain*, 17(3), 200-205.

Epker, J. & Gatchel, R.J. (2000). Prediction of Treatment-Seeking Behavior in Acute TMD Patients: Practical Applications in Clinical Settings. *Journal of Orofacial Pain*, 14(4), 303-309.

Epker J., Haley, R. Matt Maddrey, A. (2000). Self-report of neuropsychological impairment in Gulf War veterans. *Archives of Clinical Neuropsychology* 15(8), 718.

Epker, J. & Gatchel, R.J. (2000). Coping profile differences in the biopsychosocial functioning of TMD patients. *Journal of Psychosomatic Medicine*, 62(1), 69-75.

Epker, J., Matt Maddrey, A., & Rosenblatt, R. (1999). Pain and pain-related impairment in adults with cystic fibrosis. *Journal of Clinical Psychology in Medical Settings*, 6(4), 393-403.

Epker, J., Gatchel, R.J., & Ellis, E. (1999). An accurate model for predicting chronic TMD: Practical application in clinical settings. *Journal of the American Dental Association*, 130, 1470-1475.

Gatchel, R.J. & Epker, J. (1999). Psychosocial predictors of chronic pain and response to treatment. In Gatchel, R.J. & Turk, D.C. (eds.): *Psychosocial factors in pain*. Guilford Press: New York.

Epker, J. (1999). Psychosocial workshop for patients with cystic fibrosis. *The CF Connection*.

Epker, J. & Matt Maddrey, A.M. (1999). A subjective index of quality of life in adult patients with CF: The SF-36. *Pediatric Pulmonology*, Suppl. 19, 327.

Epker, J. & Matt Maddrey, A.M. (1999). A preliminary investigation of the relationship between disease severity and quality of life. *Pediatric Pulmonology*, Suppl. 19, 327.

McGarrahan A., Epker, J., & Maddrey, A.M. (1999). Children's quality of life from the parents' perspective: A comparison of CF and other chronic illnesses using the Child Health Questionnaire. *Pediatric Pulmonology*, Suppl. 19, 328.

Epker, J. & Matt Maddrey, A. (1998). Quality of life in pediatric patients with cystic fibrosis. *International Journal of Rehabilitation and Health.*, 4(4), 215-222.

Epker, J.T., Matt Maddrey, A.M., & Prestidge, C.B. (1998). Assessment of pain in adult cystic fibrosis patients. *Pediatric Pulmonology*, Suppl. 17, 397.

Epker, J. & Matt Maddrey, A.M. (1998). Self-report of neuropsychological impairment in adult patients with cystic fibrosis. *Archives of Clinical Neuropsychology*, 14(1), 106.

Presentations:

Epker, J. and Ogden, M. (2020). How Telemedicine Impacts Psychological Services in Times of Emergency. Alabama Self-Insured Association. Virtual Summer Conference.

Epker, J. (2020). Posttraumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD): Clinical Issues in Diagnosis and Treatment. Alabama Department of Labor, Birmingham, AL (virtual).

Epker, J. (2019). Work Injuries: Why a Psychological Evaluation? Alabama Self-Insured Association Summer Conference. Sandestin, FL.

Epker, J. and Datz, G. (2019). Is it Trauma or Drama? The 32nd Annual Mississippi Worker's Compensation Educational Association. Biloxi, MS.

Epker, J. and Ogden, M. (2019). Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD): Fact or Fiction. Alabama Department of Labor, Orange Beach, AL.

Epker, J. (2018). Psychological Based Treatments of Patients with CRPS in Worker's Compensation Cases. Alabama Self-Insured Association Summer Conference. Sandestin, FL.

Epker, J. (2018). Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder: Diagnosis and Treatment. Alabama Department of Labor. Birmingham, AL.

Epker, J. (2018). Assessment and Treatment of Patients with Chronic Pain: An Evidence Based Approach. Alabama Physical Therapy Association Spring Conference, Orange Beach, AL.

Epker, J. (2018). Stand and Deliver. American Association of Port Authorities Public Relations Workshop. Mobile, AL

Epker, J. (2018). Injured Workers with Chronic Pain: Challenges and Solutions for Psychological Oriented Evaluation and Treatment. Taylor, Wellons, Politz, & Duhe, APLC retreat. New Orleans, LA.

Epker, J. & Hill, B. (2016). Clinical considerations for neuropsychological evaluation of patients with chronic pain. National Academy of Neuropsychology Webinar.

Epker, J. (2016). Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder: Diagnosis and Treatment. Alabama Self-Insured Association Winter Conference, Birmingham, AL.

Epker J. (2016). Risk Assessment for Chronic Opioid Therapy. Neuro Restorative CEU Day, Mobile, AL.

Epker, J. (2016). Psychological Evaluation Before Spine Surgery. South Alabama Association of Occupational Health Nurses, Orange Beach, AL.

Epker, J. (2016). Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder: Diagnosis and Treatment. Alabama Department of Labor, Birmingham, AL.

Epker, J. (2015). Psychological Evaluation Before Spine Surgery. Alabama Department of Labor, Birmingham, AL.

Epker, J. (2015). Psychological Evaluation Before Spine Surgery: Avoiding Failed Outcomes. One Call University CEU Day, Jackson, MS.

Epker J. (2015). Risk Assessment for Chronic Opioid Therapy. Comprehensive Pain and Rehabilitation, Pascagoula, MS.

Epker, J. (2015). Psychological Evaluation Before Spine Surgery. Alabama Department of Labor, Orange Beach, AL.

Epker, J., Ogden, M., & Walker, C. (2015). Biopsychosocial Approach to Improving Treatment Outcomes. Alabama Self-Insured Association Winter Conference, Birmingham, AL.

Epker, J. (2014). Injured Workers with Chronic Pain: Challenges and Solutions for Psychological Oriented Evaluation and Treatment. Alabama Self-Insured Association Summer Conference, Destin, FL.

Epker, J. (2014). Factors Influencing Poor Outcomes in Injured Workers: The Importance of Effective Evaluation and Treatment. One Call University CEU Day, Jackson, MS.

Epker, J. & Dolce, J. (2014). Opioid Risk Assessment. Alabama Worker's Compensation Organization Summer Conference, Birmingham, AL.

Epker, J. (2014). Injured Workers with Chronic Pain: Challenges and Solutions for Psychological Oriented Evaluation and Treatment. Alabama Department of Labor, Birmingham, AL.

Epker, J. (2013). Factors Influencing Poor Outcomes in Injured Workers: The Importance of Effective Evaluation and Treatment. Mobile Claims Association, Mobile, AL.

Epker, J. (2013). The A, B, C's of Evaluating and Treating Patients with Chronic Pain: A Biopsychosocial Perspective. Alabama Psychological Association Annual Conference, Orange Beach, AL.

Epker, J. (2013). Predicting Poor Outcome in Injured Workers: The Importance of Effective Evaluation and Treatment. Alabama Worker's Compensation Organization Spring Conference, Birmingham, AL.

Saiter, E., Epker, J., & Jackson, H. (2013). Taking the Pain Out of Treating Low Back Pain. Annual Conference of Mid-South Occupational and Environmental Medical Association (Mid-South OEMA), Biloxi, MS.

Epker, J. (2004). Psychosocial Factors in Gastric Bypass Surgery. Alabama Dietetic Association Annual Conference, Montgomery, AL.

Epker, J. (2004). Issues in Private Practice. Presented to Post-Doctoral Fellows in Clinical Psychology/Neuropsychology at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center, Dallas, TX.

Epker, J. (2004). Psychosocial Factors in Chronic Pain. Presented to medical students at the University of South Alabama, Mobile, AL.

Broadwater, W., Epker, J., & Sherling, B. (2001). An Introduction to Worker's Compensation In Alabama. Mobile, AL.

Epker, J. (2001). Observation and Discrimination of Pain Behavior. Presented to physicians in residency at the University of South Alabama, Department of Family Medicine.

Epker, J. (2001). Pain Management. Presented to physicians in residency at the University of South Alabama, Department of Family Medicine.

Matt Maddrey, A., Epker, J., Crossland, J., Robinson, R., Barfoot, B., & Peters, G. (2001). Comprehensive Psychosocial Profile of a Breast Cancer Patient Population. Poster presentation at the Society for Behavioral Medicine Annual Conference, San Francisco, California.

Epker, J., Barfoot, B., Crossland, J., Robinson, R., Euhus, D., & Matt Maddrey, A. (2001). Patients At Risk For Breast Cancer: Biopsychosocial Functioning. Poster presentation at the Society for Behavioral Medicine Annual Conference, San Francisco, California.

Epker, J. (2000). Presurgical Psychological Screening in Spine Surgery Candidates. Symposium presentation at the Society for Behavioral Medicine Annual Conference, Nashville, Tennessee.

Epker, J. & Matt Maddrey, A.M. (1999). A subjective index of quality of life in adult patients with CF: The SF-36. Poster presentation at the North American Cystic Fibrosis Conference, Seattle, Washington.

Epker, J. & Matt Maddrey, A.M. (1999). A preliminary investigation of the relationship between disease severity and quality of life. Poster presentation at the North American CF Conference, Seattle, Washington.

Epker, J. & Maddrey, A.M. (1999). Perceptions of health status in pediatric patients with CF and their parents. Poster presentation at the American Psychological Association Annual Conference, Boston, Massachusetts.

McGarrahan A., Epker, J., & Maddrey, A.M. (1999). Children's quality of life from the parents' perspective: A comparison of CF and other chronic illnesses using the Child Health Questionnaire. Poster presentation at the North American CF Conference, Seattle, Washington.

Epker, J. & Matt Maddrey, A. (1998). Self-report of neuropsychological impairment in adult patients with cystic fibrosis. Poster presentation at the National Academy of Neuropsychology Conference, Washington D.C.

Epker, J., Matt Maddrey, A.M., & Prestidge, C.B. (1998). Assessment of pain in adult cystic fibrosis patients. Poster presentation at the North American CF Conference, Montreal, Quebec.

Research Experience:

- September 1998 - **Post-Doctoral Fellowship in Health Psychology**
September 2000: UTSWMC, Neuro-Oncology Center: Assessed patients and their spouses in a number of psychosocial domains, including quality of life, emotional functioning, coping skills, and support. Maintained database and used data as a pilot to substantiate a larger, more comprehensive grant.
- UTSW Center for Breast Care: Assisted in the development and implementation of a psychosocial program for the clinic, including a cost-analysis of the measures to be utilized for psychosocial evaluation and outcome.
- UTSWMC, Gulf War Syndrome Clinical Trial: Responsible for developing reliable measure for obtaining psychosocial data, ensuring reliability of raters, and improving efficiency of the management of the study.
- UTSWMC, TMD Study: Data manager and a member of the research team (see below).
- August 1996 - **NIH-Funded Temporomandibular Disorders Study**
August 1999: Research Associate: Responsibilities included administration of comprehensive battery that assessed biopsychosocial variables, scoring of dependent measures, and follow-up telephone interviews with subjects.
- Data Manager: Responsible for data analysis, data entry, coordination of team members, and maintaining the integrity of computer database.

November 1997 - **Cystic Fibrosis Care and Teaching Center, Children's Medical Center**
August 1999: Utilized biopsychosocial measures to evaluate functioning in a variety of domains among children and adults with cystic fibrosis.

January 1997 - **Efficacy of Neurofeedback in the Treatment of Substance Dependence**
August 1998: Utilized personality measures and Quantitative Electroencephalographs as indices of change in female inmates of the Federal Bureau of Prisons who presented with a history of substance dependence and were involved in an ongoing treatment program.

Other Experiences:

September 2019- **Adjunct Assistant Professor, University of South Alabama, Department of**
Present **Neurology**

June 2001 - **Adjunct Faculty, Springhill College, Mobile, Alabama**
August 2003: Professor of undergraduate Health Psychology course

November 2000 - **Heart-to-Heart Support Group, Providence Hospital, Mobile, Alabama**
August 2003: Facilitator for bi-monthly support group for patients with a history of cardiac events and their spouses.

November 2000 - **Stress Management Lecture Series, Providence Hospital, Mobile, Alabama**
August 2003: Speaker for monthly lecture series conducted under the auspices of the Providence Wellness Center.

January 2000 - **Admissions Committee, UTSWMC Doctoral Program in Clinical Psychology**
March 2000: Served as one of committee members who reviewed and interviewed prospective candidates for the doctoral program in clinical psychology at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center at Dallas.

October 1999 - **Supervision of Graduate Students**
September 2000: Provided supervision of clinical and research activities of several 3rd and 4th year graduate students in the doctoral program in clinical psychology at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center at Dallas.

January 1999 - **Guest Lecturer**
May 1999: Guest lecturer in Health Psychology course for clinical psychology graduate students at UT Southwestern Medical Center. Topics included psychological issues related to stress, pain management, and cancer.

March 1999: **Guest Lecturer**
Guest lecturer for Department of Physician Assistant Studies graduate program at UT Southwestern Medical Center. Topics included coping with pain and its psychosocial ramifications.

September 1997 - **Neurofeedback Training, Federal Medical Center at Carswell**
August 1998: Responsible for training graduate students on the theories and application of a treatment protocol for substance dependence, including neurofeedback, temperature biofeedback, diaphragmatic breathing, and guided imagery.

January 1996 - **Teaching Assistant**
May 1996: Psychology Department, UTSWMC: Responsible for assisting in the teaching of administration and scoring of intellectual measures for children, including clinical issues involved in such assessment.

April 1994: **Professional Lecture**
Department of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery, John Peter Smith Hospital:
“Predictors of Patient Satisfaction Following Orthognathic Surgery” presented to Oral Surgery faculty, staff, fellows, and residents.