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Announcement of Dissertation Defense**

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Time	Room Number	Building		Student Name	Date of Defense

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Dissertation Title: THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN PARENTAL LIFESTYLE, ATTACHMENT STYLE AND THE MEDIATING EFFECT OF FAMILY ENVIRONMENT ON THE CHARACTERISTICS OF THEIR ADULT CHILDREN IN SUBSTANCE ABUSE TREATMENT

ABSTRACT

The role of attachment style in overall family functioning and in individual substance abuse patterns has been researched extensively. Lifestyle constructs have been seen as predictors of substance abuse related behaviors, including future drug related difficulties. Dysfunctional family environments have been seen as predictors of poor mental health outcomes in family members. Despite the high rates of co-morbidity in alcohol and drug dependent individuals, parental lifestyle, attachment style, and the overall influence of family environment on the psychological traits of substance dependent individuals had not been previously examined.

This study examined a group of parents and their adult children (actively in substance abuse treatment, with diagnoses of substance dependence) who participated in a weeklong family education program at an inpatient treatment center. The parental group (n=37) was given a series of lifestyle (Basis-A), attachment (Experiences in Close Relationships Inventory - Revised), and family environment (Family Environment Scale) instruments to complete, and the adult children (n=28) completed the Millon Clinical Multiaxial Inventory III in order to measure their psychometric characteristics. Data analysis was conducted using a parallel multiple mediation model, and bootstrapping, which increased the sample size to 5,000 per group. Based on the literature review and a basic correlational analysis between the parental and adult child characteristics, pathways were theorized to exist by the researcher which indicated the use of the parent lifestyle and attachment styles as the independent variable, the adult children's psychometric characteristics as the dependent variable, and family environment factors as the mediating variable(s). Results were given in unstandardized regression coefficients for the individual pathways, including direct and total effects, and in bias corrected confidence intervals for the specific indirect effects of the mediators.

Direct effects were found between attachment style, lifestyle and patient traits, as well as several significant total effects (combined direct effect and the effect of overall family environment). Specific indirect effects were also found from individual family environment mediators, including moral religious emphasis and control, on the relationship between independent and dependent variables. An analysis of the results is given, along with a discussion of clinical implications and directions for future research.