



## Psychiatry & Behavioral Sciences Section – 2004

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### **I8 Addiction Psychiatry for Forensic Psychiatrists**

*Richard Rosner, MD\**, 140 East 83rd Street, Suite 6A, New York, NY 10028; *Abraham L. Halpern, MD\**, 720 The Parkway, Mamaroneck, NY 10543; *Robert Weinstock, MD*, 10966 Rochester Avenue, Suite 4-C, Los Angeles, CA 90024

The attendee will understand where the role of addictive disorders are pertinent in the legal assessment of adolescents and adults.

This presentation will impact the forensic community and/or humanity by educating the community to the special problems of assessing addictions in judicial proceedings.

Addiction psychiatry has been of a confounding nature for legal proceedings. Dr. Halpern will present the reasons that addiction psychiatry is important to forensic psychiatrists. The issues of voluntariness and diminished capacity are exceedingly important to understand. Addictive psychiatry is important in the pre-arraignment phase and may impact on the capacity to stand trial. It may also impact on the degree of criminal responsibility and capacity to stand responsible for the crime that has been charged. Finally, it can play an important role in the judicial disposition at sentencing. Addictive treatment can take place in the community setting or in correctional institutions. Dr. Weinstock will discuss addict's motivational level. Addicts' motivation for treatment in the face of repeated failures needs to be evaluated. There are special considerations for the application of an addictive psychiatry assessment in adolescents because of their ongoing developmental status. Dr. Rosner will present the adolescent material. The audience will have ample time to participate in discussion.

**Addiction, Adolescents, Capacity**