## The Portable Mentor

Mitchell J. Prinstein Editor

# The Portable Mentor

Expert Guide to a Successful Career in Psychology

**Second Edition** 



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To teachers and trainees in psychology, to my amazing wife, Tina, and to Samara, and Max, who are helping me to learn everything all over again.

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Most importantly, thanks to my mentors, Annette La Greca and Tony Spirito, whose dedicated and selfless mentorship throughout my training served as inspirational examples, and helped me earn the opportunity to share just a little of what I learned from them in this volume.

Thanks to my family and friends, always.

#### **Preface for the Second Edition**

Although graduate training in psychology typically offers students opportunities to develop an extraordinary number of skills and to be exposed to the enormous breadth and history of our field, training on how to develop a successful career in psychology is sometimes more difficult to obtain. Of course, there is no single definition of a "successful" career. There are many ways to make a contribution, and many routes to get to each of these varied destinations. Many of the skills common to these routes are not explicitly discussed within doctoral training. Graduate students and early career psychologists often express a need for additional information on practical career issues, such as how to write a grant, teach a class, publish a research manuscript, apply for a postdoctoral fellowship, balance personal and professional demands, or acquire skills necessary to begin a clinical practice, for instance. Students might acquire some of these skills through interactions with their mentor; however, not all mentors have had experiences with each of these professional tasks.

Ten years ago, the first edition of the Portable Mentor was published. With this edition, the Portable Mentor offers updated advice and resources on an even wider variety of topics relevant to professional development. As with the first edition, this volume provides graduate students and early career psychologists comprehensive and practical resources on professional development issues in psychology. "Expert" contributors have been selected; each has demonstrated a strong commitment to training in psychology and may serve as the "field's mentor" in a particular domain of professional development. Thus, with this volume, students have access to the best possible professional development training from the most successful leaders in psychology.

This volume was designed to be comprehensive in scope and practical in use. The book is divided into six sections that cover professional development issues relevant to each stage of early career development in psychology. Chapters review topics relevant to both science- and practice-oriented psychologists, with a specific focus on universal hurdles and professional tasks that are difficult to get information about. Authors have provided bullet-pointed lists, and illustrative examples whenever possible, and lists of additional resources for each topic. Each contributor was asked to provide the kind of specific instruction and suggestions that they would offer their own mentees.

Part I of the book offers two chapters new to this edition of the Portable Mentor. These chapters offer input on the decision to apply to graduate school, as well as specific advice on when and how to apply to doctoral programs in psychology. It is unfortunate that undergraduate institutions do not have information on pre-psychology requirements as thorough as for pre-law or pre-med careers. The information in this section helps to fill this void, and also discusses the types of postbaccalaureate positions and experiences that are available to enhance one's application to doctoral programs.

Part II reviews general, overarching issues that apply to graduate students and to young professionals beginning their careers. The book begins with a discussion of the scientist-practitioner model and guiding principles for developing a career that will have maximal impact on our evolving field. Chapters on cultural competence and ethics offer excellent discussions of topics that can serve as a foundation for decisions made throughout a career in psychology. Each of these chapters reviews issues specifically relevant to students and early career psychologists. This section concludes with a review of difficult challenges and helpful suggestions relevant to the balance between personal and professional lives. New to this edition is a chapter specifically focused on balancing the professional and personal demands inherent to work as a psychologist and a parent.

Part III includes chapters pertaining to career development in research and academic domains. Each chapter addresses a task that is crucial to a successful scientific career, but often not discussed explicitly during graduate training. Chapters on research offer specific steps for reviewing scientific literature and disseminating research findings, in both presentation or publication formats. This section also includes a new chapter with instruction for serving as a peer-reviewer on journal submissions, and a chapter with recommendations for preparing and teaching a course on psychology.

Part IV addresses professional development in the practice domain. An introductory chapter reviews opportunities to gain clinical experience at each stage of training, and offers ideas for the competencies that should be obtained following the completion of each clinical experience. This section also includes a chapter with specific strategies for beginning a successful private practice, including considerations for selecting a specific type of practice and business skills that are needed to manage it. In our experience, students most frequently have questions regarding application processes relevant to training hurdles in professional psychology. Three chapters are therefore included with concrete suggestions regarding the internship and licensure application processes, and information regarding board certification (ABPP) in psychology. Because many early career psychologists are also clinical supervisors, this section offers a new chapter on the challenges inherent in becoming a clinical supervisor.

Not all psychologists are involved in professional service, but those who are often cite strong mentorship and excellent role models as leading reasons for their involvement. For this reason, Part V is dedicated to the development of a professional service career, with chapters that help to explain the importance of professional service within psychology. This section begins with a chapter on the roles served by professional organizations in psychology, and

the range of options for students and early career psychologists to become active in these groups, either as members or governance leaders. This section also includes a discussion of advocacy in psychology with specific ideas on how students and young psychologists can become involved with efforts to solicit support for the needs of our field. Two chapters address the promotion of psychology in the media, offering a vision and example for the successful public education of psychology, and specific guidelines to follow when interacting with a media source.

Part VI addresses professional development issues that are most relevant toward the end of formal graduate training. This section begins with a comprehensive discussion of postdoctoral fellowships in psychology, including different types of positions and practical strategies for the postdoc application process. This section also includes a review of the NIH grant application process and funding mechanisms most relevant to early career psychologists. Two chapters addressing employment issues in psychology are also included in this section. One of these chapters reviews the application process for academic positions, and the other reviews recent data regarding employment trends in psychology and among graduates in psychology.

Overall, it is hoped that this second edition continues to serve as a helpful resource for students, early career psychologists, and teachers of psychology. The book is structured to serve as a text in a professional development workshop series and/or a resource volume that psychologists can refer to throughout their careers. To all who are beginning their careers in psychology, good luck!

Chapel Hill, NC, USA

Mitchell J. Prinstein

### **About the Editor**

Mitchell J. Prinstein, Ph.D. is a Bowman and Gordon Gray Distinguished Term Professor and the Director of Clinical Psychology at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. He received his Ph.D. in clinical psychology from the University of Miami and completed his internship and postdoctoral fellowship at the Brown University Clinical Psychology Training Consortium. Mitch's research examines interpersonal models of internalizing symptoms and health risk behaviors among adolescents, with a specific focus on the unique role of peer relationships in the developmental psychopathology of depression and self-injury. He is the PI on several past and active grants from the National Institute of Mental Health, the National Institute of Child and Human Development, and several private foundations. He serves as the Editor for the Journal of Clinical Child and Adolescent Psychology, and an editorial board member for several developmental psychopathology journals. Mitch has received several national and university-based awards recognizing his contributions to research (American Psychological Association Society of Clinical Psychology Theodore Blau Early Career Award, Columbia University/Brickell Award for research on suicidality, APA Fellow of the Society of Clinical Child and Adolescent Psychology and the Society of Clinical Psychology), teaching (UNC Chapel Hill Tanner Award for Undergraduate Teaching; Psi Chi Professor of the Year), professional development of graduate students (American Psychological Association of Graduate Students Raymond D. Fowler Award), and undergraduate students (Psychology Club Department Research Mentor Award).

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### **Contributors**

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William E. Pate, II, M.A. is a cofounder of Ad Hoc Analytics, a minority-and woman-owned statistical consulting firm, based in Washington, DC, that specializes in program evaluation. Current efforts include federally and state funded projects related to criminal justice, education, and minority issues in higher education. Previously, Mr. Pate was the Assistant Director of the APA Center for Workforce Studies, where he worked for over 10 years. His published work on the psychology workforce and educational pipeline has appeared in *The Counseling Psychologist, Journal of Clinical Psychology in Medical Settings*, and *Professional Psychology: Research and Practice*. Mr. Pate holds an M.A. in Industrial-Organizational Psychology.

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Leon Rozenblit, J.D., Ph.D. learned most of what he knows about teaching from Bill Rando at the Yale Graduate Teaching Center, where he helped develop and lead workshops on Teaching with Technology. Leon served as Adjunct Professor at the Yale University Department of Psychology where he has taught graduate and undergraduate statistics courses and Intro Psych. Leon is the Founder and President of Prometheus Research, LLC, where he channels his interests in cognitive psychology, statistics, and information technology into providing innovative solutions that help researchers make better use

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of their data, a role that, happily, provides Leon with plenty of opportunities to learn, mentor, and teach. Leon received a J.D. from Louisiana State University in 1996 and a Ph.D. in Cognitive Psychology from Yale University in 2003. He lives with his family in New Haven, CT where he consistently fails at teaching his two young children Russian, his native language.

Amy F. Sato, Ph.D. graduated from the University of Wisconsin—Milwaukee in 2009 with a Ph.D. in clinical psychology. She completed her predoctoral internship and NIMH T32 postdoctoral fellowship in pediatric psychology at Brown Medical School. She is currently an Assistant Professor in the Department of Psychology at Kent State University, where she enjoys mentoring graduate and undergraduate students in child clinical psychology. She is an active member of the Society of Pediatric Psychology (APA Division 54), where she previously served as the Student Representative to the Executive Committee and currently coordinates student programming for the Diversity Committee. She also previously served as a predoctoral and postdoctoral representative on the Brown Clinical Psychology Training Consortium Diversity Committee. Her research focuses on the etiology, maintenance, and treatment of child health conditions, particularly pediatric overweight. She has published several peer-reviewed articles and book chapters on adjustment to and coping with child health conditions and has presented her research at national and international conferences.

Valerie Simon, Ph.D. is an Associate Professor at Wayne State University in Detroit, Michigan where she holds a joint appointment in the Department of Psychology and the Merrill Palmer Skillman Institute for Children and Families. Informed by a developmental psychopathology framework, Dr. Simon uses a multi-method approach to peer, romantic, and sexual development among youth with interpersonal risk histories (e.g., child maltreatment, interparental conflict) and mental health problems. Current grant-funded projects examine (1) emergent patterns of romantic and sexual behavior among sexually abused youth; (2) individual differences in strategies for processing experiences of child abuse; and (3) barriers to mental health service utilization among families with recently discovered cases of sexual abuse.

Anthony Spirito, Ph.D., ABPP is Professor of Psychiatry and Human Behavior at the Warren Alpert Medical School at Brown University. He has served as a clinical and research supervisor for both predoctoral interns and postdoctoral fellows for 25 years. In the past he has been the Director of Brown's Clinical Psychology Training Consortium as well as PI on Brown's NIAAA T32 Postdoctoral Research Training grant. He is currently the Director of the Division of Clinical Psychology in the Department of Psychiatry and Human Behavior at Brown.

**Robert J. Sternberg, Ph.D.** is Provost, Senior Vice President, and Regents Professor of Psychology and Education at Oklahoma State University and Honorary Professor of Psychology at Heidelberg University in Germany. Before going to Oklahoma State, he was Dean of Arts and Sciences at Tufts University,

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and before that, IBM Professor of Psychology and Education at Yale. He is a Past President of the American Psychological Association and is President-Elect of the Federation of Associations of Brain and Behavioral Sciences. His BA is from Yale summa cum laude, his Ph.D. is from Stanford, and he holds 12 honorary doctorates. Sternberg has won two dozen awards for his work and was cited in an APA Monitor report as one of the top 100 psychologists of the twentieth century. Sternberg is a member of the National Academy of Education and the American Association of Arts and Sciences and a Fellow of APA, APS, and the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

Joseph E. Trimble, Ph.D., a former Fellow at Harvard University's Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study, is a Distinguished University Professor in the Center for Cross-Cultural Research, Department of Psychology, at Western Washington University. Throughout his 35-year career, he focused his efforts on promoting psychological and sociocultural mental health research with indigenous populations, especially American Indians and Alaska Natives. He is the editor or author of 19 books and over 130 journal articles and book chapters. Among 20 honors and awards he is recipient of the Distinguished Elder Award from the National Multicultural Conference and Summit, the Janet E. Helms Award for Mentoring and Scholarship in Professional Psychology from Teachers College, Columbia University, a Presidential Citation from the American Psychological Association for his lifelong devotion to multiculturalism, the Henry Tomes Award for Distinguished Contributions to the Advancement of Ethnic Minority Psychology, and the International Lifetime Achievement Award for Multicultural and Diversity Counseling from OISE at the University of Toronto.

Carol Williams-Nickelson, Psy.D. is the Executive Director of the American Medical Student Association (AMSA) and AMSA Foundation, the oldest and largest independent association for physicians-in-training. She formerly was the Associate Executive Director for the American Psychological Association of Graduate Students (APAGS) following several years of serving in various leadership positions within APAGS, including chairing APAGS. Carol received her M.S. and Psy.D. in psychology from Our Lady of the Lake University in San Antonio, Texas, and completed her doctoral internship at the University of Notre Dame Counseling Center. She has held several university faculty appointments, owned and operated a consulting business and health service organization, and has served on multiple nonprofit, university and governmental boards and committees. Carol had dedicated her career to developing leaders within professional associations to enable them to broadly and effectively influence healthcare. Her professional activities have focused on graduate student advocacy and development; training and clinical supervision; legislative advocacy; leadership; professional development; organizational development; self-care; mentoring; and women's issues.

**Erica H. Wise, Ph.D.** is Clinical Professor and Director of the Psychology Training Clinic in the Department of Psychology at UNC—Chapel Hill. She teaches doctoral level courses that focus on clinical theory and practice,

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ethics, and diversity. She is a primary clinical supervisor in the UNC graduate program and especially enjoys mentoring graduate students as they develop into excellent therapists and begin the process of learning to become supervisors themselves. She is former chair of the APA Ethics Committee and the North Carolina Psychology Board. She writes and presents at state and national professional meetings on ethical and legal issues in clinical psychology. In addition, she is a frequent consultant to both psychologists and attorneys on these issues. Her professional interests include psychotherapy outcome research and self-care in academic and professional practice settings. She strives to incorporate high standards of professional practice and self-care into all of her endeavors.

Yelena P. Wu, Ph.D. is a postdoctoral fellow in the Center for Adherence Promotion and Self-Management at Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center. She completed her doctorate in Clinical Child Psychology and a minor in Quantitative Psychology at the University of Kansas. She has completed mentored manuscript reviews for multiple journals as well as numerous independent reviews for medical and psychology journals. She is on the editorial board of *Professional Psychology: Research and Practice*. Her research focuses on the psychosocial functioning of children with chronic illnesses and their families, including risk and resilience factors influencing functioning and medication adherence, and interventions to improve psychological and physical outcomes in pediatric populations. Her current clinical applications include multidisciplinary collaborations in a pediatric hospital setting, addressing issues such as medical regimen adherence and family adaptation pre- and post-solid organ transplantation.

Philip G. Zimbardo, Ph.D. is one of the world's most distinguished living psychologists, having served as President of the American Psychological Association, designed and narrated the award winning PBS-TV series, Discovering Psychology, and has published more than 50 books and 400 professional and popular articles and chapters. His popular Publications are Shyness-What Is It? What To Do About It?, The Shy Child, The Lucifer Effect, and The Time Paradox. A professor emeritus at Stanford University, Dr. Zimbardo has spent 50 years teaching and studying psychology. He received his Ph.D. in Social Psychology from Yale University. During his career his research interests have varied from shyness to time perspective, persuasion, cults, madness, violence, vandalism, political psychology, and evil. He is best known for his controversial Stanford Prison Experiment that highlighted the ease with which ordinary intelligent college students could cross the line between good and evil when caught up in the matrix of situational and system forces. Dr. Zimbardo's current passion is The Heroic Imagination Project (HIP), a nonprofit dedicated to researching heroism and developing education materials based on that research, not only in the United States but also in other parts of the world. HIP believes everyone has the potential to transform the private virtue of compassion into the civic virtue of heroic action, and is dedicated to helping individuals adopt heroic values and express their "heroic imagination" in service to humanity.