

Seeking Therapists and Supervisors for Paid Positions in Schema Focused Therapy Forensic Research Project

We are seeking therapists and supervisors for a multi-center study of the effectiveness of Schema Focused Therapy (SFT) in forensic patients. The study is being conducted at 5 forensic psychiatric hospitals (“TBS clinics”) in the Netherlands: De Rooyse Wissel (Venray, near Venlo and Nijmegen), Oostvaarders (Utrecht and Amsterdam), van der Hoeven (Utrecht), Kijvelanden (Poortugaal, near Rotterdam), and Veldzicht (Balkbrug, near Zwolle). There is a possibility that more centers will be joining the study shortly. The study is being funded by the Ministry of Justice and the participating TBS clinics, and is directed by Dr. David Bernstein of the University of Maastricht.

As our study is expanding, we have an immediate need for therapists with the following qualifications:

1. ***Experienced SFT therapists*** – We are looking for therapists with previous SFT experience to give SFT to patients in the study. Prior forensic experience is desirable, but not necessary. Part-time and full-time positions are available.
2. ***Beginning SFT therapists*** – We are also seeking therapists at an earlier stage of their training (e.g., GGZ Psychologists or Psychologists-in-training) with an interest in learning SFT. Previous SFT exposure is helpful (e.g., having taken prior workshops) but not necessary, if the therapist is motivated to learn SFT. Prior forensic experience is desirable, but not necessary for the right candidates. Part-time and full-time positions are available.

For both experienced and beginning SFT therapists, we provide training in the forensic adaptation of SFT developed by Bernstein and Arntz¹ through workshops sponsored by the Expertise Centrum Forensische Psychiatrie (EFP). In addition, the SFT therapists in the project participate in regular supervision/intervision groups at each center. Some experienced therapists may qualify for the EFP’s “train-the-supervisor” program, in which they are trained to become forensic SFT supervisors. Salary for therapists is set by the participating centers, and is commensurate with background and experience.

Participating in the study as a therapist is an excellent way to enhance your SFT skills, and gain valuable experience in the burgeoning forensic field.

3. ***SFT Supervisors*** – We are also seeking experienced SFT therapists to supervise the therapists for the study. Supervisors meet with groups of 3-5 therapists every other week for 2-hour supervision sessions. Supervision sessions may be arranged at the participating clinics, or depending on the circumstances, at the supervisor’s office or by telephone or videoconferencing. Supervisors should have extensive SFT experience (e.g., participating in a previous clinical trial of SFT), and be accredited as a supervisor by a national psychotherapy organization (e.g., Vereniging voor Gedragstherapie en Cognitieve Therapie). Forensic experience is helpful, but not necessary for fully qualified supervisors. Rate of

pay is generous (exceeding usual hourly rate for reimbursement of patient sessions). In some cases, travel allowances may be possible.

If you are interested, please contact Dr. David Bernstein at d.bernstein@dmkep.unimaas.nl or Mvr. Marije de Vos (Project Coordinator) at m.e.de.vos@dji.minjus.nl for further information.

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¹ Bernstein, D., Arntz, A., & de Vos, M. (2007). Schemagerichte Therapie in Forensische Settings: Theoretisch Model en Richtlijnen voor Best Clinical Practice. Tijdschrift voor Psychotherapie, 33, 120-139.