



Mentalizing
Initiative

MBT Practitioner Training

October 18 & 19, 2025



MBT TRAINING FACULTY 2025 LOS ANGELES

Prof Anthony W Bateman MA, FRCPsych is Consultant Psychiatrist and Psychotherapist and MBT co-ordinator, Anna Freud National Centre for Children and Families; Visiting Professor University College, London; Honorary Professor in Psychotherapy University of Copenhagen.

He developed mentalization-based treatment with Peter Fonagy for borderline personality disorder and studied its effectiveness in research trials. Adapted versions are now being used in multi-centre trials for antisocial personality disorder, eating disorders, and drug addiction. He was an expert member of the National Institute for Clinical Excellence (NICE) development group for treatment guidelines for Borderline Personality Disorder in the UK and is currently Chair of the National Guideline Development Group for Eating Disorders. His NHS clinical services are recognised by the Department of Health as a national demonstration site for the treatment of personality disorder. He was President of the European Society for the Study of Personality Disorders (ESSPD) from 2012 to 2015. He received a senior scientist award from British and Irish groups for the Study of Personality Disorder in 2012 and in 2015, the annual award for "Achievement in the Field of Severe Personality Disorders" from the BPDRC in the USA.

He has authored 14 books, including Psychotherapy for Borderline Personality Disorder: mentalization based treatment and, most recently, Mentalization Based Treatment for Personality Disorder: A Practical Guide (2016) (with Peter Fonagy), numerous book chapters, and over 120 peer-reviewed research articles on personality disorder and the use of psychotherapy in psychiatric practice.

Robin Kissell, MD is the Founder and Executive Director of the Mentalizing Initiative in Los Angeles, Associate Professor of Psychiatry at the UCLA David Geffen School of Medicine, and a Training and Supervising Psychoanalyst at the New Center for Psychoanalysis in Los Angeles.

Natalie Brooks, MA, LMFT, is a licensed psychotherapist in private practice in southern California, and the Assistant Director of the Mentalizing Initiative. She developed the outpatient Mentalization Based Treatment program for UCLA students with borderline personality disorder. She is certified as a supervisor for mentalization-based treatment and has been practicing MBT since 2009.

Carl Fleisher, MD is a board-certified adult, child, & adolescent psychiatrist in private practice in Los Angeles. He is certified as a supervisor for mentalization-based therapy for borderline personality disorder, specializing in work with adolescents with BPD.



Jolene K Sawyer, MD is a board-certified psychiatrist in private practice in Santa Monica and the UCLA Mood Disorders Clinic. She trained in MBT as part of the Borderline Personality Disorder Initiative at UCLA.



2025 MBT TRAINING STAFF

Margaret Coffey, M.D. is a psychiatrist in private practice with over 30 years of experience. She is also on the clinical faculty at Yale Medical School and Yale New Haven Hospital, where she supervises the psychiatry residents. She is a Board member of the Mentalizing Initiative at UCLA. Dr. Coffey is currently practicing in Ojai, California.

Colleen Kelly, MS, LMFT, is a licensed psychotherapist in private practice in Southern California with an office in Orange County. She is Co-Director of the Family Program at PCH Treatment Center, an outpatient and residential treatment center for primary mental health in Los Angeles. Colleen specializes in working with couples and families.

Bitra Rahbar, Ph.D. is a licensed clinical psychologist in private practice in Los Angeles. She has been trained in Mentalization Based Treatment and currently a board member of the Mentalization Initiative. She specializes in treating eating disorders as well as personality disorders, anxiety, depression and relationship issues. She has worked at UCLA as the associate director of the outpatient eating disorder program.

Dr. Phaizon R. Wood, LMFT, is a psychotherapist with the UCLA Semel Neuropsychiatric Institute Behavioral Health Service, as well as with the UCLA David Geffen School of Medicine Behavioral Wellness Center. In practice for more than 30 years, he has extensive training in Mentalization Based Treatment (MBT) with individuals and groups over the last 15 years. In addition, Dr. Wood maintains a private psychotherapy practice in Santa Monica, California.

CONTACT INFORMATION

The Mentalizing Initiative
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Continuing Education Grievance Procedure

The Mentalizing Initiative (MI) is fully committed to conducting all activities in strict conformance with the American Psychological Association's Ethical Principles of Psychologists. The MI will comply with all legal and ethical responsibilities to be non-discriminatory in promotional activities, program content and in the treatment of program participants. The monitoring and assessment of compliance with these standards will be the responsibility of the Continuing Education Chairperson in consultation with the members of the continuing education committee, the MI Ethics Chairperson and the Convention Chairperson.

While the Mentalizing Initiative goes to great lengths to assure fair treatment for all participants and attempts to anticipate problems, there will be occasional issues which come to the attention of the convention staff which require intervention and/or action on the part of the convention staff or an officer of the MI. This procedural description serves as a guideline for handling such grievances.

1. When a participant, either orally or in written format, files a grievance and expects action on the complaint, the following actions will be taken. If the grievance concerns a speaker, the content presented by the speaker, or the style of presentation, the individual filing the grievance will be asked to put his/her comments in written format. The CE Chair will then pass on the comments to the speaker, assuring the confidentiality of the grieved individual.
2. If the grievance concerns a workshop offering, its content, level of presentation, or the facilities in which the workshop was offered, the convention chair will mediate and will be the final arbitrator. If the participant requests action, the convention chair will:
 - a) attempt to move the participant to another workshop or
 - b) provide a credit for a subsequent year's workshop or
 - c) provide a partial or full refund of the workshop fee.

Actions 2b and 2c will require a written note, documenting the grievance, for record keeping purposes. The note need not be signed by the grieved individual.

3. If the grievance concerns the Mentalizing Initiative CE program, in a specific regard, the CE Chair will attempt to arbitrate. Please contact the Mentalizing Initiative's Continuing Education Administrator:
Robin Kissell, MD, 9777 Wilshire Blvd. Ste. 909, Beverly Hills, CA 90212
or via email at info@mentalizinginitiative.org, or telephone 310-859-7912
to submit a complaint, or if you have additional questions.



DINING OPTIONS

*Vegetarian Options

UCLA Campus

Bruin Plate Restaurant *
350 Charles Young Drive
LA 90095

Dining Commons, UCLA Medical
Center*

Plateia Restaurant (inside the Luskin
Center) *

Westwood Village

Bella Pita UCLA
960 Gayley Ave
Los Angeles, 90024

Lazy Daisy Cafe*
1101 Gayley Ave
Los Angeles, 90024

Broxton Brewery*
1099 Westwood Blvd
Los Angeles, 90024

Lulu at the Hammer
Museum
10899 Wilshire Blvd
Los Angeles, 90024

Hangry Moon*
970 Gayley Ave
Los Angeles, 90024

Tacos 1986*
10874 Kinross Ave
Los Angeles, 90024

In-n-Out Burger
922 Gayley Ave
Los Angeles, 90024

Tender Greens*
1109 Glendon Ave
Los Angeles, 90024

Kazu Nori Sushi
1110 Gayley Ave
Los Angeles, 90024

Violet Bistro*
1121 Glendon Ave
Los Angeles, 90024



Mentalizing
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Upcoming MBT Events

MBT Supervision Groups

Clinical supervision group series with Global MBT Network approved MBT supervisors geared toward MBT Certification.

Starting January 2025

Mentalizing Together Webinar Series

with Dr. Robin Kissell, Natalie Brooks, MA, LMFT, Dr. Michael Groat, Shelly Simpson, LCSW, LICSW, Dr. Ross Ellenhorn, Dr. Jeff Katzman

A 1hr bi-weekly year-long series on clinical topics presented from a mentalizing perspective presented by MI and Ellenhorn faculty.

March 2026

MBT - Adolescents Training

with Dr. Robin Kissell, Dr. Holly Dwyer Hall and Dr. Carla Sharp

TBA 2026

Mentalization-informed Systems Therapy

with Dr. Eia Asen and Dr. Emma Morris

A 5-part advanced training and supervision series on applying mentalization within systemic and family concepts, led by MIST creators Dr. Eia Asen and Dr. Emma Morris.

Join our mailing list for updates on the latest MBT courses
www.mentalizinginitiative.org