

# ***Vesna Pirec, M.D. Ph.D.***

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## **Education**

- 1982-1988**      **Doctor of Medicine**, University of Belgrade Medical School
- 1988-1989**      **Internship**  
University of Belgrade, School of Medicine  
Belgrade, Serbia
- 1989-1993**      **Doctor of Philosophy, Pharmacology**, Department of Pharmacology, University of Illinois at Chicago
- 1993-1994**      **Postdoctoral** Research Associate in Anesthesia & Critical Care  
University of Chicago  
Chicago, IL
- 1994-1996**      **Postdoctoral** Research Associate in Pharmacology  
University of Illinois at Chicago  
Chicago, IL
- 1997-1998**      **Internship**  
University of Illinois at Chicago  
Chicago, IL
- 1998-2001**      **Psychiatry Residency Program**  
University of Illinois at Chicago  
Chicago, IL

## **Licensure and Board Certification**

- 1990** Medical License  
Yugoslavia  
License number 152-02-561/90-02
- 1999** Licensed Physician and Surgeon  
State of Illinois  
License number 036-101095
- 2003** American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology
- 2006** Serbian Board of Psychiatry and Neurology
- 2013** Recertification American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology
- 2015** Medical License  
Serbia  
License number 112383

## **Work History and Academic Appointments**

- 1983-1984** Teaching Assistant  
Department of Histology  
University of Belgrade medical School
- 1989-2003** Teaching Assistant  
Department of Pharmacology  
University of Illinois at Chicago

- 2001-2003** Attending Psychiatrist  
Department of Psychiatry  
Rush Behavioral Health, General Psychiatry and Woman's Mental Health
  
- 2004-2006** Associate Program Director  
Psychiatry Residency Program  
Rush University Medical School
  
- 2004-2006** Assistant Professor of Psychiatry  
Department of Psychiatry  
Rush University Medical School
  
- 2004-2010** Private practice- General Psychiatry and Women's Mental Health
  
- 2005-2007** Thresholds Mother's Project  
Parenting Assessment Team Psychiatrist  
Chicago, IL
  
- 2007-2012** Assistant Professor of Psychiatry, Director, Inpatient Women's Division  
Department of Psychiatry  
University of Illinois at Chicago
  
- 2010-2012** Program Director, Women's Mental Health Program  
Department of Psychiatry  
University of Illinois at Chicago
  
- 2012-present** Adjunct Assistant Professor in Psychiatry  
Department of Psychiatry  
University of Illinois at Chicago
  
- 2012-present** Assistant Professor in Psychiatry  
Rush Medical School
  
- 2012-present** Senior Medical Director  
Insight Behavioral Health Services  
Women's Mental health  
Mood and Anxiety Disorders

## **Publications**

### ***Abstracts and Poster Presentations (national and international):***

**Pirec, V.** and Knezevic, I.: "Types and frequencies of multiple anomalies associated with congenital heart diseases", XXX Congress of Yugoslav Association of Medical and Dental Students, Pristina, Yugoslavia 1988.

Knezevic, I. and **Pirec, V.**: Etiology of congenital heart diseases. XXX Congress of Yugoslav Association of Medical and Dental Students", Pristina, Yugoslavia, 1988.

**Pirec, V.**, Proudfit, H.K. and Choca, J.I. radioligand binding studies of CGS 21680 to adenosine receptors in the spinal cord and striatal membranes. Soc. for Neuroscience Abstracts, 17 (1991).

**Pirec, V.**, Yeomans, D.C., and Proudfit, H.K. Nociception mediated by the activation of polymodal nociceptors may be selectively attenuated by serotonin-1<sub>a</sub> agonists. Soc. for Neuroscience Abstracts, 18 (1992).

Yeomans, D.C., **Pirec, V.** and Proudfit, H.K. Nociceptive responses to high and low rates of foot skin heating in rats may be mediated by different nociceptors. Soc. for Neuroscience Abstracts, 18 (1992).

**Pirec, V.**, Yeomans, D.C. and Proudfit, H.K. Evidence that alpha<sub>2</sub> adrenoceptor agonists modulate nociceptive response elicited by the activation of A-delta nociceptors. Soc. for Neuroscience Abstracts, 19 (1993).

Patterson, T., **Pirec, V.**, Zacny, J.P., Thapar, P., Lichtor, J.L. Is the cold pressor test a sensitive assay for measuring the analgesic effects of nitrous oxide in humans? Midwest Anesthesiology Residents Conference, March 1994.

**Pirec, V.**, Zacny, J.P., Thapar, P., Patterson, T., McKay, M. and Apfelbaum, J.L. Effects of pain on nitrous oxide-induced mood and psychomotor impairment. Society of Ambulatory Anesthesia Annual Meeting, Chicago, April, 1994.

**Pirec, V.**, Zacny, J.P., Thapar, P. and Lichtor, J.L. Subanesthetic doses of nitrous oxide reduces cold pressor-induced pain in humans. The College on Problems of Drug Dependence Abstracts, 1994.

Zacny, J.P., **Pirec, V.**, Rupani, G., Thapar, P., Klafka, J., Young, C., Lichtor, J.L. and Coalson, D.W. Stressful condition affect acceptance of nitrous oxide in humans.

American Society of Anesthesiologists Annual Meeting. San Francisco. October, 1994.

**Pirec, V.**, Klafta, J., Coalson, D.W., Young, C., Rupani, G., Lichtor, J.L., Apfelbaum, J.L. and Zacny, J.P. The effects of naloxone on nitrous oxide-induced analgesia, mood, and psychomotor impairment in humans. International Anesthesia Research Society. Honolulu, March, 1995.

Newsom, G.C., **Pirec, V.**, and Proudfit, H.K. Different adenosine receptors in the spinal cord modulate the nociceptive responses to high and low skin heating rates. Soc. for Neuroscience, 1995.

Lu, Y., **Pirec, V.**, and Yeomans, D.C. Antinociceptive effects of mu, delta, and kappa opiate agonists and antagonists on rat foot withdrawal responses mediated by Adelta or C nociceptor activation. Soc. for Neuroscience, 1996 (1362)

**Pirec, V.**, Lu, Y., and Yeomans, D.C. Effects of Calcium Channel blockers on Morphine antinociception. Soc. For Neuroscience, 1997 (2357)

**Pirec, V.** Psychopathology of psychiatric disorders during pregnancy and postpartum. European Psychiatry. Volume25, No S1, page 59 2010.

**Pirec, V.** Perinatal psychopathology: presentation and screening. Archives of Women's Mental Health ISSN: 1435-1102. 2011.

Miller, M. **Pirec V.** Towards reducing perinatal depression in inner city Chicago: An innovative approach. 139th APHA Annual Meeting 2011 (241105)

Miller, M., **Pirec, V.**, Maki, P. and Miller, L.: Towards reducing perinatal depression in inner city Chicago: An innovative approach. APHA Meeting 2011.

Miller, M., **Pirec, V.**, Miller, L.: Applying the Step Care Model and Increasing the Treatment Entry for Perinatal Depression: NASPOG meeting 2012.

**Pirec V.** and Grabowski A.: Peripartum obsessions versus subtle psychotic symptoms: Challenges in detection: Perinatal Mental Health Meeting Chicago 2013.

### ***Peer Reviewed Journals***

**Pirec, V.**, Patterson, T.H., Thapar, P. and Zacny, J.P. Effects of Subanesthetic concentrations of nitrous oxide on cold-pressor pain in humans. Pharmacol. Biochem. Behav., Vol.51, No. 2/3, pp 323-329, 1995.

**Pirec, V.**, Coalson, D.W., Lichtor, J.L., Klafta, J., Young, C., Rupani, G., Apfelbaum, J.L. and Zacny, J.P. Cold water immersion modulates the reinforcing effects of nitrous oxide in healthy volunteers. Exp. Clinic. Psychopharm. Vol. 3, No 2: 148-155, 1995.

Yeomans, D.C., **Pirec, V.** and Proudfit, H.K. Nociceptive responses to high and low rates of noxious cutaneous heating are mediated by different nociceptors in the rat: behavioral evidence. Pain, 68: 133-140, 1996.

Lu, Y., **Pirec, V.**, and Yeomans, D. Differential antinociceptive effects of spinal opioids on foot withdrawal responses evoked by C fiber or Adelta nociceptor activation. Br. J. Pharmacol., 121: 1210-1216, 1997

**Pirec, V.**, Laurito, C.E., Lu, Y., and Yeomans, D.C. The Combined Effects of N-type Calcium Channel Blockers and Morphine on Adelta vs. C fiber mediated nociception, Anesthesia and Analgesia 92:239-43, 2001

**Pirec V.:** Current Dilemmas in Treating Depressed Pregnant Patients. Psychopharm Review Vol 42. No.12, pp 91-98; December 2007.

**Pirec V.:** Review Article: Current Dilemmas in Treating Depressed Patients in Peripartum; Enagrami 2; vol.33 Beograd april-jun 2011

Miller L, **Pirec V.**, Miller M. et al.: Now What? Effects of On-Site Assessment on Treatment Entry after Perinatal Depression Screening; Journal of Women's Health 2012; Volume 21, Number 10, 2012

**Pirec V.**, Mehta A. and Shoush S.: Aripiprazole combined with other psychotropic drugs in pregnancy: two case reports; Israeli Journal of Psychiatry. Vol 51(2) 2014; spec. edition Gender and Psychiatry

### ***Editions:***

Edited by **Pirec V.**, Book chapter, "Psychiatric disorders in pregnancy and postpartum"- Textbook: Urgent states in Obstetrics and Gynecology, published by University Press Nis Medical School 2006.

Editions of multiple articles in following Journals:

Journal of Nervous and Mental Disease  
Journal of Clinical Psychiatry  
Journal of Serbian Archives Medicine

## ***Book Chapters:***

Companion to Primary Care Mental Health (2012) Redliff Publishing Ltd; Chapter: An overview of current models across the globe. With contributions from Tamsen Jean Rochat (Afrika), Jane Fisher (Southeast Asia), Prabha S. Chandra, Geetha Desai, & Somashekhar Bijjal (India), Carol Henshaw (UK), Bryanne Barnett & Michelle Haling (Australia), **Vesna Pirec** (United States). Wonka Companion to Primary Care Mental Health

*In preparation:* Bio-psycho-social Obstetrics and Gynaecology (2015) Springer Media; Chapter: A young mother with disturbing thoughts; treatment of obsessive compulsive disorder and psychosis in postpartum. **Vesna Pirec** and Agnieszka Grabowski

*In preparation:* Integrative Psychiatry for depression (2015) CRC Press; Chapter: Postpartum depression. **Vesna Pirec** and Kelly Brogan

## **Research Awards**

**1994 Home Health Care Research Grant**, The University of Chicago, “Does the Fentanyl Transdermal Therapeutic System induce unwanted euphoria and/or impairment pain patients?”, Co-Investigator

**2006-2008 Rush/Stroger Hospital of Cook County Collaborative Research Application**, Molecular Mechanism of Phantom Limb Pain in the Central Nervous System, Co-Investigator

**2010-2012 HRSA & HFS Perinatal Mental Health Project**, University of Illinois at Chicago, PI

## **Teaching Experiences/Conferences/Lectures in the last 5 years**

**2014 Medical Group:** Perinatal Mental Illness presentation and treatment; Belgrade Serbia

**2014 NASPOG:** Perinatal Anxiety: Prevention; recognition; Approaches to treatment: Round table facilitator; Columbus OH; April 2014

- 2014 March of Dimes: Perinatal Nursing Conference:** Perinatal Mental Illness: Myths, Paths and Pathways to recovery; per invitation; presented with Agnieszka Grabowski MA, LCSW; Lombard, IL; March 2014
- 2013 Grand Rounds Lutheran General Hospital Dept. of Psychiatry:** Perinatal Psychopathology: From recognition to treatment; Niles IL; September 2013
- 2013 Postpartum Support International:** Pharmacological Interventions in Pregnancy, Postpartum and Lactation; Winfield IL; August 2013
- 2013 Grand Rounds Illinois Masonic Dept. Family Medicine:** Gender differences in psychopathology; Chicago IL; August 16
- 2013 Insight Community presentation (presented with Agnieszka Grabowski):** Transition to Motherhood: Recognizing Mental Health Issues in New and Expectant Mothers; Chicago IL; June 19th
- 2013 Grand Rounds Advocate Illinois Masonic Dept. of Obstetrics and Gynecology:** Peripartum psychiatric disorders and psychopharmacology during pregnancy and breastfeeding; Chicago IL June 18th
- 2013 Congress of Medical Diaspora:** Perinatal mental health disorders: Why are we still missing them? Belgrade Serbia; May 16-18
- 2012 Workshop Perinatal Anxiety:** Peripartum Anxiety: are we missing it? Marce meeting; Paris France
- 2012 Case presentation** Perinatal Anxiety-preventing bad outcomes; NASPOG meeting Providence, Rhode Island
- 2012 Lecture** “Perinatal Mental Health”, Department of Family Practice; West Suburban Hospital. Oak Park IL
- 2011 Lecture per invitation** “Challenges in treating postpartum psychosis” First International Congress on Hospital Psychiatry , Belgrade Serbia
- 2011 Guest Lecture** “Psychopharmacology through reproductive cycle” University of Belgrade, School of Pharmacy, Belgrade Serbia
- 2011 Grand Rounds** “Peripartum psychopathology and Treatment Dilemma”, Reed Mental Health Center, Chicago, IL
- 2011 Workshop** “Bipolar Disorder in Peripartum”, Lake County Community Mental Health, Waukegan, IL

- 2011 Workshop** (presented with Nikki Lively, LCSW) “Perinatal Mood Disorder and Anxiety: From Recognition to Treatment”, University of Illinois of Chicago, Behavioral Health
- 2011 Grand Rounds:** “Screening and Management of Depression and Anxiety in Peripartum”; Centro de Salud Esperanza, Chicago, IL
- 2011 Grand Rounds:** “Peripartum Depression and Anxiety” St. Joseph Hospital, Dept. of Obstetrics and Gynecology, Chicago, IL
- 2011 Workshop:** “Peripartum Depression and Anxiety: Christ Hospital, Family Medicine, Chicago, IL
- 2011 Workshop** “Perinatal Psychopathology-Presentation and Screening”: IAWMH Madrid, Spain
- 2010 Lecture** “Menopause”, University of Illinois at Chicago
- 2010 Workshop** (Presented with Nikki Lively, LCSW) “Perinatal Mood Disorders and Anxiety: From Recognition to Treatment”, Lake County Community Mental Health, Waukegan, IL
- 2010 Grand Rounds:** “Peripartum depression”, University of Chicago (OB and Pediatrics Departments), Chicago, IL
- 2010 Lecture** “Perinatal Mental Health”, PCC Community Wellness Center-Salud, Chicago, IL
- 2010 Lecture Series** Women’s Mental Health topics for residency program – Organization of the course and presentation of two lectures: “Psychopharmacology in pregnancy and lactation”, “Integrative approach in perinatal mental health”
- 2010 Grand Rounds** “Perinatal Psychopathology-Presentation and Treatment “, Elgin Mental Health Center, Elgin, IL
- 2010 Workshop** “Perinatal Psychopathology”, European Psychiatry Association Meeting, Munich, Germany

**Professional Affiliations**

Fellow Member, American Psychiatric Association

Illinois Psychiatric Society

NASPOG (North American Society for Psychosocial Obstetrics and Gynecology)

Marce Society

ReproPsych Group

ISMS per invitation

### **Media/ Publications**

January 18<sup>th</sup>, 2006 article “Ways of Worrying”, Chicago Tribune, Woman News

October 17<sup>th</sup>, 2006 article “Obsessed with our size”, Chicago Sun-Times

May 21<sup>st</sup>, 2010 commented in the article “Law gives \$3 million to educate, research postpartum depression

Winter 2012 Illinois Pediatrician AAP IL. Chapter newsletter: Grabowski A. and Pirec V.: Psychiatric Illness and its consequences for child development: Facts and interventions strategies and primary care providers