

# PNNS psychopharmacology evening

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on practicing rural child psychology

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# Should psychologists prescribe?

- ◆ APA position is that we should;
- ◆ Today, it is really a question of when, not whether.
- ◆ I support the APA position...
- ◆ but I, personally, would not apply for such privileges.

# Psychology's unique contribution:

- ◆ Does a particular Rx work for a particular condition?
- ◆ How does this Rx affect this individual child?

# Today's Situation in the Pacific Northwest

- ◆ large areas with no child psychiatrists or child psychologists;
- ◆ I support local general practitioners thru outreach & telehealth clinics;
- ◆ <http://depts.washington.edu/wwami>

# EDPSY 581e - UW College of Education

- ◆ Graduate Seminar on Child & Adolescent Psychopharmacology in Educational Settings
- ◆ meets current Wash. State licensing requirement
- ◆ Kutcher (1997)- Child & Adol. Psychopharmacology (WB Saunders)

# The Febrile Seizures study of phenobarbital

- ◆ we found this treatment had no main effect on seizures
- ◆ we found a significant negative side effect on IQ
- ◆ we changed standard medical practice

# How you measure drug effect matters!

- ◆ Clinical impression - 88% found (+) drug effect
- ◆ Rating scales - 57% found (+) drug effect
- ◆ Neuropsych. tests - 17% found (+) drug effect
- ◆ direct measure of behavior - 41% found (+) drug effect
- ◆ n= 208 studies