

## **Eliciting Knowledge: Tapping Into the Intuition of an Experienced Therapist**

Sarah Austin, Antoine Harris, TJ Hartman, Sandee Muzyka, Rhonda Hampton  
*Chicago State University, Chicago, IL, USA*

**Introduction:** After years of reflective practice, experienced therapists have a wealth of knowledge that is not always tapped as a source of evidence to support best practices. One of the reasons for this is that the knowledge and experience of highly experienced therapists, often feels intuitive, and it is difficult for them to articulate it to others.

**Objectives:** After this session, participants will be able to 1) describe key elements in the decision to assess cognition, and 2) describe other research questions that can be addressed using the critical decision method.

**Method:** This study used a unique research methodology that was designed for eliciting knowledge from individuals with special skills. The critical decision method, uses an in-depth interview in which the participant is asked to tell a narrative about a critical decision several times. The methodology specifies the focus of interview questions for each re-telling of this narrative. In this study, researchers used this method to elicit knowledge about the use of assessments of cognition in an incarcerated older adult in the USA.

**Results:** Specific results of this study describe how this therapist used a complex process that wove the results of standardized cognitive assessment with multiple sources of non-standardized assessment. A better understanding of these processes can help to guide the training of students and less experienced therapists. The potential for additional applications of this research method will also be used.