


TCVGH 2025 International Medical Conference

2st Taiwan Forum of Brain Research Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder: Past, Present & Future

Speaker Information Form

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Speech Title	Wounds of the Soul: Positioning Moral Injury Within the PTSD Framework
Abstract(200 words) :	<p>Wounds of the soul—deep psychological and spiritual injuries—often arise from experiences that violate one’s core moral beliefs. Moral injury, a concept gaining prominence in trauma research, refers to the distress resulting from actions, or the failure to act, that transgress deeply held ethical values. Unlike traditional post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), which centers on fear-based responses to life-threatening events, moral injury is rooted in guilt, shame, and existential conflict. It frequently coexists with PTSD but represents a distinct dimension of trauma, particularly among military personnel, healthcare workers, and first responders. While PTSD may manifest through hyperarousal, flashbacks, and avoidance, moral injury presents as spiritual despair, loss of trust, and a fractured sense of self. Integrating moral injury into the broader framework of PTSD challenges clinicians to address not only psychological symptoms but also the ethical and spiritual dimensions of trauma. Healing these wounds of the soul requires approaches that foster forgiveness, meaning-making, and moral reconciliation. Recognizing moral injury within PTSD expands our understanding of trauma and underscores the need for holistic, compassionate care that honors the moral complexity of human suffering.</p>

