



Department of Psychiatry

Columbia University, College of P&S

NYS

Psychiatric Institute

DIVISION OF BRAIN STIMULATION AND THERAPEUTIC MODULATION

JOURNAL CLUB

LAWRENCE V. AMSEL, MD, MPH

**ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF CLINICAL PSYCHIATRY
DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHIATRY
COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY**

CO-DIRECTOR, COLUMBIA DECISION IMAGING GROUP (DIG)

TOWARDS A MATHEMATICAL PSYCHIATRY: MODELING SUICIDE WITH GAME THEORY TESTING THE MODELS WITH TMS

Wednesday May 13, 2009

1:00 PM to 2:00 PM

Location: New York State Psychiatric Institute, 1051 Riverside Drive, Room 5001

(Enter Kolb Annex, 40 Haven Ave., turn rt., walk through atrium and across bridge over Riverside Dr. to new NYSPI, take elevator to 5th Fl.)

(See over for brief speaker biographies and J Club paper)

ABOUT LAWRENCE V. AMSEL, MD, MPH

Dr. Amsel was a graduate student in mathematics at Columbia before entering Yale School of Medicine. After completing training in psychiatry at Cornell he joined the Columbia faculty, where he completed two NIMH research fellowships and obtained an MPH in biostatistics. Having sought a way to merge his clinical expertise with his analytic mathematics background, he naturally found an intellectual home in the Decision Sciences and Game Theory approach to understanding human motivation and behavior. Since 2000, Dr. Amsel has championed the application of Decision Science and Game theory to psychiatric research. In 2001 he developed the first Game Theory model of suicidal behavior to be presented at a national conference, the Society for Medical Decision Making. In 2003 he organized the first American Psychiatric Association symposium on the topic: Applying Decision Theory and Game Theory to Clinical Psychiatry Research. Elke Weber, Antoine Bechara, Robert Rogers, and Leslie Lenert presented papers at this inaugural event. Over the ensuing years Dr. Amsel has used Decision Theory and Game Theory to develop formal models of OCD and PTSD. He also applied Decision Theory models of behavior change to the challenge of clinical education, by developing theory-driven educational programs to improve the dissemination of clinical skills to community clinicians. Since 9/11, Dr. Amsel has also been working with Trauma Services section of the Anxiety Disorders Clinic at PI, treating survivors of 9/11, and training other clinicians in evidence-based cognitive therapies for PTSD and Complex Grief. Dr. Amsel is Co-Director of the Decision Imaging Group (DIG), a Columbia-wide collaboration of imaging, decision making and neuropsychiatric researchers.

SELECTED RECENT PUBLICATIONS OF DR. LAWRENCE V. AMSEL

Marshall RD, Bryant RA, Amsel L, Suh EJ, Cook JM, Neria Y. The psychology of ongoing threat: relative risk appraisal, the September 11 attacks, and terrorism-related fears. *Am Psychol*. 2007 May-Jun;62(4):304-16. Review.

Mann JJ, Currier D, Stanley B, Oquendo MA, Amsel LV, Ellis SP. Can biological tests assist prediction of suicide in mood disorders? *Int J Neuropsychopharmacol*. 2006 Aug;9(4):465-74. Epub 2005 Jun 21. Erratum in: *Int J Neuropsychopharmacol*. 2006 Dec;9(6):777.

PAPER(S) FOR JOURNAL CLUB

(PLEASE READ AT LEAST ONE TMS PAPER AND ONE AMSEL AND MANN PAPER/CHAPTER)

van 't Wout M, Kahn RS, Sanfey AG, Aleman A. Repetitive transcranial magnetic stimulation over the right dorsolateral prefrontal cortex affects strategic decision-making. *Neuroreport*. 2005 Nov 7;16(16):1849-52.

Fecteau S, Knoch D, Fregni F, Sultani N, Boggio P, Pascual-Leone A. Diminishing risk-taking behavior by modulating activity in the prefrontal cortex: a direct current stimulation study. *J Neurosci*. 2007 Nov 14;27(46):12500-5.

Mann JJ, Currier D, Stanley B, Oquendo MA, Amsel LV, Ellis SP. Can biological tests assist prediction of suicide in mood disorders? *Int J Neuropsychopharmacol*. 2006 Aug;9(4):465-74. Epub 2005 Jun 21. Erratum in: *Int J Neuropsychopharmacol*. 2006 Dec;9(6):777.

Amsel, L. & Mann J. J. (2001) Suicide risk assessment and the suicidal process approach. In *Understanding Suicidal Behaviour: The Suicidal Process Approach to Research, Treatment and Prevention* (ed. K. van Heeringen), pp. 163–181. Chichester: John Wiley & Sons. Appleby, L. (2000).

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[HTTP://WWW.BRAINSTIMULATION.COLUMBIA.EDU/JOURNAL_CLUB.HTML](http://www.brainstimulation.columbia.edu/journal_club.html)