



PSYCHOPHARMACOLOGY WEBINAR SERIES:

**A COVID-19 Update:
What Psychologists Should Know**

January 22, 2021

10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. PT

12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m. CT

1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m. ET

Via GoToWebinar*

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***Presented By: Dr. Suzanne N. Bialeck &
Dr. Gerardo Rodriguez-Menendez***

The COVID-19 pandemic has been an unprecedented game changer, with secondary impacts of the pandemic resulting in high levels of unemployment, financial distress, and social isolation, leading to a surge in the demand for mental health services and placing undue stress on existing service systems and providers. Given the multiple impacts of the virus, rates of depression, anxiety, substance abuse, and thought disorders are steadily increasing, leading to a great mental health need for pharmacotherapy at this time, with marked disparities among minority patient sectors. In December, the number of COVID-19 associated deaths in the US surpassed the total number of American combat deaths (291,557) during World War II (1941–1945).

In this program, Dr. Suzanne Bialeck will provide an update on the COVID-19 virus. The update will include a review of the pathophysiology of COVID-19 and its impact on different demographic sectors. Also provided will be a review of the various medications currently being used to treat the COVID-19 virus and their mechanisms of action. Case studies will be provided as well as a discussion about first responder vicarious trauma and how psychologists who are not on the front lines can help. This presentation will also discuss how telehealth is helping to provide patient access during the pandemic. Perhaps most importantly, a discussion of what precautions psychologists can take to prevent contamination will be provided, along with steps to take, once one has become exposed to COVID-19 while treating patients.

Learning Objectives:

- 1) The participant will be able to explain the basic pathophysiology of the COVID-19 virus.
- 2) The participant will be able to compare and contrast differences of how the COVID-19 virus has impacted different demographic sectors of the US population.
- 3) The participant will be able to list several medications that are used to treat the COVID-19 virus and their mechanisms of action.



Suzanne N. Bialeck, MD, RDMS

Suzanne N. Bialeck, MD, RDMS earned her Doctorate of Medicine at the University of Florida's College of Medicine. Her affinity for complex problem solving and for a high-paced work environment drew her to seek Emergency Medicine as a specialty. Since completing her residency in Emergency Medicine at Maimonides Medical Center in Brooklyn, NY, she has also completed a fellowship in Emergency Ultrasound at George Washington University Hospital in Washington, D.C.

Dr. Bialeck is currently a core faculty member and the Director of Clinical Ultrasound at Jackson Memorial Hospital/University of Miami Emergency Medicine Residency Program in Miami, FL. She is proud to have been a founding faculty member for the residency program at Brookdale Hospital in Brooklyn, NY, and she enjoys the opportunity to work clinically in an underserved community while training the future Emergency Medicine physicians of the world. Her instruction also benefits the broader medical student community, as she is a clinical professor for New York Medical College. Dr. Bialeck truly enjoys research and academics and is pleased to share her knowledge regarding emergency room practices and challenges.



***Gerardo Rodriguez-Menendez, PhD, ABPP, MSCP
Department Chair, MS Clinical Psychopharmacology Program at The Chicago
School of Professional Psychology, Online Campus***

Dr. Gerardo Rodriguez-Menendez's career spans a broad spectrum of responsibilities in education, administration, research, and consulting. He is the former Dean of the College of Psychology at John F. Kennedy University (2014–2017). He also maintains a private consulting practice assisting institutions of higher education and business organizations in areas of strategic planning, leadership coaching, accreditation and licensing, academic governance and ethics, program development, and faculty development.

Dr. Rodriguez-Menendez is a licensed psychologist in Florida, a Board Certified Psychologist with the American Board of Professional Psychology, and President of the American Academy of Clinical Psychology. Apart from psychopharmacology, he also has specialties in neuropsychology and pediatric psychology. He previously held physician privileges with Memorial Regional Hospital and Joe DiMaggio's Children's Hospital in Hollywood Florida, Level 1 Neurosurgical Trauma Centers. Dr. Rodriguez is a frequent presenter at conferences across the country. He is bilingual and has published his research in both English and Spanish.

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