

Conference on Assessment & Treatment of Compulsive Gambling Among Asian Americans

Friday, October 26, 2007

**Schwartz Lecture Hall E
New York University School of Medicine
550 First Avenue, New York City**

**A National Conference Hosted by
New York Coalition for Asian American Mental Health
Hamilton Madison House**

**Co-sponsored by
Center for the Study of Asian American Health
St. Vincent's Hospital Behavioral Health Services
NYSPA: Division of Culture, Race & Ethnicity**

Assessment & Treatment of Compulsive Gambling Among Asian Americans Conference Program

- 8:30 a.m. **Registration / Continental Breakfast**
- 9:00 a.m. **Welcome & Opening Remarks**
- 9:30 a.m. **Keynote Address:**
An Overview: Prevalence, Etiology, Symptom Manifestation, and Treatment Outcomes
Jon Grant, J.D., M.D., Associate Professor of Psychiatry, University of Minnesota Medical School, MN
An Overview for Asian Americans: Prevalence, Etiology, Assessment, Clinical Picture and Impact of Gambling Addiction
Timothy Fong, M.D., Assistant Clinical Professor of Psychiatry, Department of Psychiatry and Bio-behavioral Sciences, UCLA Semel Institute for Neuroscience and Resnick Neuropsychiatry Hospital, Los Angeles, CA
- 11:00 a.m. **Break**
- 11:15 a.m. **Panel Discussion - Clinical Pictures of Compulsive Gambling Among Various Asian Ethnic Groups:**
Treatment of a Chinese Woman with Pathological Gambling: Taking Cultural Factors into Account
Stephen Ross, M.D., Assistant Professor of Psychiatry, NYU Medical School; Director, Division of Alcoholism and Drug Abuse, Bellevue Hospital, New York City, NY
Case Presentation of Korean Immigrant Gambler: Thomas's Story
Kunsook Song Bernstein, Ph.D., R.N., Korean American Behavioral Health Association, NYC, NY
Compulsive Gambling and Other Related Issues Among South Asians
Antony Stephen, Ph.D. M.S.W., Chairman, Council of South Asian Mental Health, New Jersey
- 12:30 p.m. **Lunch**
- 1:30 p.m. **Treatment:**
Working with Gamblers
Eddie Chiu, Ph.D., Psychologist, Richmond Area Multi-Services Center; Faculty, Alliant International University, San Francisco, CA
Working with the Families
Patrick Au, R.S.W., C.Q.S.W., Director, Chinese Family Services of Ontario, Toronto, Canada
- 3:00 p.m. **Prevention:**
Prevention of Problematic Gambling Among Asian Americans
Chien-Chi Huang, Asian Community Program Specialist, Massachusetts Council on Compulsive Gambling, Boston, MA
- 3:30 p.m. **Break**
- 3:45 p.m. **Resources in the Tri-state Area**
Carlos Blanco, M.D., The Columbia Gambling Clinic at New York State Psychiatric Institute, Columbia University, New York City, NY
TBA - Representative from OASAS, New York
Karen Shufleder M.A., OTR/L, NYCGTC, Behavioral Health Services, Saint Vincent's Hospital, New York City, NY
- 4:45 p.m. **Conference Adjourns / Networking Reception**

Assessment & Treatment of Compulsive Gambling Among Asian Americans Conference Description & Objectives

Studies have indicated that Asians gamble more frequently than other racial groups in the U.S., making up 10% of the nation's gamblers while constituting only 4% of the total population. Not only is gambling a widespread phenomenon among Asian Americans, this leisure activity has become a serious social and economic problem in many. A study conducted in Connecticut of South East Asian Refugees indicated that 59% have a lifelong pathological addiction to gambling, and 60% of South East Asians who sought help from community service providers fall into this area as well. Although no known study has been conducted on gambling problems among Asians in NYC, anecdotal data from mental health practitioners indicated that it is a widespread and growing phenomenon. The proximity of casinos is an especially a big draw to Asians in the Tri-State Area.

While the causes for problematic gambling are plentiful, such as the lure of easy money, ecstasy when winning, illusion of being in control, and fantasies of fixing financial woes, some are idiosyncratic to Asian immigrants. Many immigrants are not able to appreciate mainstream entertainments such as sports games or movies due to cultural and language barriers; thus, gambling becomes an attractive and easily accessible outlet. The cultural acceptance of gambling as a form of celebration and legitimate entertainment also reinforces the development of addiction, especially among younger Asians.

The impact of problem gambling goes beyond the individual gamblers, affecting their families, employers and acquaintances. Pathological gambling has been related to domestic violence, separation, divorce, and child neglect in the clinical setting. When deep in debt, forgery, robbery, and other crimes become enticing alternatives, ultimately leading to legal entanglements and even attempted suicides to end their shame and financial burdens. Some experience withdrawal symptoms such as depression when they stop gambling, similar to those suffering from other forms of addiction.

Due to the complexity and the widespread occurrence of problematic gambling, professionals need specific training to understand the psychosocial and cultural aspects of the phenomenon to develop competencies to deal with this compulsive behavior.

Conference Objectives:

- Enhance awareness of the pervasiveness and severity of problematic gambling in the Asian American community in the Greater NYC Metropolitan Area
- Increase understanding and knowledge base of professionals concerning the causes and impact of problematic gambling
- Enhance skills in treating individual gamblers and working with their significant others
- Heighten sensitivity, early detection, and prevention of such compulsions, especially among young Asians
- Provide tools and resources helpful to Asian Americans afflicted with compulsive gambling and addiction.

Intended Audience:

- Practitioners, clinicians, students, researchers, and educators in the fields of mental health, social service, and addiction service from community agencies
- Educators from academic institutions
- Any interested individuals

Assessment & Treatment of Compulsive Gambling Among Asian Americans Conference Registration

(Mr./Ms./Dr.) First Name: _____ Middle Initial: _____ Last Name: _____

Degree: _____ Title: _____ Department: _____

Organization/Affiliation: _____

Mailing Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Daytime Phone: _____ Fax: _____ E-Mail: _____

Conference Registration Fee: \$ _____ Enclosed is a check for \$ _____

Tuition: (Fees include breakfast, lunch, networking reception and all course materials)

Non-Members: \$35 (\$30 for registrations postmarked before September 28, 2007)
Members: \$30 (\$25 for registrations postmarked before September 28, 2007)
Students (matriculated): \$15.00

Checks Made Payable to: NYCAAMH (Attn: Compulsive Gambling Conference)

NY Coalition for Asian American Mental Health
C/O Two Bridges
275 Cherry Street
New York, NY 10002

Conference Location: Schwartz Lecture Hall E, NYU School of Medicine, 550 First Avenue, New York City

Travel Directions:

From Penn Station - NYU School of Medicine is directly across town along 34th Street from Penn Station. Take the M34 bus going east to its final stop or walk east across town along 34th Street or 33rd Street.

By Bus - The M15 bus runs the length of First Avenue in Manhattan and stops a block from the School of Medicine. The M34 bus runs the length of 34th Street in Manhattan and stops directly in front of the north entrance to NYU Medical Center on 34th Street. The M16 bus directly connects nationwide bus service at the Port Authority Bus Terminal (42nd Street and 8th Avenue) with the NYU School of Medicine's 34th Street entrance bus stop.

By Subway - The stop closest to NYU Medical Center is the 33rd Street stop (at Park Avenue) on the #6 line.

Parking is available at garages near the NYU School of Medicine. Parking fees will be charged according to the individual garage's regular rates.

For further information:

Contact the New York Coalition for Asian American Mental Health at Tel: (212) 720-4524 Fax: (212) 732-9297
E-mail at nycaamh@yahoo.com or visit our website at www.asianmentalhealth.org

The New York Coalition for Asian American Mental Health (NYCAAMH), a not-for-profit 501(C)(3) organization founded in 1989 by a group of concerned health and mental health professionals with a mission to improve the quality of mental health services available to Asian Americans in the New York City metropolitan area. All members are volunteers and membership of the Coalition is open to anyone who is concerned about the care and services for Asian Americans with mental health needs. For more details regarding the activities of the NY Coalition for Asian American Mental Health, visit the Coalition's web site at www.asianmentalhealth.org where mental health information and resources including an online directory of Asian American Behavioral Health Service for Metropolitan NY are also posted.