The University of Minnesota Press is currently working with authors and advisors on the development of the Minnesota Multiphasic Personality Inventory-3 (MMPI-3). The MMPI-3 is the most recent major project in the research/development program on the MMPI instruments to which the Press made a commitment when it resumed direct publication of the original MMPI in 1982. The MMPI-3 builds on the history, research base, and strengths of the original MMPI (1942), the MMPI-2 (1989), and the MMPI-2-RF (2008) to create a well-validated, psychometrically up-to-date instrument for use in a broad range of settings.

The primary goals for the MMPI-3 have been to enhance the item pool, optimize existing scales, introduce new scales where warranted, and fully update the test norms. As a result, the MMPI-3 will feature a new, nationally representative normative sample for which data were collected in 2017 and 2018 from diverse communities throughout the United States to align with the 2020 U.S. census projections for race and ethnicity. Additionally, for the first time, Spanish-language norms will be available for use of the MMPI-3 in the U.S.

MMPI-3 development is being led by MMPI-2-RF co-authors Yossef Ben-Porath and Auke Tellegen. In addition to Advisory Board oversight, Ben-Porath and Tellegen have provided annual updates on this work at the MMPI research symposium. Data for developing, norming, and validating the MMPI-3 have been obtained from over 24,000 individuals. As noted, normative samples have been gathered for English and Spanish versions of the test. Field data have been collected at mental health, medical, forensic, and public safety settings. The forthcoming *MMPI-3 Technical Manual* will include extensive empirical correlate data for these settings.

Overview and history of the MMPI-3 development project:

The MMPI-3 builds on the history of an active research/development program that began in 1982 when the Press resumed publication of the MMPI. The first major developmental efforts produced the MMPI-2, a revision of the original MMPI for use with adults, and the MMPI-A, the first version of the test developed for adolescents.

The MMPI-2 was published in 1989, having been developed by a Restandardization Committee composed of James Butcher, Grant Dahlstrom, John Graham, and Auke Tellegen. The committee set as its goals improving the test while maintaining as much continuity as possible with the original MMPI. As the name of the committee indicates, the major aim was developing new test norms to replace the “Minnesota Normals” collected in the 1930s. Minor changes were made in the test items to delete outdated content and content deemed offensive, but the number of items remained almost identical (566/567). Major psychometric innovations were introduced with the Uniform T scores, developed to correct the percentile non-comparability of the linear T scores, and the Inconsistency Scales, validity indicators measuring the tendency of test-takers to respond to items in an inconsistent or contradictory manner. A new set of Content Scales captured new item content. However, the original Validity and Clinical Scales were retained largely intact. A major textbook, *Essentials of MMPI-2 and MMPI-A Interpretation*, authored by James Butcher and Carolyn Williams, was published by the Press in 1992 and revised in 2000.

Major projects initiated during the 1990s included ongoing updates of the Minnesota Reports by author James Butcher, validation studies of the MMPI-2 and MMPI-A by John Graham and Yossef Ben-Porath, and research by Auke Tellegen leading to the development of
the Restructured Clinical (RC) Scales, the first-ever revision of the original Clinical Scales designed to deal with the long-recognized challenges of the scales—excessive scale intercorrelations and heterogeneous, over-inclusive item content. Continuing development of the MMPI-2, the RC Scales were added to the test in 2003, documented by a monograph, *The MMPI-2 Restructured Clinical (RC) Scales: Development, Validation, and Interpretation* by Tellegen and colleagues, published by the Press.

Building on the wealth of research generated by the release of the MMPI-2, the Press sponsored further research and development work by Ben-Porath and Tellegen, which produced the current psychometrically up-to-date version of the instrument, the MMPI-2 Restructured Form (MMPI-2-RF), published in 2008. The test is composed of 338 items, drawn from the 500+ items of the MMPI and the MMPI-2, with the Restructured Clinical (RC) Scales at its core. The substantive scales, including 23 Specific Problems Scales, link the MMPI-2-RF to current conceptualizations of personality and psychopathology. Standard, comprehensive interpretive guidelines ensure cross-interpreter consistency, and the first annotated interpretive report for any MMPI instrument documents for the user the source of interpretive statements as test-taker response, empirical correlate, or construct-based inference. The MMPI-2 norms and test items were retained in the MMPI-2-RF. A Press-published book by co-author Ben-Porath, *Interpreting the MMPI-2-RF*, provides a comprehensive review of the evolution of the MMPI instruments, and a list of MMPI-2-RF references is available on the Press website: [https://www.upress.umn.edu/test-division/MMPI-2-RF/mmpi-2-rf-references](https://www.upress.umn.edu/test-division/MMPI-2-RF/mmpi-2-rf-references).

The University of Minnesota Press has sponsored development of the MMPI-3 under the auspices of the Press’s Research and Product Development program, which is overseen by the University’s Office of the Vice President for Research and an external Advisory Board. The Board, composed of five members who are researchers and/or clinical practitioners credentialed in personality assessment and knowledgeable in the application and interpretation of personality instruments, including the MMPI tests, is responsible for working with the Test Division in setting r/d priorities; advising on the preparation and dissemination of requests for r/d proposals; reviewing r/d proposals submitted annually for Press funding; and reviewing all proposed publications of the Test Division. In addition, the Test Division has set up a consultative panel composed of psychologists expert in the use of the MMPI in research and practice to advise the Press and the test authors on major points in the development of the MMPI-3. The areas represented by the 10 panel members are: general psychopathology, disability, forensic, medical, neuropsychology, and public safety.

References


