

**Candidate Statement 2018**  
**SPA Board Election**  
**Representative-at-Large**

**P. Kevin Bolinsky, PhD**

I am a professor of clinical psychology at Indiana State University, where I teach doctoral courses in objective personality assessment and advanced assessment & treatment, as well as provide clinical supervision to doctoral students. In addition, I maintain a small private practice through the university's faculty practice plan in which I perform psychological assessments for local psychiatrists, neurologists, and other physicians. I am co-author of the book *Psychological Assessment with the MMPI-2/MMPI-2-RF* and have published several peer-reviewed articles related to personality assessment, in general, and the MMPI-2/MMPI-2-RF, in particular.

I received my Ph.D. in clinical psychology from the University of Virginia in 2002, where I was first exposed to what became a lifelong love of the MMPI by my advisor, Irving Gottesman. I completed my internship at Eastern Virginia Medical School under the direction of Bob Archer, who encouraged me to develop my research interests in the MMPI.

My main areas of research interest are in the areas of liability to schizophrenia, particularly the personality and neurocognitive indicators of liability associated with the presence of schizotypy, as well as the MMPI. Lately, we have been very interested in establishing MMPI-2-RF indicators of schizotypy and have published some articles related to that, with more in the pipeline. My lab hopes to be at the forefront of establishing the validity of the upcoming MMPI-3 for assessing and identifying schizotypy.

Although my research interests have concentrated on the MMPI family of instruments, I maintain a strong appreciation of the clinical utility of the Rorschach. I was trained in the Comprehensive System, but have been incorporating the RPAS in supervision work with our doctoral students and in my own clinical work for the past few years.

I am interested in serving on the board because I want to see the field of personality assessment grow. In an age of managed care, it seems that many providers do not see the value in assessment – or have an incorrect belief that they will not be reimbursed for assessment. Through ongoing activities such as establishing a competency in assessment or support for the diplomate (ABAP) in assessment, SPA has been leading efforts to increase awareness of the utility of assessment; I want to help in those efforts. Part of this effort should be geared toward growing membership in the organization, with a special effort made toward reaching out to younger members.

**Nicole Cain**

I am honored to be nominated to serve as Representative at Large for SPA and I would be thrilled to serve on the Board if elected. I began attending the annual meeting when I was a graduate student at Penn State under the mentorship of Aaron Pincus. At my first conference, it was immediately clear to me that SPA was a welcoming and collegial society and a professional home where I could learn and grow from the very best in the field of personality assessment.

As I transitioned from graduate student to faculty member, SPA has continued to influence and shape my career trajectory. I have regularly presented my work at the annual meeting and many of the publications that I am most proud of in my career have been published in the *Journal of Personality Assessment*. It has been an honor to serve as an Associate Editor for JPA. This position has given me the unique opportunity to connect with members of SPA in a

different capacity and has allowed me to see firsthand the current research that is going on in our field. I am also an Associate Editor at *Assessment*, which is an excellent complement to the editorial work I do for JPA and allows me to connect across all areas of assessment research and practice.

I am actively involved in teaching, researching, and supervising personality assessment, with an emphasis on personality pathology and interpersonal processes. SPA's annual meetings always leave me inspired in my scholarship and in my clinical practice and I am passionate about training the next generation of psychologists who focus on personality assessment. As a mentor, it is wonderful to watch my graduate students present their work at SPA's annual meeting and for them to experience the collegial atmosphere that SPA fosters.

For the past 2 years, I have served on the Continuing Education Committee for SPA. This has given me the opportunity to be more involved in the society and I welcome the opportunity to continue to expand my participation by serving on the Board. If elected, I look forward to working with the Board to continue to encourage student contributions and membership as well as continue to encourage students to maintain their membership following graduation. SPA was integral in my transition from graduate student to early career psychologist and I hope to find ways to help others maintain their connection to our society as they move through various stages of their career. As a Board member, I would also work to continue to maintain and build on SPA's strong foundation to promote personality assessment in practice, teaching, and research.

### **A. Jill Clemence, PhD**

To me, SPA is more than the foremost psychological assessment organization; it is also my professional home. As a long-time member of SPA, I have sought to advance the mission of the organization through service, research, and teaching. As a clinician, I have long respected personality assessment both for its sophisticated ability to address a referral question and for its potential for changing the way people view themselves and their place in the world. As a researcher, I am endlessly impressed by the way personality assessment can help us answer questions about the human condition. Now, in my role as SPA Representative-at-Large, I have been inspired by the prospect of expanding SPA's role as an advocacy organization into the future. Indeed, we are at an exciting time in our history; the Board of Trustees has developed a Three-Year Strategic Growth Plan to expand our membership, streamline our operations, increase our visibility, and improve our advocacy efforts for advancing personality assessment in the field and beyond. If re-elected, I would be honored to carry on the traditions that have established SPA as a stable and reliable organization for the promotion of personality assessment, but also to play a role as a steward of the Society moving forward.

Up to now, I have taken an active role in these areas by organizing and promoting interest groups within SPA as a way to foster member involvement and to provide opportunities for supporting research and training within the organization. This effort is consistent with SPA's primary programmatic emphasis which has, in large part, been on supporting professional growth and collaboration among our members. However, it is time for us to renew our investment in outreach and visibility of the organization among non-members as well through cross-collaboration and the promotion of proficiency standards in the field. Advocacy for the development of guidelines for the teaching, training, and practice of personality assessment is a priority of the Society that deserves more attention and may be achieved through increasing our engagement with outside organizations, and internally with further development of the proficiency model. I am honored to be nominated again for the position of Representative-at-Large and am excited for the chance to continue to serve in this capacity. If elected, I would work to promote the mission of the Society as a way to advance the field and to continue to uphold SPA as a thriving organization where clinicians', researchers', and students' interests are well-represented. Thank you for your consideration.

## **Piero Porcelli, Ph.D.**

I am running again for Representative-at-Large in the current Board Elections, and I am asking for your vote once again. I live and work in a small town in Italy. From a small corner of the world at its periphery, I like to look at the world in terms of opportunities, exchanges, interpersonal networks, and relationships. This has been SPA for me: a place where professional exchanges and warm friendships make me feel part of the larger world of assessment psychologists. I became a member of SPA in 1995, a Fellow in 2010 and in the last several years I have attended almost all SPA meetings. I also served as Editor of the Bulletin of the International Rorschach Society from 2003 to 2010.

I am a full professor of Clinical Psychology at the University of Chieti and have been working for 30 years mainly in a research-based hospital assessing and treating medical patients. I received the qualification of “psychosomatic specialist” by the International College of Psychosomatic Medicine in 2009 and have more than 100 publications, including papers, books, and book chapters. I am also a member of the editorial board of several international journals, including *Psychotherapy and Psychosomatics* and *Rorschachiana*. At the crossroads of psychosomatics and assessment, my recent research interests have focused on the development of the Rorschach Alexithymia Scale and the investigation of the neurobiological basis of the Rorschach using multiple neuroimaging techniques as EEG and fMRI, particularly looking at the relationship between human movement and mirror neurons. Furthermore, I have published a book on the Rorschach in psychosomatics (2004) and have been one of the associate editors of a special issue of the JPA on *Personality Assessment in Medical Settings* (2007). I also had the honor of co-authoring an Italian book on the Comprehensive System with John Exner.

I have served as Representative-at-Large in the past two years by chairing the Travel Grant Committee. In this period, my goal was to promote recruiting members outside the US, to bring an international perspective to the Board, and to increase the budget for granting students and early careers, particularly outside US, to help those who were interested in joining SPA meetings. I am particularly glad and grateful to the Board members because in the last two years the overall budget for Travel Grants has been doubled and the number of grants increased 50% for a total of about 100 people who received grants in different categories to participate in our meetings in San Francisco and Washington. I am looking forward to continuing serving in the SPA Board to bring up the needs of international assessment psychologists and expand their opportunities.