

# Perspectives:

## CCOSO's Quarterly Newsletter

### Internet Sexual Offenders Lea Chankin, Psy.D.



With introduction of the Internet in late 1990's and later the introduction of high speed Internet in early 2000's, we have

seen an exponential increase in Internet related sexual offenses. Many questions have been raised since that time, and slowly we are beginning to answer some of those questions.

What constitutes an Internet sex offense? Is it a felony or a misdemeanor? What is the recidivism rate for those who commit Internet offenses? If someone commits an Internet offense, will they escalate in their offending and sexually molest a child? What is the best treatment for someone who has committed an Internet offense? What level of supervision should they receive?

In the United States, adults arrested and convicted for Internet related sexual offenses, typically fall under federal jurisdiction. Offenders receive felony convictions for possession, distribution, receipt or production of child pornography, or use of Interstate commerce to induce a minor to engage in illegal sexual activity (online solicitation of a minor). More recently local jurisdictions have been conducting their own investigations, and depending on the circumstances, the local jurisdiction may handle the matter of possession of child pornography locally or they may choose to hand the case over to federal investigators. In California, whether convicted through the federal judicial system or the local judicial system, Internet sex offenders are subsumed under the current sex offender registration laws (Megan's Law Website).

The U.S. Department of Justice (2010) executive summary indicated the U.S. Attorney's office handled 86% more child pornography cases in 2006, when compared to 1994, and 230% more documented complaints for online enticement of children between 2004 and



### What is CCOSO?

CCOSO is a recognized leader in providing expertise, training, education, and legislative guidance in treatment, management and research related to sexual offending. CCOSO and its chapters strengthen local and statewide agencies and professionals to enhance community safety.

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### **Editor's Note: Lucinda A. Lee Rasmussen, Ph.D., LCSW**

This issue presents “a new look” that we hope CCOSO members find attractive and will enhance the readability of *Perspectives*. We encourage CCOSO members to forward this issue to other colleagues: treatment providers, supervision case managers and administrators, attorneys and judges, and policy makers. Three important topics are covered: Internet Sex Offenders, Campus Sexual Assault, and Risk Assessment of Youth.

Lea Chankin, Psy.D. identifies the different types of Internet sex offenders, and describes characteristics of Internet sex offenders drawn from the scant literature on this population of sex offenders. Dr. Chankin's article can be a touchstone for professionals who encounter these sex offenders in their treatment programs and caseloads.

Maria Esther Escobedo, MSW discusses the widespread problem of campus sexual assault, providing statistics about its prevalence, and discussing some of the reasons that inhibit victims from disclosing. The article is particularly relevant given the Trump administration's policy decision to scale back Title IX guidelines to Universities and colleges for investigating reported incidents of sexual assault.

L.C. Miccio-Fonseca, Ph.D. reports some of the findings of the latest cross-validation studies of the risk assessment tool for sexually abusive youth, *MEGA*<sup>+</sup> (including findings on transgender youth, and protective factors). This tool represents a new genre of scientific risk assessment tools for youth with normative data/cut-off scores for more definitive and accurate assessments.

### **Chair's Corner: Lea Chankin, Psy.D.**

Greetings! It has been a busy and exciting summer. It looked like the sex offender tiered registration act was dead on the assembly floor, but the bill was gutted and amended into SB 384, passed through both houses and was signed by the Governor on October 6, 2017. The bill will commence January 21, 2021. Please see article by Janet Neeley (p. 6).

I am pleased to announce that Andrew Mendonsa, Ph.D. is able to continue in his capacity as Treasurer for CCOSO. L.C. Miccio-Fonseca, Ph.D. has been appointed as the chair of the Research Committee. CCOSO has several work groups that are being formed. Lucinda Rasmussen, Ph.D., LCSW and L.C. Miccio-Fonseca, Ph.D. are co-chairing a workgroup for human trafficking. Chris Bennett, LMFT and Lea Chankin, Psy.D. are co-chairing a workgroup for Internet offenders. A chairperson will be named for our social media workgroup at the next Board Meeting.

We would like to see more student involvement in CCOSO. If you are a student, or you remember what it was like to be a student, please contact me with ideas to increase student involvement in CCOSO. A student member will be invited to join the CCOSO Board members in 2018. If you are interested in being involved with any of these work groups, please contact me, and let me know.

Lea Chankin, Psy.D., *CCOSO Chair (2017-2019)*

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### **Submissions**

#### **Due Date:**

**December 1, 2017**

Published quarterly, *Perspectives* provides CCOSO members current information on practice innovations, research findings, and public policy issues on sexually abusive individuals (adults or juveniles).

Contributors are invited to submit articles related to their work (assessment, interventions, supervision, management, or policy). Please send the article as a Word document (no more than 600 words) to the Editor, Lucinda Lee Rasmussen, Ph.D., LCSW, lucindarasmussen@cox.net. Longer articles may be accepted at Editor's discretion. Reproduction of other authors' original work must be accompanied by permission of those authors.

Please include title, author's name, professional affiliation, references cited in text, a Reference List, and contact information (e.g., email and/or Internet website). Should space preclude publication of references, please provide to members upon request.



## ***CCOSO Annual Conference—Don't miss it!!***

***The 21st Annual CCOSO Training Conference will be held in San Diego California at the Mission Valley Marriott, May 8-11, 2018***

CCOSO's Annual Conference brings together professionals from throughout the state of California and neighboring states:

- Attend state of the art workshops presented by regional and national experts providing innovative interventions in working with sexually abusive individuals (juveniles and adults).
- Learn about new developments in legislative policy related to sex offenders (juvenile or adult).
- Receive training on risk assessment (juveniles and adults).
- Obtain continuing education credits and meet state certification requirements for sex offender treatment and supervision providers.
- Enjoy yearly CCOSO Awards Luncheon recognizing professionals' major contributions to the field, including the recipient of the Faye Honey Knopp award.

### ***Call For Papers!***

**May 8-9, 2018:**

- ♦ **Pre-Conference Trainings**

**May 10-11, 2018;**

- ♦ **Regular Workshops**

Seeking Proposals from: treatment providers, law enforcement, Criminal Justice, Corrections, Probation Agencies, CDCR-DJJ and Adult Services, CPS, Victim Advocacy, Mental Health, other Agencies in Community

**PROPOSALS MUST BE RECEIVED NO LATER THAN:**

**December 24, 2017.**

**Please Submit Proposals Via E-mail to:**  
[Conf.chair@ccoso.org](mailto:Conf.chair@ccoso.org)

#### ***Exhibitors are welcome!***

Present your products, services or programs at the Resource Fair throughout the Conference. You must pay the fee and enter into a contract with CCOSO. Exhibitor information may also be found at: [www.ccoso.org](http://www.ccoso.org).

Continuing Education Credits will be provided for Ph.D., LCSW, LMFT, Nurses, MCLE for Attorneys and Certified Group Home Administrators. STC will also be available for the entire conference.

## Campus Sexual Assault

### Maria Esther Escobedo, MSW

With enrollment figures growth in 2010, it was estimated that 21 million individuals were categorized as full or part time students in higher education in the United States. According to the National Sexual Violence Resource Center (2015), rape is the most underreported crime. One in 5 women and one in 16 men are sexually assaulted while in college and more than 90% of sexual assault victims on college campuses do not report the assault. College campuses have become hot spots for sexual criminal activities in which young women between the ages of 18-24 years of age are at greater risk for rape and other forms of sexual assault. Fewer than 5% of completed and attempted rapes were reported to law enforcement (Fisher, Cullen, & Tanner, 2000).

In most instances students who were victims of attempted rape did tell a close friend, but did not notify their parents or school officials, whereas victims who had been actually raped were not likely to disclose to anyone (James & Gilliland, 2013). Many victims do not characterize their sexual victimization as a sex crime because they are embarrassed, often blame themselves, do not clearly understand the legal definition of the term rape, or do not want to label the individual who victimized them as a rapist. Many fear reprisals by their assailant, feel that they will not be believed, and do not want their parents to know (Fisher et al., 2000).

Alcohol consumption has been linked as a risk factor for sexual victimization. Consumption of alcohol places individuals in situations that may increase likelihood of unwanted sexual experiences. Most incidents of campus sexual assault occur in social settings (e.g., at parties, in the victim's living quarters such as dorms). In fact, 90% of victims know their assailants (Fisher et al., 2000). Use of alcohol by both the victim and offender prior to the attack was associated with more severe victimization of women. However, there was no difference in self-blaming between women who were intoxicated than women who were raped by force and not intoxicated (James & Gilliland, 2013).

Research indicates that 2.8% of women experience the most serious form of sexual violence, rape or attempted rape during their college years (Banyard, Plante, & Moynihan, 2004). Being a victim of rape and sexual assault can negatively impact a student's mental and physical health and academic outcomes (U.S. Department of Justice, 2017). It is vital that universities continue to increase awareness, develop comprehensive programs to address and reduce or prevent from women being victims of sexual assault, and educate to prevent such episodes from occurring. Programs should have a team approach, involving campus police, offices of student life, resources of health and psychological services, student life and residential life to increase reporting sexual assaults and improve understanding of resources for victims. "A widespread team approach, furthermore, allows for sexual assault prevention initiatives to be viewed as a concern to the entire university and not a specific interest group" (Nasta et al., 2005, p. 95).

Maria Esther Escobedo, MSW, RCOE, Migrant Head Start in El Centro, Imperial County, CA , myboyz2025@yahoo.com

(References found on Page 13)

#### In the News:

(CNN website) <http://www.cnn.com/2017/09/07/politics/betsy-devos-education-department-title-ix/index.html>

In 2011, the Obama administration outlined guidelines for schools on how to handle sexual assault allegations. A memo reminded schools of their legal obligation to address sexual violence amid concerns that schools were not taking the issue seriously enough, and called on schools to step up investigations of reports. It also provided guidelines for investigations and hearings.

September 2017: Trump administration Department of Education Secretary, Betty Vos, announced the rolling back of Obama's Title IX guidance.

The group "End Rape on Campus," which has helped students file Title IX complaints, called the move "an attack on survivors of sexual violence and the right to an education free from violence."



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L.C. Miccio-Fonseca, Ph.D.

## CASOMB Update

Gerry Blasingame, Psy.D. and Tom Tobin, Ph.D.

The California Sex Offender Management Board (CASOMB) has continued to prioritize supporting SB 384, the tiering bill passed and recently signed by Governor Brown. Much work was done behind the scenes by Board members and co-sponsors California Coalition Against Sexual Assault (CALCASA), and the LA District Attorney's office. The law goes into effect in 2021.

The Certification Committee has finalized their draft of the Treatment Completion Guidelines, which goes to the Board for acceptance at the upcoming October 19, 2017 meeting. Much gratitude to the many CCOSO members who participated in the development of the CCOSO's original paper and provision for CASOMB as the base document for these final guidelines. Once approved, the Guidelines will be posted on the CASOMB web site and distributed to Certified Programs and Providers.

The Research Committee was granted \$25,000 to fund an investigation into the relationship of being registered as transient under PC 290 and re-offense, and other possible adverse outcomes. The Board has contracted with Dr. Edith Kinney at San Jose State University for this project. Dr. Kinney was a co-author of a

previous research project also funded by CASOMB.

Over the upcoming months, CASOMB will be looking into treatment and management of juveniles who are adjudicated for sexual offenses. We will be having invited professionals present and discuss important issues such as risk assessment, trauma focused intervention and developmentally sensitive care. The Board is concerned that in some locations the CASOMB requirements for adults are being imposed on adolescents, which the Board opposes. Therefore the Board is considering seeking authorization to add professionals with expertise in treatment and management of these juveniles to the Board and whether separate guidelines and requirements should be developed.

Those interested in attending CASOMB meetings can find scheduled date and location information on the website: [www.casomb.org](http://www.casomb.org).

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CCOSO Representatives to  
CASOMB

## MEMBERSHIP DRIVE!!!

Share this Newsletter!

Tell your Colleagues about CCOSO.....

Organize a Regional Chapter in Your County! (Page 14)



### ***In the News:***

(See: Los Angeles Times:  
<http://www.latimes.com/politics/essential/la-pol-ca-essential-politics-updates-gov-brown-supports-bill-sent-to-him-1505539776-htlmstory.html>)

The legislature's approval of SB 384 took place on the last day of the legislative session after quite an emotional debate. Assemblywoman Lorena Gonzalez Fletcher (D-San Diego) called it one of the most difficult votes she has cast. Opponents of the bill, such as Assemblywoman Melissa Melendez (R-Lake Elsinore) expressed concern the bill would put children at risk.

State Senator Scott Wiener (D-San Francisco), who spearheaded the bill, said it is meant to reform California's "broken sex offender registry". With 105,000 sex offenders on the Registry, it is unwieldy. SB 384 lets prosecutors and law enforcement officers focus their resources on those sex offenders who are higher risk and most in need of tracking. The bill passed 42-22. It was signed by Governor Jerry Brown on October 6, 2017.

## ***Update on California's Tiering Bill (SB 384)*** ***Janet Neeley, CASOMB Board Member***

The California Sex Offender Management Board, along with the Los Angeles District Attorney, CALCASA and Equity California, sponsored S.B. 384 (Wiener) to create three tiers for registered sex offenders: 10, 20 and life. Generally, misdemeanor offenders are in tier one (10-year tier). The majority of offenders are in tier two (20-year tier). In general, the most egregious offenses are in the lifetime tier. Since the bill involved compromises, some offenses are in the lifetime tier that were not placed there by the CASOMB committee which drafted the initial bill. All offenders who score well above average risk (a score of 6 or above, formerly known as high risk) on the Static-99R are in the lifetime tier regardless of the conviction offense.

Offenders can petition the superior court for termination from the registry in the county where they are registered at the expiration of their 10 or 20-year tier. The time to petition for termination runs from release from custody on the registered sex offense. Any additional time served in custody during the tier period, for any offense, tolls the time in the tier. For example, someone in the 10-year tier who later served a three-year prison sentence for robbery must wait 13 years to petition for termination. Anyone placed in the lifetime tier based solely on their Static 99-R score can petition the court for termination after 20 years and must show that their risk level is no longer well above average risk. The registering agency has 60 days to review the termination petition to determine eligibility. The District Attorney for the county where the offender is registered has an additional 60 days to decide whether to request a hearing to oppose the termination. If a hearing is requested, the court is given factors that guide its discretion in determining whether registration should be terminated.

The offender's tier level will be determined by the Department of Justice based on the offense or Static-99R score. All offenders currently posted on the public Megan's Law website with full address will remain posted for at least 10 years, regardless of their tier. Persons who were excluded from the Internet web site based on a conviction for misdemeanor child molestation (Penal Code section 647.6) or felony sexual battery (Penal Code section 243.4, subdivision (a)) will no longer be excluded from the website.

The law takes effect in 2021.

*Janet Neeley is a Board Member of the California Sex Offender Management Board (CASOMB).*

*For information about CASOMB, check out: [www.casomb.org](http://www.casomb.org).*

## **Innovative Scientific Advancement In Risk Assessment of Sexually Abusive Youth**

**L.C Miccio-Fonseca, Ph.D.**



Three major studies on sexually abusive youth and the *MEGA<sup>+</sup>* risk assessment tool have been recently completed on sizeable samples: *MEGA<sup>+</sup>: Combined Sample Study* (N=3,901); *MEGA<sup>+</sup>: Combined Cross Validation Studies* (N=2,717); and *MEGA<sup>+</sup>: 3rd Cross-validation Study* (N=1,118). The studies, completed over an extended period (1979-2017), provide unique findings never before presented in the literature on risk assessment tools on sexually abusive youth.

The *MEGA<sup>+</sup>* risk assessment tool is the first to assess risk levels for coarse sexual improprieties and/or sexually abusive behaviors *and* protective factors in youth *simultaneously*. The tool is versatile, applicable to youth ages 4-19 years, adjudicated or non-adjudicated (males and females, *transgender*, including youth with low level of intellectual functioning) (Miccio-Fonseca, 2009, 2010, 2013, 2016a, 2016b). *MEGA<sup>+</sup>* reflects contemporary times by incorporating inquiry related to questionable sexually related Internet activities (i.e., sexting, revenge porn) and/or posting inappropriate sexual content on social media (e.g., Twitter, Facebook, etc.). It is an outcome measure, given every 6 months, comparing changes in the youth's risk levels and protective factors. *MEGA<sup>+</sup>* generates a computerized scored comprehensive risk assessment report idiosyncratic to the youth's age, gender, and level of intellectual functioning, a feature not seen in other risk assessment tools. The reports are appropriate for use in forensic settings, providing information to the court related to the youth's baseline risk level and changes in risk and protective factors over time.

The *MEGA<sup>+</sup>* subject samples were from different parts of the globe affording diversity in age, gender and ethnicity. Samples came from USA (i.e., Arizona, California, Florida, Hawaii, Kentucky Louisiana, New Mexico, and Nevada) and international (i.e., Canada, England, Ireland, Scotland, Israel, and Australia). The findings are generalizable, thus allowing more confidence in the results.

*MEGA<sup>+</sup>* is composed of four distinct scales: (a) *Risk Scale*, (b) *Protective Scale*, (c) *Estrangement Scale*, and (d) *Historic Correlative Scale* (formerly *Persistent Sexual Deviancy Scale*). *MEGA<sup>+</sup>*'s applicability to youth with low intellectual functioning is a distinctive aspect (Miccio-Fonseca & Rasmussen, 2009, 2013). In the *MEGA<sup>+</sup>: Combined Sample Study*, 19% of the youth had low intellectual functioning.

Firmly anchored in the scientific method, *MEGA<sup>+</sup>* has been tested, and retested three times on substantially large diverse independent samples. The cross-validation studies established that the *Risk Scale* has normative data, with cut-off scores, according to age (4-12 years, 13-15 years, and 16-19 years), gender, and intellectual functioning. Thus, the assessed risk levels have definitive thresholds providing considerably more accurate risk assessment.

*MEGA<sup>+</sup>* has four levels of risk, uniquely different from other risk assessment tools for assessing sexually abusive youth (which typically have three levels). The three cross-validation studies on sizable samples affirm that youth in fact fall into four categories of risk. On the *Risk Scale*, males and females were in all levels (*Low, Moderate, High, and Very High*), regardless of age group.

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## Scientific Advancement In Risk Assessment (continued from Page 7)

A noteworthy finding was that there were no transgender youth in the *Very High Risk* level.

Discussed briefly below are descriptive findings from the three major studies.

### **MEGA<sup>1</sup>: Combined Sample Study N=3,901 (1979-2017)**

*MEGA<sup>1</sup>: Combined Sample Study* consisted of the validation sample ( $N=1,184$  [2006-2008]), and three cross validation studies ( $N=1,056$  [2008-2011];  $N=543$  [2014-2016];  $N=1,118$  [1979-2017]). The samples in the *MEGA<sup>1</sup>: Combined Sample Study* were surprisingly similar across the board on a multitude of variables.

Almost 60% of the total sample ( $N=3,901$ ) were in the *Low to Moderate* risk range, with a small number (13%) that were *Very High Risk*. Three times more males were *Very High Risk* than females. Out of 409 females, there were only 16 (4%) in the *Very High Risk* level, compared to 491 out of 3,480 males (14%). These findings affirm that males are at much higher risk for coarse sexual behaviors and/or sexually abusive behaviors than females (Miccio-Fonseca, 2016a).

*Very High Risk* in the *MEGA<sup>1</sup>* implies that the youth has a number of substantially persistent and concerning variables present for potential risk for coarse sexual improprieties and/or sexually abusive behaviors, likely at very critical levels requiring immediate intervention. Among those in the *Very High Risk* level are a small number of sexually violent and predatory sexual offenders (i.e., use weapons, lure victims, remove victims from premises) (Miccio-Fonseca & Rasmussen 2014). Some may present a danger to others that can be lethal. In each *MEGA<sup>1</sup>* study (i.e., validation and three cross-validations), the *Very High Risk* level was present in all age groups (4-12 years, 13-15 years, and 16-19 years).

### **MEGA<sup>1</sup>: Combined Cross Validation Studies, N=2,717 (1979-2017)**

The *MEGA<sup>1</sup>: Combined Cross Validation Studies*, consists of the three cross validation studies ( $N=1,056$  [2008-2012];  $N=543$  [2014-2016];  $N=1,118$  [1979-2017]). All three studies consistently demonstrated the predictive validity of the *Risk Scale* (with recidivism defined as a sexually related probation or parole violation) (see Table 1).

Table 1. *MEGA<sup>1</sup>: Combined Cross Validation Studies, N=2,717 (1979-2017)*

<b>MEGA<sup>1</sup> Cross-Validation Study</b>	<b>Subject Sample</b>	<b>Time Period</b>	<b>Area Under the Curve (AUC)</b>
1 <sup>st</sup> Cross-Validation	$N = 1,056$ ROC analysis: $n = 334$	2008-2011	AUC = 0.71 [95% CI: 0.62-0.80], $p < 0.001$
2 <sup>nd</sup> Cross-Validation	$N = 543$ ROC analysis: $n = 118$	2014-2016	AUC = 0.91 [95% CI: 0.79-1.00], $p < 0.016$
3 <sup>rd</sup> Cross-Validation	$N = 1,118$ ROC analysis: $n = 163$	1979-2017	AUC = .87 [95% CI of 0.78-.96], $p = .012$

Descriptive findings of the total sample of the three cross-validation studies ( $N = 2,717$ ) demonstrated particular aspects characteristic of sexually abusive youth. For example, drug use and abuse is not a predominate factor, (i.e., 77% avoid drugs). Most (60%) are victims of child maltreatment (i.e., neglect/emotional abuse); however less than half are victims of abuse (i.e., sexual = 39%; physical = 43%). The great majority of youth (84%) experienced separations from their parents before the age of 16 years, and

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## Scientific Advancement In Risk Assessment (continued from Page 8)

many are exposed to domestic violence (46%). Close to a third reported educational problems (e.g., learning disabilities = 31%).

### *MEGA<sup>1</sup>: 3<sup>rd</sup> Cross-validation Study, N=1,118 (from 1979 to 2017)*

Compared to the first two cross-validation studies of *MEGA<sup>1</sup>* (Miccio-Fonseca, 2013, 2016b), the 3<sup>rd</sup> *Cross-validation* is the most extensive in terms of time period covered (38 years). Similar to the previous studies, sample size was notable ( $N=1,118$ ). There were 163 youth that were available for Time 1-Time 2 comparisons; the recidivism rate was low, 2.45%, comparable with the literature on recidivism (Caldwell, 2016).

The 3<sup>rd</sup> *Cross-validation study* makes a substantial contribution to the literature in that it is the first risk assessment study on sexually abusive youth to report predictive validity findings on protective factors. As noted above, a unique feature of *MEGA<sup>1</sup>* is that it contains a *Protective Scale* that allows for simultaneous assessment of protective and risk factors. In the 3<sup>rd</sup> *Cross-validation study*, not only was the *Risk Scale* predictive, but also the *Protective Scale* ( $AUC = .85$  [95% CI of 0.70-.99],  $p=.017$ ). See Table 2.

***“These youth present with a very specific psychological configuration of risk and protective factors.”***

Table 2. *MEGA<sup>1</sup>: 3<sup>rd</sup> Cross-validation Study, N=1,118 (from 1979 to 2017)*

<i>MEGA<sup>1</sup>: 3<sup>rd</sup> Cross-validation Study Scales</i>	<i>Subject Sample</i>	<i>Time Period</i>	<i>Area Under the Curve (AUC)</i>
<i>Risk Scale</i>	$N=1,118$ ROC analysis: $n = 163$	1979 to 2017	$AUC = .87$ [95% CI of 0.78-.96], $p=.012$
<i>Protective Scale</i>	$N=1,118$ ROC analysis: $n = 163$	1979 to 2017	$AUC = .85$ [95% CI of 0.70-.99], $p=.017$

### Summary

The results of the three major *MEGA<sup>1</sup>* studies consistently describe a segment of adjudicated and non-adjudicated youth that are sexually abusive (ages 4-19, males, females, and transgender youth, including youth with low intellectual functioning). The studies affirm that these youth present with a very specific psychological configuration of risk and protective factors. The study findings can significantly assist professionals who assess, treat, supervise, and monitor sexually abusive youth when designing tailored programs to their specific needs. This information in turn, may contribute to a more personalized approach to the youth, possibly a reduction in unneeded and/or duplication of services and likely beneficial economically.

A more comprehensive description and presentation of the findings on these studies will be forthcoming in peer reviewed journal articles.

*L.C. Miccio-Fonseca, Ph.D. Clinical Psychologist and Clinical Researcher, Clinic for the Sexualities in San Diego, California (email: [lcmf@cox.net](mailto:lcmf@cox.net))*

*(References continued on Page 10)*

### ***Volunteers Needed! Research Committee***

The Research Committee has been reorganized with a new Chair, Clinical Psychologist and Clinical Researcher, Dr. L.C. Miccio-Fonseca. In past years, the Research Committee has been instrumental in encouraging treatment programs to do research, and that continues to be the goal. CCOSO members who enjoy research, and/or have current research projects, are invited to join our efforts to increase research opportunities and support evidence-based practices throughout the State.

If you are interested in joining the Research Committee, please contact Dr. Miccio-Fonseca at 619.293.3330, or at [lcmf@cox.net](mailto:lcmf@cox.net).

### ***Join the new Work Group! Human Trafficking***

The Human Trafficking Task Group has been established. If you have an interest in this important issue, please join! We will research the scope of human trafficking in California, and provide a white paper to policy makers. To participate, please contact one of the Chairs:

- ◆ Dr. Lucinda Lee Rasmussen ([lucindarasmussen@cox.net](mailto:lucindarasmussen@cox.net))
- ◆ Dr. L.C. Miccio-Fonseca ([lcmf@cox.net](mailto:lcmf@cox.net)).

### ***Scientific Advancement In Risk Assessment References (continued from Page 9)***

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Miccio-Fonseca, L. C. (2016b, May). *MEGA<sup>2</sup>*: Second cross-validation findings on sexually abusive youth. Presentation given at the Annual conference of the California Coalition on Sexual Offending (CCOSO), San Diego, CA. To request PowerPoint slides, go to: <https://www.mega-miccio-fonseca.com/>

### ***REMEMBER!!!***

***Call for Papers for CCOSO Annual Conference  
Needed: Innovative Workshops Related to:  
Assessment, Treatment, and Supervision***

## ***Internet Sex Offenders (continued from Page 1)***

2002 and 2005. They found that individuals that possessed or distributed child pornography, when compared with individuals with a contact offense (those that have sexually touched a child), were more likely to be Caucasian, were approximately 10 years older than contact offenders when arrested, and were less likely to have a history of substance use or sexual abuse. They had higher education levels, were more likely to have been married and employed at the time of arrest, and were less likely to have a prior arrest or conviction.

According to Meridian et al. (2016), Internet offenders, like all offenders who commit a sexual offense, are heterogeneous. Some of the individuals using the Internet use it as an extension of their contact sex offending behavior. It is just another venue for them to use to attract or lure victims. Others, believe their time on the Internet is just a fantasy, and they have no intention of following through with their fantasy. They do not believe that their behavior online is harmful, and they feel they have anonymity. Currently there are two main Internet related offenses that are reviewed in the literature; solicitation of a minor online and possession of child pornography (Seto, 2011). These two offenses, do not represent the totality of Internet sexual offenses. The U.S. Department of Justice (2010) also looked at commercial sexual exploitation of children, and child sex tourism, which are also important areas for exploration. These two crimes use the Internet to promote human trafficking, which is not discussed in this article.

Individuals who engage in online solicitation of a minor, are thought to share characteristics with contact offenders (Seto, 2011). Because they have an identifiable victim (even if it was an undercover agent), they believed they were grooming or intending to meet a minor. They can therefore be scored on sex offender risk instruments, including the Static-99R and Stable-2007. The Static-99R is an actuarial risk instrument for sex offenders, that "is intended to position offenders in terms of their relative degree of risk for sexual recidivism" (Phenix, et al, 2016, p. 6). The STABLE-2007 is a measure of dynamic risk factors, or factors that can change over time, and can aid in identifying treatment needs and targets of supervision (Fernandez, Harris, Hanson, & Sparks, 2014).

***"An understanding of how the online world works is imperative when working with this population."***

According to Seto (2011), individuals who download and view child pornography can be motivated by several different factors. Some are fixated Pedophiles, whose primary sexual interest is children. Some are individuals who have been viewing not only child sexual exploitation images, but have been compulsively viewing online pornography and have been seeking novel and exciting pornography; their primary sexual interest is adults. They appear to be aroused to minors, while viewing the sexual acts of minors. Some are more interested in the collection aspect and not the sexual interest in minors. Some download or possess sexual exploitation images of minors for other purposes. They use the images to troll, or to post the images of a site or user group for the reaction it causes, or they obtain the materials to enhance their online sexual chats, which are fantasy based.

An understanding of how the online world works is imperative when working with this population. Peer-to-peer shareware, one of the main routes to obtain child sexual exploitation images, allows users to download batches of videos and images at one time. Some sites allow for the download of megabytes of files at one time (that means a lot of files and videos can be downloaded at once). File names are not always accurate or descriptive in nature. Therefore, someone could download a number of files they are not interested in; they may have even opened the files and viewed them to determine if it was they are seeking. Assumptions about the men who view child sexual exploitation materials online having Pedophilic Disorder is also being questioned, by many of the clinicians who work with these individuals. More research is needed to determine the long-term impacts of viewing child sexual exploitation materials on arousal.

*(Continued on Page 12)*

## Internet Sex Offenders (continued from Page 11)

When it comes to treatment of offenders who viewed or possessed child sexual exploitation materials, it is important to address the underlying issues that may have led to the overuse of Internet pornography (Seto, 2011) (e.g., sexualized coping, poor relationship skills, lack of adult relationships), while addressing the desistance of the hypersexual behavior. Additionally, exploring victim impact would appear to be a promising approach for child pornography possession offenders, as they appear to have the capacity for empathy, and many of the offenders discuss the suspension of reality, and depersonalization of the victim, when viewing child pornography. Further research is needed.

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### Online Sexual Predators

**Pure Sight Online Child Safety (See: <http://www.puresight.com/Pedophiles/Online-Predators/online-predators-statistics.html#source1> )**

- ◆ 95% of all Americans ages 12-17 are online.
- ◆ One in five U.S. adolescents who regularly log on to the Internet report receiving unwanted sexual solicitation, including requests to engage in sexual activities or sexual talk, or to disclose personal sexual information. (Only 25% told a parent).
- ◆ Boys constitute about 30% of victims of online sexual exploitation.
- ◆ Internet sexual predators typically fall between ages of 18-55, while victims are typically between ages 11-15.
- ◆ 33% of teens are Facebook friends with people they have never met.
- ◆ 16% of teens considered meeting someone they have only talked to online, and 8% actually met someone they only knew online.



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### Editor's Erratum

In the Summer 2017 Newsletter, errors were made in the formatting of the feature article: “*Diluting the Scientific Gains? Revisiting Juvenile Risk Assessment Measures*”. These errors were the responsibility of the Editor, and not the author, L.C. Miccio-Fonseca, Ph.D. Two corrections in the text submitted by the author to the Editor were not made, and references were omitted from the Reference List. The Editor sincerely apologizes for these errors. The errors have been corrected in the online version of Dr. Miccio-Fonseca’s article on the CCOSO website.

The errors are the following (with corrected text noted in red font):

1. On Page 4, in Dr. Miccio-Fonseca’s discussion of the risk assessment measures ERASOR and PROFESOR (authored by Dr. James Worling), the text should read:
  - ◆ “He [Dr. Worling] informed the field that he had discontinued **his use of the ERASOR**, since “the average degree of accuracy is poor for making forensic decisions”; and “several risk factors on the ERASOR that are NOT presently supported by current literature” (Worling, 2017, p. 3).
  - ◆ “**Discontinuing one’s use of a** tool, only to introduce another without sufficient research might be viewed as taking one step forward, then two steps back, in the path of scientifically informed risk assessment.”
2. The following references were omitted from the Reference List:
 

Viljoen, J. Gray, A., Shaffer, C., Latzman, N., Scalora, M. and Ullman, D. (2017). Changes in J-SOAP-II and SAVRY Scores over the course of residential, cognitive-behavioral treatment for adolescent sexual offending. *Sexual Abuse: A Journal of Research and Treatment*, Vol. 29(4) 342–374 DOI: 10.1177/1079063215595404

Viljoen, J. L., Mordell, S., & Beneteau, J. L. (2012). Prediction of adolescent sexual re-offending: A meta-analysis of the J-SOAP-II, ERASOR, J-SORRAT-II, and Static-99. *Law and Human Behavior*, 36, 423-438. doi:10.1037/h0093938

Viljoen, J. L., Scalora, M., Cuadra, L., Bader, S., Chavez, V., Ullman, D., & Lawrence, L. (2008). Assessing risk for violence in adolescents who have sexually offended: A comparison of the J-SOAP-II, JSORRAT-II, and SAVRY. *Criminal Justice and Behavior*, 35(1), 5-33.

Worling, J. (2017). *PROFESOR: Protective + risk observations for eliminating sexual offense recidivism*. Available at: <http://www.drjamesworling.com/profesor.html>

## History of CCOSO

The California Coalition on Sexual Offending (CCOSO) was founded in 1986 in response to a growing need throughout the state for an organized network of professionals working to respond to sexual offending. The wide variety of professionals who constitute CCOSO membership provides a solid foundation for collaboration in research, treatment, and containment to develop effective approaches in treatment and supervision practices and to influence state policy.

VISION: A World Without Sexual Abuse



## CCOSO's Mission: Together We Can End Sexual Abuse

### Membership in CCOSO

**CCOSO** professionals are recognized as leaders in California and nationally.

- ◆ Expertise in treatment and supervision
- ◆ Training and education about sexually abusive individuals
- ◆ Research on juveniles and adults
- ◆ Legislative guidance on policies and procedures related to sex offenders



#### Membership Benefits:

- ◆ Quarterly Newsletter
- ◆ Publish your works (in the Newsletter)!
- ◆ Discussion listserv
- ◆ Yearly Conference
- ◆ Networking (statewide): Participate and be leaders in CCOSO Regional Chapters and Committees.

CCOSO and its chapters strengthen local and statewide agencies and professionals to enhancing community safety.

- ◆ To join CCOSO now, go to [www.ccoso.org](http://www.ccoso.org), create an account, and pay online, or
- ◆ Download the membership application and make checks out and mail to:

CCOSO  
1626 Montana Ave. Suite 117  
Santa Monica, CA 90402



## Find your County!

**California has 58 counties. Start a CCOSO Regional Chapter in your County NOW!**

## Opportunities to Serve in CCOSO Regional Chapters: CCOSO needs YOU!

Currently several chapters need leadership. To volunteer to lead a chapter, or start a new chapter, contact, CCOSO Vice Chair: Michelle Steinberger, Probation Officer at (805) 981-5527, or (805) 280-6700, or send email to: [michelle.steinberger@ventura.org](mailto:michelle.steinberger@ventura.org)

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