Psychology Postdoctoral Fellowship Program

VA Long Beach Healthcare System
Tibor Rubin VA Medical Center
5901 East 7th Street (06/116B)
Long Beach, CA 90822
(562) 826-8000 x2-4392
http://www.longbeach.va.gov/

Applications due: Wednesday, December 21, 2018 at 11:59PM EST

Accreditation Status

The Psychology Postdoctoral Fellowship at the VA Long Beach Healthcare System (VALBHCS) was awarded general accreditation in May, 2012. The Postdoctoral Fellowship in Clinical Neuropsychology was granted specialty accreditation in October, 2018. Our Psychology Fellowship Program will offer training in six Special Emphasis areas for the 2019-2020 year:

1) Advanced Mental Health Interprofessional Education Special Emphasis (two positions)
2) Liver Disease, Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) & Substance Use Disorders Special Emphasis
3) Neuropsychology Special Emphasis (two-year position) ← UPDATE: Now ACCEPTING applications for the 2019-2020 training year!
4) Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) Special Emphasis
5) Rehabilitation Psychology Special Emphasis (two-year position)
6) Women’s Mental Health (WMH) & Trauma Special Emphasis

Please note: We are no longer offering the Psychosocial Recovery for Severe Mental Health Conditions Special Emphasis position for the 2019-2020 training year.

Questions regarding the program’s accredited status can be directed to the Commission on Accreditation:

Office of Program Consultation and Accreditation
American Psychological Association
750 1st Street, NE, Washington, DC 20002-4242
(202) 336-5979  e-mail: apaaccred@apa.org
Internet url: www.apa.org/ed/accreditation

Application and Selection Procedures

All applicants to the Psychology Postdoctoral Fellowship Program at VA Long Beach Healthcare System must have received a doctorate from an APA (American Psychological Association) or CPA (Canadian Psychological Association) accredited graduate program in Clinical, Counseling, or Combined Psychology or PCSAS (Psychological Clinical Science Accreditation System) accredited Clinical Science program. Persons with a doctorate in another area of psychology who meet the APA or CPA criteria for respecialization training in Clinical, Counseling, or Combined Psychology are also eligible. The applicant is also expected to have completed an internship program accredited by APA or CPA or have completed a VA-sponsored internship. Additionally, certification of U.S. citizenship and drug screening are required for all VA Postdoctoral Fellows. The federal government requires...
that male applicants to VA positions born after 1959 sign a Pre-Appointment Certification Statement for Selective Service Registration before they are employed. It is not necessary to submit this form with the application, but if you are selected for this fellowship and fit the above criteria, you will have to sign it. All Fellows will have to complete a Certification of Citizenship in the U.S. prior to beginning the fellowship. Applications from non-citizens will not be considered. The VA conducts drug screening exams on randomly selected trainees and employees. Our training programs are committed to creating a supportive learning environment for individuals of diverse backgrounds, and as a federal agency, we abide by the U.S. Government Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) and Reasonable Accommodation policies. The Psychology Postdoctoral Fellowship Program follows a policy of selecting the most qualified candidates and is an Equal Opportunity Employer. Our commitment to diversity includes attempting to ensure an appropriate representation of individuals along many dimensions, including (but not limited to) gender, sexual orientation, age, ethnic/racial minorities, and persons with disabilities.

Applicants are strongly encouraged to review the following two resources regarding eligibility for VA training:

- https://www.psychologytraining.va.gov/docs/Trainee-Eligibility.pdf
- https://www.psychologytraining.va.gov/eligibility.asp

These resources provide specific information regarding eligibility requirements and information regarding the process of being appointed to a VA position following the selection process.

Interviews will be offered on site at Tibor Rubin VA Medical Center (Long Beach, CA) or via telephone or videoconference for highly qualified candidates. Interviews will take place at the end of January and early February 2019 (with the exception of Neuropsychology). Selection for positions will be Monday, February 25, 2019 (with the exception of Neuropsychology) but we reserve the right to make an early reciprocal offer for a top candidate if contacted with evidence of a competing offer. The anticipated start date for all positions is Monday, **August 19, 2019**

**NOTE:** Neuropsychology applications/interviews/offers will be handled separately. Please aim to have applications for Neuropsychology submitted as early as possible (no later than 12/7/18). Interviews for Neuropsychology will be held December/January and offers will be made January/February (no later than 2/25/19).

**PLEASE NOTE:** Selected applicants must have completed their internship and all required elements of their doctoral degree (dissertation, etc) **before** starting postdoctoral fellowship. We will not allow late start applicants.

To apply to one or more of our programs, please submit materials by going to the Association of Psychology Postdoctoral and Internship Centers (APPIC) Psychology Postdoctoral Application (APPA) portal, which is located at: https://appicpostdoc.liaisoncas.com/applicant-ux/#/login

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us at:

Andrea Scott, PhD, BCB  
Director of Postdoctoral Training  
VA Long Beach Healthcare System  
Tibor Rubin VA Medical Center  
5901 E. 7th Street (06/116B)  
Long Beach, CA 90822  
andrea.scott@va.gov  
(562)826-8000 ext. 2-4392

Application requirements are outlined in the APPA CAS portal. These include:

- A cover letter that describes your personal training goals and how our training program may help you achieve your professional goals. In your letter, please describe your previous educational, research, and clinical experience relevant to the Special Emphasis area or areas to which you are applying; your assessment of your training needs in each Special Emphasis area; specific clinical settings and experiences at VA Long Beach Healthcare System that you want to pursue during your fellowship year; and your general career aspirations.
• One clinical work sample, such as a treatment summary or an assessment report, or other work sample, such as published manuscript on which you are first author or other written product that highlights work relevant to the Special Emphasis area. If using a clinical sample, please make sure to de-identify according to HIPPA standards.

• Three letters of recommendation from faculty members or clinical supervisors who are familiar with your clinical work as well as your research. Please note that “letters of recommendations” are referred to as “Evaluations” within the APPA CAS portal.

• A letter from your dissertation chair regarding dissertation status and anticipated completion date. (Note: If your dissertation chair is writing one of your letters of recommendation, this information can be included in the letter).

• Graduate Transcripts

• Current CV

Financial and Other Benefit Support for 2019-2020 Training Year

| Annual Stipend/Salary for Full-time Residents | $52,176 (Year 1) / $54,996 (Year 2) |
| Annual Stipend/Salary for Half-time Residents | N/A |
| Program provides access to medical insurance for residents? | Yes | No |

### If access to medical insurance is provided:

- Trainee contribution to cost required? Yes | No
- Coverage of family member(s) available? Yes | No
- Coverage of legally married partner available? Yes | No
- Coverage of domestic partner available? Yes | No

| Hours of Annual Paid Personal Time Off (PTO and/or Vacation) | 104 hours |
| Hours of Annual Paid Sick Leave | 104 hours |

In the event of medical conditions and/or family needs that require extended leave, does the program allow reasonable unpaid leave to residents in excess of personal time off and sick leave?

| Yes | No |

Other Benefits (please describe):
Authorized Absence (AA) for training may be requested for off-site educational workshops/seminars, conferences, other approved training activities, and license examination. Up to 10 days can be requested by the Fellow throughout the training year. Requests for authorized absence are negotiated on a case-by-case basis between the Fellow, the Director of Postdoctoral Training, Executive Training Committee (ETC), and the Chief Psychologist. Fellows may combine authorized absence with annual leave if they wish.

Psychology Setting History

The first cohort of Psychology Postdoctoral Fellows began in September 2008. Our program received general accreditation in May 2012 and our next site visit will be in 2019. The Postdoctoral Fellowship in Clinical Neuropsychology was granted specialty accreditation in October 2018 and the next site visit will be in 2028. The VALBHCS is part of a national network of medical centers and clinics operated by the Department of Veterans Affairs, with the mission of providing comprehensive health care to men and women who have served in the Armed Forces. The VALBHCS is responding to many sweeping national changes in the presentation of syndromes suffered by our returning Veterans. Our training program will continuously refine our assessment and intervention techniques to address the needs of our many returning Veterans of Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF), Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF) and Operation New Dawn (OND), while at the same time attending to the needs of our aging Veterans.
Psychology operates in a collegial fashion with other disciplines, and practicum students, interns and Postdoctoral Fellows all obtain much of their training and clinical experience in the context of multidisciplinary teamwork. The majority of supervisors of the Psychology Internship and Postdoctoral Programs are members of the Mental Health Care Group, under the direction of Lawrence Albers, MD. Our Chief Psychologist is Nicholas Caskey, Ph.D. and we now have over 50 psychologists on our staff. In addition to the Medical, Surgical, and Mental Health Care programs, VALBHCS has a variety of specialized regional programs including a national Spinal Cord Injury (SCI) Center and a Blind Rehabilitation Center (BRC).

Training Model and Program Philosophy

We endorse the Scientist-Practitioner Model of Psychology, and the postdoctoral training experience is organized accordingly. We are guided both by the original Boulder Model (Raimy, 1950) and by the update of the Scientist-Practitioner Model as articulated at the 1991 Gainesville conference (Belar & Perry, 1992). The mission of the VALBHCS Psychology Postdoctoral Fellow Training Program is to train psychologists who meet general advanced practice competencies in psychology and can function effectively as professional psychologists in a broad range of multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary settings. Prior to beginning their postdoctoral experience, Fellows are expected to have a solid grounding in generalist psychology training. The primary goal of the Psychology Postdoctoral Fellow Program is for our Fellows to develop the full range of skills required for independent functioning as a psychologist.

A second major goal of our Psychology Postdoctoral Fellowship Program is to prepare fellows to practice in one of the current high-priority areas of mental health care for Veterans, as illustrated by our Special Emphasis areas. Through professional activities in these areas, Fellows receive training that facilitates their development of the core general advanced practice competencies. In addition, Fellows develop a depth of knowledge and advanced skills in working with specific populations and treatment settings (i.e., older adult Veterans, Veterans with Traumatic Brain Injury, seriously mentally ill Veterans, Veterans with physical and sensory disabilities, those living with Posttraumatic Stress Disorder or those living with liver disease, HIV and/or substance use disorders). For the Neuropsychology Special Emphasis area, high-priority areas include working with Veterans with head injury, mild cognitive impairment, dementia, or other neurological conditions.

Program Goals and Objectives

Training Objectives for the Fellowship Year

We have two primary goals for our Psychology Postdoctoral Training Program:

1. Fellows will develop the full range of skills required for independent functioning as a psychologist. These skills follow the APA Comission on Accreditation competencies.

2. Fellows will develop skills required to function effectively as a psychologist in a high-priority area of health care for Veterans. For our Psychology Postdoctoral Fellows, this could be in: 1) Advanced Mental Health Interprofessional Education Special Emphasis (2 positions), 2) Liver Disease, Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) & Substance Use Disorders Special Emphasis, 3) Neuropsychology Special Emphasis (two-year position), 4) Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) Special Emphasis, 5) Rehabilitation Psychology Special Emphasis (two-year position), and 6) Women’s Mental Health & Trauma Special Emphasis.

Attainment of our first goal is quantified by a range of competencies established by the American Psychological Association’s Standards of Accreditation in Health Service Psychology. These include research, ethical and legal standards, individual and cultural diversity, professional values, attitudes and behaviors, communication and interpersonal skills, assessment, intervention, provision of supervision and consultation and interprofessional/interdisciplinary skills. Fellows are expected to demonstrate successful performance of these skills, as defined in our Handbook for Psychology Postdoctoral Fellows by the end of fellowship. Attainment of our second goal is quantified by a set of Special Emphasis area specific skills, which are also defined in our Handbook for Psychology Postdoctoral Fellows. Fellows are also expected to successfully complete a Fellowship Project focused within their Special Emphasis area. These requirements are further elaborated under the section below titled “Requirements for Completion of the Postdoctoral Fellowship.”
Program Structure

All Fellows are expected to work 40 hours per week. This includes programmatic experiences and special emphasis experiences. The 40 hours are typically spent on site at the VALBHCS campus, although it is possible that some time may be spent at one of our local Community Based Outpatient Clinics (CBOCs). All Psychology Postdoctoral Fellows are required to complete 2,080 hours of training (including any granted annual leave, sick leave, and authorize absence). Psychology Postdoctoral Fellows easily accrue the 1,500 hours of supervised professional experience (SPE) that is specified by the Board of Psychology in the state of California for sufficient postdoctoral experience for licensure.

During the first month of the training year, Fellows are expected to identify their training goals and to work with their primary supervisor to develop a schedule of activities for the year designed to meet these goals. The conceptualization going into the Individualized Training Plan (ITP) should involve self-assessment together with discussions with the primary supervisor to facilitate personal and professional growth and development.

A breakdown of the encouraged weekly time distribution across programmatic and special emphasis experiences is listed below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Programmatic Experiences:</th>
<th>Special Emphasis Experiences:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Seminars: 4 - 5.5 hours/week</td>
<td>Clinical Work: 18 - 20 hours/week</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Supervision of pre-intern: 3 hours/week</td>
<td>Administrative Time: 8-10 hours/week</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fellow Project: 3-4 hours/week</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Administrative Time: 2 hours/week</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL = 12 hours</td>
<td>TOTAL = 28 hours</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Some Special Emphasis areas hold their own weekly or biweekly team meetings that may include didactic seminars, rounds or case presentations. Psychology Postdoctoral Fellows in some Special Emphasis areas also participate regularly in interdisciplinary case conferences. Supervisors may recommend additional seminars or other specialty-specific training opportunities.

Supervision

Fellows will schedule a total of four hours of supervision per week (10% of the Fellows' supervised professional experience time). At least two hours per week must be individual face-to-face supervision (one hour must be with the primary supervisor and the other hour can be with either the primary or delegated supervisor(s)). Additional supervision may be obtained via either additional individual supervision, group supervision or co-leading a therapy group with the supervisor. The primary emphasis area supervisor is expected to provide supervision throughout the year, while delegated supervisors may change according to the ITP. Fellows will also gain supervision experience by supervising a psychology pre-intern on a case (see supervision of supervision seminar section below).

Presentations/Project

Fellows are expected to present at least two times during the training year, not including presentations during seminars in the Special Emphasis area. We expect each Fellow to present either at Mental Health Grand Rounds or at Mental Health Journal Club during the first half of the training year, and to present their Fellowship Project to the department at the end of the training year.

- **Grand Rounds/Journal Club**

  In Mental Health Grand Rounds a Fellow may present a research project or literature review that they have contributed to in a significant manner over the past two years. Or, an appropriate presentation for Mental Health Journal Club could include a recent psychology or psychiatry peer-reviewed journal article that embodies an area of research that appeals to the Fellow's interests.

- **Fellowship Project**

  Psychology Postdoctoral Fellows are expected to complete a project of their choice during their training experience. This project may be conducted independently or in collaboration with other trainees or staff. The Psychology
Postdoctoral Fellow will select and plan the project with their primary supervisor/project advisor. The goal is for the Fellow to study or to develop some component of services that will be of utility to others in the field. This project may have a research focus (e.g., program utilization or effectiveness), an educational objective (e.g., training other staff, patients or their family members; developing a Continuing Education (CE) module), a program development aim (e.g., new peer-led service, or community re-integration program), or service provision goal (e.g., new treatment modality, or application of treatment to an under-served population.). Other creative ideas are welcome. All projects should have some form of measurable evaluation of their effectiveness and impact. Fellows are required to present the details and results of their Fellowship Project by the end of fellowship.

Seminars

**Postdoc Professional Development Seminar:** Presentations are developed to be sequential in Fellow development while building upon the existing knowledge base of our Fellows. A combination of topics will be chosen that are relevant to our clinical practice, self-care, career planning and overall professional development.

*Note: Second-year Fellows are required to attend bimonthly group check-ins but attendance at other repeat-topics is optional.*

**Postdoc Supervision of Supervision Seminar:** Fellows will be introduced to various theories and models of clinical supervision as they develop their own philosophy and approach to supervision. Following supervision didactics, this seminar will serve as group supervision of supervision consultation and case review. Fellows will be providing 1-hour of supervision to psychology pre-interns on a psychotherapy case from the general psychology clinic. Time for supervising should be factored into the ITP.

*Note: Neuropsychology and Rehabilitation Psychology Fellows are required to attend supervision didactics but are not required to attend weekly Supervision of Supervision group consultation and case review. These Fellows will receive supervision of supervision experience within their respective special emphasis areas and will present at least one time in Supervision of Supervision Seminar during the training year.*

**Evidence-Based Practice (EBP) Seminar (in conjunction with psychology interns):** Presentations will cover didactics on a wide range of EBPs offered throughout the VA as well as trainee case presentations demonstrating application of these EBPs on clinical rotations.

*Note: Fellows are required to attend EBP seminar topics which they have limited/minimal experience with.*

**Diversity Seminar (monthly):** This seminar will include consultation, didactic presentations, readings, and case presentations covering a wide range of diversity issues.

Method and Frequency of Evaluation

The overall goal of our Psychology Postdoctoral Fellowship is to train psychologists who will be competent and skilled at creating and providing services in the community or VA system, and who are skilled in providing professional psychological services to a high-priority area of health care for Veterans. Postdoctoral Fellows are evaluated on General Competencies and Special Emphasis Competencies throughout the training year. The General Competencies are based on a range of required elements established by the APA’s Commission on Accreditation known as Standards of Accreditation. The Special Emphasis Competencies are elements unique to the Fellow’s special emphasis area of training. Fellows are evaluated at four points throughout the year; mid-evaluations at 3-month and 9-month intervals and full evaluations at 6-month and 12-month intervals. Evaluation includes objective ratings and narrative feedback on competency items. Modified versions of these evaluations will also be completed by the seminar didactic coordinators. An initial review of these competencies with the Psychology Postdoctoral Fellow at the beginning of the year will help clarify what the Fellow would like to emphasize, guide his/her choice of training opportunities and possibly help guide his/her selection of a Fellowship Project. The final review will assist us in determining the overall success of the VALBHCS Psychology Postdoctoral Fellowship Program. Please see the section below on Requirements for Completion regarding additional information.
Psychology Fellowship Training Experiences

Advanced Mental Health Interprofessional Education Special Emphasis Area

Primary Supervisors: James Yadavaia, Ph.D. and Vanessa Hurwitz, Ph.D.
Delegated Supervisors: Nicholas Brown, Ph.D. and Arezou Costello, Ph.D.

The primary goal of the Advanced Mental Health Interprofessional Education Program is to train practitioners in multiple behavioral health disciplines to partner with treatment teams and Veterans through a participatory, collaborative, and coordinated approach with shared decision-making (CIHC PIS, 2010). Trainees will master advanced competencies specified in the curriculum below, which will be unique to this Interprofessional Education Program. Trainees will acquire knowledge of evidence-based practices through direct supervision, experiential treatment of patients, active participation in team meetings, and interdisciplinary didactics provided by faculty across disciplines. These core educational outcomes and objectives are based on models developed by collaborative efforts among accrediting bodies in health care settings (CIHC PIS, 2010; IEC, 2011).

Training Settings:

The Outpatient Mental Health Care Group at VALBHCS serves over 12,000 Veterans through four general interprofessional teams known as the Behavioral Health Interdisciplinary Program (BHIP). The VA Interprofessional Mental Health Education Program exists within these integrated behavioral health teams, which have been redesigned and modeled after as patient-aligned care teams (PACTs) with a behavioral health focus specifically to increase Veterans’ access to evidence-based integrated behavioral health care. These teams are currently comprised of psychiatrists, psychologists, nurses, social workers, pharmacists, and program support assistants.

Implementation of an evidence-based, Veteran-centered, team-based service delivery model is a strong focus of treatment on the BHIP teams. Using experiential training and within a team format, trainees will work toward achieving optimal patient outcomes, exercising skills in educating patients and health care professionals on interdisciplinary topic areas, developing expertise in resolving patient-provider and/or interprofessional conflicts, conducting practice-based research, and providing evidence-based mental health treatments as a generalist mental health professional. Evidence-based treatment models emphasized in this Fellowship include Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBT), comprehensive Dialectical Behavioral Therapy (DBT), Acceptance and Commitment Therapy (ACT), the Unified Protocol for Transdiagnostic Treatment of Emotional Disorders, Cognitive Behavioral Analysis of Psychotherapy (CBASP), Prolonged Exposure (PE), Cognitive Processing Therapy (CPT), among others. In addition to providing time-limited evidence-based psychotherapy to individuals, Fellows will have the opportunity to be involved in current group psychotherapies (e.g., Acceptance Commitment Therapy, Dialectical Behavior Therapy Skills Training, Unified Protocol for Transdiagnostic Treatment of Emotional Disorders, Trauma Skills Acquisition Training, CBT for Anxiety and Depression) as well as facilitating brief Triage Clinics which emphasize coordinating team services, using commitment strategies to engage patients in evidence-based treatment, and connecting patients to various treatment modalities. Fellows may also have the opportunity to develop new groups, depending on one’s interests, expertise, and training goals. Trainees will learn and present in interdisciplinary didactic seminars and will also have the opportunity to sit on the multidisciplinary Dialectical Behavioral Therapy Team. Psychology trainees will collaborate on an interprofessional project, and this project may concur to meet the project requirement for the Psychology Fellow’s Fellowship Project.

Liver Disease, Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) & Substance Use Disorders Special Emphasis Area

Supervisors: Henry Benedict, Ph.D., Adrienne House, Ph.D., and Peter Hauser, M.D.

The primary goal of the Psychology Postdoctoral Fellowship with a Special Emphasis in Liver Disease and Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) is to provide multi-modal interdisciplinary psychology training that will focus on evidenced-based mental health care for Veterans living with liver disease, including Hepatitis C (HCV) and/or HIV. Grounded within this goal is a strong emphasis on evidenced-based interventions and training the Fellow in health psychology research-based design. The Psychology Postdoctoral Fellow will be assessed on the advanced general practice competencies specified by the Psychology Postdoctoral Program as well as specific competencies to liver disease and HIV. Trainees will acquire knowledge of evidence-based practices and research skills through direct supervision, experiential treatment of patients, active participation in team meetings, and interdisciplinary didactics provided by faculty across disciplines within the Gastrointestinal (GI) and HIV clinical...
services and research areas. A substance abuse treatment component of the training experience will provide the Fellow with an understanding of the dynamics of substance abuse in the dually diagnosed and dually addicted patient, and the unique treatments involved when providing services to Veterans living with HIV or liver disease who have co-morbid substance use disorders (SUDs). The Psychology Postdoctoral Fellow will be required to spend 20% of their time on liver disease or HIV research. Fellows will have the opportunity to develop and broaden research interests focusing upon mental health and infectious disease. There will be opportunities to write and submit abstracts and manuscripts with an expectation of one abstract and one manuscript to be submitted by the end of the fellowship year. These core educational outcomes and objectives are based on models developed by collaborative efforts among accrediting bodies in health care settings (CIHC PIS, 2010; IEC, 2011).

**Training Settings:**

**Liver Clinic**  
*Supervisor: Adrienne House, Ph.D. and Peter Hauser, M.D.*

The VLBHCS holds weekly Liver Clinics and psychological services are integrated into the care Veterans receive in this clinic. In the Liver Clinic, the Psychology Postdoctoral Fellow will work closely with clinic physicians and other allied health team members, providing consultation on a variety of issues, including making recommendations regarding patients’ potential for adherence to antiviral treatment of HCV. The Fellow provides psychological services to Veteran both in Liver Clinic and outside of clinic as needed. The Fellow will provide: counseling for Veteran newly diagnosed with HCV or other liver diseases; assessment and treatment of substance abuse and mental health disorders that impact treatment adherence; adherence support for Veteran undergoing antiviral treatment for HCV; consultation to liver/hepatology services, provide bedside therapy for Veteran hospitalized with advanced liver disease; and early assessment of and intervention for potential problem areas such as familial/marital problems, with the goals of preventing or reducing problems.

**HIV**  
*Supervisor: Adrienne House, Ph.D.*

The Psychology Postdoctoral Fellow will have the opportunity to interact with staff in Psychology, Medicine, and other disciplines providing an opportunity for clinical training. Psychology is also integrated into the medical care provided to Veterans with HIV disease. In the Infectious Disease (ID) Clinic, Psychology works closely with clinic physicians and other allied health team members, providing consultation on a variety of issues, including assessing Veterans prior to initiation of pre-exposure prophylaxis and providing support after starting this treatment, and making recommendations regarding patients' potential for adherence to antiretroviral (ARV) treatment regimens. Psychology also collaborates with the medical team to develop strategies to increase adherence to complex ARV medication regimens. The psychologist serves as liaison between physician and patient to encourage and support more active participation by the patient in medical care and works with the patient to teach appropriate assertiveness in dealing with medical personnel. The ID Clinic provides initial psychological screening to evaluate patient’s psychological adjustment to the disease, effectiveness and soundness of their coping strategies, history of SUDs and treatment, history of psychological or psychiatric problems and treatment, knowledge of the HIV/AIDS and treatment issues, social support network, past and current losses and stressors, knowledge and practice of safer sex, attitudes towards HIV treatment in general and ARV treatment in particular, degree of adherence with past treatment and assessment of issues that might relate to future adherence with strict ARV treatment regimen. The need for psychotherapeutic intervention and other treatment is also evaluated. The Psychology Postdoctoral Fellow would participate in all aspects and activities of the program, including providing treatment both in clinic and outside of clinic as needed.

**Substance Abuse Treatment**  
*Supervisor: Henry Benedict, Ph.D.*

The Psychology Postdoctoral Fellow will have an opportunity to work in the substance abuse treatment setting with Veterans who have co-existing HIV and/or liver diseases. The outpatient substance abuse treatment clinic (SATC) is composed of a mixed population of dual diagnosis, dual addiction and alcohol only patients. The Veterans in this program are often, but not always, graduates of an intensive inpatient program who then come to SATC for follow-up treatment. Others come straight to SATC because they have stable housing and are gainfully employed. The groups are process-based in nature covering all aspects of recovery from addiction to co-morbid disorders. Veterans in this group are also provided with individual psychotherapy opportunities, vocational rehabilitation counseling, and The Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)/VA Supported Housing. The Psychology Postdoctoral Fellow would participate in all aspects and activities of the program. Examples
include acting as co-therapist in groups of 10-15 patients, counseling individual cases, doing intake interviews with and without the use of psychological testing, and participating in one- and three-week treatment plan updates. The training experience should provide the Fellow with an understanding of the dynamics of SUDs in the dually diagnosed and dually addicted patient, and the unique treatments involved when providing services to Veterans living with HIV and/or liver disease who have co-morbid SUDs.

PLEASE NOTE: The Liver and HIV Special Emphasis Fellow is expected to work later (until 7:30PM) on Thursdays to accommodate evening SATC group. An adjusted/compressed tour of duty (TOD) can be considered to account for this.

Research

Supervisor: Peter Hauser, M.D.

The Psychology Postdoctoral Fellow will have the opportunity to develop and broaden research interests focusing upon mental health, HIV, Hepatitis C or other liver diseases, and substance abuse. Twenty percent of the Psychology Postdoctoral Fellow’s time will be committed toward developing and implementing a research project. The Psychology Postdoctoral Fellow will meet regularly with Dr. Hauser to define a research project related to these areas. Dr. Hauser has several ongoing research projects focused on Hepatitis C and substance use disorders that are IRB approved, and if the research interests of the fellow are congruent, it would be relatively easy to amend existing protocols to allow the Psychology Postdoctoral Fellow to focus on his/her area of interest. There will be opportunities to write and submit abstracts with the expectation of one abstract and one publication to be submitted by the end of the fellowship year.

Clinical Neuropsychology Postdoctoral Fellowship (two-year position)

Supervisor: Vanessa Zizak, Ph.D., Christine Kim, Ph.D., and W. Joshua Johnson, Ph.D., ABPP

The goal of the Clinical Neuropsychology Postdoctoral Fellowship is to provide training that will prepare a doctoral-level psychologist to function at an advanced level and independently as a licensed- and board-certification-eligible Clinical Neuropsychologist working with an adult population at a VA or other health care setting.

The Clinical Neuropsychology Postdoctoral Fellowship will refine assessment approaches through advanced clinical interviewing and standardized testing while considering the therapeutic utility for the Veteran. There is an emphasis placed on describing the patients’ cognitive strengths and weaknesses to better formulate tailored recommendations and treatment plans. We espouse a fixed-flexible approach to neuropsychological assessment which focuses more on cognitive domains than on specific tests per se. The specific tests will be chosen based on the characteristics of the patient and the referral question. Typically, tests of memory, attention, visual processing, language, executive function, psychomotor speed, psychological adjustment and symptom validity will be considered. Utility and empirical reasons for selecting other assessment approaches including fixed batteries, cognitive screenings, and comprehensive neuropsychological evaluations including follow-up assessment that utilize reliable change indexes (RCIs) will also be provided. Upon completion, the Fellow will demonstrate advanced competency with standardized administration of tests, case conceptualization, and selection of appropriate measures based on their psychometric properties and available culturally appropriate norms. In addition, the Fellow will learn syndrome analysis approaches to interpretation that focuses on pattern and error analysis integrating information acquired from both normative and qualitative data. The Fellow will demonstrate advanced competency in identification and use of appropriate norms in interpreting test results, consultation with varied disciplines, providing brief feedback and education to patients, families, and referral sources when appropriate, and efficiently producing a consumer-oriented integrative report.

Therapeutic application of neuropsychological information will be trained in a variety of ways. First, evaluations will often be followed by a meeting with the patient and possibly his or her family in order to review findings, better understand how the current results match the way the patient and family see the problems in real life, and provide practical recommendations and referrals. The Fellow may also have the opportunity to attend team rounds concerning the treatment of both patients in areas of rehabilitation and geriatrics whom the Fellow has assessed. These meetings often provide an ideal opportunity to correlate findings from the test laboratory with everyday observations of the patient. Finally, the Fellow will co-facilitate education-based groups for OEF/OIF/OND Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) patients and perhaps their families. While on the neuropsychological rotation, the Fellow will conduct on average two to three neuropsychological assessments per week, managing both test administration, developing a battery, and report writing. They will have at least two hours of individual supervision with licensed clinical neuropsychologists per week. They may also obtain clinical supervision experience with Neuropsychology Clerks. Fellows will attend the weekly Neuropsychology Seminar/Journal Club, Neuropsychology Case Conference, and Neuroanatomy
Didactics and will have the opportunity to attend brain cuttings, neuroradiology grand rounds, and interdisciplinary team meetings. They will be expected to present cases or didactic material at the Neuropsychology Seminar and Neuropsychology Case Conference.

Involvement with research is required. Research opportunities in developing new studies as well as assisting with existing research will be available to the Fellow. Current research opportunities to assist with developing and conducting clinical research on differential diagnosis in mild cognitive impairment, PCS/TBI and neurodegenerative disease may also be available in the clinic in which Dr. Zizak is a supervisor. It is anticipated that opportunities with the other neuropsychologists will also be available. Finally, faculty members serve as reviewers for various journals. The Fellow may be invited to co-review these studies and will be trained on how to evaluate a study critically and write a review that is helpful to the researchers.

NOTE: The Postdoctoral Fellowship in Clinical Neuropsychology was granted Specialty Accreditation by the American Psychological Association (APA) Commission on Accreditation in October 2018. The next site will be held in 2028.

Training Opportunities within Neuropsychology Program

Main Clinics subsumed under Neuropsychology

General Neuropsychology Clinic

This clinic provides neuropsychological assessment for Veterans across the life-span. A bimodal distribution of referrals for both younger, OEF/OIF/OND Veterans and older, Vietnam Era and Korean War Veterans is received. Veterans have a broad range of injuries, disabilities, and chronic health conditions. These may include traumatic brain injury, polytrauma, stroke, epilepsy, tumor, encephalopathy, motor disorders, neuromuscular and autoimmune disorders, Alzheimer’s disease, mild neurocognitive impairment and other causes of dementia such as Parkinson’s and Lewy Body disease, other CNS neurological disorders, and related disorders. Primary sources of referrals are TBI rehabilitation, primary care, neurology, and psychiatry. Assessment practices in the clinic include comprehensive clinical interview, case formulation, test selection and administration, interpretation of results, feedback, and clinical recommendations. Assessments are primarily outpatient in nature; however, occasional inpatient work may be required. We carefully screen for motivational issues such as symptom amplification and mental health issues such as PTSD and depression.

Traumatic Brain Injury and Polytrauma

In addition, the Fellow may have the opportunity to engage in clinical and research services with Veterans referred to our service who have sustained TBIs. Atypical of the expected recovery from mild TBI (mTBI), these Veterans continue to evidence persistent cognitive deficits. Identifying the cause of these symptoms is often complicated by the presence of overlapping psychiatric symptomatology such as Posttraumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) and additional lifestyle/medical variables that contribute to cognitive problems (i.e., poor sleep, substance use, chronic pain, etc.). These Veterans hail from varying combat eras, including Vietnam and OIF/OEF/OND conflicts, among others. We provide both brief and extended cognitive assessments and recommendations on interventions that may serve to improve cognitive functioning. In addition, we also provide a psychoeducational course about mTBI and the expected course of recovery using the biopsychosocial model. The course integrates aspects of CogSmart program providing information on compensatory strategizes for improving cognition and mental health. Given the influx of referrals for the evaluation of mTBI, significant efforts have been made to appropriately triage these Veterans’ care in the most efficient and effective manner. A large emphasis is place on providing empirically validated psychoeducation on the typical expected recovery course of mTBI/PCS (3 months) and potential overlapping symptomatology. A formal neuropsychological assessment is conducted if deemed beneficial and appropriate to the patient’s ongoing clinical care. The Fellow may also have the opportunity to interact with the Polytrauma Team via case conferences and attending local and VISN meetings in which the progress of our OEF/OIF/OND Veterans is reviewed by an interdisciplinary team. The Fellow is expected to be instrumental with continued development of this screening clinic that will briefly and efficiently evaluate patients for their need for longer, labor intensive neuropsychological assessments. In this way, patients at low risk for acquired brain injury but with subjective complaints of deficits may be directed more quickly to appropriate treatment venues such as therapeutic treatment.
Posttraumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) Special Emphasis Area

Supervisors: John Huang, Ph.D., Shelly M. Crosby, Psy.D., Jessica Naughton, Ph.D., and Nathanial B. Hawkins, Ph.D.

The PTSD Program team is comprised of four psychologists, four psychiatrists, a Nurse Practitioner, two nurse-case managers, two social workers, peer support specialists, and a program support assistant. The Psychology Postdoctoral Fellow will work with three of the psychologist supervisors listed above, during the training year, choosing one of the four psychologists as her/his primary supervisor for the year and two psychologist supervisors for six-month rotations each. Rotation options include: PTSD/Mindfulness, PTSD and LGBTQ/Diversity, PTSD/SUD, and PTSD which are further described below. The Psychology Postdoctoral Fellow in the PTSD Special Emphasis area will be responsible for conducting individual and group psychotherapy, providing staff consultation, supervising Psychology trainees, and facilitating intakes and psychological assessment.

The PTSD Specialty Clinic population predominantly consists of combat Veterans from the Vietnam and Afghanistan/Iraq (OEF/OIF/OND) conflicts, some of whom have co-occurring Substance Use Disorders (SUD) or other psychological disorders. However, the provision of therapy to Veterans from other eras is also available. Individual therapy typically focuses first on coping skills for PTSD and SUD when warranted. Once the patient is stabilized, individual or group trauma-focused therapy is available, including evidence-based treatments such as Cognitive Processing Therapy (CPT), and Prolonged Exposure Therapy (PE). The Psychology Postdoctoral Fellow will also have opportunities to administer, score and interpret a number of self-report measures assessing symptoms of PTSD (e.g., PTSD Checklist (PCL), Combat Exposure Scale), depression and anxiety (e.g., BDI-II, BAI), SUD (Brief Addiction Monitor), and personality functioning (e.g., Minnesota Multiphasic Personality Inventory - Second Edition (MMPI-II), Million Multiaxial Clinical Inventory - Second Edition (MCMI-III) as well as the Clinician Administered PTSD Scale (CAPS)).

After completing the Psychology Postdoctoral Fellowship year in the PTSD Special Emphasis area, the fellow will have acquired advanced knowledge in the treatment of combat PTSD, including learning how to facilitate coping skills and exposure-based trauma-focused treatments. The Psychology Postdoctoral Fellow in the Special Emphasis Area of PTSD will be expected to build on skills acquired by co-leading groups earlier in the postdoctoral year by facilitating her or his own group by mid-year. The list below outlines the groups available to co-lead:

ACT for PTSD - 12 to 16 weeks, structured acceptance and commitment therapy for PTSD (pending availability)
CBT Skills for depression and PTSD- 3-month structured skills-based group
Cognitive Behavioral Therapy for Insomnia - 5-week structured group
Combat PTSD Group – 12-week, structured group
Combat PTSD Group – ongoing, topic-based group
CPT Group – 12-week, structured, trauma-focused group
Combat PTSD Graduate Group – ongoing, process group
Drum Circle – active, expressive therapy group
Tai Chi Group for combat veterans – moving, meditative expressive therapy
Mindfulness and PTSD – applied skill-based group
Relaxation and Meditation – applied skill-based group
Anger Management – time-limited, topic-based group (pending availability)
Seeking Safety Group, Harm-Reduction – PTSD/SUD group
Women’s Combat Support Group
The Odyssey Group – moral injury group
PTSD Coping Skills Group

The PTSD Postdoctoral Psychology Fellow will be expected to attend a twice-monthly PTSD provider group dedicated to processing the challenges and rewards of working with trauma. These groups may also be attended by interns and pre-interns, and the fellow will have opportunities for experiential learning through discussion, videos, and case studies. Finally, working one evening per week will be required of the Psychology Postdoctoral Fellow in the PTSD Special Emphasis area (a supervisor will always be available) in order to meet the current increasing demand for services during evening hours. Other specific interests of the Fellow can be discussed and the program will try to accommodate them.

Training Settings:

PTSD/Mindfulness
Supervisor: John Huang, Ph.D.
Dr. Huang conducts a 12-week, closed Combat PTSD Group which focuses on group process and psychoeducational topics. It is a smaller group, generally ranging from 8-12 people, with an emphasis on forming a group alliance and teaching coping skills. He also co-leads the Mindfulness and PTSD group, which focuses on the practice of mindfulness in dealing with PTSD and general stress. Mindfulness is a type of meditation with three main components: focusing on the present moment, using full awareness, and having a non-judgmental, accepting attitude. In addition, Dr. Huang leads a Cognitive Processing Therapy group. The Psychology Postdoctoral Fellow working with Dr. Huang will have the opportunity to co-lead the groups mentioned above, as well as participate in the Tai Chi and Drum Circle. He is also trained in ACT and would be able to supervise the Psychology Postdoctoral Fellow on CPT, PE, and ACT if interested. Another one of Dr. Huang’s interests is spirituality and psychology, especially in how spirituality facilitated coping, healing, and creating meaning within the context of trauma.

**PTSD and LGBT/Diversity**  
**Supervisor: Shelly Crosby, Psy.D.**

Dr. Crosby is involved in many aspects of the Combat PTSD program including intake assessment, individual therapy, and group therapy. Trainees working with Dr. Crosby will have opportunities to receive supervision in evidence-based and trauma-focused therapy including Cognitive Processing Therapy (CPT), Prolonged Exposure (PE), Cognitive Behavioral Conjoint Therapy for PTSD (CBCT-PTSD), and CBT for insomnia (CBT-I) as well as opportunities to co-lead Combat-PTSD treatment group(s) including Cognitive Processing Therapy (CPT) and CBT Skills- an introductory treatment group for depression and PTSD. In addition to her role with the combat PTSD program, Dr. Crosby co-leads the LGBTQ Support Groups within the Psychology Department and she is involved in several diversity-related committees. Trainees working with Dr. Crosby may have opportunities to be involved in LGBTQ and/or Diversity activities, depending on training goals and availability.

**PTSD/SUD**  
**Supervisor: Jessica Naughton, Ph.D.**

Dr. Naughton serves as the PTSD/SUD coordinator, with her rotation allowing the Postdoctoral Fellow to gain experience in treating Veterans with PTSD, as well as those with co-occurring PTSD and Substance Use Disorders. Those working with Dr. Naughton will have the opportunity to conduct intake assessments and provide trauma-focused therapy in individual and group formats. Dr. Naughton is trained in PE (Prolonged Exposure) and CPT (Cognitive Processing Therapy), with fellows having the ability to receive supervision in these evidence-based treatments, as well as more integrative approaches to trauma treatment. She facilitates a CPT group and the Seeking Safety group, which uses a harm reduction approach to treat Veterans with co-occurring PTSD and SUD difficulties. Fellows will have the opportunity to co-lead this group within the PTSD clinic setting and potentially at the VVRC (SUD residential treatment center). Dr. Naughton’s additional interests include mindfulness, working with MST (Military Sexual Trauma), and integrative approaches to trauma-focused therapy.

**PTSD**  
**Supervisor: Nathanial B. Hawkins, Ph.D.**

Dr. Hawkins is a staff psychologist in the Combat PTSD program. Dr. Hawkins specialized in evidence-based cognitive behavioral therapies, including Cognitive Processing Therapy (CPT), Prolonged Exposure (PE) Therapy for PTSD, Acceptance and Commitment Therapy (ACT) for PTSD. He leads a CPT group, ACT for PTSD Group and short-term PTSD Symptoms Management group designed to provide psychoeducation, assess Veterans motivation for treatment, introduce effective and healthy coping skills, and develop future PTSD treatment plans. Psychology trainees would have the opportunity to co-lead these groups and be supervised in these modalities. Dr. Hawkins also co-leads a LGBTQ Support Groups within the Psychology Department. Dr. Hawkins’ other clinical interests include the treatment of other trauma related disorders, military and childhood sexual trauma, posttraumatic resilience, PTSD family support, substance use disorders, transgender care, and LGBT issues.

---

**Rehabilitation Psychology Special Emphasis Area** (two-year position)  
**Supervisors: Sarah S. Brindle, Ph.D.; Jennifer L. Geren, Ph.D.; Elizabeth V. Horin, Ph.D., ABPP; David N. Kerner, Ph.D.; Linda R. Mona, Ph.D.; Stacy L. Reger, Ph.D.**

The primary goal of the Rehabilitation Psychology Special Emphasis Area is to train practitioners in mental health disciplines to partner with integrative treatment teams and veterans through a participatory, collaborative, and coordinated approach with
shared decision-making (CIHC PIS, 2010). Implementation of an evidence-based, veteran-centered, integrated team-based service delivery model is a strong focus of treatment within medical care clinics/teams. Fellows in this Special Emphasis Area will acquire knowledge of evidence-based practices through direct supervision, experiential treatment of patients, active participation in team meetings, and interdisciplinary didactics provided by faculty across disciplines. These core educational outcomes and objectives are based on models developed by collaborative efforts among accrediting bodies in health care settings (CIHC PIS, 2010; IEC, 2011). Furthermore, this program has been developed in accordance with the American Psychological Association’s Division 22 (Rehabilitation Psychology) training guidelines for training in rehabilitation in addition to the American Psychological Association’s Guidelines for Assessment of and Intervention with Persons with Disabilities.

Across rotations, several methods of supervision will be used to guide Fellows in developing expertise in Rehabilitation Psychology while working in Medical Care Clinics/Teams. In keeping with the larger Psychology Postdoctoral Program’s apprenticeship model of training that focuses on graduated levels of responsibilities, Fellows will work alongside their supervisors—perhaps first observing, then practicing while being observed, and then practicing alone. At least one hour of individual direct, face-to-face supervision will be provided weekly by the primary supervisor. Methods of supervision may include direct observation, audio or video tapes, review of notes, and/or group supervision discussion. Fellows will also provide supervision to Psychology pre-interns under the supervision of a licensed staff member. In addition, in their second year, the advanced Fellow will provide mentorship to the Fellow who will be in their first year of the training program.

Fellows will be assigned to their training settings based on their individualized training needs and goals. Rotations will last a minimum of six months and be either full- or part-time. It is feasible for the Fellow to rotate through two different Medical Care Clinics/Teams (e.g., Blind Rehabilitation and Acute Rehabilitation) simultaneously depending on team meeting dates and times. In addition, for fellows in Rehabilitation Psychology that have interest in more comprehensive neuropsychological evaluation, there is opportunity to do a rotation within the SCI Neuropsychology Clinic.

PLEASE NOTE: The Rehabilitation Psychology Special Emphasis Area has submitted an application for Specialty Accreditation in Rehabilitation Psychology through the American Psychological Association (APA) Commission on Accreditation. The Site Visit was completed in July 2018 and the program is currently awaiting a response from APA.

Training Settings

Spinal Cord Injury/Disorder (SCI/D)
Supervisors: Sarah S. Brindle, Ph.D., David N. Kerner, Ph.D., Linda R. Mona, Ph.D., and Stacy L. Reger, Ph.D.

The Spinal Cord Injury/Disorder (SCI/D) Health Care Group is the largest SCI Center in the United States. Patients in this setting present with a broad spectrum of SCI/Ds, from the newly injured individual facing a drastic life change, to the individual injured many years ago who is now coping with decreased functional ability as a result of the aging process. SCI/Ds can result from traumatic injury such as gunshot wound or motor vehicle accident, or from a variety of non-traumatic causes such as surgery complications and chronic health conditions such as Multiple Sclerosis. SCI/D rehabilitation and treatment demands a broad interdisciplinary approach, both for acute and for ongoing care. The psychologists and various trainees work within closely-knit teams that include physicians, pharmacists, social workers, rehabilitation therapists, case managers, dieticians, respiratory therapists, psychiatrists, and especially nursing staff of the three SCI/D units in addition to the SCI/D Long Term Care ward.

Blind Rehabilitation Center
Supervisor: Elizabeth V. Horin, Ph.D., ABPP

The Major Charles Robert Soltes, Jr., O.D., Blind Rehabilitation Center (BRC) at the VA Long Beach Healthcare System is a 24-bed residential, inpatient rehabilitation program. Veterans or active duty service members who are legally blind or have functional visual impairments are referred to the center for blind or vision rehabilitation from Southern California and Southern Nevada. Patients range in age from their late teens to their 100s but the majority of patients are older veterans in their 60s to 90s with legal blindness and others health conditions that may or may not be related to their vision loss (e.g., Diabetes, Hypertension, COPD). A smaller subset of returning veterans with traumatic brain injuries or other neurological conditions and vision loss participate. The comprehensive rehabilitation training program in comprised of staff members from a variety of disciplines including Blind Rehabilitation (i.e., Living Skills, Manual Skills, Orientation & Mobility, Visual Skills, and Accessible Technologies), Medicine (i.e., Nurse Practitioner, Attending Physician), Nursing, Optometry, Psychology, Recreation Therapy, and Social Work.
Sub-Acute and Geriatric Rehabilitation
Supervisor: Jennifer L. Geren, Ph.D.

The Community Living Center (CLC) at VALBHCS offers short and long-term inpatient rehabilitation services in an 85-bed facility. Veterans receiving rehabilitation services range from elderly, medically frail, and often cognitively impaired veterans to middle-aged and older veterans who frequently have complex, co-morbid medical, psychiatric, substance abuse, and social problems. Rehabilitation goals include strengthening after illness-related debility or injury (e.g., post-fall), adjustment to prosthetics, post-stroke recovery and rehabilitation, household or community mobility, and other personalized goals. Psychology services within the CLC include (1) Diagnostic, intervention, and prevention-oriented mental health services to veterans residing at the CLC; (2) Neuropsychological assessment and dementia evaluations with an emphasis on using test results to inform interventions and care planning; (3) Consultation and education regarding psychological, neuropsychological, and behavioral health issues to the interdisciplinary team; and (4) Individual, couples, and family psychotherapy. Fellows serve as primary mental health consultants to the interdisciplinary team and work in close collaboration with team members from medicine, nursing, rehabilitation therapy, pharmacy, dietetics, recreation therapy, social work, and psychiatry.

Women’s Mental Health (WMH) & Trauma Special Emphasis Area
Supervisors: Linda Baggett, Ph.D., Gretchen Sholty, Ph.D., and Camila R. Williams, Ph.D.

Founded in January 2005 through a VA Special Needs Grant. The Women’s Mental Health Center (WMHC) serves women Veterans by providing gender-specific and sensitive services. The WMHC is unique in that 1) it is one of only a few dedicated women’s mental health centers in the VA nationally, and, 2) it affords the opportunity for training as both a generalist and a specialist (trauma). Our treatment philosophy follows a holistic and evidence-based approach, which influences our conceptualization of patients as well as the types of interventions that we use. The WMHC is comprised of three psychologists, a licensed marriage and family therapist, a certified yoga therapist and a licensed clinical social worker. The Psychology Postdoctoral Fellow will work closely with the psychologists during the training year. Dr. Baggett will be the primary supervisor throughout the year, and Drs. Williams and Sholty will be secondary supervisors, one during fall and one during spring. The WMHC offers a wide variety of evidence-based groups addressing topics such as sexuality, mood and stress management, substance use, DBT skills, PTSD, relationship with food and body, coping skills, and relationships. The Psychology Postdoctoral Fellow in the WMHC Special Emphasis, supervising Psychology interns, and collaborative treatment planning sessions with Veterans. There is a great deal of flexibility for the WMHC fellow to choose cases and groups that suit his or her training goals, as well as opportunities for group development and program evaluation.

Training Opportunities

1. Trauma focused outpatient psychotherapy (group and individual)
2. Generalist outpatient psychotherapy (group and individual)
3. Program development and evaluation (if desired)
4. Collaboration with interdisciplinary team (LMFT, LCSW, and yoga therapist)
5. Participation in the department-wide Dialectical Behavior Therapy program (team consultation, phone coaching, individual and group)

The Women’s Mental Health Center provides individual and group psychotherapy to women Veterans who present with a wide range of presenting problems. We offer a variety of evidence-based treatments such as Cognitive Behavioral Therapy, Prolonged Exposure, Cognitive Processing Therapy, Dialectical Behavioral Therapy, Acceptance and Commitment Therapy, Psychodynamic/Interpersonal Process Psychotherapy, Interpersonal Therapy for Depression, and Seeking Safety.

We also offer a variety of outpatient groups exclusively for women that change depending on current staff/volunteers and interest level of the women Veterans. Some of the groups we have offered are the following:

- Trauma Skills Group
- Mood Group (behavioral activation)
- CBT for Depression
- Cognitive Processing Therapy for PTSD
- Women’s Combat Support Group
- Dialectical Behavior Therapy (DBT) Skills Group
- Relationships Skills
- Food for Thought (developing a healthy relationship with food)
- Intimacy Recovery
- Seeking Safety (PTSD and Substance Use Disorders)
- Relaxation/Mindfulness group
- Yoga
- Mantram Repetition
- Cognitive Behavioral Therapy for Insomnia (CBT-I)
- Anger Management

**Requirements for Completion of Postdoctoral Fellowship**

Before Fellows start the program, their prior training experiences are carefully reviewed to identify areas of strength and needed growth. This process facilitates the development of an individualized training plan to meet the specific training needs of each Psychology Postdoctoral fellow. Fellows are encouraged to expand their areas of clinical competence by using new treatment techniques from various theoretical orientations, and perhaps working with new patient populations, such as the severely mentally ill, dually diagnosed patients or primarily women.

*It is expected that upon completion of the program, all Fellows will demonstrate competence as defined by the APA Commission on Accreditation.*

At the beginning of the training year, each Fellow will receive a Handbook for Psychology Postdoctoral Fellows that specifies the required competency elements within each domain. The Fellow is rated four times per year on all competency domains. Although many of the core competencies will be the same for Fellows in all Special Emphasis areas, some competencies will apply only to Fellows in a specific Special Emphasis area.

All trainee forms and evaluations are stored either physically and/or digitally in private and secure locations. Digital files are kept in a private and secure folder that only the Directors of Psychology Training can access. Physical files are kept in a locked filing cabinet in the Director of Postdoctoral Training’s office.

**Facility and Training Resources**

All Psychology Postdoctoral Fellows are provided with office space and secure networked computers necessary for patient care and administrative responsibilities. They have access to the VA Medical Library services, including text databases such as Ovid, as well as VA Intranet and Internet resources for clinical work and research. Within the Psychology Department, there is a comprehensive Psychology Assessment Lab that has a wide variety of psychological assessment instruments and test scoring programs.

**Administrative Policies and Procedures**

The leave policy of the Psychology Postdoctoral Fellowship Program is consistent with the national standard. Trainees accrue four hours of Annual Leave (AL) per pay period (about 13 days per year) and four hours of Sick Leave (SL) per pay period (about 13 days per year). Trainees must accrue these hours, as they will not be available during the first two weeks of training.

**Authorized Absence (AA):** Authorized absence for training may be requested for off-site educational workshops/seminars, conferences, other approved training activities, and license examination. Up to 10 days can be requested by the Fellow throughout the training year.

**Nondiscrimination Policy and Respect for Diversity:** VA Long Beach HCS highly values cultural and individual diversity. We are an equal opportunity employer, and prohibit discrimination based on race, religion, gender, gender identity, national origin, age, disability, sexual orientation, or status as a parent. We avoid any actions that would restrict program completion on grounds
that are not relevant to success in training. In addition, we aim to foster a training environment that supports trainees in gaining greater competence in issues of diversity as they relate to patient care.

**Reasonable Accommodations:** It is the policy of VA to provide reasonable accommodations to qualified applicants and employees with disabilities in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

**Liability Protection for Trainees:** When providing professional services at a VA healthcare facility, VA-sponsored trainees acting within the scope of their educational programs are protected from personal liability under the Federal Employees Liability Reform and Tort Compensation Act 28, U.S.C.2679 (b)-(d).

**Due Process:** All Fellows are afforded the right to due process in matters of problem behavior and grievances. Due process procedures are outline in the Handbook for Psychology Postdoctoral Fellows and reviewed with all fellows during their first week at VA Long Beach Healthcare System. A copy of our due process policy is available on request.

**Privacy policy:** We collect no personal information from potential applicants who visit our Website.

**Self-Disclosure:** We do not require Fellows to disclose personal information to their clinical supervisors except in cases where personal issues may be adversely affecting the Fellow's performance and such information is necessary in order to address these difficulties.
Training Staff

Psychology Postdoctoral Training Faculty

BAGGETT, Linda R.
Current VA Position: Staff Psychologist, Director of Women’s Mental Health Center
Area of Specialization: Counseling Psychology
Degree: Ph.D., University of Memphis, 2012
VA hire: 2013
E-mail address: linda.baggett@va.gov
Licensure: California (2013)
Theoretical Orientation: Integrative (e.g., Interpersonal/Psychodynamic psychotherapy, Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBT), Acceptance and Commitment Therapy (ACT)).
Areas of Clinical Specialization: Women’s Mental Health, Military Sexual Trauma (MST), Trauma, Sexual Health, LGBTQ community, diversity.
Publications/Research Interests: sexual health, body image, and diversity
Professional Organizations: APA
Teaching/Training Interests: Women’s Mental Health, Military Sexual Trauma, sexuality, and professional development

BENEDICT, Henry C.
Current VA Position: Staff Psychologist, Substance Abuse Treatment Clinic
Area of Specialization: Clinical Psychology
Degree: Ph.D., Washington University, 1967
VA Hire: 1967
E-mail address: henry.benedict@va.gov
Licensure: California (1969)
Theoretical Orientation: Integrative
Areas of Clinical Specialization: Psychodiagnostic evaluations; Chemical dependence including alcoholism, dual addiction and dual diagnosis; Individual and group psychotherapy
Publications/Research Interests: Cognitive dissonance, clinical exchange, dual diagnosis, Substance abuse; Posttraumatic Stress Disorder; ADHD with CSULB
Academic Appointments: Fuller Graduate School of Psychology
Professional Organizations: APA
Teaching/Training Interests: All aspects of clinical psychology, therapy and diagnosis

BRINDLE, Sarah S.
Current VA Position: Staff Psychologist, Spinal Cord Injury/Disorder
Area of Specialization: Counseling Psychology; Spinal Cord Injury (Fellowship at Rancho Los Amigos)
Degree: Ph.D., University of Iowa, 2004
VA hire: 2005; (transferred to VALBHCs in 11/ 2009)
E-mail address: sarah fraley@va.gov
Licensure: California (2005)
Theoretical Orientation: Integrative, Cognitive-Behavioral
Areas of Clinical Specialization: Rehabilitation Psychology, Spinal Cord Injury
Publications/Research Interests: Women’s health psychology; sexual coercion, sexuality and disability
Professional Organizations: APA
Teaching/Training Interests: Rehabilitation Psychology; vicarious traumatization/burnout; issues relevant to new graduates (licensure, job seeking strategies)

BROWN, Nicholas B.
Current VA Position: Staff Psychologist, Behavioral Health Interprofessional Program (BHIP)
Area of Specialization: Clinical Psychology
Degree: Ph.D., University of Missouri - St. Louis, 2017
VA hire: 2018
E-mail address: Nicholas.Brown8@va.gov
Licensure: California (expected 2018)
Theoretical Orientation: Integrative (i.e., Cognitive-Behavioral, Interpersonal).
Areas of Clinical Specialization: Interpersonal trauma and PTSD; Evidence-based experience includes Cognitive Processing Therapy (CPT), Prolonged Exposure (PE), Dialectical Behavior Therapy (DBT), CBT for Anxiety, Unified Protocol for Emotional Disorders (UP)
Publications/Research Interests: Stigma and treatment-seeking among veterans, Telemental health
Teaching/Training interests: PTSD, using the therapeutic relationship in treatment, Socratic Questioning, professional development

CASKEY, Nicholas
Current VA Position: Chief Psychologist
Area of specialization: Clinical Psychology
Degree: Ph.D., UCLA, 1987
VA hire: 1986, West Los Angeles VA Medical Center; transferred to VA Long Beach, 2017
E-mail address: nicholas.caskey@va.gov
Licensure: California (1983)
Theoretical Orientation: CBT, crisis intervention, integrative/eclectic
Areas of Clinical Specialization: Anger Management, Suicide Risk Assessment and Prevention
Publications/Research Interests: Psychopharmacology related to smoking and nicotine, suicide, psychotherapy research, homelessness in Veterans, violence in close relationships (dissertation)
Professional Interests: Program Development, Performance Measures, Leadership Activities

CROSBY, Shelly M.
Current VA Position: Staff Psychologist, Combat PTSD program; LGBTQ Clinical Coordinator
Area of Specialization: Clinical Psychology
Degree: Psy.D., Pepperdine University 2013
VA Hire: 2015
E-mail address: shelly.crosby2@va.gov
Licensure: California (2014)
Theoretical Orientation: Integrative (Primarily Cognitive-Behavioral Therapy (CBT) with Humanistic and Acceptance and Commitment Therapy (ACT) influences).
Areas of Clinical Specialization: PTSD and co-occurring disorders (e.g. depression and substance use). VA certified in Cognitive Processing Therapy (CPT), Prolonged Exposure (PE) and Cognitive-Behavioral Conjoint Therapy for PTSD (CBCT-PTSD); also trained in Seeking Safety, CBT for insomnia, and mindfulness.
Teaching/Training Interests: Evidence-based treatment for trauma/PTSD (e.g. CPT, PE, and CBCT); education and outreach for diversity issues including the LGBTQ community; mentorship/professional development

GANZ, Michael
Current VA Position: Staff Psychologist
Area of specialization: Clinical Psychology
Degree: Ph.D., Biola University/Rosemead School of Psychology, 2008
VA hire: 2014
E-mail address: michael.ganz@va.gov
Theoretical orientation: Presentation specific: EFCT, CBCT-PTSD, CBT, CPT, ACT, Psychodynamic
Areas of Clinical Specialization: Couples Therapy, Clinical Military Psychology
Publications/Research interests: Combat-specific coping and implications for treatment; Implementation of conjoint therapies to treat refractory PTSD symptoms; Connectedness as a modulator for resiliency
Teaching/training interests: Focus on EFCT, CBCT-PTSD, CBT, ACT, CPT, EMDR, and PE

GEREN, Jennifer L.
Current VA Position: Staff Psychologist, Community Living Center
Are of Specialization: Clinical Psychology
Degree: Ph.D., University of Southern California, 2013
VA hire: 2015
E-mail address: Jennifer.Geren@va.gov
Licensure: California (2014)
Theoretical orientation: Behavioral, Cognitive-Behavioral including 3rd wave therapies, Family Systems
Areas of Clinical Specialization: Geropsychology, Health Psychology/Behavioral Medicine, Hospice and Palliative Care
Publications/Research Interests: Aging and emotion, couples coping with chronic health problems, psychotherapy with older adults
Teaching/Training Interests: Evidence-based psychotherapy with older adults, neuropsychological assessment, end-of-life care, interdisciplinary team consultation and integration, ethical issues concerning older adult care.

HAUSER, Peter
Current VA Position: National VA Telemental Health Hub Director - Long Beach
Area of Specialization: Mood Disorders, Psychiatric and Substance use disorders co-morbidities in people with Hepatitis C
Degree: MD, University of Virginia School of Medicine,
VA hire: 1995
E-mail address: Peter.Hauser2@va.gov
Licensure: Virginia and California
Theoretical Orientation: Eclectic
Areas of Clinical Specialization: Psychopharmacology
Publications/Research Interests: Varied including clinical drug trials, use of IT to provide population-based care management, mood disorders, alcohol use disorders and Psychiatric and Substance use disorders co-morbidities in people with Hepatitis C
Professional Organizations: American Psychiatric Association, Psychiatric Research Society
Teaching/Training Interests: mentoring trainees, post-docs and junior faculty in research

HAWKINS, Nathanial B.
Current VA Position: Staff Psychologist
Area of Specialization: Clinical Psychology
Degree: Ph.D, Pacific Graduate School of Psychology at Palo Alto University, 2014
VA hire: 2012
E-mail address: Nathaniel.Hawkins@va.gov
Licensure: California (2016)
Theoretical orientation: cognitive-behavioral
Areas of Clinical Specialization: Trauma, PTSD, Substance Use Disorders, Transgender Care
Publications/Research interests: Trauma and substance use
Teaching/Training Interests: treatment of other trauma related disorders, military and childhood sexual trauma, posttraumatic resilience, PTSD family support, substance use disorders, transgender care, and LGBT issues

HORIN, Elizabeth V.
Current VA Position: Staff Psychologist, Blind Rehabilitation Center
Area of Specialization: Clinical Psychology; Community Psychology; Rehabilitation Psychology
Degree: Ph.D., DePaul University, 2008
ABPP: Rehabilitation Psychology, 2014
VA Hire: 2009 (transferred to VALBHCs in 1/2012)
E-mail address: elizabeth.horin@va.gov
Theoretical Orientation: Integrative; Cognitive-Behavioral
Areas of Clinical Specialization: Rehabilitation and adjustment to disability and/or chronic health conditions; multicultural assessment; clinical psychology in medical and rehabilitation settings; geropsychology; health psychology; neuropsychology; behavioral sleep medicine and cognitive-behavioral treatment for insomnia (CBT-I)
Publications/Research Interests: Multicultural assessment; disability issues and vocational rehabilitation; CBT-I
Professional Organizations: APA (Divisions 18 and 22) and ABPP
Teaching/Training Interests: Rehabilitation and coping with and adjustment to disability and/or chronic health conditions; visual impairment and blindness; multicultural assessment; issues relevant to new graduates/early career psychologists

HOUSE, Adrienne I.
Current VA Position: Staff Psychologist, HIV/Oncology, Hospice, Dialysis
Area of Specialization: Clinical Psychology
Degree: Ph.D., Washington University in St. Louis, 1985
VA hire: 1992
E-mail address: adrienne.house@va.gov
Licensure: California (1989)
Theoretical Orientation: Cognitive-behavioral; humanistic
Areas of Clinical Specialization: Health Psychology; coping with HIV disease, cancer and other chronic illnesses
Professional Organizations: Divisions 38 and 45 of APA
Teaching/Training Interests: Psychological adjustment to chronic and life threatening illness, psychological work with the terminally ill, Buddhism and its application to psychology

HUANG, John S.
Current VA Position: Staff Psychologist, PTSD Program, EBP Seminar Coordinator
Area of Specialization: Clinical Psychology
Degree: Ph.D., University of California, Santa Barbara, 2003
VA hire: 2006
E-mail address: john.huang2@va.gov
Licensure: California (2005)
Theoretical Orientation: Eclectic, Cognitive-Behavioral; Interpersonal Process; Acceptance and Commitment Therapy
Areas of Clinical Specialization: Diversity issues; PTSD; meditation/relaxation
Publications: Diversity and mental health
Research Interests: Diversity and mental health
Professional Organizations: APA
Teaching/Training Interests: Diversity; Buddhism, Christianity, Hinduism and Native American spirituality

HURWITZ, Vanessa
Current VA Position: Staff Psychologist, Behavioral Health Interdisciplinary Program (BHIP); Acting Assistant General Outpatient Program Manager
Area of Specialization: Clinical Psychology
Degree: Ph.D., Fuller School of Psychology, 2016
VA hire: 2017
E-mail address: vanessa.hurwitz@va.gov
Licensure: California (2017)
Theoretical Orientation: Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBT), Dialectical Behavior Therapy (DBT), Acceptance and Commitment Therapy (ACT).
Areas of Clinical Specialization: Trauma, Emotion Dysregulation
Professional Organizations: American Psychological Association
Teaching/Training Interests: DBT, Case Conceptualization-driven CBT, CBASP for chronic depression, Professional Development

JOHNSON, W. Joshua
Current VA Position: Clinical Neuropsychologist
Area of Specialization: Neuropsychology and Neurorehabilitation
Degree: PhD. California School of Professional Psychology, 2011
ABPP: Clinical Neuropsychology, 2015
VA Hire: 2018
E-mail address: williamthomas.johnson@va.gov
Licensure: California (2013)
Theoretical Orientation: Cognitive-Behavioral; Biopsychosocial
Areas of Clinical Specialization: Geriatric neuropsychology, memory disorders, movement disorders, concussion, other brain injury/illness
Publications/Research Interests: Cognitive screening normative data, PVT, holistic neurorehab, return-to-driving
Professional Organizations: AACN, INS, APA, SCN (Division 40), Division 22
Teaching/Training Interests: neuropsychology, functional neuroanatomy, aging and memory loss, professional development.

KERNER, David N.
Current VA Position: Staff Psychologist, Spinal Cord Injury/Disorder
Area of Specialization: Clinical Psychology
Degree: Ph.D., Joint Doctoral Program, UC San Diego/San Diego State University, 1998
VA hire: 2001
E-mail address: david.kerner2@va.gov
Theoretical Orientation: Cognitive-Behavioral
Areas of Clinical Specialization: Medical Psychology; Rehabilitation Psychology; chronic pain management
Publications/Research interests: Outcome Methodology; Health Psychology
Professional Organizations: APA
Teaching/Training Interests: Medical/Health Psychology; Rehabilitation Psychology; Physiological psychology; pain management.

KIM, Christine, H.
Current VA Position: Neuropsychologist
Area of Specialization: Clinical Neuropsychology
Degree: Ph.D., Fuller Graduate School of Psychology, 2008
VA Hire: 2010 (Long Beach VA: January 2017)
E-mail address: christine.kim@va.gov
Licensure: California (2010)
Theoretical Orientation: Cognitive-Behavioral, Biopsychosocial
Areas of Clinical Specialization: Gerontological Neuropsychology
Publications/Research Interests: normative data on Stroop Test, cognition and aging
Professional Organizations: INS
Teaching/Training Interests: neuropsychology, professional development

KIM, May
Current VA Position: Staff Psychologist, Telemental Health Hub
Area of Specialization: Clinical Psychology
Degree: Ph.D., University of Notre Dame, 2014
VA Hire: 2015
E-mail address: may.kim@va.gov
Licensure: CA (2015)
Theoretical Orientation: Integrative (Cognitive-Behavioral including 3rd wave approaches, Interpersonal)
Areas of Clinical Specialization: Cognitive-Behavioral Therapy, integrated healthcare, couple therapy, diversity issues
Publications/Research Interests: mental health of underserved populations, culturally-relevant risk and resilience factors
Professional Organizations: APA, ABCT
Teaching/Training Interests: clinical supervision, diversity issues, program development, telehealth

MCDougall, Tatiana V.
Current VA Position: Staff Psychologist; Couples and Family Therapy
Area of specialization: Clinical/Community and Applied Social Psychology
Degree: Ph.D., University of Maryland, Baltimore County, 2014
VA hire: 2015
E-mail address: tatiana.mcdougall@va.gov
Licensure: Maryland (2015), California (2016)
Theoretical orientation: Integrative with focus on interpersonal, attachment-based, and experiential approaches.
Areas of clinical specialization: Couples Therapy, Dialectical Behavior Therapy, Diversity and multicultural psychology, Supervision of Supervision
Publications/Research interests: Attachment style and stress in intimate relationships, impact of family factors on psychological health, minority student development
Teaching/training interests: Integrative case-conceptualization, clinical supervision, attachment-based approaches (EFCT), and mindfulness-based approaches

MONA, Linda R.
Current VA Position: Staff Psychologist, Spinal Cord Injury/Disorder
Area of Specialization: Clinical Psychology
Degree: Ph.D., Georgia State University, 1998
VA hire: 2002
E-mail address: linda.mona@va.gov
Licensure: California (2000)
Theoretical Orientation: Integrative; Cognitive-Behavioral
Areas of Clinical Specialization: Rehabilitation psychology; couples therapy; sex therapy; Disability Affirmative Therapy
Publications/Research interests: Sexuality and Disability, Disability Policy, Diversity/Multiculturalism and Disability
Professional Organizations: APA (Divisions 22 and 18); Society for the Scientific Study of Sexuality; American Association of Sex Educators, Counselors, and Therapists
Teaching/Training Interests: Psychology of disability; Rehabilitation Psychology; sexual expression and sex therapy; diversity issues and multicultural psychology

MORTAZAVI, Arezou M.
Current VA Position: Staff Psychologist; Behavioral Health Interprofessional Program (BHIP)
Area of Specialization: Clinical Psychology
Degree: Ph.D., Pennsylvania State University, 2017
VA hire: 2018
E-mail address: Arezou.Mortazavi@va.gov
Licensure: California (expected 2018)
Theoretical Orientation: Integrative (Cognitive-Behavioral, Psychodynamic, Humanistic)
Areas of Clinical Specialization: Trauma and PTSD, Anxiety Disorders, DBT, Mindfulness, Moral Injury
Publications/Research Interests: Exposure therapies for anxiety disorders, positive emotions and health, cross-cultural psychology
Teaching/Training interests: Evidence-based treatment of PTSD and anxiety disorders, DBT, diversity and mental health

MOTIWALA, Monisha
Current VA Position: Staff Psychologist, DBT Program Coordinator
Area of Specialization: Clinical Psychology
Degree: Psy.D., Yeshiva University, 2011
VA hire: 2017
E-mail address: monisha.motiwala@va.gov
Licensure: New Jersey (2014)
Theoretical Orientation: Integrative: Interpersonal/Psychodynamic psychotherapy, Intensively trained in Dialectical Behavioral Therapy (DBT)
Areas of Clinical Specialization: Suicidal behavior, emotion dysregulation, trauma, substance abuse, eating disorders, borderline PD
Publications/Research interests: spirituality, meaning-making and psychological outcomes
Teaching/Training Interests: DBT with adolescents and adults, trauma-focused treatment, program development

NAUGHTON, Jessica
Current VA Position: Staff Psychologist
Area of Specialization: Clinical Psychology
Degree: Ph.D, Syracuse University (2012)
VA hire: 2017
E-mail address: jessica.naughton@va.gov
Licensure: California (2013)
Theoretical orientation: integrative (psychodynamic, cognitive-behavioral, mindfulness/acceptance approaches)
Areas of Clinical Specialization: Trauma and PTSD
Publications/Research interests: therapeutic relationship within trauma work, integrative therapy for trauma, attrition reduction and systems improvement in treatment
Teaching/Training Interests: integrative therapy, exposure therapies, PTSD/SUD

REGER, Stacy L.
Current VA Position: Staff Psychologist, Spinal Cord Injury/Disorder
Area of Specialization: Clinical Psychology; Geropsychology
Degree: Ph.D., University of Nevada Las Vegas, 2014
VA Hire: 2015
E-mail address: stacy.reger@va.gov
Licensure: California (2015)
Theoretical Orientation: Integrative; Interpersonal Process
Areas of Clinical Specialization: Adjustment to disability and/or chronic health conditions; geropsychology; clinical psychology in medical settings; neuropsychological assessment; end-of-life and serious illness
Publications/Research Interests: Post-traumatic stress disorder and aging; physical pain, trauma, and aging; resilience; end-of-life issues; grief; aging and cognition
Professional Organizations: APA, CPA
Teaching/Training Interests: Aging; coping with and adjustment to disability and/or chronic health conditions; grief; practicing psychology in a medical setting; diversity; professional development; neuropsychological assessment

SCOTT, Andrea C.
Present VA Position: Staff Psychologist, Director of Postdoctoral Training
Area of specialization: Clinical Psychology
Degree: PhD, Palo Alto University, 2013
VA hire: 2014
E-mail address: andrea.scott@va.gov
Licensure: California (2015)
Theoretical orientation: Integrative (cognitive-behavioral; psychodynamic; motivational interviewing)
Areas of clinical specialization: Health psychology
Publications/Research interests: CIM (Complementary and Integrative Medicine)
Teaching/training interests: Tobacco Cessation, CBT-I, MOVE!, mental health readiness evaluations, MI, telehealth

SHOLTY, Gretchen L.
Current VA Position: Staff Psychologist, Women’s Mental Health Center; Director- Psychology Training Program
Area of Specialization: Clinical Psychology
Degree: Ph.D., University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) 2012
VA hire: 2013
E-mail address: gretchen.sholty@va.gov
Licensure: California (2014)
Theoretical Orientation: Integrative (e.g., Interpersonal/Psychodynamic psychotherapy, Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBT), Acceptance and Commitment Therapy (ACT). VA Certified in Dialectical Behavioral Therapy (DBT) and Cognitive Processing Therapy (CPT).
Areas of Clinical Specialization: Women’s Mental Health, Military Sexual Trauma (MST), Trauma and Sexual Health, LGBTQ community, Serious Mental Illness (SMI), Recovery-oriented treatment
Publications/Research interests: schizophrenia, recovery-oriented programming, ACT for psychosis, sexual health
Professional Organizations: Association for Contextual Behavioral Science
Teaching/Training Interests: Women’s Mental Health, Military Sexual Trauma, DBT, Recovery-oriented programming, professional development

WILLIAMS, Camila R.
Current VA Position: Staff Psychologist, Women’s Mental Health Center
Area of Specialization: Clinical Psychology
Degree: Ph.D., University of Utah, Salt Lake City 2014
VA hire: 2015
E-mail address: camila.williams@va.gov
Licensure: California (2016)
Areas of clinical specialization: Combat PTSD; Evidence-based treatment of PTSD, Depression, Anxiety, and Substance Abuse disorders; mindfulness/relaxation.
Publications: Interpersonal processes in anxiety disorders; coping processes in combat PTSD; martial satisfaction and psychological functioning among spouses of combat Veterans with PTSD; spouses’ perceptions of Veteran’s PTSD; post deployment adjustment.
Professional Organizations: International Society for Traumatic Stress Studies (ISTSS), Association for Behavioral and Cognitive Therapies (ABCT)
Teaching/Training Interests: Evidence-based therapies (CBT/CPT/PE), trauma, substance use disorders
YADAVAIA, James E.
Current Position: Staff Psychologist, BHIP
Area of Specialization: Clinical Psychology
Degree: Ph.D., University of Nevada, Reno, 2013
VA hire: 2014
E-mail address: james.yadavaia@va.gov
Licensure: California (2014)
Theoretical Orientation: Third wave cognitive-behavioral
Areas of Clinical Specialization: Individual and group psychotherapy, especially ACT, DBT, and mindfulness. Also traditional CBT (including CPT) and motivational interviewing.
Publications/Research Interests: Self-compassion, LGB concerns, self-stigma, mental health recovery movement
Teaching/Training Interests: Individual and group psychotherapy, issues of diversity in clinical work and supervision

ZIZAK, Vanessa S.
Current VA Position: Neuropsychologist
Area of Specialization: Clinical Neuropsychology
Degree: Ph.D.: Palo Alto University, 2010
VA hire: 2012
E-mail address: Vanessa.Zizak@va.gov
Licensure: California (2014)
Theoretical Orientation: Biopsychosocial model
Areas of Clinical Specialization: Neuropsychological Assessment across the life-span
Publications: Cognition and emotion in patients with Alzheimer’s, Parkinson’s, and Huntington’s disease; MCI; depression and psychotic major depression; PTSD and TBI; and in pre and post bariatric surgery patients.
Research Interests: Aging, neurodegenerative illness, depression, and traumatic brain injury
Professional Organizations: APA Divisions 20 and 40, INS and NAN
Teaching/Training Interests: Screening and Comprehensive Neuropsychological Assessment of both young and older adults (MCI, Dementia evaluation), TBI research and improving clinical assessments with empirical research

ZUEHLKE, Jessica B.
Current VA Position: Assistant Chief of Psychology; Local Recovery Coordinator
Area of Specialization: Psychosocial Rehabilitation (PSR) and Recovery/Mental Health Administration and Leadership/Clinical Psychology
Degree: Psy.D. University of Hartford, CT, 2008
VA hire: 2009 (transferred to VALBHCs in 7/2012)
E-mail address: jessica.zuehlke@va.gov
Licensure: Rhode Island (2009)
Theoretical Orientation: Recovery-oriented; Interpersonal; Mindfulness; Solution-Focused
Areas of Clinical Specialization: Psychosocial Rehabilitation and Recovery
Publications: Mental Health Recovery, System Redesign, Patient-Centered Care, Post-partum depression
Other Interests: System Redesign (trained as a SR Facilitator), Patient-Centered Care (Planetree model)
**Fellows**

**2018-2019 Postdoctoral Fellows:**

Nina Tilka, Ph.D., Biola University (Rehabilitation Psychology-2nd year)
Mariam Ter-Petrosyan, Psy.D., University of La Verne (Rehabilitation Psychology)
Anna Consia, Psy.D., PGSP - Stanford (Interprofessional)
Molly Tucker, Ph.D., University of North Texas (Interprofessional)
Jason Cencirulo, Psy.D., Pepperdine University (Liver Disease, HIV & SUD)
Megan Eng, Ph.D., Palo Alto University (Neuropsychology)
Tara Fairbanks, Ph.D., Fuller Theological Seminary (PTSD)
Dominique White, Ph.D., Indiana University - Purdue University Indianapolis (Interprofessional/ Women’s Mental Health)
Kelsi Clayson, Ph.D., University of Missouri - Saint Louis (Women’s Mental Health)

**2017-2018 Postdoctoral Fellows:**

Melissa Matos, Ph.D., Alliant International University, Los Angeles (Rehabilitation Psychology-2nd year)
Nina Tilka, Ph.D., Biola University (Rehabilitation Psychology)
Erin Hansell, Psy.D., Pepperdine University (Interprofessional)
Nicholas Brown, Ph.D., University of Missouri - Saint Louis (Interprofessional)
Dominika Swistun, Ph.D., University of Wisconsin - Madison (Liver Disease, HIV & SUD)
Leanne Taylor, Psy.D., Florida Institute of Technology (Neuropsychology-2nd year)
Arezou Mortazavi, Ph.D., Pennsylvania State University (PTSD)
Taylor Hartman, Psy.D., George Fox University (Psychosocial Recovery)
Sara Gonzalez-Rivas, Ph.D., University of Missouri - Saint Louis (Women’s Mental Health)

**2016-2017 Postdoctoral Fellows:**

Zyanya Mendoza, Psy.D., Azusa Pacific University (Rehabilitation Psychology-2nd year)
Melissa Matos, Ph.D., Alliant International University, Los Angeles (Rehabilitation Psychology)
Kay Schwader, PhD, Suffolk University Clinical Respecialization Certificate Program (Interprofessional)
Shannon Bates, Psy.D., Pepperdine University (Interprofessional)
Jennefer Ho, Ph.D., San Diego State University/University of California San Diego (Liver Disease, HIV & SUD)
Leanne Taylor, Psy.D., Florida Institute of Technology (Neuropsychology)
Hannah Jones, Ph.D., Fuller Theological Seminary (PTSD)
Edward Tadros, Psy.D., The Wright Institute (Psychosocial Recovery)
Ashley Bauer, Psy.D., Indiana State University (Women’s Mental Health)

**2015-2016 Postdoctoral Fellows:**

Kimberly Baerresen, Ph.D., Loma Linda University (Neuropsychology-2nd year)
Zemed Berhe, Ph.D., Seton Hall University (Interprofessional)
Vitae Felix, Ph.D., Arizona State University (PTSD)
Laura Northrop, Ph.D., Rosemead School of Psychology (Psychosocial Recovery)
Zyanya Mendoza, Psy.D., Azusa Pacific University (Rehabilitation Psychology)
Marissa Rudolph, Ph.D., Seattle Pacific University (Women’s Mental Health)
Kulwinder (Karan) Singh, Ph.D., University of Southern CA (Liver Disease, HIV & SUD)
Margaret (Molly) Tartter, Ph.D., University of California, Los Angeles (Interprofessional)

**2014-2015 Postdoctoral Fellows:**

Sarah-Rae Andreski, Ph.D., Palo Alto University (Rehabilitation Psychology)
Kimberly Baerresen, Ph.D., Loma Linda University (Neuropsychology)
Elizabeth Chereji, Ph.D., University of Southern CA (Liver Disease, HIV & SUD)
Marci Flores, Psy.D., University of Hartford (Interprofessional)
Tatiana McDougall, Ph.D., University of Maryland, Baltimore County (Interprofessional)
Jessica Valluzzi, Psy.D., Pepperdine University (Psychosocial Recovery)
Camila Williams, Ph.D., University of Utah (PTSD)

2013-2014 Postdoctoral Fellows:
Elisha Carcieri, Ph.D., St. Louis University (Rehabilitation Psychology)
Shelly Crosby, Psy.D., Pepperdine University (PTSD)
Thomas Hanson, Psy.D., Pepperdine University (Interprofessional)
Corina Lopez, Ph.D., University of Miami (Liver Disease, HIV & SUD)
Michelle Medanic, Psy.D., George Fox University (Interprofessional)
Timothy O’Brien, Ph.D., University of Alabama at Birmingham (Neuropsychology – 2nd year)
James Yadavaia, Ph.D., University of Nevada, Reno (Psychosocial Recovery)

2012-2013 Postdoctoral Fellows:
Jessica Naughton, Ph.D., Syracuse University (PTSD)
Timothy O’Brien, Ph.D., University of Alabama at Birmingham (Neuropsychology)
Gretchen Sholtz, Ph.D., University of California, Los Angeles (Psychosocial Recovery)
Michelle Sonnenberg, Psy.D., Adelphi University (PTSD)

2011-2012 Postdoctoral Fellows:
Lauren Glamb, Psy.D., Pepperdine University (PTSD)
Anitha Iyer, Ph.D., Columbia University (Women’s Mental Health)
Pearl McGee-Vincent, Psy.D., JFK University (Psychosocial Recovery)
Vanessa Zizak, Ph.D., University of Palo Alto (Neuropsychology – 2nd year)

2010-2011 Postdoctoral Fellows:
Amber Baker, Ph.D., University of California, Santa Barbara (PTSD)
Velma Barrios, Ph.D., State University of New York at Albany (Women's Mental Health)
John Williams, Ph.D., State University of New York at Binghamton (Psychosocial Recovery)
Vanessa Zizak, Ph.D., University of Palo Alto (Neuropsychology)

2009-2010 Postdoctoral Fellows:
Emily Fine, Ph.D., University of Southern California (Neuropsychology)
Adria Pearson, Ph.D., University of Nevada, Reno (Psychosocial Recovery)
Rachel Robertson, Ph.D., Washington State University (Women's Mental Health)
Marya Schulte, Ph.D., San Diego State University/University of California San Diego (PTSD)

2008-2009 Postdoctoral Fellows:
Jessica Lambert, Ph.D., State University of New York at Albany (Women's Mental Health)
Kirsten Lowry, Ph.D., University of Nevada, Reno (Psychosocial Recovery)
Shanna Murray, Ph.D., Bowling Green University (PTSD)
Jennifer Predolin, Psy.D., Pepperdine University (Neuropsychology)
Local Information

VA Long Beach Healthcare System is a part of the Veterans Integrated Service Network (VISN) 22, which also includes the San Diego VA, Loma Linda VA, Las Vegas VA and the Greater Los Angeles Healthcare System consisting of the West Los Angeles VA, Sepulveda VA, the Los Angeles Ambulatory Care Center, and outlying clinics. The VA Long Beach Healthcare System includes the main medical center complex in Long Beach, as well as five community-based healthcare clinics located in West Long Beach (Cabrillo Villages), Whittier, Anaheim, Santa Ana, and Laguna Hills.

Our Medical Center complex is located adjacent to California State University at Long Beach, and is approximately 30 miles south of UCLA and 20 miles north of the University of California at Irvine (UCI). The city of Long Beach is located along the California coast in southern Los Angeles County, next to the border of Orange County. The city is named for its miles of sandy beaches. Originally becoming popular as a seaside resort in the late 19th century, Long Beach is the fifth largest city in California, with an ethnically diverse population of almost a half million people. Its harbor is the home of the famous luxury liner the Queen Mary and the Port of Long Beach, which is the busiest closed container-shipping center in the United States. A large number of recreational, entertainment, cultural and sporting facilities are available in the greater Long Beach area.

Directions to the Tibor Rubin VA Medical Center and Psychology Department

The Tibor Rubin VA Medical Center is located on the corner of Bellflower Boulevard and Seventh Street in Long Beach. It is adjacent to California State University at Long Beach, and is just northeast of where Pacific Coast Highway intersects with Bellflower Blvd. and Seventh Street. For more information on orienting yourself to VA Long Beach, please check the VA Long Beach Website. www.longbeach.va.gov

To find out more about events and attractions in the greater Los Angeles area, go to:

http://www.discoverlosangeles.com/