

Curriculum Vitae

JANANI SIVASITHAMPARAM, M.S.

(Jenn Siva)

Contact Information

University of Central Florida
Department of Psychology
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Education and Training

Doctor of Philosophy

University of Central Florida, *Orlando, FL*
Clinical Psychology (APA Accredited)
Advisor: Michael E. Dunn, Ph.D.
Dissertation: *In progress*
Anticipated graduation date: 2011

Master of Science

University of Central Florida, *Orlando, FL*
Clinical Psychology (APA Accredited)
Advisor: Michael E. Dunn, Ph.D.
Thesis: Implementation and Evaluation of a Classroom-based Approach to Expectancy Challenge for Reducing Alcohol Use Among First-Year College Students
2008

Bachelor of Health Sciences

McMaster University, *Hamilton, ON, Canada*
Health Sciences (Honors), Minor in Psychology
Advisor: Shepard Siegel, Ph.D.
Thesis: Pavlovian Conditioning and Tolerance to the Ataxic Effect of Ethanol
2005

Professional Association Memberships

American Psychological Association (APA)

Division 2: Society for the Teaching of Psychology
Division 50: Addictions

Association for Behavioral and Cognitive Therapies (ABCT)

Canadian Psychological Association (CPA)

Divisions: Clinical Psychology, Psychopharmacology, Students in Psychology, Substance Abuse and Dependence

National Association of Student Personnel Administrators (NASPA)

Research Experience

June 2007 – present

Department of Psychology

University of Central Florida, Orlando, FL

Project Coordinator

Supervisors: Michael E. Dunn, Ph.D., Thomas V. Hall, LCSW

Responsible for coordination and implementation of a DOE-funded project, “Implementation of an Alcohol Expectancy Curriculum Designed to Reduce Alcohol Use and Improve Academic Performance Among First-Year University Students” (Grant CFDA Number 84.184H). Duties include training undergraduate research assistants and peer educators, developing standardized protocol and integrity scales, and coordinating data collection from approximately 2000 participants. Additional duties include creating training manuals for nationwide implementation of the curriculum.

August 2005- present

Substance Use Research Group

University of Central Florida, Orlando, FL

Graduate Research Assistant

Supervisor: Michael E. Dunn, Ph.D.

Research conducted under the mentorship of Dr. Dunn as part of the Substance Use Research Group examining the influence of expectancies and other biopsychosocial factors on the initiation and maintenance of substance use and abuse. Duties include the conceptualization, implementation, statistical analysis and evaluation of original research. Additional duties include preparation of manuscripts, national conference presentations, grant writing, and mentoring advanced undergraduate students.

May 2006 – June, 2007

Alcohol & Other Drug Prevention Programming Office

University of Central Florida, Orlando, FL

Graduate Research Assistant

Supervisor: Thomas V. Hall, LCSW

Responsible for implementing and evaluating the effectiveness of a classroom-based substance abuse prevention program for college students at UCF. Duties include assessment of the program, management of data collection, and statistical analysis of data.

May 2006 – December, 2007

Student Health Services

University of Central Florida, Orlando, FL

Graduate Research Assistant

Supervisor: James F. Schaus, M.D.

Responsible for assisting with coordination and management of an NIAAA-funded project, “Alcohol Screening and Intervention in a College Clinic” (Grant Number 1U18AA015673-01). Duties include participant screening and recruitment, data collection, statistical analysis, and manuscript preparation

May 2006 – June 2007

Substance Use Research Group

University of Central Florida, Orlando, FL

Laboratory Coordinator

Supervisor: Michael E. Dunn, Ph.D.

Responsibilities included recruiting, hiring, training, supervising, and mentoring undergraduate research assistants. Additional duties include coordinating data collection and research projects for the laboratory.

September 2004 – June 2005

Department of Psychiatry and Behavioural Neurosciences

McMaster University, Hamilton, ON, Canada

Research Assistant

Supervisor: Henry Szechtman, M.D.

Research conducted under the mentorship of Dr. Szechtman examining the dynamics and function of a successful undergraduate academic course in Psychobiology. Duties included the development, implementation and evaluation of course evaluation tools, and the formulation of recommendations for improvements in course structure. Additional duties included preparation of faculty reports and presentations for the Faculty of Health Sciences.

September 2003 – June 2005

Department of Clinical Epidemiology and Biostatistics

McMaster University, Hamilton, ON, Canada

Research Assistant

Supervisor: Kristina Trim, M.S.

Performed statistical analyses using SPSS for a diverse range of clinical researchers. Duties included the development, organization and maintenance of multiple statistical databases. Additional duties included the supervision of junior research assistants and data entry.

Clinical Experience

August 2008 – present

Maitland Psychology Clinic

Maitland, FL

Test Administrator

Supervisor: Dano A. Leli, Ph.D., ABPP

Provide comprehensive neuropsychological assessment and formulate reports for adult, child, and elderly patients referred from within the central Florida area. Duties include administration and scoring of neuropsychological test batteries including measures of attention, verbal skills, non-verbal skills, memory, and motor ability. Additional duties include creation of summary reports containing assessment results.

January 2008 – present

Camp Boggy Creek

Eustis, FL

Support Group Facilitator

Supervisor: Dorcas Tomasek, Camp Director

Provide support groups for parents of children with chronic or life threatening illnesses. Duties include facilitating discussion of emotional and psychological stresses associated with the parental role and monitoring group participants for signs of clinically significant impairment.

August 2007 – present

UCF Psychology Clinic

University of Central Florida, Orlando, FL

Graduate Student Therapist

Supervisors: Jeffrey Bedwell, Ph.D., Mark D. Rapport, Ph.D.

Provide assessment and individual therapy for children, adolescents, and adults in the central Florida area. Duties include conducting comprehensive intake assessments, psychodiagnostic and psychoeducational test administration and evaluation, treatment planning and informed clinical intervention. Additional duties include referral to other agencies when appropriate.

May 2006 – August 2007

Alcohol & Other Drug Prevention Programming Office

University of Central Florida, Orlando, FL

Clinical Intervention Provider

Supervisor: Thomas V. Hall, LCSW

Responsible for provision of clinical services to mandated, referred, and voluntary clients seeking substance abuse treatment at the UCF Alcohol and Other Drug Prevention Programming Office. Duties include screening, diagnostic assessment, and empirically-supported brief intervention in individual- and group-settings.

August 2006 – August 2007

Community Counseling Clinic

University of Central Florida, Orlando, FL

Graduate Student Therapist

Supervisors: Michael E. Dunn, Ph.D., Jeffrey Bedwell, Ph.D.

Provide individual therapy for adolescents and adults in the central Florida area. Duties include conducting comprehensive intake assessments, psychodiagnostic test administration and evaluation, treatment planning and informed clinical intervention. Additional duties include referral to other agencies when appropriate.

Teaching Experience

January 2008 – May 2008

Department of Psychology

University of Central Florida, Cocoa, FL

Instructor, Psychobiological Aspects of Drug Use

Responsible for all aspects of the course, including class preparation, lectures, exams, class activities, paper assignments, and grading for 30 undergraduate students. Facilitated understanding of basic drug pharmacology, knowledge about the effects of licit and illicit drugs, and exploration of philosophies that drive drug use and drug policy.

March 2008

Department of Psychology

University of Central Florida, Orlando, FL

Guest Lecturer, Psychobiological Aspects of Drug Use

Presented lecture to undergraduate students with a focus on alcohol expectancies and media literacy. Emphasized role of expectancies and the media on alcohol use and facilitated media deconstruction activities to solidify lesson.

September 2007

Department of Psychology

University of Central Florida, Orlando, FL

Guest Lecturer, Cross-Cultural Psychology

Presented lecture to undergraduate students with a focus on alcohol use in a cross-cultural context. Emphasized attitudes and policy toward alcohol within the United States, Europe and Canada.

June 2007

Department of Psychology

University of Central Florida, Orlando, FL

Guest Lecturer, Psychobiological Aspects of Drug Use

Presented lecture to undergraduate students with a focus on alcohol and nicotine. Emphasized current issues, impact of the media, and ad deconstruction.

August 2005 – April 2006

Department of Psychology

University of Central Florida, Orlando, FL

Graduate Teaching Assistant

Served as a graduate teaching assistant for the following undergraduate courses: Advanced Research Methods and Psychobiological Aspects of Drug Use. Duties included providing instruction and support for associated lab sections, grade management, and exam proctoring.

September 2004 – April 2005 **Bachelor of Health Sciences Honours Program**
McMaster University, Hamilton, ON, Canada

Teaching Assistant

Served as a senior undergraduate teaching assistant for the Inquiry I course. Duties included facilitator support, peer mentoring and academic support of first-year undergraduate students in the Bachelor of Health Sciences Honours Program.

January 2005 – April 2005 **Bachelor of Health Sciences Honours Program**
McMaster University, Hamilton, ON, Canada

Teaching Assistant

Initiated use of and served as senior undergraduate teaching assistant for the Psychobiology course. Duties included instructor support, peer mentoring and academic support of first-year undergraduate students in the Bachelor of Health Sciences Honours Program.

Grant Writing Experience

February 2007 **Department of Education**
CFDA#84.184H

Co-Author and Project Coordinator

Formulated research concept and drafted proposal for submission to the “Grant Competition to Prevent High-Risk Drinking or Violent Behavior Among College Students.” Funding provided \$300,000 over two years (*Funded*).

November, 2006 **Robert Wood Johnson Foundation**
SAPRP Round XI

Co-Author

Assisted with formulation of research concept and drafted brief proposal for submission to the “Substance Abuse Policy Research Program Round XI Brief Proposal Narrative Competition.” Funding provided \$400,000 over three years (*Unfunded*).

Manuscripts in Preparation

Sivasithamparam, J., Sole, M.L., & Dunn, M.E. (in preparation). *Drinking game participation and intoxication.*

Sivasithamparam, J., Fried, A., Schreiner, A., Hall, T.V., & Dunn, M.E. (in preparation). *Tailgating and the closing gender gap*

Publications

Schaus, J.F., Sole, M.L., McCoy, T., Mullett, N.J., Bolden, J., **Sivasithamparam, J.**, & O'Brien, M.C. (2009). Screening for high-risk drinking in a college student health center: Characterizing students based on quantity, frequency, and harms. *Journal of Studies on Alcohol and Drugs, 16*

Sivasithamparam, J. & DeBenedittis, P. (2008). Alcohol Literacy Challenge: Underaged Drinking Prevention Curriculum for High School [Computer software and manual].

Sivasithamparam, J. & DeBenedittis, P. (2008). Alcohol Literacy Challenge: Underaged Drinking Prevention Curriculum for Middle School [Computer software and manual].

Posters and Workshops Presented at Scientific Meetings

Sivasithamparam, J., Fried, A., Schreiner, A., Luce, C., Hall, T.V., & Dunn, M.E. (November, 2009). *Alcohol Use and Gender: Closing the Gender Gap and Implications for Intervention*. Poster submitted for presentation at the annual Association for Behavioral and Cognitive Therapies, New York City, NY.

Schreiner, A., Fried, A., **Sivasithamparam, J.**, & Dunn, M.E. (August, 2009). *Implementation of a Large Classroom-based Expectancy Challenge: A Pilot Study*. Poster to be presented at the annual meeting of the American Psychological Association, Toronto, ON.

Sivasithamparam, J., Fried, A., Schreiner, A., Hall, T.V., & Dunn, M.E. (August, 2009). *Alcohol Use and Tailgating: Characterizing a uniquely high risk behavior*. Poster to be presented at the annual meeting of the American Psychological Association, Toronto, ON.

Sivasithamparam, J., Hall, T.V., Dunn, M.E. (June, 2008). *CALC 101: The Collegiate Alcohol Literacy Curriculum as a Prevention Approach for High Risk Drinking in First-Year College Students*. Poster presented at the annual meeting of the American College Health Association, Orlando, FL.

Sivasithamparam, J., Silverio, N., Bolden, J., Randel, A., Sole, M., Schaus, J., & Dunn, M.E. (June, 2008). *Reducing participation in drinking games: A strategy for reducing alcohol consumption and preventing its associated harms*. Poster presented at the annual meeting of the American College Health Association, Orlando, FL.

Sivasithamparam, J., Hall, T.V., & DeBenedittis, P. (January, 2008). *Media literacy: How positive alcohol expectancies affect behavior*. Workshop presented at the NASPA Strategies Conference, Tampa, FL.

Sivasithamparam, J., & Hall, T.V. (December, 2007). *Media literacy: How positive alcohol expectancies affect behavior*. Workshop presented during Clinical Grand Rounds of Orlando Regional Medical Center, Orlando, FL.

Sivasithamparam, J., Dunn, M.E., McBride, W.P., & Davis, K. (November, 2007). *The Collegiate Alcohol Literacy Curriculum: Using a classroom-based prevention approach to reduce alcohol use and related harms among college students*. Poster presented at the 41st annual meeting of the Association for Behavioral and Cognitive Therapies, Philadelphia, PA.

Sivasithamparam, J., Shelton, T.M., Bolden, J., Schaus, J.F., Sole, M.L., & Dunn, M.E. (November, 2007). *Reducing alcohol use and related harms through two brief, healthcare provider-delivered motivational enhancement sessions*. Poster presented at the 41st annual meeting of the Association for Behavioral and Cognitive Therapies, Philadelphia, PA.

Sivasithamparam, J., Dunn, M.E., McBride, W.P., & Ramdass, J.A. (July, 2007). *Implementation and evaluation of a classroom-based approach to Expectancy Challenge for reducing alcohol use among freshman college students*. Poster presented at the 30th annual meeting of the Research Society on Alcoholism, Chicago, IL.

Lau, H.C., Dunn, M.E., **Sivasithamparam, J.**, & Wolfe, R. (November, 2006). *Changes in alcohol expectancy activation in memory following a single-session Expectancy Challenge intervention*. Poster presented at the 40th annual meeting of the Association for Behavioral and Cognitive Therapies, Chicago, IL.

Sivasithamparam, J. (April, 2005). *Drug onset cues and drug dependence*. Poster presented at the Ontario Psychology Undergraduate Thesis Conference, Peterborough, ON, Canada.

Sivasithamparam, J. (June, 2004). *Psychobiology: A course evaluation for the 2003 academic session*. Paper presented at the Bachelor of Health Sciences Inquiry Conference, Niagara Falls, ON, Canada.

Honors and Awards

2007	Prevention Excellence Award, Outside the Classroom
2007	Graduate Travel Fellowship, University of Central Florida
2006	Graduate Travel Fellowship, University of Central Florida
2005	Dean's Honour List, McMaster University
2002	Aiming for the Top Tuition Scholarship, McMaster University
2001	Aiming for the Top Tuition Scholarship, McMaster University
2001	McMaster Entrance Scholarship, McMaster University

Professional Development

Committees Served

- *Member* of HEALTH (Helping Enhance All Lifestyles Through Human Research), University of Central Florida, 2005-present
- *Member* of PSI-DOCS (Doctoral Organization of Clinical Students in Psychology), University of Central Florida, 2005-present
- *Secretary* of PSI-DOCS (Doctoral Organization of Clinical Students in Psychology), University of Central Florida, 2008-2009
- *President* of HEALTH (Helping Enhance All Lifestyles Through Human research), University of Central Florida, 2006-2007
- *Member* of the Search Committee for Assistant Director of Education & Training at the Alcohol and Other Drug Prevention Programming Office, University of Central Florida, April 2007

Seminars / Workshops attended

- “*Real Media – Fake Fantasy.*” Conducted by Peter DeBenedittis, Ph.D., University of Central Florida, April 2007
- “*Suboxone and Opiate Replacement Therapy.*” Conducted by Deborah Orr , Ph.D., University of Central Florida, February 2007
- “*Brief Alcohol Screening and Intervention for College Students (BASICS) – Training and Train the Trainer.*” Conducted by George Parks, Ph.D., University of Tampa, December 2006. Certified as a BASICS Trainer.
- “*Psychopathology and Treatment of Childhood Social Phobia.*” Conducted by Deborah Biedel, Ph.D., University of Central Florida, December 2006
- “*Dual Diagnosis.*” Conducted by Richard Saini, M.D., and Linda Harper, M.D. of CNS Healthcare, University of Central Florida Downtown Auditorium, July 2006
- “*Marchman Act.*” Sponsored by the Alcohol and Other Drug Prevention Programming Office, University of Central Florida, June 2006