

Najate Ojeil, PhD, MPH

CURRICULUM VITAE

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PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY:

I am a Clinical Researcher at the Horga Lab, a Clinical Director at the Clinical Cognitive Computational Neuroscience (C3N) Center at Columbia University Medical Center, and a Research Scientist at The New York State Psychiatric Institute. In my current role, I provide increased oversight of the clinical assessments across studies, training, and supervision to professionals and research coordinators on diagnostic interviews and clinical assessments, leading and organizing consensus diagnosis meetings, and overseeing quality control of the clinical operations across studies for several rigorous NIMH funded studies.

I also maintain a private practice in New York where I bring years of experience as a researcher, clinician, and public health professional. My passion is to promote well-being using the latest modalities and techniques to provide the most effective strategies of intervention, prevention, and awareness to individuals, groups, and organizations.

My interest as well is promoting wellness, recovery, and resiliency in the healthcare field for groups, and organizations through active presentations, workshops, and webinars.

My research and clinical work focus on the identification, characterization, and assessment of the symptoms and signs of psychiatric disorders, as well as the delivery of the latest evidence-based psychological treatment, emphasizing a science-informed practice.

EDUCATION:

The Lebanese University, Beirut, Lebanon; 2019-2023

Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology, with honor

Capella University, Minneapolis, MN; 2018-2023

Master of Public Health (MPH) with a focus on global health and wellness management

Beck Institute for Cognitive Behavioral Therapy, Bala Cynwyd, PA; July 2020-September 2020

Supervision Training in Cognitive Behavioral Therapy

The Lebanese University, Beirut, Lebanon; 2015-2017

Research Master (MA) in clinical psychology, with honor

The Lebanese University, Beirut, Lebanon; 2003-2005

Specialized Graduate Diplomas (Diplôme d'Etudes Supérieures Spécialisées, DESS) in clinical psychology

The Lebanese University, Beirut, Lebanon; 1999-2003

Bachelor of Arts (BA) in clinical psychology

WORK EXPERIENCE:

Columbia University Department of Psychiatry, The C3N Center – New York, NY; July 2023 – Present

*Clinical director of the C3N Center

*Research Scientist

Columbia University Department of Psychiatry, The Horga Lab – New York, NY; May 2017- Present

*Clinical researcher

*Supervising and conducting diagnostic interviews and clinical and neuropsychological assessments.

Mental Health Counseling Service Westchester, PLLC – Tarrytown, NY; May 2016-Present

Licensed Mental Health Counselor, own private practice.

*Promoting well-being for individuals, groups, and organizations through the latest evidence-based treatment with a focus on intervention, awareness, and prevention.

Columbia University Department of Psychiatry, Division of Anxiety and Related Disorders – New York, NY; August 2016-August 2017

*Conducting diagnostic interviews and clinical and neuropsychological assessments.

Columbia University Department of Psychiatry, Senior Research Worker, Center for Practice Innovations Division of Behavioral health services and Policy research – New York, NY; August 2016-August 2017

*Research scientist

*Conducting diagnostic interviews and clinical and neuropsychological assessments.

Columbia University Department of Psychiatry, Division of Translational Imaging – New York, NY; February 2014-August 2016

*Conducting diagnostic interviews and clinical and neuropsychological assessments.

Intra-Cellular Therapies, Inc. (ITI), – New York, NY; September 2015- September

*Pharmaceutical consultant, overseeing quality control of clinical assessments

Columbia University Department of Psychiatry, The COPE clinic – New York, NY; September 2014- August 2016

*Conducting diagnostic interviews for the Prodrome and neuropsychological assessments

Columbia University Department of Psychiatry, RAISE connection program – New York, NY; February 2011- February 2012

Psychological rater

*Conducting diagnostic interviews, clinical and neuropsychological assessments

Psychiatric Hospital of The Cross– Beirut, Lebanon; May 2004- April 2008

*Psychologist, conducting clinical assessments and providing psychotherapy for inpatient and outpatient services

Maronite Court– Beirut, Lebanon; May 2006- April 2008

*Psychologist, providing psychological expertise based on clinical interviews and projective tests

Auxilia Social Services – Beirut, Lebanon; January 2007- April 2008

*Psychologist, conducting clinical assessments and providing psychotherapy

Sister School of the Cross – Beirut, Lebanon; January 2007- April 2008

*Psychotherapist, case manager.

YMCA- Beirut, Lebanon; April 2007

*Psychologist, Coaching, designing, and implementing a program entitled “war-affected children and

Tele Lumiere– Beirut, Lebanon; July 2007- May 2008

*Preparing, developing, and presenting a live TV program of 40 emissions discussing various mental disorders

CERTIFICATIONS AND SKILLS

Certified on many diagnostic interviews as:

Diagnostic Interview for Genetic Studies (DIGS) by Jill Harkavy Friedman, PhD

Structured Clinical Interview for DSM Disorders (SCID) by Michael First, MD

Structured Interview for Prodromal Syndromes (SIPS) by Barbara Walsh

LICENSURE AND AFFILIATION

Mental Health Counselor, License number: 006298

American Psychological Association: affiliate member, 2008 – Present

PUBLICATIONS

Research Bibliography

- 1-Wengler, K., Baker, S. C., Velikovskaya, A., Fogelson, A., Girgis, R. R., Reyes-Madrigo, F., Lee, S., de la Fuente-Sandoval, C., **Ojeil, N.**, & Horga, G. (2023). Generalizability and Out-of-Sample Predictive Ability of Associations Between Neuromelanin-Sensitive Magnetic Resonance Imaging and Psychosis in Antipsychotic-Free Individuals. *JAMA psychiatry*, e234305. Advance online publication. <https://doi.org/10.1001/jamapsychiatry.2023.4305>
- 2-Girgis, R. R., Baker, S., Mao, X., Gil, R., Javitt, D. C., Kantrowitz, J. T., Gu, M., Spielman, D. M., **Ojeil, N.**, Xu, X., Abi-Dargham, A., Shungu, D. C., & Kegeles, L. S. (2019). Effects of acute N-acetylcysteine challenge on cortical glutathione and glutamate in schizophrenia: A pilot in vivo proton magnetic resonance spectroscopy study. *Psychiatry research*, 275, 78–85. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.psychres.2019.03.018>
- 3- Kegeles, L. S., Horga, G., Ghazzaoui, R., Rosengard, R., **Ojeil, N.**, Xu, X., Slifstein, M., Petrakis, I., O'Malley, S. S., Krystal, J. H., & Abi-Dargham, A. (2018). Enhanced Striatal Dopamine Release to Expectation of Alcohol: A Potential Risk Factor for Alcohol Use Disorder. *Biological psychiatry. Cognitive neuroscience and neuroimaging*, 3(7), 591–598. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.bpsc.2018.03.018>
- 4-Weinstein, J. J., van de Giessen, E., Rosengard, R. J., Xu, X., **Ojeil, N.**, Brucato, G., Gil, R. B., Kegeles, L. S., Laruelle, M., Slifstein, M., & Abi-Dargham, A. (2017). PET imaging of dopamine-D2 receptor internalization in schizophrenia. *Molecular psychiatry*, 10.1038/mp.2017.157. Advance online publication. <https://doi.org/10.1038/mp.2017.157>
- 5--Van de Giessen, E., Weinstein, J. J., Cassidy, C. M., Haney, M., Dong, Z., Ghazzaoui, R., **Ojeil, N.**, Kegeles, L. S., Xu, X., Vadhan, N. P., Volkow, N. D., Slifstein, M., & Abi-Dargham,

A. (2017). Deficits in striatal dopamine release in cannabis dependence. *Molecular psychiatry*, 22(1), 68–75. <https://doi.org/10.1038/mp.2016.21>

6-Girgis, R. R., Xu, X., Gil, R. B., Hackett, E., **Ojeil, N.**, Lieberman, J. A., Slifstein, M., & Abi-Dargham, A. (2015). Antipsychotic binding to the dopamine-3 receptor in humans: A PET study with [(11)C]-(+)-PHNO. *Schizophrenia research*, 168(1-2), 373–376. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.schres.2015.06.027>

7-Slifstein M, van de Giessen E, Van Snellenberg J, Thompson JL, Narendran R, Gil R, Hackett E, Girgis R, **Ojeil N**, Moore H, D'Souza D, Malison RT, Huang Y, Lim K, Nabulsi N, Carson RE, Lieberman JA, Abi-Dargham A. Deficits in prefrontal cortical and extrastriatal dopamine release in schizophrenia: a positron emission tomographic functional magnetic resonance imaging study. *JAMA Psychiatry*. 2015 Apr;72(4):316-24. doi: 10.1001/jamapsychiatry.2014.2414. PMID: 25651194; PMCID: PMC4768742.

8-Kegeles, L. S., Mao, X., Stanford, A. D., Girgis, R., **Ojeil, N.**, Xu, X., Gil, R., Slifstein, M., Abi-Dargham, A., Lisanby, S. H., & Shungu, D. C. (2012). Elevated prefrontal cortex γ -aminobutyric acid and glutamate-glutamine levels in schizophrenia measured in vivo with proton magnetic resonance spectroscopy. *Archives of general psychiatry*, 69(5), 449–459. <https://doi.org/10.1001/archgenpsychiatry.2011.1519>

REFERENCES:

Anissa Abi Dargham, MD, Professor and vice-chair of research at Stony Brook University and professor emerita at the Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons
Cell:646 761 2280

Jill Harkavy-Friedman, PhD, Vice President of Research at the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention

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