

## UNDERSTANDING TREATMENT MODELS FOR SEXUAL OFFENDERS: A FRAMEWORK

### Presenter

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### Biography of Presenter

Franca Cortoni received her Ph.D. in clinical and forensic psychology from Queen's University at Kingston, Ontario, Canada. Since 1989, she has worked with and conducted research on male and female offenders in a variety of Canadian and Australian penitentiaries and community settings. In addition, she has provided consultancy and training services in the assessment, treatment, and management of sexual offenders in Canada, Australia, the U.S., and England. Her audiences include parole officers and parole board members, psychologists and criminologists, police forces (including Interpol) and criminal court judges. Formally with the Correctional Service Canada, Dr Cortoni is now with the School of Criminology at the *Université de Montréal*. Her research interests include factors associated with the development of sexual offending behavior, risk assessment and treatment of both male and female sexual offenders.

### Workshop Summary

Risk-Need-Responsivity (Andrews & Bonta, 2006), Relapse Prevention (Pithers, 1990), Self-Regulation (Ward & Hudson, 2000), and Good Lives (Ward & Stewart, 2003) are all models being advocated for the treatment of sexual offenders, leaving clinicians with a bewildering array of approaches from which to choose. These models each have their own strengths and limitations. Further, they all have received widely varying levels of empirical support, ranging from none to very strong, leading to confusion about what should be best practices in the treatment of sexual offenders. To remedy this situation and because a return to basics (i.e., what is the empirical evidence?) is being advocated, a framework to guide the treatment of sexual offenders was developed. This framework incorporates the latest theoretical thinking and empirical findings on sexual offenders and provides a rationale for a simplified, yet systematic, approach to their treatment.

### Learning Objectives

1. Participants will understand the theoretical basis for the original various treatment models.
2. Participants will understand the empirical evidence for and against each model.
3. Participants will understand how current treatment applications can be combined to capitalize on the strengths of each model to treat sexual offenders.
4. Participants will understand fundamental principles they should use to develop their own treatment rationale.