

Problem & Compulsive Gambling Symposium

Considering co-occurring disorders in the treatment of people with gambling disorder

By Marc N. Potenza, MD, Ph.D.

Centerstone's 4th annual Problem & Compulsive Gambling Symposium, held on March 23 from 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. CT, will feature "Considering co-occurring disorders in the treatment of people with gambling disorder" by Dr. Marc Potenza.

Gambling disorder has a prevalence estimate of approximately 0.5% in the general adult population in the US. Data from a large community US sample suggest that more than 95% of adults with gambling disorder have at least one co-occurring psychiatric disorder, with close to two-thirds having three or more. Co-occurring disorders may be even more prevalent among clinical samples and may complicate, or inform, treatment selection and outcomes.

This presentation will include empirical data on disorders that frequently co-occur with gambling disorder and how these relate to treatment outcomes. The selection of data-supported treatments for people with gambling disorder will be considered, including with respect to medications that are off-label for the treatment of gambling disorder but that may have indications for specific disorders that frequently co-occur with gambling disorder.

Current changes in the gambling environment will be discussed with

respect to how such changes may influence populations seeking treatment. Novel interventions (neuromodulation, mobile health) will also be considered.

Dr. Potenza is a board-certified psychiatrist with sub-specialty training in addiction psychiatry. Currently, he is a Professor of Psychiatry, Child Study and Neuroscience at the Yale University School of Medicine where he is the Director of the Division on Addictions Research, Problem Gambling Clinic, and the Center of Excellence in Gambling Research. He is also a Senior Research Scientist at the Connecticut Council on Problem Gambling.

He has received lifetime achievement research awards from the Connecticut Council on Problem Gambling and the National Council on Problem Gambling. He has consulted to the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, National Registry of Effective Programs, National Institutes of Health, American Psychiatric Association and World Health Organization (WHO) on matters of addiction. He has participated in two DSM-5 research work groups and six annual WHO meetings relating to Internet use and addictive behaviors in the ICD-11, addressing topics relating to gambling, gaming, impulse control, and addiction.



Dr. Potenza's research has focused on the neurobiology and treatment of substance and non-substance (behavioral) addictions and other disorders characterized by impaired impulse control and reward-related motivations. The majority of this work has focused on understanding clinical and neurobiological underpinnings of these disorders, and their co-occurrences with other mental health disorders, in order to advance prevention and treatment strategies.

