



Aviation Psychiatry
Gregory L. Kirk, MD
2036 East 17th Avenue
Denver, Colorado 80206
Tel 720 399 9620
gregkirk@avipsy.org

Profile

Dr. Gregory Kirk is an expert in suicide and unintentional death from substance abuse, mental illness, and behavioral disorders. He has been qualified as an expert witness in federal, state, and municipal courts in Colorado, Arizona, and Wyoming; those cases examined 14th amendment violations in treatment centers, officer-involved fatalities, client deaths in jails, detoxification centers, medical hospitals, or residential treatment centers, and claims of physician impairment leading to client injury and death. Dr. Kirk is a federally qualified *Daubert* witness.

In aviation, Dr. Kirk has a nationwide psychiatry practice serving pilots from every legacy carrier, general aviation pilots, student pilots, and Air Traffic Controllers and ATC applicants. In aviation, he has been called as a federal expert witness in HIMS litigation, and in civil cases that involve mental health standards for professional pilots.

Dr. Kirk is also a referral clinician for the **NBA**, a treating clinician in the **NFL** Program for Substances of Abuse, a 5280 Magazine **"Top Doc"** in Addiction Psychiatry. Dr. Kirk's offices are in Denver, Salt Lake City, and Las Vegas.

Education, Certifications, and Licensure

- Board-certified in Psychiatry, American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology
- Board-certified in Addiction Psychiatry, American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology
- Colorado Medical License: **36227**
- Utah Medical License: **9090864 – 1205**
- Nevada Medical License: **19673**
- Arizona Medical License: **60788**
- Fellowship in Addiction Psychiatry, University of Colorado Health Sciences Center, Denver, Colorado, July 1999–June 2000
- Residency in Psychiatry, University of Colorado Health Sciences Center, Denver, Colorado, July 1996–June 1999
- Internship in Community Medicine, University of Colorado Health Sciences Center, Denver, Colorado, June 1995–June 1996
- M.D., University of Tennessee College of Medicine, Memphis, Tennessee, August 1991–June 1995



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- B.S. Mathematics, Vanderbilt University, Nashville, Tennessee, August 1987–May 1991

Experience

- **Founder and Director, Rocky Mountain Psychiatry Consultants, LLC** January 2011–present, clinical and consulting practice for addictive disorders and complex psychiatric illness
- **Founder and Director, Aviation Psychiatry**, February 2017–present, consulting mental health practice for pilots, flight crews, and other safety-sensitive employees in the aviation industry. Dr. Kirk's Nevada office opened in 2020 and Salt Lake City office in 2024.
- **Senior Instructor, University of Colorado Hospital, Center for Dependency, Addiction, and Rehabilitation**, January 2011–January 2012, addictions and psychiatric management and teaching medical students, psychiatric residents, and addiction psychiatry fellows
- **Psychiatrist, Colorado Permanente Medical Group**, June 2003–Jan 2011, inpatient, addictions, emergency, consultation, and ECT psychiatric care and hospital administration in medical hospitals and inpatient psychiatric settings serving adults and geriatric clients
- **Psychiatrist, Colorado Mental Health Institute at Fort Logan, Denver, Colorado** June 2000–May 2003, inpatient and addictions psychiatric care in a community mental health hospital
- **Psychiatrist, InNET, Inc.**, June 2000–May 2003, dual appointment with a position in a community mental health hospital, to explore efficiency management in public inpatient psychiatry
- **Psychiatrist, Alcohol, Drug, and Psychiatric Emergency Services, Denver Health Medical Center**, September 1997–June 2000, physician services for the emergency department including supervision of ED cases, supervision of a mobile crisis team, emergency consultation for the general hospital, and supervision of on-call residents



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Specializations

- HIMS – trained psychiatrist for evaluations of pilots and Air Traffic Control
- Corporate aviation safety consultations
- Referral clinician, National Basketball Association
- Treating clinician, National Football League Program for Substances of Abuse
- Expert in the interface with mental health and substance abuse and regulatory, criminal, probate, and civil litigation
- Inpatient and outpatient substance detoxification and treatment
- Treatment of physicians, attorneys, aviators, and other regulated professionals
- Public, professional, and academic education for addictive and mental health disorders

Leadership

- **Editor**, Colorado Psychiatric Society newsletter, January 2013–April 2020
- **Chairperson**, Department of Psychiatry and Addiction Medicine, Exempla Lutheran Medical Center and Exempla West Pines, Wheat Ridge, Colorado June 2008–December 2010
- **Chief of Hospital Psychiatry**, Colorado Permanente Medical Group, Denver, Colorado November 2003–June 2010
- **Member**, Medical Executive Committee, Exempla Lutheran Medical Center, Wheat Ridge, Colorado June 2008- December 2010
- **Vice Chairperson**, Department of Psychiatry and Addiction Medicine, Exempla Lutheran Medical Center and Exempla West Pines, Wheat Ridge, Colorado February 2008–December 2008
- **Member**, Performance Excellence Committee for Quality Assurance, Exempla Lutheran Medical Center, Wheat Ridge, Colorado February 2008–December 2008
- **Chairperson**, Pharmacy and Therapeutics Committee, Colorado Mental Health Institute at Fort Logan, Denver, Colorado July 2002–June 2003
- **Trustee**, Colorado Psychiatric Society, June 2002–May 2003



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Honors and Awards

- 5280 Magazine "Top Doc" for Addiction Psychiatry, in print August 2018
- Fellow, American Psychiatric Association, 2015–present

Teaching

- **ALPA Air Safety Forum** *Depression and Anxiety in Pilots*, Peer Pilot Breakout Conference, September 12, 2023
- **Residency and Fellowship Training**, past seminars included Emergency Management of Stimulant Disorders and Stimulant Treatment; MDMA, GHB, Ketamine, and Evolving Drugs of Abuse; Hallucinogens and PCP; CNS Depressants and Sedatives in High Risk Groups; University of Colorado School of Medicine, Department of Psychiatry, Aurora, Colorado
- **Presentation**, *Behavioral Change and Why We Resist*, Colorado Bar Association and Denver Bar Association Professionalism Coordinating Committee, May 14, 2014
- **Presentation**, *Alcohol and Opioid Detoxification Using the CIWA – Ar and COWS*, State of Colorado Department of Human Services, Alcohol and Drug Abuse Division, April 26, 2012
- **Seminar leader**, *Substance Use: Patterns Seen in Disaster Areas*, Denver University School of Graduate Professional Psychology, Denver, Colorado October 19, 2010
- **Keynote Speaker** *In Defense of Sadness and Pain and the Threat of Prescription Drug Overload*, El Paso and Teller Counties Alliance for Drug Endangered Children, Colorado Springs, Colorado September 17, 2010
- **CME Grand Rounds**, *Malingering*, Exempla Good Samaritan (September 07, 2006) and Exempla Lutheran Medical Center (December 12, 2006)
- **Seminar leader**, *Addiction or Compulsion? Using Epidemiology and Public Health Initiatives to Define and Treat Disease*, Colorado Department of Human Services, Alcohol and Drug Abuse Division, Denver, Colorado April 7, 2005
- **Seminar leader**, *Emergency Issues in Drug Intoxication*, Colorado Department of Human Services, Alcohol and Drug Abuse Division, Denver, Colorado, February 3, 2005



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- **Seminar leader**, Emergency Management and Detoxification from Methamphetamine, Colorado Department of Human Services, Alcohol and Drug Abuse Division, Denver, Colorado, April 10, 2003
- **Seminar leader**, Geriatric Substance Abuse, Colorado State University Center on Aging and Colorado Department of Human Services, Mental Health Services Division, Fort Collins, Colorado, October 17, 2002
- **Seminar leader**, Pharmacotherapy of Alcoholism and Urine Screens for Drugs of Abuse, Colorado Department of Human Services, Alcohol and Drug Abuse Division, Denver, Colorado, September 23, 2002
- **Seminar leader**, Community Mental Health and Substance Abuse Treatment, Jefferson County Department of Probation, Golden, Colorado, June 2002