

# INFORMED CONSENT:

## Assessing Decision-making Capacity and Enhancing Understanding

**Thursday,  
June 12, 2008**

**Knights Room (1st floor)  
Pius XII Memorial Library  
Saint Louis University  
3650 Lindell Boulevard  
St. Louis, MO 63103**

### Description

This half-day symposium will present findings from recent empirical studies that examined the most effective ways of addressing three possible threats to informed consent in mental health research:

- Compromised cognitive capacity to make decisions pertaining to research participation;
- the so-called “therapeutic misconception,” in which patients mistake clinical research for individually-tailored therapy; and
- the manner in which information is communicated to potential participants.

The symposium will consist of keynote talks by leading researchers in mental health research ethics, responses by leading experts in culture competence and mental health consumerism, and discussion with participants.

### Objectives

- Identify best practices for assessing decisional capacity in mental health research.
- Describe ways that participants develop the “therapeutic misconception” (mistaking research for individualized therapy) and how to address this.
- Evaluate ways of enhancing decisional capacity in mental health research.

### Schedule

<b>8:00 am</b>	<b>Introductions: James DuBois and Charles Lidz</b>
<b>8:15</b>	<b>Assessing Decision-making Capacity in Mental Health Research: Challenges and Best Practices Paul Appelbaum</b>
<b>9:15</b>	<b>Coffee break</b>
<b>9:30</b>	<b>The Therapeutic Misconception: Addressing Participant Perceptions of the Goals of Research Charles Lidz</b>
<b>10:30</b>	<b>Enhancing Participants' Understanding of Study Information William Carpenter, Jr.</b>
<b>11:30</b>	<b>Coffee break</b>
<b>11:45</b>	<b>Responses and Panel Discussion Respondents:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Consumer Perspectives on Informed Consent to Research, Jean Campbell</b></li><li>• <b>Designing Cultural Competent Research on Informed Consent, Vetta Sanders-Thompson</b></li></ul> <b>Panel discussion:</b> Plenary speakers and respondents will engage in discussion with the conference participants and each other.
<b>12:45</b>	<b>Distribution of program evaluation forms</b>
<b>1:00 pm</b>	<b>Adjournment</b>

### Designed for

This program is designed for Physicians, Nurses, Psychologists, Social Workers and others who work in mental health research. Those who interface with mental health clients during the recruitment phase will find this to be vital information. It will help you to communicate with clients, obtain informed consent properly and ethically, and help to increase client compliance with the research parameters.

### Speakers

**Paul Appelbaum, MD**, Professor of Psychiatry and Director of the Division of Psychiatry, Law and Ethics, Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons

**Jean Campbell, PhD**, Research Associate Professor and Director of the Program in Consumer Studies and Training, Missouri Institute of Mental Health

**William Carpenter, Jr., MD**, Professor of Psychiatry and Pharmacology, University of Maryland School of Medicine

**Charles Lidz, PhD**, Research Professor of Psychiatry and Director of the Center for Mental Health Services Research, University of Massachusetts Medical School

**Vetta Sanders-Thompson, PhD**, Associate Professor of Community Health in Behavioral Science and Health Education, Saint Louis University

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### This event is co-sponsored by

**Saint Louis University Department of Health Care Ethics and Department of Neurology and Psychiatry  
University of Missouri, Missouri Institute of Mental Health  
University of Missouri School of Medicine, Continuing Medical Education  
Washington University, St. Louis Institute for Clinical and Translational Sciences**

