

✓ IN-PERSON   ✓ LIVE-ONLINE

**AUGUST 19-23, 2024****Mary-Frances O'Connor, PhD*****The Grieving Brain: The Surprising Science of How We Learn from Love and Loss*****Monday - Friday: 9:00a.m. - 12:30p.m. EDT | 30-Minute Break Daily | 15-Hour Course  
Delivery Format: In-Person or Live-Online**

Why does grief hurt so much? Why does death, the permanent absence of a person with whom you are bonded, result in such devastating feelings and lead to behavior and beliefs that are inexplicable, even to the grieving person? Taught by a neuroscience professor and clinical psychologist, this course will discuss the what of grief—what it feels like, what problems it causes, and common neurobiological and physiological reactions. But more importantly, it will discuss the why. Some of the answers to our questions about grief can be found in the brain, the seat of our thoughts and feelings, motivations, and behaviors. By looking at grief from the perspective of the brain, we will discuss the contemporary science of the how of grief in order to better understand the why.

While this course will utilize the lens of neurobiology for understanding and working with grief and grieving, the course material is accessible without a need for a neuroscience background. fMRI neuroimaging has shown that the most significant impact of the death of a loved one is in those who have the most severe psychological grief reactions. Understanding bonding and separation in animal neurobiology can help explain what happens in humans during acute grief. Knowledge about how the brain learns new information is helpful to understanding the trajectory of adaptation during bereavement. Studies of cognitive functioning are particularly relevant for older adults following the death of a loved one. The course culminates in discussion of empirically-based psychotherapeutic interventions for prolonged grief that are proven effective, including Prolonged Grief Disorder Treatment, guided mindfulness meditation, and exposure therapy. Participants will explore these findings and clinical experiences in light of the neuroscientific research on grief.

**Course Agenda****Monday:****To understand grief, understand bonding and attachment**

- Neurobiology of attachment in prairie voles
- Neurobiology of attachment in humans, including reward learning
- Developmental aspects of attachment theory

**Mary-Frances O'Connor, PhD**, is an Associate Professor at the University of Arizona Department of Psychology, where she directs the Grief, Loss and Social Stress (GLASS) Lab. She earned a PhD in clinical psychology from the University of Arizona in 2004 and following a faculty appointment at UCLA Cousins Center for Psychoneuroimmunology, she returned to the University of Arizona in 2012. She served for three years as Director of Clinical Training in the Psychology Department. Her research focuses on the wide-ranging emotional responses to bereavement. In particular, she investigates the neurobiological and psychophysiological aspects that vary between individual grief responses via functional neuroimaging, immune, and endocrine analysis. Dr. O'Connor also researches difficulties adapting following the death of a loved one, termed prolonged grief (newly included in the revised DSM-5). She believes that a clinical science approach toward the experience and physiology of grief can improve psychological treatment. Dr. O'Connor's recent book, *The Grieving Brain: The Surprising Science of How We Learn from Love and Loss* (2022; HarperOne) has garnered praise from peers and literary critics alike, and has led to speaking engagements around the world. In addition to her outstanding record of scholarship, Dr. O'Connor is a highly proficient and beloved teacher and mentor, honored with the Undergraduate Biology Research Program (UBURP) "Outstanding Mentor Award" in 2014. In 2020, she organized an international multidisciplinary research group called the Neurobiology of Grief International Network (NOGIN). Under her leadership, the group has held three international conferences supported by the National Institute on Aging. Dr. O'Connor is a highly sought-after speaker, giving numerous talks and workshops to community organizations around the world, including in-service trainings to

healthcare professionals and volunteers at hospices. She has authored research papers published in a wide range of peer-reviewed journals, from American Journal of Psychiatry to NeuroImage to Journal of Consulting and Clinical Psychology. Dr. O'Connor's work has been discussed in the New York Times, The Guardian, Washington Post, and Scientific American.

**Speaker Disclosures:**

**Financial:** Mary-Frances O'Connor has no relevant financial relationships with ineligible organizations. She receives a speaking honorarium from MAK Continuing Education, LLC, Cape Cod Institute.

**Non-financial:** Mary-Frances O'Connor has no relevant non-financial relationships with ineligible organizations.

**Mary-Frances O'Connor, PhD | The Grieving Brain: The Surprising Science of How We Learn from Love and Loss | August 19-23, 2024****Tuesday:****Neurobiology of grief and grieving**

- Difference between grief and grieving
- Cognitive neuroscience of grief
- Gone But Also Everlasting theory
- The utility of basic science as a lens on grief

**Wednesday:****Prolonged Grief Disorder (PGD)**

- Distinguishing grief and trauma
- Debunking the myth of the 5 stages of grief
- Empirical data on the grieving trajectories
- Stigma vs. benefit of psychological diagnosis
- Diagnostic criteria and cultural considerations

**Thursday:****Grieving as a form of learning**

- Complications for learning are also complications for grieving
- Bereavement as a health disparity
- Role of loneliness
- Role of social support

**Friday:****Toolkit of coping strategies and psychotherapeutic intervention**

- Emotion regulation flexibility, the right strategy for the right moment
- Avoidance
- Rumination
- Psychotherapeutic intervention (Prolonged Grief Disorder Treatment, CBT, mindfulness)

**Course Objectives**

Upon completion of this course participants will be able to:

1. Identify how attachment in social mammals built upon the brain's ability to map time and space
2. Explain how after the death of a loved one, the brain can believe conflicting information from memories of the death and the everlasting nature of attachment beliefs
3. Compare bonding and separation in pair-bonded animals to the effects of acute grief in humans
4. Describe how the neurobiological attachment system instantiates relationship bonds, requiring neurochemicals like oxytocin, dopamine, and endogenous opioids
5. Explain the difference between grief and grieving and how we would ask a person about each
6. Apply knowledge about learning and memory to the process of grieving
7. Distinguish between grief and trauma, and consider which should be treated first
8. Define prolonged grief disorder, and justify the existence of this disorder using neuroscientific data
9. Apply knowledge of cognitive functioning in bereavement to older adults with and without complicated grief
10. Explain how rumination and avoidance can prolong the process of updating the prediction (i.e., learning) that the deceased is no longer available
11. Identify which mechanisms of mindfulness meditation intervention reduce grief severity and which do not

**Continuing Education**

*Course Content Level: beginner, intermediate, and advanced. This course is open, and content is, suitable for all clinicians and learning levels, beginning, intermediate and advanced. Courses must be completed in one delivery format.*

**The Grieving Brain: The Surprising Science of How We Learn from Love and Loss**, Course #4933, is approved by the Association of Social Work Boards (ASWB) Approved Continuing Education (ACE) program to be offered by MAK Continuing Education, LLC, Cape Cod Institute as an individual course. Regulatory boards are the final authority on courses accepted for continuing education credit. ACE course approval period: 5/2/2023 - 5/2/2025. Social workers completing this course receive 15 General continuing education credits.

Please see the CE section on the **individual course page** for a full listing of CE course approvals.

**For a full list of continuing education approval statements please visit <https://www.cape.org/ce-credit>**

## Tuition, Registration & Course Formats

### Registration:

Visit [www.cape.org](http://www.cape.org) to register for our In-Person & Live-Online course offerings. All major credit cards are accepted. No cash or check payments will be accepted.

### Course Formats:

**In-Person Course Format:** Monday through Friday from 9:00a.m. to 12:30p.m. EDT with a 30-minute break.

**In-Person Location:**

**Nauset Regional Middle School**, 70 MA-28, Orleans, MA 02653

### Live-Online Course Format:

Interactive synchronous online: Live-Online sessions are held via Zoom Meetings Monday-Friday mornings from 9:00a.m. - 12:30p.m. EDT, with a 30-minute break. Live-Online courses will include opportunities for interaction with colleagues and faculty members via group discussions, break-out groups, and Q&As.

System requirements: • Operating Systems: Windows XP or higher, MacOS 9 or higher, Android 4.0 or higher • Internet Browser: Internet Explorer 9.0 or higher, Google Chrome, Firefox 10.0 or higher • Broadband Internet connection: Cable, High-speed DSL & any other medium that is internet accessible

### Tuition:

**In-Person Course:**

**Early Tuition Rate: \$700 (through 04/01/2024)**

**Full Tuition: \$750**

Full-time graduate students, doctoral students, and resident physicians must upload documentation at the time of registration to qualify for a reduced tuition of \$575 for in-person courses.

**Live-Online Course:**

**Early Tuition Rate: \$575 (through 04/01/2024)**

**Full Tuition: \$625**

Full-time graduate students, doctoral students, and resident physicians must upload documentation at the time of registration to qualify for a reduced tuition of \$450 live-online courses.

### Veteran Affairs Employees:



MAK Continuing Education, LLC, Cape Cod Institute is vendorized in SAMS in station 703. Active-duty and retired military members are eligible for 10% off. Please upload your military ID / verification at the time of registration and you will automatically get the discounted rate.

## Cancellation & Refund Policy

**Up until two weeks (14 days) prior to your course start date:** For cancellations (in person & online), you will receive a full refund less \$50 cancellation fee.

**Within two weeks:** If you give notice between fourteen and one day(s) before your course start date a credit for a 2024 Cape Cod Institute program is available. Credit may be applied to any 2024 or 2025 Cape Cod Institute course. There will be no price reduction for switching to a live-online course within two weeks of the course start date.

**Once your course begins:** No credit or refund is available if you cancel on the arrival day, if you do not show up, or if you leave an event early for any reason. No refund will be available if you attend a program and are dissatisfied with its presentation or content. If you need to leave for any reason, no partial credit can be given.

You can notify our staff of your cancellation at [info@cape.org](mailto:info@cape.org) or by calling + 1 (203) 781-6492.

Please visit <https://www.cape.org/policies> for more information.

## Continuing Education Information

Full attendance of in-person and live-online courses is required to meet the standards of accrediting organizations. No partial credits will be provided. CE certificates are distributed by email for both in-person and live-online courses following the conclusion of your 15-hour course, confirmation of full attendance, and completion of an online evaluation form.

You will receive additional details regarding the online evaluation process at the end of your assigned course. Evaluations must be submitted within three weeks of the end date of your course. You will receive a copy of your certificate of attendance with detailed CE approval statements, once you submit your evaluation. Please check with your regulating body/organization that this certificate is sufficient proof for you to claim continuing education credits/credit hours/clock hours/contact hours.

Most courses are eligible for 15 credits/credit hours/clock hours/contact hours. Exclusions will be listed on individual course pages as well as below. Please check individual course pages for course learning objectives.

All courses are open and suitable for all clinicians and learning levels, beginning, intermediate and advanced unless otherwise noted on the course page.

**Please contact your licensing board to determine your continuing education requirements and check for reciprocal approvals.**

### Continuing Education Approvals:

Current continuing education approvals for MAK Continuing Education, LLC, Cape Cod Institute are listed on our website: <https://www.cape.org/ce-credit>

You can also contact our staff with any CE-specific questions at + 1(203) 781- 6492 or [info@cape.org](mailto:info@cape.org).

## Travel Information

All in-person sessions are held at the Nauset Regional Middle School at 70 MA-28, Orleans, Massachusetts. Orleans is a 2-hour drive from Boston or Providence (expect traffic delays on Saturdays). There are scheduled flights from Boston and Providence to Hyannis, a 40-minute drive to Orleans. A car is needed for full access to lower Cape Cod. Biking around Orleans is easily done via the rail trail, and local buses between towns are available.

Cape Cod is about 70 miles long, and 75 miles from Logan Airport in Boston and Green Airport in Providence, Rhode Island. Driving distances to the Lower and Outer Cape are:

Boston 77 miles; Providence 77 miles; New York City 245 miles; Montreal 355 miles.

Please visit our travel page for specific directions, lodging and travel information: <https://www.cape.org/travel>

## Contact Information

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Please contact us by email or phone with any questions regarding accessibility accommodations, questions, or concerns.

## JULY 1-AUGUST 23, 2024

### JULY 1-5, 2024

**Janina Fisher, PhD**

*Transforming Trauma-Related Resistance and Stuckness*

*In-Person & Live-Online*

**Rubin Naiman, PhD, FAASM**

*Healing Our Sleep, Dreams, and Consciousness: An Integrative Approach*

*In-Person & Live-Online*

**LaTonya Wilkins, PCC, MBA**

*Belonging: Fostering Psychological Safety and Below the Surface Leadership in Organizations, Clients, and Yourself*

*In-Person & Live-Online*

### JULY 8-12, 2024

**Lana Epstein, MA, LICSW**

*Putting It All Together: Combining Somatic and Ego-State Therapies with EMDR to Change the Valence of Emotional Memories*

*In-Person & Live-Online*

**Barry Prizant, PhD, CCC-SLP**

*Understanding and Supporting Autistic and Neurodivergent Individuals through the Uniquely Human Lens*

*In-Person & Live-Online*

**Licia Sky, BFA**

*Embodied Awareness: The Art of Presence and Attunement*

*In-Person Only*

**Bessel van der Kolk, MD**

*Frontiers of Trauma Treatment*

*In-Person & Live-Online*

### JULY 15-19, 2024

**Sebastian Barr, PhD**

*Affirming and Effective Work with Trans and Nonbinary Adolescents and Young Adults*

*In-Person & Live-Online*

**James Hawkins, PhD, LPC**

*Facilitating the Function of Attachment in Distressed Adult Romantic Relationships: An Emotionally Focused Therapy (EFT) Framework*

*In-Person & Live-Online*

**Stewart Levine, JD**

*Building a Culture of High Performance Sustainable Collaboration: Mindset and Tools*

*In-Person Only*

**Richard Schwartz, PhD & Jeanne Catanzaro, PhD**

*Internal Family Systems Workshop*

*In-Person & Live-Online*

### JULY 22-26, 2024

**Deb Dana, LCSW**

*Polyvagal Theory in Therapy: Practical Applications for Treating Trauma*

*In-Person & Live-Online*

**John Forsyth, PhD & Jamie Forsyth, PhD**

*Harnessing the Transformative Power of Mindful ACT Therapy: How to Live Well When Life is Hard*

*In-Person & Live-Online*

**Flint Sparks, PhD**

*Growing Up and Waking Up: Applied Mindfulness in Psychotherapy and Buddhist Practice*

*In-Person Only*

**Cece Sykes, LCSW, ACSW**

*Internal Family Systems and Compassion for Addictive Processes*

*In-Person & Live-Online*

### JULY 29-AUGUST 2, 2024

**Margaret Blaustein, PsyD**

*Fostering Resilience in Trauma Impacted Youth through Attachment, Regulation, and Competency*

*In-Person & Live-Online*

**Diana Fosha, PhD, Kari Gleiser, PhD, & Ben Medley, LCSW, with Molly Eldridge, LICSW**

*"HOT" Topics in AEDP™*

*In-Person & Live-Online*

**Franklin King, MD**

*The Promise of Psychedelics: A Critical Look at the Therapeutic Potential of Psychedelic-Assisted Treatments*

*In-Person & Live-Online*

**Juliet King, PhD, ATR-BC, LPC, LMHC**

*Arts & the Brain: Evidence-Based Therapeutic Arts Interventions for Optimal Health & Well-Being*

*In-Person Only*

### AUGUST 5-9, 2024

**Harville Hendrix, PhD, Helen LaKelly Hunt, PhD, Carol Kramer, LICSW, & Joanne Audyatis, LMHC**

*IMAGO: Proven Strategies for Helping Couples Move from Conflict to Connecting*

*In-Person & Live-Online*

**Deborah Korn, PsyD**

*EMDR Therapy and the Treatment of Complex PTSD in Adult Survivors of Childhood Abuse and Neglect*

*In-Person & Live-Online*

### AUGUST 5-9, 2024

**George McCloskey, PhD**

*Intervention for Child and Adolescent Executive Function Difficulties*

*In-Person Only*

**Maria Sirois, PsyD**

*Paradoxes in Resilience: Leveraging Moments of Grief, Illness, Hardship and Sudden Change to Accelerate Growth*

*In-Person & Live-Online*

### AUGUST 12-16, 2024

**Bob Anderson**

*The Journey of Conscious Leadership*

*In-Person Only*

**Edward Hallowell, MD**

*Unwrapping the Gifts: A Strength-Based Approach to ADHD Across the Life Span*

*In-Person & Live-Online*

**Donald Meichenbaum, PhD**

*Addressing Issues of Violence and Aggression in Individuals and Communities: Development, Prediction, and Intervention*

*In-Person & Live-Online*

**Ronald D. Siegel, PsyD**

*What Clinicians Need to Know about Non-Ordinary States: Mindfulness, Compassion, & Psychedelic-Assisted Psychotherapy*

*In-Person & Live-Online*

### AUGUST 19-23, 2024

**Amanda Blake, PhD**

*Embodied Intelligence at Work: Leveraging Mind-Body Science to Enhance Professional Performance*

*In-Person Only*

**Mary-Frances O'Connor, PhD**

*The Grieving Brain: The Surprising Science of How We Learn from Love and Loss*

*In-Person & Live-Online*

**Jonah Paquette, PsyD**

*Positive Psychology 2.0: Creating a Life of Meaning, Purpose, and Connection*

*In-Person & Live-Online*

**Eboni Webb, PsyD, HSP**

*Dialectical Behavior Therapy (DBT): Effective Tools for Navigating Trauma and Attachment in Complex Clients Across the Lifespan*

*In-Person & Live-Online*

All courses are suitable for all clinicians and learning levels, beginning, intermediate, and advanced unless otherwise noted. For a complete list of CE approval statements, please visit: [www.cape.org/ce-credit](http://www.cape.org/ce-credit)

**FOR COMPLETE COURSE INFORMATION AND TO REGISTER, VISIT: [www.cape.org](http://www.cape.org)**