

# MEGAN E. GOMEZ, PH.D.

Clinical Psychologist

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## EDUCATION AND CERTIFICATION

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**California Board of Psychology License Number: 28065**

**Fuller Seminary Graduate School of Psychology (APA Accredited), Pasadena, California**

Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) in Clinical Psychology 2007-2014

*Dissertation:* "Language and Memory Functioning in Cognitively Healthy Older Adults with Abnormal Beta-amyloid/Tau Levels in Cerebrospinal Fluid"

Masters of Arts (M.A.) in Psychology 2007-2009

Masters of Arts (M.A.) in Theology 2007-2013

**University of Southern California, Los Angeles, California** 2003-2007

Bachelor of Arts in Psychology

## FORMAL CLINICAL TRAINING AND PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

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**Staff Psychologist** 2015-current  
VA Long Beach Healthcare System, Long Beach, California

**Board of Advisor** 2020-current  
Parkinson's Foundation California Chapter

**Post-Doctoral Fellowship** 2014-2015  
Neurology Dept., Keck School of Medicine of USC, Los Angeles, California

**Pre-Doctoral Internship** 2013-2014  
Veterans Affairs Long Beach Healthcare System, Long Beach, California

**Psychoanalytic Training Program and Trauma Focused Psychotherapy Training Program**  
Rose City Center, Pasadena, California 2011-2013

**Clinical Practicum (Pre-Intern)** 2011-2012  
Veterans Affairs Long Beach Healthcare System, Long Beach, California

**Neuropsychology Extern** 2010-2011  
Semel Institute for Neuroscience & Human Behavior, UCLA, Los Angeles, CA

**Clinical Practicum** 2009-2010  
Rancho Los Amigos National Rehabilitation Center, Downey, CA

## RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

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Neuropsychological Examiner/Psychometrist Division of Cancer Prevention and Control Research UCLA Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center, Los Angeles, California	2010-2013
Neuropsychological Examiner/Psychometrist/Research Assistant Huntington Medical Research Institute (HMRI), Pasadena, California	2010-2015
Research Assistant UCLA Aging and Memory Research Center, Semel Institute for Neuroscience & Human Behavior, University of California, Los Angeles, California	2010-2011
Research Assistant Los Angeles Police Department, Los Angeles, California	2009-2011
Research Assistant/Coordinator Psychological Trauma Center (PTC), Cedars Sinai Medical Center, Los Angeles, California	2006-2011
Research Assistant Division of Movement Disorders, Department of Neurology, Keck School of Medicine, University of Southern California, Los Angeles, California	2004-2010
Neuropsychological Examiner/Psychometrist Division of Multiple Sclerosis, Department of Neurology, Keck School of Medicine, University of Southern California, Los Angeles, California	2006-2008

## PUBLICATIONS

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### PEER REVIEWED RESEARCH PAPERS

- Petkus, A. J., Jarrahi, B., **Gomez, M. E.**, Filoteo, J. V., Schiehser, D., Fisher, B. E., Jakowec, M., Holschneider, D., Van Horn, J. D., McEwen, S., Petzinger, G. (2021). Thalamic volume mediates associations between cardiorespiratory fitness and cognition in Parkinson's.
- Petkus, A. J., & **Gomez, M. E.** (2020). The importance of social support, engagement in leisure activities, and cognitive reserve in older adulthood. *International Psychogeriatrics*
- Petkus, A. J., Filoteo, J.V., Schiehser, D., **Gomez, M. E.**, Hui, J., Jarrahi, B., McEwen, S., Jakowec, M., Petzinger, G. (2020). Psychiatric symptoms and cognitive performance in patients with Parkinson's disease. *International Journal of Geriatric Psychiatry*
- Petkus A.J., Filoteo J.V., Schiehser D.M., **Gomez M.E.**, Hui J.S., Jarrahi B., McEwen S., Jakowec M.W., Petzinger G.M.. (2020) Mild cognitive impairment, psychiatric symptoms, and executive functioning in patients with Parkinson's disease. *Int J Geriatr Psychiatry*. 2020 Apr;35(4):396-404. doi: 10.1002/gps.5255. Epub 2020 Jan 23. PMID: 31894601.

Petkus, A. J., Filoteo, J. V., Schiehser, D. M., **Gomez, M. E.**, & Petzinger, G. (2018). Worse cognitive performance predicts increased anxiety and depressive symptoms in patients with Parkinson's Disease: A bidirectional analysis. *Neuropsychology*, Epub 2018 Oct 18. PMID: 30335414

Harrington, M. G., Chiang, J., Pogoda, J. M., **Gomez, M.**, Thomas, K., DeBoard Marion, S., Miller, K. J., Siddarth, P., Xinyao, Y., Zhou, F., Lee, S., Arakaki, X., Cowan, R. P., Tran, T., Charleswell, C., Ross, B. D., & Fonteh, A. N. (2013). Executive function changes before memory in preclinical Alzheimer's pathology: a prospective, cross-sectional, case control study. *PLOS ONE*, 8 (11), 1-12. DOI:10.1371/journal.pone.0079378

## BOOK CHAPTERS

Lau, A. & **Gomez, M.E.** (2020) Treating and supporting the caregiver. *Providing Home Care for Older Adults*.

Miller KJ, Geirland J, **Gomez ME**, Dye RV, Ercoli LM. (2015) Memory Training and Aging. *Complementary, Alternative, and Integrative Interventions for Mental Health and Aging*.

## CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

Petkus, A. J., **Gomez, M. E.**, Schiehser, D., Filoteo, J. V., Hui, J., McEwen, S., Jarrahi, B., & Petzinger, G., Thalamic volume partially mediates the association between cardiorespiratory fitness and episodic memory in people with Parkinson's. Oral presentation at the annual meeting of the Gerontological Society of America, November 2020.

Jarrahi, B., Petkus, A. J., **Gomez, M. E.**, Filoteo, J. V., Schiehser, D., Hui, J., Petzinger, G., & McEwen, S. A Multivariate Analysis of the Effects of Physical Activity and Cognition on Resting-State Brain Networks in Parkinson's Patients with and without Mild Cognitive Impairment, Poster presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Neurology, Los Angeles, CA, April 2018.

Petkus, A. J., Filoteo, J. V., Schiehser, D., **Gomez, M. E.**, Jarrahi, B., Hui, J., McEwen, S., & Petzinger, G. Cognitive Performance and Symptoms of Anxiety, Depression, and Apathy in Parkinson's Patient With and Without Mild Cognitive Impairment, Poster presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Neurology, Los Angeles, CA, April 2018.

Jarrahi, B., Petzinger, G., Fisher, B., Filoteo, J.V., **Gomez, M.**, Petkus, A. J., Hawthorne, L., & McEwen, S. Physical activity and resting-state fMRI in Parkinson's disease patients with mild cognitive impairment. Poster presented at the annual meeting of the Society for Neuroscience, San Diego, CA, November 2016.

Hui, J., **Gomez, M.**, Yang, L., & Cen, Y. (2013, March). Impulse-control behaviors in Parkinson's disease are not dose-dependent. Abstract accepted for poster presentation at the 65th annual American Academy of Neurology meeting. San Diego, California.

Yu, A.M., **Gomez, M.E.**, Carr, D.R., Miller, K.J., Marion, S.D., Thomas, K., & Harrington, M.G. (2013, February). Verbal and visuospatial measures of working memory most associated with cognitive impairment in older adults. Poster presented at the 41<sup>st</sup> annual meeting of the International Neuropsychological Society. Waikoloa, Hawaii.

Thomas, K., Marion, S. D., **Gomez, M.**, Miller, K., Brown, W., & Harrington, M. (2013, February). Cerebrospinal fluid and plasma apolipoprotein A-1 predicts performance on verbal episodic memory measures. Poster presented at the 41<sup>st</sup> annual meeting of the International Neuropsychological Society. Waikoloa, Hawaii.

Carr, D., **Gomez, M.**, Marion, S., Harrington, M. (2013, February). Examining the relationship between blood pressures, triglycerides, lipids and executive functioning in cognitively healthy older adults. Poster presented at the 41<sup>st</sup> annual meeting of the International Neuropsychological Society. Waikoloa, Hawaii.

Yu, A. M., **Gomez, M. E.**, Yeh, D.-A., Shiney, S. S., Martinez Reyes, D.A., Kim, J., Miller, K. J., & Small, G. W. (2012, June). Reduced abstract reasoning and memory decline are strong predictors for converting to mild cognitive impairment. Poster presented at the 17<sup>th</sup> annual UCLA Research Conference on Aging. Los Angeles, CA.

**Gomez, M. E.**, Yeh, D.-A., Yu, A. M., Shiney, S. S., Martinez Reyes, D. A., Kim, J., Miller, K. J., & Small, G. W. (2012, February). Reduced abstract reasoning and memory decline are strong predictors for converting to mild cognitive impairment. Poster presented at the 40<sup>th</sup> annual meeting of International Neuropsychological Society. Montreal, Canada.

Yeh, D.-A., Carr, D. R., Meier, A. M., **Gomez, M. E.**, Martinez Reyes, D. A., Kim, J., Miller, K. J., & Small, G. W. (2012, February). Insomnia and attentional decline in cognitively intact older adults. Poster presented at the 40<sup>th</sup> annual meeting of International Neuropsychological Society. Montreal, Canada.

Martinez Reyes, D. A., Yeh, D.-A., Legenkaya, A., Lucas, C., Carr, D. R., Meier, A. M., Shiney, S. S., Yu, A. M., Horowitz, A., **Gomez, M. E.**, Brogdon, L., Kim, J., Miller, K. J., & Small, G. W. (2012, February). Monolingual and multilingual performance differences on tests of unstructured visuoconstruction ability and contextual memory. Poster presented at the 40<sup>th</sup> annual meeting of International Neuropsychological Society. Montreal, Canada.

Wetheimer, J., Yeh, D.-A., Tang, W., Fitzgerald Smith, J., Walton, C., Duboille, A., **Gomez, M. E.**, Tuchman, M. (2012, February). Fatigue and Apathy in Individuals With Parkinson's Disease. Poster presented at the 40<sup>th</sup> annual meeting of International Neuropsychological Society. Montreal, Canada.

Hui, J. S., Cen, S., **Gomez, M.**, Watari, K., & Yang, L. (2011). Association of Psychological Symptoms with Impulse-Control Behaviors after Dopamine Agonist Therapy for Parkinson's Disease: A Longitudinal Study. Poster presented at the 136<sup>th</sup> annual meeting of American Neurological Association. San Diego, CA.

Hui, J. S., Watari, K., **Gomez, M. E.**, Cen, Y. (2011, April). Factors Associated with Development of Impulse Control Behaviors after Dopaminergic Therapy for Parkinson's Disease: A Prospective Study. Poster presented at the 63<sup>rd</sup> annual meeting of American Academy of Neurology. Honolulu, HI.

Meier, A., **Gomez, M.**, Wierenga, J., Varnell, M., Putman, K. (2011). Overall attrition of police officers as predicted by peer evaluations during academy training. Poster presented at the 119<sup>th</sup> annual American Psychological Association meeting. Washington, DC.

Wasson, T., Pannell, L., Putman, K., Meier, A., **Gomez, M.**, Wierenga, J. (2010). Field evaluations of police officer human relations and critical thinking. Poster presented at the 118<sup>th</sup> annual American Psychological Association meeting. San Diego, CA.

Silverstein, S. & **Gomez, M.** (2008). Psychological Trauma Center: Share and Care Program. Poster presented at 55<sup>th</sup> annual American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry meeting. Chicago, Illinois.

Silverstein, S., **Gomez, M.**, Cohen, R., & Bandari, D. (2007). Share and Care: A school-based Program. Poster presented at Building Family Strengths Conference: Research and Services in Support of Children and Their Families annual meeting. Portland, Oregon.

**Gomez, M.** (2007). Address on Driving Perceptions and Performance Parkinson's disease patients compared to controls. The 14th Annual USC Parkinson's Disease Update. Pasadena, CA.

Hui, J. S., Murdock, G., Moon, J., Fly, D., **Gomez, M.**, Christensen, S., & Welsh, M. D. (2007). Compulsive Behaviors in Parkinson's Disease: Looking Beyond Medication. Poster presented at the 132<sup>nd</sup> annual American Neurological Association meeting. Washington, DC.

**Gomez, M.** & Welsh, M. D. (2006). Driving health in Parkinson's disease: Comparing patient perceptions with computer adaptive testing results. Poster presented at the 1<sup>st</sup> annual World Parkinson Congress Conference meeting, an International forum for the latest scientific discoveries, medical practices and care initiatives related to Parkinson's disease. Washington, DC.

Hui, J. S., Murdock, G., Fly, D., **Gomez, M.**, Moon, J., Langille, M., Welsh, M. (2006). Prevalence and risk factors for reward-based behaviors in Parkinson's disease. *Annals of Neurology*, 60 (suppl 3): S72. Poster presented at the 131<sup>st</sup> annual American Neurological Association meeting. Chicago, Illinois.

Welsh, M. D. & **Gomez, M.** (2006). Perceptions of driving ability in Parkinson's patients compared to controls: A follow-up study. Poster presented at the 10<sup>th</sup> annual International Congress of Parkinson's Disease and Movement Disorders annual meeting. Kyoto, Japan.

Hui, J. S., Murdock, G., Moon, J., Fly, D., **Gomez, M.**, Langille, M., Christensen, S., & Welsh, M. (2006). Assessment of compulsive behaviors in Parkinson's disease. *Movement Disorders*, 21:1544. Poster presented at the 10<sup>th</sup> annual International Congress of Parkinson's Disease and Movement Disorders annual meeting. Kyoto, Japan.

Hui, J. S., Murdock, G., Moon, J., Fly, D., **Gomez, M.**, Langille, M., Christensen, S., & Welsh, M. (2006). Associated risk factors for compulsive behaviors in Parkinson's disease. *Movement Disorders*, 21:1550. Poster presented at the 10<sup>th</sup> annual International Congress of Parkinson's Disease and Movement Disorders annual meeting. Kyoto, Japan.

## **TEACHING EXPERIENCE AND PROFESSIONAL SERVICE**

**March 2021** Caring for a loved one with Parkinson's disease. Parkinson's and Movement Disorders Alliance. Virtual Presentation.

**November 2020** Guest Speaker START Parkinson's Support Group in San Marino, CA "Coping with Parkinson's during COVID-19 Pandemic". Virtual Presentation

**August 2020** Compensatory Strategies for older adults with mild cognitive impairment. Virtual presentation to Cognitive Education Group at Long Beach VA. Long Beach, CA.

**May 2020** 25<sup>th</sup> Annual USC Parkinson's Disease Symposium "Sleep and Parkinson's Disease: For those who count sheep and rise before the sun." Virtual event.

**January 2020** Neuropsychology in HBPC. Presented to Long Beach VA HBPC and Geropsychology staff. Long Beach, CA.

**February 2016** Mild TBI and PTSD; Working w/ cognitive impairment. Presented to Long Beach VA psychology trainees. Long Beach, CA.

**April 2015** Guest Lecturer at University of Southern California Assessment Seminar for Ph.D. Clinical Psychology students. Los Angeles, CA.

**April 2015** Cognitive Changes Associated with Parkinson's Disease. Presented to Little Tokyo Parkinson's disease support group at Union Church of Los Angeles. Los Angeles, CA.

**April 2015** Invisible symptoms of Parkinson's Disease. Presented to Parkinson's disease support group at Northridge Hospital. Northridge, CA.

**April 2015** Cognition and Parkinson's Disease. Presented to Parkinson's disease support group at Westwood Presbyterian Church. Los Angeles, CA.

**April 2015** Parkinson's Disease: Non-Motor Symptoms. Presented to Parkinson's disease support group at Joslyn Senior Center. Burbank, CA.

**March 2015** Cognitive Impairment in Parkinson's Disease. Presented to Deep Brain Stimulation (DBS) Parkinson's disease support group at Keck Medical Center of USC. Los Angeles, CA.

**February 2015** Cognition and Parkinson's Disease. Presented to START Parkinson's disease support group at San Marino Community Church. San Marino, CA.

**January 2015** Exercise, Cognition, and Parkinson's Disease. Presented to Parkinson's disease support group at Joslyn Senior Center. Claremont, CA.

**Fall 2012** Teaching Assistant: History & Systems, Fuller Graduate School of Psychology, Pasadena, CA.

**July 2012** Cultural Diversity: Ageism. Presented to psychology staff and trainees at Diversity Seminar, Long Beach Veteran's Affairs Healthcare System. Long Beach, CA.

**March 2012** Building Executive Functioning Skills for students with LD/ADHD. Presented to staff at Achievement, Retention, and Commitment to Higher Education Success (ARCHES), California State Polytechnic University, Pomona. Pomona, CA.

**December 2011** Neuropsychology: Cortical Dementias. Presented to psychology staff and trainees at Neuropsychology Seminar, Long Beach Veteran's Affairs Healthcare System. Long Beach, CA.

**July 2011** Human Sexuality: Diversity and Culture. Presented to Human Sexuality graduate course at Fuller Theological Seminary Graduate School of Psychology. Pasadena, CA.

**Fall 2011** Teaching Assistant: Geropsychology, Fuller Graduate School of Psychology, Pasadena, CA.

**Spring 2011** Teaching Assistant: Human Sexuality, Fuller Graduate School of Psychology, Pasadena, CA

**May 2011** Cortical Dementia lecture presented to Neuropsychology externs at UCLA's Neuropsychiatric Institute/Semel Institute for Neuroscience & Human Behavior. Los Angeles, CA.

**April 2011** Elder Care: Aging and Memory. Presented to Antioch Church Senior Center. Long Beach, CA.

**September 2010** Korsakoff's syndrome case presentation presented to Neuropsychological externs at UCLA's Neuropsychiatric Institute/Semel Institute for Neuroscience & Human Behavior. Los Angeles, CA.

**March 2010** Psychiatry Ground Rounds, Cedars Sinai Medical Center: Psychological Trauma Center: Continuum of Care. Los Angeles, CA.

**March 2010** Psychological Trauma Center: A Program Overview. Psychiatric Trauma in Adolescence Conference, American Society for Adolescent Psychiatry, Los Angeles, CA.

**November 2009** Data Update. Psychological Trauma Center Board Meeting, Cedars Sinai Medical Center. Los Angeles, CA.

**January 2009** Driving Perception in Parkinson's Disease Patients. Movement Disorders Physician Meeting, USC, Division of Movement Disorders. Los Angeles, CA.

**July 2008** Psychiatry Grand Rounds Cedars Sinai Medical Center. Los Angeles, CA.

## **CLINICAL SUPERVISION EXPERIENCE**

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**Clinical Supervision** 2016-current  
Pre-Doctoral Psychology Interns, VA Long Beach Healthcare System, Long Beach, California

**Clinical Assessment Supervision** 2014-2016  
Doctoral-level Clinical Psychology Graduate Students, University of Southern California, Los Angeles, California

## **HONORS, AWARDS**

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<b>USC Postdoctoral Scholar Training and Travel Award</b>	<b>2015</b>
<b>Summer Institute for Cognitive Neurosciences Fellowship</b>	<b>2011, 2013</b>
<b>College Women's Club of Pasadena Fellowship Award</b>	<b>2009</b>
<b>Hansen Family Scholarship, Fuller Theological Seminary</b>	<b>2008</b>
<b>Charles E. Fuller Scholarship, Fuller Theological Seminary</b>	<b>2007-2012</b>