ASSESSING SCHIZOID ASOCIALITY IN SCHIZOPHRENIA:
DETERMINING THE CONSTRUCT VALIDITY OF TWO SELF-REPORT SCALES

Director of Dissertation: Nancy Docherty, Ph.D

The Revised Social Anhedonia Scale (RSAS) was developed to measure “schizoid asociality,” defined as a trait-like lower capacity for enjoyment of social interaction. Scores on the RSAS, however, are often associated with factors that suggest that an individual may experience social interaction as aversive rather than simply unrewarding. The Social Withdrawal Motivation Scale (SWiMS) was developed to more accurately determine motivation for social withdrawal, and includes subscales measuring suspiciousness, hostility, social anxiety, and schizoid asociality. The present study compares the discriminant and convergent validity of the RSAS and SWiMS in a sample of 33 outpatients with schizophrenia or schizoaffective disorder. Higher scores on the RSAS were related to higher levels of suspiciousness, hostility, anxiety, and depression; higher scores on SWiMS schizoid asociality (SWiMS-SZA) were only related to higher interviewer-rated depression. This demonstrates superior discriminant validity of the SWiMS-SZA subscale compared to the RSAS. Higher SWiMS-SZA scores, however, were not related to measures of high apathetic social withdrawal, low approach motivation, or low positive affect; higher SWiMS-SZA scores were also associated with non-deficit schizophrenia. The SWiMS, therefore, may not demonstrate adequate convergent validity. Exploratory analyses examine ways to improve the validity of these scales.