



U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
Veterans Health Administration
VA Pittsburgh Healthcare System

Psychology Internship Program

VA Pittsburgh Healthcare System

Behavioral Health Service Line (116A-U)
University Drive C
Pittsburgh PA 15240-1001
(412) 360-1290

MATCH Number for General Track: 154311

MATCH Number for Neuropsychology Track: 154312

MATCH Number for Geropsychology Track 154313

Application Due Date: Sunday, November 8, 2020

Accreditation Status

The doctoral internship at the **VA Pittsburgh Healthcare System** is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of the American Psychological Association.

We are extremely proud of our training program and its accreditation by the American Psychological Association. Questions related to the program's accredited status should be directed to the Commission on Accreditation:

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

VA Pittsburgh Healthcare System and Psychology Staff

The VAPHS is a 500-patient bed, joint commission accredited facility comprised of two divisions. The VAPHS has completed large construction projects at both divisions, resulting in new behavioral health clinic areas. The University Drive division, near the University of Pittsburgh, is the medical-surgical facility and includes outpatient primary care, specialty medical clinics including an organ transplant service, inpatient medicine units, outpatient behavioral health clinics, three inpatient psychiatry units, and the Center for the Treatment of Addictive Disorders. The H. J. Heinz division includes the 188 patient-bed Community Living Center, Veteran Recovery Center (domiciliary), Neurobehavioral Program, additional primary care clinics, and other clinical services to include dental and rehabilitation medicine. These two divisions are within 10 miles of each other and intern rotations are offered at both divisions. . In addition to these two sites, the VAPHS also includes five community-based outpatient clinics (CBOC's) in our catchment area. There are currently no intern rotations offered at the CBOC's, although we have psychology positions in all of the CBOC's. The VAPHS also includes a telemental health hub, in which behavioral health staff provide telemental health services to veterans enrolled in VA medical centers

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(Updated October 2020)

within our VISN and other VISN's. There are currently no intern rotations offered at the telemental health hub.

In FY2019, VAPHS provided care to 79,934 Veterans and conducted 758,505 outpatient visits. The VAPHS is increasing services via telehealth technology and conducted 15,754 telemental health visits in FY2019, with a substantial increase in telemental health services in FY2020 in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Veterans span the cohorts from Persian Gulf to WWII. The VAPHS completed 6,102 Women Veteran appointments in FY2019. Given the large catchment area of the VAPHS to include western Pennsylvania, eastern Ohio, and parts of West Virginia, our Veteran population includes a mix of urban and rural Veterans. The VAPHS serves a diverse Veteran population, including racial, ethnic, gender identity, sexual orientation, and socio-economic diversity. As part of the VAPHS commitment to diversity, we have been and continue to be identified as a LGBT healthcare leader for the past several years in the Human Rights Campaign's Healthcare Equality Index. In FY2019, the VAPHS employed 4,066 employees, nearly one-third of whom are Veterans.

All staff and services at the VAPHS are organized into "service lines." The internship program is located within the Behavioral Health Service Line. The majority of psychologists at VAPHS are assigned to the Behavioral Health Service Line. Within the Behavioral Health Service Line, Veterans are assigned to a Behavioral Health Interdisciplinary Program (BHIP) (identified by Greek letters). Staff members are assigned to specific teams/BHIP's for continuity of care for Veterans.

The VA Pittsburgh Healthcare System currently employs over 50 full-time staff psychologists in Behavioral Health, most of whom are involved in the training program. Our psychology staff has been increasing over the past few years to meet the growing demand for behavioral health services in our increasing VA population. Our staff psychologists' backgrounds, interests, and current activities are diverse. We have supervisors from a variety of graduate programs with varying lengths of tenure at the VAPHS. In addition to their clinical work, our staff psychologists hold many important leadership positions, such as team leaders and medical center committee chairpersons. Our staff members are committed to providing evidence-based treatment approaches to our Veterans. Most supervisors have completed VA certification and have provider status in at least one evidence-based psychotherapy and some are VA trainers for evidence-based psychotherapies (refer to list of training staff for specific information). Interns will have the opportunity to learn CPT and PE therapy for PTSD, CBT and ACT for depression, Integrative Behavioral Couple Therapy (IBCT), Interpersonal Therapy for Depression, CBT for Insomnia, Motivational Interviewing, and Social Skills Training, among others. Our psychology training programs (practicum, doctoral internship, and postdoctoral fellowship) are part of our VA's educational mission which includes many other training programs, such as medicine, social work, physical therapy, occupational therapy, chaplaincy, speech language pathology, and nursing. VAPHS provided training to 1,534 trainees in FY2019 with 127 academic affiliations. In addition, our vibrant educational affiliation with the University of Pittsburgh allows trainees from many disciplines to participate in interdisciplinary training at our medical center.

Training Model, Program Philosophy, Aim, and Competencies

Our model is a scholar-practitioner, developmental training model. The emphasis is on doing clinical work, while appropriately supervised. Psychological interventions are informed by research and a multicultural perspective. We are developmental in our approach to training as we expect interns to become increasingly autonomous in their clinical work as the year progresses. The aim of our program is to provide a sequence of developmental training experiences which will prepare interns to function as competent professional psychologists in a variety of health service settings. In order to achieve this aim, our program has identified nine core competency areas with specific skill items within each area. These core competency areas include: Research; Ethical and legal standards; Individual and cultural diversity; Communication and interpersonal skills; Professional values, attitudes, and behaviors; Assessment; Psychotherapy; Consultation and interprofessional/interdisciplinary skills; and Supervision. Our program emphasizes clinical contact, clinical expertise, and clinical diversity in meeting this goal.

A. Clinical Contact

The Internship Program at the VA Pittsburgh Healthcare System is one that focuses primarily upon training generalists. Thus, the program provides opportunities for exposure to a wide variety of patient populations and clinical settings. We view the internship year as the culmination of doctoral training in clinical or counseling psychology and as the appropriate time to make the transition between academia and the day-to-day world of clinical service. The VA Pittsburgh Healthcare System Internship provides an intensive opportunity to integrate theory with realistic clinical practice. The emphasis in our program is that the internship year should emphasize doing clinical work, rather than talking or reading about it.

B. Clinical Expertise

In addition to providing rigorous training as generalists, we also provide opportunities for exposure to and training in more focused areas. Toward this end, we provide rotations and elective experiences in areas such as neuropsychology, geropsychology, substance use, health psychology, and posttraumatic stress. Interns who successfully complete the program at the VA Pittsburgh Healthcare System have had excellent results in obtaining post-doctoral employment or training in a variety of settings, consistent with our aim.

C. Clinical Diversity

The VA Pittsburgh Internship is strongly committed to both training in diversity and individual differences as well as the recruitment of interns from various cultures and diverse groups. To help increase multicultural awareness and sensitivity, interns have the opportunity to work with Veterans of various ages, gender identity, ethnicity, socioeconomic status, and race as well as with Veterans with physical disabilities. Interns are also exposed to diversity topics in seminars and case conferences with several seminars offered during the year as part of our diversity seminar series, which focuses on diversity characteristics pertinent to the Veteran culture and the local Pittsburgh region. Interns may also become members of the Diversity subcommittee of the Clinical Training Committee, the mission of which is to provide training and educational opportunities as they relate to issues of diversity to Psychology staff and trainees. As part of this subcommittee, interns may participate in a diversity project, an example of which includes creating a provider's quick guide to asking culturally sensitive questions for dissemination to VAPHS medical staff. The committee also strives to improve recruitment

and retention of Psychology staff and trainees from diverse backgrounds. Interns may also join the medical center Interdisciplinary Transgender Treatment Team. Interns can also choose to complete an externship gaining experience in diversity and administration. Past interns have completed an LGBT* externship, gaining expertise working with a diverse group of individual and assessment cases, as well as valuable administrative skills within the LGBT care coordinator program and interdisciplinary transgender treatment team, supervised by Dr. Paldino.

Furthermore, the VA Pittsburgh Healthcare System is a Center of Excellence for our research within the Center for Health Equity Research and Promotion (CHERP). The mission of CHERP is to reduce disparities in health and health care among vulnerable groups of Veterans designated as special populations. If interested, interns may have the opportunity within CHERP to participate in clinical research.

Program Structure

Tracks

Our program offers three "tracks" with separate program code numbers for the match.

1. Our **general internship track** consists of four slots and is appropriate for an intern who desires to receive a breadth of training experiences from our numerous rotation options. Interns in this track could also opt to focus this training in interest areas, such as trauma and health psychology.
2. Our **neuropsychology track** consists of one slot. The neuropsychology track is designated for an applicant with prior training and experience in neuropsychology who plans to pursue postdoctoral training and board certification in neuropsychology. The intern in the neuropsychology track is guaranteed placement on the Neurobehavioral rotation for the first rotation and is encouraged to select a neuropsychology externship. The neuropsychology track intern is free to choose any rotations for the second and third rotation. For general track interns with an interest in neuropsychology, up to two interns may choose the Neurobehavioral rotation (one for second rotation and one for third rotation). Given that we do not know from year to year how many general track interns may be interested in pursuing the Neurobehavioral rotation, a general track intern cannot be "guaranteed" placement on the Neurobehavioral rotation. Thus, if you are an applicant who "must" complete the Neurobehavioral rotation or you will be dissatisfied with your training year, then you are a neuropsychology track applicant. If you are an applicant who would like training in neuropsychology but would be happy even if you were not placed on the Neurobehavioral rotation, then you are a general track applicant. Keep in mind that there are several rotations (e.g., GRECC, Heinz CLC) that offer training in brief cognitive assessment other than the training in comprehensive neuropsychological assessment offered on the Neurobehavioral rotation. Due to these differences, an intern CANNOT apply to both tracks.
3. Our **geropsychology track** consists of one slot. The geropsychology track is designated for an applicant with prior training or experience in geropsychology who plans to pursue postdoctoral training and board certification in geropsychology. The intern in the geropsychology track is placed on the GRECC rotation for first rotation and on the Community Living Center (CLC) rotation for third rotation. This intern will elect a general rotation for second rotation and may

select any externship option. As part of the GRECC rotation, interns participate in an interdisciplinary educational series, which includes a case conference and core lecture series featuring topics crucial for providing clinical services for the older adult population. This educational series provide an excellent opportunity to interact with trainees from other disciplines with a shared interest in providing comprehensive clinical services to older adults. Interns with an interest in geropsychology training can apply to both the geropsychology track and the general internship track as our program is fortunate to offer two geropsychology-focused rotations to accommodate two interns.

Interns in all three tracks receive training in the same nine core competency areas and are required to attend the same core didactic seminars. The primary difference between the tracks is the assignment of specific rotations to ensure ability to receive training in the identified area of interest.

Rotations

The internship year consists of three 4-month rotations. No rotations are "required", although the GRECC rotation must have an intern assigned to it for each rotation since one of our internship slots is funded by the GRECC. In addition, an intern may only complete one PCMH rotation. The diversity of the patient population is represented on all rotations with respect to age, race, ethnicity, gender identity, urban/rural, religion, and disability. Assignments for the first rotation are customized before the training year begins. First rotations are assigned based largely on the intern's expressed preferences from among the training opportunities available. About two months before the internship begins, interns are asked to give their rotation preferences by allocating a total of 100 points to desired rotations. In doing so, they express their relative preferences. Interns' choices are reviewed by the Clinical Training Committee to ensure that the preferred rotations augment previous training experiences. First rotation assignments are usually announced in late July. In late fall, interns are asked to re-rank their rotation preferences. These rankings, in combination with suggestions from the Clinical Training Committee, are used to assign second and third rotations. By allowing interns to re-rank their rotation preferences at this time, interns have the opportunity to learn more about specific rotations and supervisors and the Clinical Training Committee has the opportunity to better assess the training needs of each intern and suggest rotations to match these needs. Over the past few years, many interns have been able to obtain all of their top three choices of rotation assignments for their internship year, and all have been able to obtain at least two of their top three choices. Every effort is made to ensure that all three major rotations suit the intern well and contribute to development of professional level generalist clinical skills.

While an intern is completing a University Drive rotation, the intern will have the opportunity to participate in the *Initial Evaluation Clinic*. In this capacity, interns meet with patients who are new to behavioral health services to develop initial treatment plans and referrals. This rapid-paced clinic provides the opportunity to develop efficient diagnostic interviewing and treatment planning skills with patients presenting with a wide range of diagnoses and psychosocial stressors.

Externships

In addition to the three primary clinical rotations during the internship year, interns may participate in one elective training experience ("externship"). Externships typically begin in early January and occur one-day per week for the rest of the training year (i.e., about 8 months). Externships are not

mandatory and can occur within the VA or at a community site. Interns typically choose to pursue an externship to gain further training in a specific area or to broaden experience by pursuing training in an area not covered by a rotation. Specific externships will be arranged after interns arrive, with assistance from the Director of Clinical Training. Final approval of all externships will be granted by the Clinical Training Committee and the externship supervisors. All externship supervisors are doctoral psychologists. Examples of clinical externships completed by past interns include neuropsychological assessment at the VA or a community site or focused work within existing clinical rotations (e.g., group psychotherapy experience in CTAD or providing CPT in the PTSD clinic).

Several opportunities exist for interns who are interested in conducting clinical research as an externship. Several interns in the past few years have collaborated with researchers at WPIC and the University of Pittsburgh to provide significant contributions to on-going clinical research grants and projects. Opportunities may also exist for interns to join researchers in the CHERP. Furthermore, our VA Medical Center is fortunate to house the Pittsburgh site of the VISN 4 MIRECC (Mental Illness, Research, Education, and Clinical Center), where interns may also collaborate in research endeavors <http://www.mirecc.va.gov/visn4>). For more information please contact Gretchen Haas, PhD, MIRECC Pittsburgh Site Director, at Gretchen.Haas@va.gov.

Didactic Training

In addition to clinical experiences, interns spend at least 3.5 hours per week in educational seminars. Weekly didactics occur on Wednesday afternoons and include either journal club or intern case conference (group supervision), professional development group, and seminar series. In addition, various other didactics are offered during the month and are either optional or mandatory, depending on the intern's current rotation assignment. These didactics include geropsychology journal club, PTSD journal club, primary care journal club and case conference, neuropsychology case conference, neuroanatomy seminar series, diversity training series, EBP seminar series, PTSD Psychology case conference, CPT and PE consultation conference, ACT consultation group, Substance Use Disorder case conference, and Substance Use Disorders seminar. Interns also have the optional opportunity to participate in VA training and consultation calls to become a VA certified provider in CPT. All didactics will be described in the next section.

Supervision and Evaluation

Supervision is the greatest asset of our training program! Across training years, interns consistently identify both the quality and quantity of supervision, focus on training, and passion of our supervisors for training as strengths of our program. All supervisory sessions are intended to offer meaningful feedback to the intern in order to increase understanding of the intern's clinical strengths and areas for development and to facilitate professional growth. As aids in the supervisory process, digital audio recording, direct observation, and co-therapy are frequently used. While the primary focus of supervisory sessions is on the development of clinical skills, other issues such as professional development, professional ethics, and cultural issues are often addressed. Interns receive at least 4 hours of supervision per week. Interns receive a minimum of 2 hours of formal scheduled individual supervision weekly from their rotation supervisor. In addition, group supervision in the form of one hour of weekly case conference, supervision from externship supervisor at minimum of one hour per week, and/or additional supervision from rotation supervisors frequently in the form of direct observation of clinical work guarantee interns a minimum of four hours of supervision per week.

Supervisors are also available to interns on an as needed basis, beyond the regularly scheduled times of supervision. In addition to our staff psychologists, we have 5 postdoctoral fellows annually who are active in the internship program by providing additional clinical supervision to interns and participating in many of the didactic seminars and case conferences which the interns will attend. Thus, it is likely that an intern will receive supervision by a postdoctoral fellow, in addition to the required number of supervision hours by a staff psychologist, during the course of the year across rotations. Progress toward the attainment of the training goals is determined by means of regularly scheduled evaluations. Feedback between interns and supervisors is on-going. Monthly and mid-rotation evaluations are discussed informally with the intern and at a monthly supervisors' meeting chaired by the Director of Clinical Training. At the conclusion of each primary clinical rotation, a formal evaluation of the intern's progress is made. This evaluation is discussed with the intern prior to submission. In conjunction with the supervisor's evaluation of the intern, each intern is asked to evaluate the supervisor. Mid-year and end-year progress reports are sent to the Director of Training at the intern's graduate program. Copies of our evaluation forms and procedures are available upon request.

COVID-19 Training Modifications

The COVID-19 pandemic has created numerous personal and professional challenges for all of us. The challenges facing all training programs are complex, further complicated by the fluidity and uncertainty of the pandemic. It is difficult for us to confidently predict and/or describe the impact of COVID-19 on our training program for the 2021-2022 training year. Our 2019-2020 intern cohort concluded their training year via teleworking, providing telehealth services to Veterans and participating in supervision and didactics via remote modalities. Our 2020-2021 intern cohort began their training year on-site and the hope is that they will be able to continue their training on-site. Paramount is the importance of maintaining safety for our trainees. Interns will likely continue to provide a significant component of behavioral health treatment via telehealth modalities, including Veteran Video Connect (VVC) and telephone. If providing face-to-face services, appropriate PPE is available and guaranteed. If possible, supervision and core didactics will primarily be face-to-face, although some didactics may continue to be offered via virtual modalities. We will be happy to describe our current modifications during our virtual interviews and to address any concerns and/or questions regarding our COVID-19 modifications. Our dedication to providing high quality training continues despite the COVID-19 challenges and we are confident that our training program can provide the clinical experiences and supervision to facilitate the personal and professional development of our interns.

Training Experiences (Rotations, Seminars)

Description of Primary Rotations Available at University Drive Division

1. Mood Disorders (Beta team)

The Mood Disorders Clinic is part of the Beta Behavioral Health Interdisciplinary Program (Beta BHIP). Interns select one of two tracks: the **Depression and Trauma track** or the **Bipolar and Women's Health track**. In both tracks, interns are offered a range of possible experiences to develop their generalist and specialist professional competencies. Opportunities range from brief to comprehensive diagnostic evaluations to specialty assessments to individual and group evidenced-based treatment to supervision

of practicum students. All clinical services are theoretically-grounded, evidence-based, goal-focused, and recovery-oriented. Interns mainly work with Veterans on an outpatient basis who are presenting with acute and chronic mood disorders, which often are complicated by challenging comorbidities, characterological traits, and psycho-social contexts.

In the Depression and Trauma track, interns work with **Dr. Mary Dorritie** and have the opportunity to provide evidence-based treatments (CBT-D, ACT, CPT, PE) to Veterans with depression and/or non-combat trauma (e.g. childhood sexual abuse, training accidents, etc.). In the Bipolar and Women's Health track, interns work with **Dr. Danielle Novick**, and have the opportunity to specialize in the precise diagnosis of mood disorders and provide evidence-based treatments (Interpersonal Therapy [IPT] and Interpersonal and Social Rhythm Therapy [IPSRT]) for bipolar disorders and mood disorders associated with reproductive or other life events (e.g., grief). For interns with a primary professional interest in bipolar disorder, as an alternative to a rotation, a nine-month externship is available with the aim of completing intensive training in IPSRT.

Supervisors: Drs. Mary Dorritie & Danielle M. Novick

2. Psychotic Disorders (Sigma team)

The Sigma Team rotation provides training in the assessment and treatment of psychotic disorders. Veterans treated on this team present primarily with schizophrenia-spectrum disorders. These individuals frequently demonstrate with co-morbid substance use concerns, secondary psychiatric issues (e.g., depression related to diagnosis), and cognitive deficits. Limited response to medication and treatment nonadherence are common complicating factors. In short, providers working on the Sigma Team are routinely faced with the challenges of treatment-resistant cases. Individuals wishing to accept these challenges will enjoy a wealth of training opportunities and a rewarding experience. Veterans are treated on two locked inpatient psychiatric units and in several outpatient clinics. Consultation/liaison work will include individual interactions with staff to facilitate continuity of care, as well as attendance at weekly inpatient multidisciplinary treatment team meetings. Interns will provide inpatient and outpatient psychotherapy services via both individual and group modalities. Psychoeducation and cognitive-behavioral interventions are emphasized. Dr. Gaither is a VA-recognized provider of Behavioral Family Therapy (BFT) and Social Skills Training (SST) and a Beck Institute-recognized provider in Cognitive-Behavioral Therapy for Psychosis (CBTp) and Recovery-Oriented Cognitive Therapy (CT-R), all of which are empirically-based practices for individuals living with serious mental illness.

Supervisor: Dr. Marci Gaither

3. Anxiety and Adjustment Disorders Rotation/Omega Behavioral Health Interdisciplinary Program (BHIP)

The Omega BHIP is an interdisciplinary treatment team that provides services to Veterans who are primarily diagnosed with an anxiety or adjustment disorders. All interns will learn how to treat anxiety disorders using a cognitive-behavioral therapy approach. Common comorbid conditions include depression, substance abuse, and personality disorders. The severity and chronicity of symptoms vary widely. Interns will also have the opportunity for training in VA Evidence Based Psychotherapies, including: Cognitive Behavioral Therapy for Depression (CBT-D), Acceptance and Commitment Therapy for Depression (ACT-D), and Integrative Behavioral Couple Therapy (IBCT). Given the breadth of training opportunities on this rotation, the supervisor and intern will determine which clinical experiences best

match intern's interests and training objectives at the beginning of the rotation. All interns will carry an interesting and diverse caseload of individual therapy outpatients. Emphasis is placed on evidence-based, time-limited, goal-focused therapy. Presenting problems may include anxiety, depression, anger, or psychosocial difficulties. Additionally, interns may participate in the following clinical experiences based on their clinical interests and training goals: (1) Facilitation of psychoeducational and therapeutic groups that focus on coping skills, ACT, or other topics. (2) Training in ACT-D. Learning ACT-D is not a requirement of the rotation, but is offered to those interns interested in learning the approach. Interns interested in learning IBCT may obtain this experience through an externship with Dr. Paldino.

Supervisors: Drs. Jennifer George and Dawnelle Paldino

4. Combat Stress Recovery Clinic (CSRC)/Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder Clinical Team (PCT)

The CSRC is a specialized outpatient interdisciplinary team comprised of psychologists, psychiatrists, social workers, nurse practitioners, and support personnel. The primary function of the CSRC is to evaluate and treat veterans with combat-related distress, including PTSD, from all combat eras (OEF/OIF/OND, Vietnam, Operation Desert Storm, Korea, WWII). Interns will become fully involved in working on this interdisciplinary team to provide a wide range of outpatient services which include initial diagnostic evaluations, treatment planning, and individual and group psychotherapy. Interns will learn empirically supported treatments for PTSD such as Prolonged Exposure (PE) and Cognitive Processing Therapy (CPT). Additional PE and CPT consultation is available through the monthly PE/CPT case consultation meeting. Other training opportunities include providing combat veterans with treatment for symptoms secondary to combat exposure, such as anxiety and depression. Interns may have the opportunity to co-facilitate psychoeducational and therapeutic groups including: Anger Management Therapy, era-based combat groups, and an empirically supported spirituality-based PTSD intervention (the Mantram Repetition Program). Interns may also choose to develop and lead an inpatient coping skills group for acute psychiatric patients. The CSRC also works with members of veterans' families and significant others to increase the effectiveness of treatment. Didactic experiences include presentations at weekly PTSD Case Conference/PTSD Journal Club and CSRC interdisciplinary treatment meetings.

Supervisors: Drs. Shannon Coleman, Kathleen DeNardi, Maryann Owens, Phillip Raab, and Michael Rosen

5. Center for Treatment of Addictive Disorders

Interns completing a rotation in the Center for Treatment of Addictive Disorders (CTAD) will gain a strong understanding of the bio-psycho-social model of substance use and addiction. Veterans seen in CTAD present with a wide range of concerns in addition to addiction, including homelessness, unemployment, chronic medical problems, as well as co-occurring psychiatric diagnoses. Veterans present with varying substance-related goals (stabilization, early recovery, maintenance, relapse prevention, moderation, harm reduction). CTAD is composed of the Residential Rehabilitation Program, the Outpatient Aftercare and Recovery Program, and the Opioid Substitution Therapy Clinic (OSTC). Rotations may be tailored to emphasize a particular program modality (residential, outpatient, OSTC) or sub-population of interest. Interns completing a rotation in CTAD will gain experience in addiction-focused diagnostic assessments and treatment planning, as well as individual and group psychotherapy. Interns will gain exposure to SUD EBPs, including Motivational Interviewing, Motivational Enhancement

Therapy, Acceptance and Commitment Therapy, and Contingency Management. Specialized training for CBT-SUD, Seeking Safety and CPT are available depending on the intern's interest and previous training. Interns may also provide case management services and/or brief motivational interventions to veterans in the residential treatment program. Interns will gain familiarity with risk assessment and management of withdrawal, as well as substance-related health issues. Interns will play an active role in interdisciplinary team meetings, consulting with psychiatry, nursing, medicine, and social work.

Supervisors: Drs. Maria El-Tahch, Leigh Gemmell, Melissa Johnson, Anya Moon, Susann Schmitt Anderson, and P. Taylor Van Zile

6. Primary Care Mental Health Integration (PCMHI) - UD

Interns rotating in PCMHI at University Drive work with male and female veterans from every era of military service in a large primary care clinic while learning to function in an interdisciplinary setting. Clinical experiences include brief assessment and treatment in 25-minute, same-day, "warm-handoff" encounters; scheduled psychological evaluations with primary care patients; triage to specialty mental health clinics, psychiatry providers, and other services; brief individual psychotherapy; group psychotherapy; health behavior change intervention; brief cognitive assessments; and outpatient capacity evaluations. With supervisor approval, interns may have the option to obtain focused experience, in addition to generalist primary care psychology training, in areas of women's health or health promotion and disease prevention. Primary treatment modalities include motivational interviewing, problem solving therapy, and cognitive behavioral therapy. Training includes increasing familiarity with medical terminology and medical culture, as well as the opportunity to improve consultation skills. Interns participate in interdisciplinary case conferences with internal medicine residents as well as representatives from clinical pharmacy, dietary, and social work. Group therapy experience may include an open-ended, weekly health behavior change group employing motivational interviewing, and a 4-week Problem Solving Therapy group.

Supervisors: Drs. Rebecca Akcakaya and Alyssa Ford

7. Psychosocial Oncology

Interns rotating in Psychosocial Oncology work as members of an interdisciplinary team in the VA Pittsburgh Cancer Center providing clinical and consultative services to Veterans of all eras with any type of cancer, with a special emphasis on caring for Vietnam-era veterans whose malignancies are secondary to Agent Orange exposure. Training includes the development of a basic oncology vocabulary, instruction in biopsychosocial assessment of Veterans with cancer, and skills related to caring for persons with pre-existing mental health issues who develop cancer as well as for those whose psychological needs exist only because they have cancer. Interns will attend up to 3 interdisciplinary meetings per week and develop competency in providing consultation to the team which includes physicians, nurse navigators, nurses, social work, clinical pharmacy, and palliative care. Clinical activities include: psychodiagnostic interviews, brief cognitive assessment, individual psychotherapy, group psychotherapy, couples/family therapy, and (occasionally) capacity assessment. Common problems include sleep complaints, pain, adjustment issues, depressed mood, irritability, anxiety, concerns about dying, specific fears related to treatments or diagnostic procedures, and impact of cancer on relationships. Interns learn how to integrate cognitive-behavioral, supportive, problem-solving, and other interventions into targeted veteran-specific treatments. Assessment and psychotherapy may occur in a psychology office, in the chemotherapy suite, and inpatient medical units, which allows

interns to learn how to function as psychologists across settings. Training may be supplemented with other health psychology cases.

Supervisor: Dr. Alyssa Ford

8. Geriatric Research, Education, and Clinical Center (GRECC)

This rotation is comprised of several components with an additional training option given the intern's training goals. Interns on this rotation receive training in the Geriatric Evaluation and Management (GEM) Clinic. Interns also have the option to receive additional training in Home Based Primary Care (HBPC). Both components give interns the opportunity to work with various interdisciplinary teams in providing psychological assessment and treatment to older veterans in both settings:

1. **GEM Clinic/Outpatient Behavioral Health Clinic:** The Geriatric Evaluation and Management (GEM) outpatient clinic at the University Drive division provides an integrated evaluation and coordination of care for older veterans with a variety of medical conditions. The GEM team consists of professionals from many disciplines under the direction of a staff geriatrician. Interns administer brief cognitive batteries to older adult veterans and then present the results of these assessments to the treatment team and to the family of the veteran. As part of the GEM clinic, interns also conduct driving safety evaluations for the Geriatric Driving Safety Clinic. Interns also have the opportunity to carry an outpatient psychotherapy caseload, providing individual psychotherapy to older veterans. This rotation offers strong interdisciplinary team experience.
Supervisor: Dr. Lauren Jost
2. **Home Based Primary Care Program:** The HBPC program consists of an interdisciplinary team which provides home care to primarily older adults, many of whom would not otherwise be able to receive care because of their inability to travel. This program is unique in that interns will provide psychological services in the veteran's home. Intern responsibilities include assessment (psychological, cognitive, capacity) and individual/family psychotherapy (including caregiver interventions) on a consult basis as an integral member of the HBPC treatment team.
Supervisor: Dr. Mollie Sprung.

Description of Primary Rotation Available at Heinz Division

1. Community Living Center

This rotation provides interns with exposure to multiple settings, including long-term care, transitional care, intensive rehabilitation, memory care, hospice, and palliative care. Training takes place at the H.J. Heinz Community Living Center and includes psychotherapeutic, assessment, and interdisciplinary components. CLC residents present with a variety of problems including anxiety, depression, adjustment disorders, challenging behaviors, issues related to the end of life, chronic psychiatric illnesses, and a wide range of cognitive disorders. Psychotherapy opportunities include individual and group modalities. Cognitive evaluations are conducted to evaluate decision-making capacity, clarify diagnosis (e.g., dementia/depression/delirium, identify type of dementia), evaluate rehabilitation potential, and monitor cognitive status during rehabilitation. Interns will attend weekly interdisciplinary team meetings and frequently interact with staff from multiple disciplines in clarifying consult requests, reviewing

residents' functioning, and formulating disruptive behavior management plans. There may also be an opportunity to provide education to nursing staff on topics such as behavioral management of disruptive behaviors or identification of veterans with depression, suicidality, etc. Interns may have the opportunity to participate in STAR-VA behavioral rounds and formulate STAR-VA behavioral plans. Although this rotation focuses mainly on veterans older than age 60, the intern will also have some opportunity to work with younger residents who have chronic illnesses such as multiple sclerosis, are completing brief transitional care, or are receiving hospice or palliative care for significant medical conditions. Overall, this rotation provides a well-rounded experience in the provision of psychological services primarily to older veterans in a long-term care setting.

Supervisors: Drs. Nazar Seyala and Trent Thatcher

2. Veterans Recovery Center

The Veterans Recovery Center at the Heinz campus includes several programs providing treatment for homeless veterans, including outpatient, domiciliary, and residential levels of care. Interns work primarily in the vocationally-oriented domiciliary program for homeless veterans, treating patients with substance use disorders and comorbid psychopathology. Interns have the opportunity to treat outpatients in individual and couple therapy who present with substance use disorders and other co-occurring diagnoses. In addition to individual and couple therapy, interns co-facilitate group therapy, conduct diagnostic interviews, and implement brief Motivational Interviewing interventions. The rotation's supervisor, Dr. Menges, is a member of the Motivational Interviewing Network of Trainers (MINT) and development of proficiency in Motivational Interviewing (MI) is the primary training emphasis. Interns will receive intensive MI training that includes coding of session tapes using the Motivational Interviewing Treatment Integrity measure (MITI), structured feedback based on coding, and various didactic and experiential training activities. Dr. Menges also provides training in Behavioral Couples Therapy for Substance Use Disorders (BCT-SUD).

Supervisor: Dr. David Menges

3. Primary Care Mental Health Integration (PC-MHI) - Heinz

The focus in the PC-MHI rotation at Heinz is on learning to deliver psychological services in a primary care medical setting. Interns will have opportunities to work with veterans presenting from the Primary Care Clinic with a wide spectrum of psychological problems. The most frequent referrals are for mood and anxiety disorders, stress management, adjustment disorder (often related to medical conditions or chronic pain), and insomnia. Interns completing this rotation will have ample opportunity to conduct initial evaluations and to learn how to adapt traditional clinical and health psychology services to the primary care setting. Typical clinical activities include functional assessment and short-term individual therapy for clinical and health psychology problems; consultation and collaboration with other professionals within primary care (i.e., PACT); and triaging patients to appropriate specialty clinics. This rotation includes the opportunity to provide same-day assessment and intervention via warm handoff from primary care providers, provide cognitive-behavioral treatment for insomnia/brief behavioral treatment for insomnia (CBT-I/BBT-I), and conduct brief cognitive screenings (e.g., SLUMS, MOCA). The primary therapeutic approach for this rotation is cognitive-behavioral therapy (CBT). Training in motivational interviewing (MI) for health behavior change, Problem Solving Therapy (PST) and in Acceptance and Commitment Therapy (ACT) is also available for interested interns. The dominant mode of service delivery is individual therapy. Group experience is available for three ongoing psychotherapy

groups which focus on providing MI interventions for health behavior change, CBT for coping with chronic psychiatric problems, and PST through the Moving Forward class.

Supervisors: Drs. Jebediah Northern and Jody Tomko

4. Neurobehavioral Program (NBP)

The Neurobehavioral Program offers a comprehensive rotation for interns interested in gaining assessment and treatment experience with cognitively impaired adults as well as those who exhibit challenging behaviors due to neurological dysfunction. The NBP focuses primarily on providing experience in neuropsychological assessment using the flexible/process approach, but interns will gain experience in providing therapeutic services to neurobehaviorally impaired patients. Interns will gain experience in test administration and interpretation, report writing, consultation with other professionals, and providing feedback to clients and their families. Interns will also have the opportunity to provide psychoeducation in memory skills training and to provide psychotherapy involving issues such as coping with cognitive deficits and family/caregiver issues related to Alzheimer's disease and other dementias. Our bi-weekly case conference and neuroanatomy seminar series, quarterly ethics seminars, and monthly ethics brown bag case discussions are required for intern participation and are an important part of the rotation. These seminars are available to interns on other rotations as well. Interns will have the opportunity to consult and interact with the NBP part-time neurologist and observe neurological examinations. As noted previously, the VA Pittsburgh Healthcare System is a generalist program. However, the Neuropsychology Track interns may fulfill International Neuropsychological Society (INS) recommendations for internship training in neuropsychology in our program by completing this rotation in conjunction with relevant externship placement.

Supervisors: Dr. Sara Anderson, Dr. Jennifer Keller, Dr. Edward Kendjelic, and Dr. Laura Smith-Seemiller

5. Outpatient Mental Health Clinic (HZ) (Tracks: 1) Post Deployment & 2) General Mental Health)

The Outpatient Mental Health Clinic at the Heinz VA location consists of three psychologist who provide individual therapy to a wide range of veterans. Consultation liaison and coordination of care with other mental health and primary care teams is also a feature of this rotation.

Post Deployment: The Post Deployment Clinic is a specialized clinic that provides services to veterans who have served after 911, most of which have been deployed. Psychological services within this team include individual outpatient psychotherapy from a CBT model, initial diagnostic evaluations, psychological testing, treatment planning, and consultation. Veterans present with a variety of anxiety and depressive-related disorders, typically related to their combat experiences or civilian adjustment. Severity and chronicity of symptoms vary widely. Interns will have the opportunity to learn empirically supported treatments for PTSD such as Prolonged Exposure (PE) and Cognitive Processing Therapy (CPT).

Supervisors: Drs. Lauren Roth and Sarah Smith (Post Deployment)

General Mental Health: The Heinz General Mental Health Clinic is an outpatient clinic that provides general mental health services to Veterans with a wide variety of psychological concerns ranging in severity from acute adjustment-related disorders to more long-standing concerns, such as persistent depressive, bipolar disorder, eating disorders, and personality disorders. Psychological services within

this team include individual outpatient psychotherapy that often incorporates components of ACT, CBT, and/or DBT. Treatment involves diagnostic evaluations, treatment planning, regular use of psychometric measures, and consultation. Interns will have the opportunity to learn transdiagnostic, empirically supported treatments for depressive and anxiety disorders and anger. There may also be opportunities to learn Integrated Behavioral Couple Therapy or CBT or DBT-based treatment for Eating Disorders and interaction with the VAPHS Interdisciplinary Eating Disorders Treatment Team.

Supervisor: Dr. Jenna Renqvist (General Mental Health)

Didactics

A. Seminar Series

In addition to clinical opportunities, interns participate in a weekly seminar series to complement the learning that occurs while involved in clinical work. Weekly training seminars are held throughout the year on a variety of topic areas. Topics can be generally categorized as “Assessment Issues”, “Treatment Strategies”, and “Professional and Ethical Issues.” Psychology interns are required to attend all weekly training seminars throughout the year.

B. Intern Case Conferences

Each week, the interns meet for our case conference series. On a rotational basis, interns are assigned to present a case, with a different staff psychologist in attendance to facilitate the conference. The case conferences are flexible in nature, providing interns the opportunity to present cases which may be challenging or interesting. Interns are encouraged to use this opportunity to solicit feedback and suggestions from their peers and the facilitator.

C. Intern Development Group

D-group meets for one hour per week during the training year and is designed to provide interns the opportunity to focus on professional development issues aside from clinical work. D-group is intern-led in that interns select topics for discussion. The group is facilitated by one of our staff psychologists.

D. Journal Clubs

Interns have the opportunity to participate in several journal clubs during the training year. The objectives of journal club are to refine skills in critical analysis of research methodology and to discuss the implications of research on clinical practice. On the first Wednesday of each month, one intern and one staff member are assigned on a rotational basis to choose a scholarly journal article and to facilitate discussion of this article during Monthly journal club. Interns are required to attend this monthly journal club. The Geropsychology journal club, PTSD journal club, and Primary Care Journal Club and Case Conference meet monthly with the same objectives focused on recent research in those areas. Interns are required to attend these journal clubs when assigned to relevant rotation and are optional for interns on other rotations.

E. Neuropsychology Seminars

The Neurobehavioral Case Conference occurs twice per month. A different case is presented during each conference by staff psychologists, psychology consultants, and psychology interns/fellows. Although this activity is mandatory for an intern while assigned to the Neurobehavioral rotation, it is optional for other interns. The Neuroanatomy Seminar series also meets twice per month. The focus of this series is on brain structure and pathways, brain function, and various neurological disorders. The primary

resource for this series is the text "Neuroanatomy through Clinical Cases" by Hal Blumenfeld, MD, Ph.D. (2002).

F. PTSD seminars

The PTSD case conference meets twice monthly and focuses on the assessment of combat-related PTSD. The case conference is attended by psychology interns, fellows, and psychology staff. A PTSD journal club meets once per month with discussion of recent scientific literature related to the PTSD assessment and treatment.

G. Substance Use Disorder Seminar

This seminar meets monthly and focuses on SUD related issues, such as discussions of recent SUD research, best practices in SUD treatment, and review of common co-occurring disorders.

H. Substance Use Disorder Case Conference

This monthly case conference provides the opportunity to discuss clinical, ethical, and diversity issues within the context of treatment for substance use disorders.

I. CPT & PE Consultation Conference

Attended by psychology staff, fellows, and interns, this monthly informal conference is facilitated by our local Evidence-Based Psychotherapy Coordinator, who is a regional CPT trainer and consultant, and provides the opportunity to discuss clinical work utilizing Cognitive Processing Therapy and Prolonged Exposure.

J. ACT Consultation Group

This monthly seminar is facilitated by national VA trainers for ACT and provides staff and interns the opportunity to experience mindfulness exercises and to discuss clinical considerations and literature regarding ACT.

K. Evidence-Based Psychotherapy Seminar Series

This seminar meets monthly at the beginning of the training year and is based on the national VHA trainings designed for providers. Our program offers a series of 6 monthly seminars to provide an overview of theory and specific interventions for the following evidence-based psychotherapies: Cognitive Behavior Therapy for Depression; Cognitive Processing Therapy for PTSD; Prolonged Exposure for PTSD; Acceptance and Commitment Therapy; Integrative Behavioral Couples Therapy; and Social Skills Training.

L. Diversity Seminar Series

This series is unique in that it focuses on diversity relevant to the Veteran population (e.g., female Veterans) and local culture (e.g., rural Appalachia). Seminars frequently include documentary films with discussion of personal reactions to these films. This series is facilitated by members of the Diversity Subcommittee.

M. CPT Training

Led by Dr. Korchynsky, regional VA trainer and consultant in CPT, a 3-day VA CPT training is offered for interested interns. Following the training, interns will participate in a weekly consultation call for 6 months and will complete 2 cases using CPT to fulfill requirements to become a VA-recognized CPT provider. Appropriate applicants for this training are interns who have identified trauma focused

therapy as their primary clinical interest and who plan to pursue PTSD post-doctoral fellowships or employment. The consultation phase of this training will serve as the intern's externship placement until completion of the required consultation phase.

Requirements for Completion

To successfully complete the internship program, interns must achieve the following requirements:

1. An intern must be in "good standing" and removed from any probationary status.
2. By the conclusion of the training year, an intern must achieve a rating of "4" for every competency skill in each competency area on the final Evaluation of Intern Performance (i.e., third rotation final evaluation), indicating that an intern requires minimal supervision and is exhibiting competency at the level expected at the conclusion of the training year. The only exception to this requirement is neuropsychological skills for a non-neuropsychology track intern who has no prior neuropsychological training. In this case, an intern must achieve ratings of "3" for neuropsychological assessment skills and ratings of "4" on all other competency skills in other competency areas.
3. Interns must achieve ratings of "acceptable" on all items for their final case conference as measured by the final intern case conference summary form.
4. Interns must obtain a score of at least 80% correct on each post-test following the two supervision seminars to demonstrate competency in knowledge of supervision theory and ethics/application. Should an intern not receive a score of at least 80%, the intern will be required to complete remedial reading and retake the post-tests until supervision competency is met. In addition, interns must obtain ratings of acceptable for all core supervision topics and the Capstone Supervision Experience during the Supervision Competency Seminar Series. Should an intern not receive an acceptable rating following a seminar, the intern will be required to complete additional readings and role-plays with their rotation supervisor until a rating of acceptable is obtained.

Facility and Training Resources

All interns are assigned an individual office with most offices located in the clinic where the intern works. Offices are generally in close proximity to supervisors to promote informal supervision and consultation. Interns are assigned a hospital pager. All interns have a personal computer in their office with access to the computerized patient record system, e-mail, Internet, and Microsoft software. The interns are also given access to the VA voice mail system. Psychological and neuropsychological testing equipment is available to interns through our psychology technicians as well as part of the assessment software in the computerized patient record system. To assist with development of psychotherapy skills, interns have access to USB compact microphones to record sessions onto computers for supervision purposes. Medical libraries are located at both divisions and interns have access to electronic journals, interlibrary loans, and computer-based literature searches. Our medical librarians are extremely helpful in assisting staff and interns to retrieve selected journal articles and books from other sources.

Interns may park at both divisions without cost, and there is a parking garage located at the University Drive. The VA medical center also operates a shuttle system that interns may utilize to travel between divisions for meetings and didactics.

The stipend for the training year is \$26,957. The start date is tentatively 8/2/2021. Interns can elect to participate in federal health insurance plans. Interns earn annual leave (personal time off) and sick leave at the rate of 4 hours every two weeks. Maternity/Paternity leave is also available through use of sick leave, annual leave, and then Leave Without Pay (LWOP), with any LWOP hours to be made up at the end of the training year. In addition to the annual leave and sick leave, interns may be granted time away from the VA for approved training activities and conferences and VA postdoctoral fellowship interviews, including one day for dissertation defense. Although there is no limit to the amount of time away that an intern may use for approved training activities/conferences, permission will only be granted when an intern is making satisfactory progress in meeting the requirements of his/her rotation.

Application & Selection Procedures

Applicants must have a minimum of 300 total intervention and 50 assessment hours prior to application.

We will not review applications with hours below the minimum hours requirement. We prefer candidates who have generalized assessment and psychotherapy training. Applicants who have VA practicum experience or who have an interest in a VA career are highly desirable. Although research experience is not a requirement, we value applicants with the ability to engage in scholarly inquiry and critical analysis of the scholarly literature. Given our focus on providing evidence based treatment to our veterans, we value applicants who have training in evidence based treatment approaches. Further, given the diversity of the veterans receiving treatment through the VA Pittsburgh Healthcare System, we encourage applicants from graduate programs with a multicultural focus and experience with ethnic, cultural, and social minority groups. Our internship program values cultural and individual diversity and strongly encourages qualified applicants from all backgrounds to apply. We adhere to all EEO guidelines. The United States government is a non-discriminatory, affirmative action employer. Federal law prohibits discrimination based on age, sex, race, creed, color, religion, handicap or national origin.

Internship applicants also must meet these criteria to be considered for any VA Psychology Internship Program:

1. Doctoral student in good standing at an American Psychological Association (APA) or Canadian Psychological Association (CPA) accredited graduate program in Clinical, Counseling, or Combined psychology or Psychological Clinical Science Accreditation System (PCSAS) accredited program in Clinical Science. 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.
2. Approved for internship status by graduate program training director.

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) adheres to all Equal Employment Opportunity and Affirmative Action policies. As a Veterans Health Administration (VHA) Health Professions Trainee (HPT), you will receive a Federal appointment, and the following requirements will apply prior to that appointment:

1. **U.S. citizenship.** VA is unable to consider applications from anyone who is not currently a U.S. citizen. Verification of citizenship is required following selection. All interns must complete a Certification of Citizenship in the United States prior to beginning VA training.
2. **U.S. Social Security Number.** All VA appointees must have a U.S. social security number (SSN) prior to beginning the pre-employment, on-boarding process at the VA.
3. **Selective Service Registration.** Male applicants born after 12/31/1959 must have registered for the Selective Service by age 26 to be eligible for U.S. government employment, including selection as a paid or WOC VA trainee. For additional information about the Selective Service System, and to register or to check your registration status visit <https://www.sss.gov/>. Anyone who was required to register but did not register before the age of 26 will need to apply for a Status Information Letter (SIL) and request a waiver. Waiver requests are rare and will be reviewed on a case by case basis. Waiver determinates are made by the VA Office of Human Resources Management and can take six months for a verdict.
4. **Fingerprint Screening and Background Investigation.** All HPTs will be fingerprinted and undergo screenings and background investigations. Additional details about the required background checks can be found at the following website: <http://www.archives.gov/federal-register/codification/executive-order/10450.html>.
5. **Drug Testing.** Per Executive Order 12564 the VA strives to be a Drug-Free Workplace. HPTs are not drug-tested prior to appointment, however will be subject to random drug testing throughout the entire VA appointment period. You will be asked to sign an acknowledgement form stating you are aware of this practice.
6. **Affiliation Agreement.** To ensure shared responsibility between an academic program and the VA there must be a current and fully executed Academic Affiliation Agreement on file with the VHA Office of Academic Affiliations (OAA). The affiliation agreement delineates the duties of VA and the affiliated institution. Most APA-accredited doctoral programs have an agreement on file. More information about this document can be found at <http://www.va.gov/oaa/agreements.asp> (see section on psychology internships).
7. **TQCVL.** To streamline on-boarding of HPTs, VHA OAA requires completion of a Trainee Qualifications and Credentials Verification Letter (TQCVL). Following selection/match process and prior to the start of training, the VA Training Director will contact the Directors of Clinical Training (DCTs) at affiliates for all selected/matched HPTs. Each DCT will be asked to complete the TQCVL and submit the document to the VA. Among other things, this document confirms that you, the trainee, are physically fit to meet the requirements of the training program and that you have appropriate tuberculosis screening as well as other immunizations (i.e., Hepatitis B) required to work in a healthcare facility. A recent addition to the TQCVL is the requirement for annual influenza vaccine. If you decline the vaccine you will be required to wear a mask while in patient care areas of the VA. Your VA appointment cannot happen until the TQCVL is submitted and signed by senior leadership from the VA facility. For more information about this document, please visit <https://www.va.gov/OAA/TQCVL>.
8. **Additional Forms.** Additional pre-employment forms include the Application for Health Professions Trainees (VA 10-2850D) and the Declaration for Federal Employment (OF 306). These documents and others are available online for review at <https://www.va.gov/oaa/app-forms.asp>. Falsifying any answer on these required Federal

documents will result in the inability to appoint or immediate dismissal from the training program.

9. **Proof of Identity per VA.** VA on-boarding requires presentation of two source documents (IDs). Documents must be unexpired and names on both documents must match. For more information visit: https://www.oit.va.gov/programs/piv/_media/docs/IDMatrix.pdf

To submit an application to our program, submit all required materials via the on-line APPIC application process. Please be sure to select the appropriate program code (General Track=154311; Neuropsychology Track=154312; Geropsychology Track=154313). Candidates CANNOT apply to both the general track and neuropsychology track; Candidates CAN apply to both the general track and geropsychology track.

Application materials include:

1. Curriculum vitae
2. One official graduate transcript for any graduate work in psychology.
3. APPIC Application for Psychology Internship (AAPI).
4. APPIC Academic Program's Verification of Internship Eligibility and Readiness from your University Director of Clinical Training.
5. Three letters of recommendation using the APPIC Standardized Reference Form, which, taken together, attest to both academic and clinical qualifications.
6. In your cover letter, **indicate to which track(s) (general, neuropsychology, geropsychology) you are applying.** Also, for the purpose of facilitating your interview process, **please rank order for us your four most desired rotations at the VA Pittsburgh Healthcare System Internship** (e.g., NBP, Beta, Omega, etc.). Please keep in mind that your listing of rotation preferences does NOT commit you in any way to these rotations. This information is used in the event that you are invited for an on-site interview.

The deadline for all completed applications is Sunday, November 8, 2020 at 11:59PM EST. Only applications completed by this deadline will be considered. The Clinical Training Committee will complete its ratings of application materials during the week of November 16th. Applications are independently rated by three members of the Clinical Training Committee on such variables as prior clinical (therapy and assessment) experience, letters of recommendation, and fit of intern training goals with our training model and goal. Applications are rated on a 10-point scale and ranked according to total score (0-30 total), with approximately 60 applicants invited to interview with us. Invited applicants are required to attend a virtual interview. We are only offering virtual interviews; no on-site interviews will be offered or permitted. Virtual interview days are scheduled for 12/8/2020, 12/18/2020, 1/8/2021, and 1/14/2021 from 10:00 AM EST-3:30 PM EST and will include a general overview of the training program and diversity subcommittee, rotation stations to meet supervisors and obtain more detailed information about selected rotations, individual interviews with supervisors, and opportunity to informally interact with the current interns. Additional details about our interview days will be sent to applicants invited to interview. Interview scores from individual interviews are added to the application score. Candidates are then ranked by total score and the list is then submitted to the National Matching Service.

Administrative Policies and Procedures

During orientation to the VA Pittsburgh Healthcare System, interns are provided a training manual and orientation folder that contain important policies and information for the internship program as well as for the medical center. Included in the training manual is our grievance and due process policies concerning identification and resolution of problems arising during the internship year. Copies of all evaluation forms are also included in the training manual. Copies of our evaluation forms and grievance and due process policies are available to interested applicants upon request.

Trainees

Over the years, our interns have originated from many different universities and areas of the country, including students from clinical and counseling Ph.D. and Psy.D. programs. We have enjoyed working with interns from diverse psychosocial and cultural backgrounds. Over the past several years, the trend has been for most of our graduates to pursue postdoctoral fellowships, many within the VA system and others in academic medical centers. Our neuropsychology track interns have met with great success in matching for 2-year neuropsychology fellowships in the Association of Postdoctoral Programs in Clinical Neuropsychology (APPCN) match. Many of our interns have enjoyed the transition to Pittsburgh and have remained in the Pittsburgh area, suggesting that Pittsburgh is a desirable city in which to reside!

During exit interviews with interns over the past several years, interns have consistently identified two strengths of our internship program. First, interns have commented that both the breadth and depth of training experiences are significant strengths of our program. Interns have commented that the variety of rotations and opportunities for training within rotations contribute to the breadth of training and an intern can complete our program with a wide range of clinical skills and experiences. In addition to breadth, interns have stated that one can focus training in a specific area (e.g., geropsychology, health psychology) and gain depth of training in some areas. Interns have also commented that the length of the rotations (4-months) allows for depth of training. Second, interns have consistently described both the quality and quantity of supervision as strengths of our program. Interns have remarked that supervisors are always available for scheduled supervision in addition to informal consultation and emergency supervision. Our supervisors have been described as enthusiastic, dedicated, and invested in training and the professional growth of interns.

Local Information

Pittsburgh is located in southwestern Pennsylvania, where the Monongahela and Allegheny Rivers meet to form the Ohio River. Contrary to popular belief, Pittsburgh is no longer the industrial steel town of the 50's and 60's. In 2017 WalletHub compared 62 of the largest U.S. cities and Pittsburgh ranked #3 of the best cities in which to live and CNBC named Pittsburgh the 2nd best city for millennials in 2017. Also in 2017, MONEY named the East Liberty and Lawrenceville neighborhoods as the #1 coolest neighborhoods in America! The downtown area and riverfront have undergone massive renovation, and several vibrant sub-communities have emerged over the past decade. An exciting blend of old and new, Pittsburgh is a city of history, business, culture, research, medicine, sports, and recreation that pleasantly surprises newcomers!

The largest metropolitan area in the Ohio Valley and Appalachia, Pittsburgh is a growing city. “The Steel City” has 446 bridges, creating a unique urban terrain within a beautiful natural valley. The city is home to numerous diverse cultural groups, and offers a variety of authentic world cuisines within our various districts. For lovers of the culinary arts, you will find a variety of coffee shops, bakeries, and restaurants. Rich in American history, Pittsburgh also has a growing art and cultural scene. It is the home of the Andy Warhol Museum, the Carnegie library system, and has numerous universities and colleges such as University of Pittsburgh, Carnegie Mellon, Duquesne, Carlow, and Chatham, creating a constant influx of energy, creative thought, and activity. There are also a wide variety of entertainment opportunities, including events at PPG Paints Arena, local music venues, as well as Broadway shows in the downtown theatre district. The city is ideal for families, with a local zoo, aquarium, the Phipps Conservatory and Botanical Gardens, and the National Aviary. Sports enthusiasts will be welcomed into the loyal hometown community, supporting the Pirates, Steelers, and Penguins. With its unique location, Pittsburgh also offers easy accessibility to a variety of city and state parks, water sports, caving systems, and wildlife preserves, creating a multitude of activities for naturalists.

For more information about our exciting city and the diversity of “the ‘Burgh”, view these websites:

- www.visitpittsburgh.com
- www.pump.org
- www.coolpgh.pitt.edu
- www.vibrantpittsburgh.org



Many of our interns have enjoyed their experience in Pittsburgh and have offered the following testimonials:

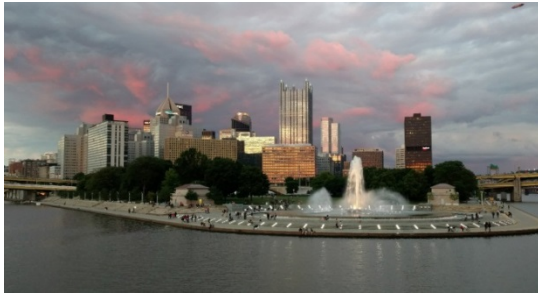
“I was surprised with how much I fell in love with PGH during my internship year...I loved how different neighborhoods had their own unique identity, I loved the easy access to large parks within the city, and loved how beautiful PGH is with all its hills, bridges, and public art. What a gem of a city!”

“PGH has a ‘small city’ feel and it’s easy to find your niche here. At the same time, it’s a vibrant place to live, with lots going on. There is something for everyone—whether you love hiking and spending time outside or watching sports, or going to museums.”

“The great dining and food scene, and the very reasonable cost of living compared to other regions.”

“The city had a lot more diversity and cultural activities than I expected. Lots of great places to eat and things to do. I like the ethnic diversity of my neighborhoods. Easy access to natural areas inside and outside the city.”

“I found lots of social groups/clubs outside of work and made many friends that I still stay in touch with after leaving the area.”



Please see following pages for Internship Admissions, Support, and Initial Placement Data and Roster of Training Staff.

Internship Admissions, Support, and Initial Placement Data

Date Program Tables are updated: 8/10/2020

Internship Program Admissions

Date Program Tables are updated:

Briefly describe in narrative form important information to assist potential applicants in assessing their likely fit with your program. This description must be consistent with the program's policies on intern selection and practicum and academic preparation requirements:

We prefer candidates who have generalized assessment and psychotherapy training. Applicants who have VA practicum experience or who have an interest in a VA career are highly desirable. Although research experience is not a requirement, we value applicants with the ability to engage in scholarly inquiry and critical analysis of the scholarly literature. Given our focus on providing evidence based treatment to our Veterans, we value applicants who have training in evidence based treatment approaches. Further, given the diversity of the Veterans receiving treatment through the VA Pittsburgh Healthcare System, we encourage applicants from graduate programs with a multicultural focus and experience with ethnic, cultural, and social minority groups. Our internship program values cultural and individual diversity and strongly encourages qualified applicants from all backgrounds to apply. We adhere to all EEO guidelines. The United States government is a non-discriminatory, affirmative action employer. Federal law prohibits discrimination based on age, sex, race, creed, color, religion, handicap or national origin.

Does the program require that applicants have received a minimum number of hours of the following at time of application? If Yes, indicate how many:

Total Direct Contact Intervention Hours	YES	No	Amount: 300 hours
Total Direct Contact Assessment Hours	YES	No	Amount: 50 hours

Describe any other required minimum criteria used to screen applicants:

Internship applicants also must meet these criteria to be considered for any VA Psychology Internship Program:

1. Doctoral student in good standing at an American Psychological Association (APA) or Canadian Psychological Association (CPA) accredited graduate program in Clinical, Counseling, or Combined psychology or Psychological Clinical Science Accreditation System (PCSAS) accredited program in Clinical Science. 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.
2. Approved for internship status by graduate program training director.

VA Eligibility Criteria also require:

3. **U.S. citizenship.** VA is unable to consider applications from anyone who is not currently a U.S. citizen. Verification of citizenship is required following selection. All interns must complete a Certification of Citizenship in the United States prior to beginning VA training.
4. **U.S. Social Security Number.** All VA appointees must have a U.S. social security number (SSN) prior to beginning the pre-employment, on-boarding process at the VA.
5. **Selective Service Registration.** Male applicants born after 12/31/1959 must have registered for the Selective Service by age 26 to be eligible for U.S. government employment, including selection as a paid or WOC VA trainee. For additional information about the Selective Service System, and to register or to check your registration status visit <https://www.sss.gov/>. Anyone who was required to register but did not register before the age of 26 will need to apply for a Status Information Letter (SIL) and request a waiver. Waiver requests are rare and will be reviewed on a case by case basis. Waiver determinates are made by the VA Office of Human Resources Management and can take six months for a verdict.
6. **Background Investigation.** All HPTs will be fingerprinted and undergo screenings and background investigations. Additional details about the required background checks can be found at the following website: <http://www.archives.gov/federal-register/codification/executive-order/10450.html>.
7. **Drug Testing.** Per Executive Order 12564 the VA strives to be a Drug-Free Workplace. HPTs are not drug-tested prior to appointment, however will be subject to random drug testing throughout the entire VA appointment period. You will be asked to sign an acknowledgement form stating you are aware of this practice.
8. **Affiliation Agreement.** To ensure shared responsibility between an academic program and the VA there must be a current and fully executed Academic Affiliation Agreement on file with the VHA Office of Academic Affiliations (OAA). The affiliation agreement delineates the duties of VA and the affiliated institution. Most APA-accredited doctoral programs have an agreement on file. More information about this document can be found at <http://www.va.gov/oaa/agreements.asp> (see section on psychology internships).
9. **TQCVL.** To streamline on-boarding of HPTs, VHA OAA requires completion of a Trainee Qualifications and Credentials Verification Letter (TQCVL). Following selection/match process and prior to the start of training, the VA Training Director will contact the Directors of Clinical Training (DCTs) at affiliates for all selected/matched HPTs. Each DCT will be asked to complete the TQCVL and submit the document to the VA. Among other things, this document confirms that you, the trainee, are physically fit to meet the requirements of the training program and that you have appropriate tuberculosis screening as well as other immunizations (i.e., Hepatitis B) required to work in a healthcare facility. A recent addition to the TQCVL is the requirement for annual influenza vaccine. If you decline the vaccine you will be required to wear a mask while in patient care areas of the VA. Your VA appointment cannot happen until the TQCVL is submitted and signed by senior leadership from the VA facility. For more information about this document, please visit <https://www.va.gov/OAA/TQCVL>.
10. **Additional Forms.** Additional pre-employment forms include the Application for Health Professions Trainees (VA 10-2850D) and the Declaration for Federal Employment (OF 306). These documents and others are available online for review at

<https://www.va.gov/oaa/app-forms.asp>. Falsifying any answer on these required Federal documents will result in the inability to appoint or immediate dismissal from the training program.

Financial and Other Benefit Support for Upcoming Training Year*

Annual Stipend/Salary for Full-time Interns	\$26,957	
Annual Stipend/Salary for Half-time Interns	N/A	
Program provides access to medical insurance for intern?	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)	13 days	
Hours of Annual Paid Sick Leave	13 days	
In the event of medical conditions and/or family needs that require extended leave, does the program allow reasonable unpaid leave to interns/residents in excess of personal time off and sick leave?	Yes	No
Other Benefits (please describe): Maternity/Paternity leave is also available through use of sick leave, annual leave, and then Leave Without Pay (LWOP), with any LWOP hours to be made up at the end of the training year. In addition to the annual leave and sick leave, interns may be granted time away from the medical center for approved training activities and conferences and VA postdoctoral fellowship interviews, including one day for dissertation defense.		

*Note. Programs are not required by the Commission on Accreditation to provide all benefits listed in this table

Initial Post-Internship Positions

(Provide an Aggregated Tally for the Preceding 3 Cohorts)

	2016-2019	
Total # of interns who were in the 3 cohorts	18	
Total # of interns who did not seek employment because they returned to their doctoral program/are completing doctoral degree	0	
	PD	EP
Community mental health center	1	0
Federally qualified health center	0	0
Independent primary care facility/clinic	0	0
University counseling center	0	0
Veterans Affairs medical center	11	3
Military health center	0	0
Academic health center	2	0
Other medical center or hospital	0	0
Psychiatric hospital	0	0
Academic university/department	0	0
Community college or other teaching setting	0	0
Independent research institution	0	0
Correctional facility	0	0
School district/system	0	0
Independent practice setting	0	1
Not currently employed	0	0
Changed to another field	0	0
Other	0	0
Unknown	0	0

Note: "PD" = Post-doctoral residency position; "EP" = Employed Position. Each individual represented in this table should be counted only one time. For former trainees working in more than one setting, select the setting that represents their primary position.

Training Staff

VA Pittsburgh Healthcare System Doctoral Training Staff

*Indicates research authorship in this area

Rebecca Reese Akcakaya, Ph.D.

- Washington University in St. Louis, 2012
- Psychologist, University Drive Primary Care Clinic and Omega Behavioral Health Interdisciplinary Program (BHIP)
- Interests: Health psychology, behavior medicine, health behavior change, psychosocial assessment for medical procedures, Transgender care, Women's health, and anxiety disorders

Sara E. Anderson, Psy.D.

- Virginia Consortium Program in Clinical Psychology, 2010
- Clinical Neuropsychologist, Neurobehavioral Program
- Interests: Neuropsychology, Symptom Validity Testing, Personality Assessment, Traumatic Brain Injury, Dementias, Cognitive Rehabilitation

Susann Schmitt Anderson, Psy.D.

- Wright State University, 2016
- Psychologist, Center for Treatment of Addictive Disorders
- Interests: Co-occurring trauma and SUD; motivational interviewing; couples therapy for SUD; ACT
- Dr. Schmitt Anderson has completed VA training and consultation in Acceptance and Commitment Therapy for Depression, Cognitive Processing Therapy, and Motivation Interviewing, and she has provider status

Kimberly A. Christensen, Ph.D.

- Kent State University, 2000.
- Supervisory Psychologist, HJ Heinz Campus; Community Living Center psychologist
- Interests: Long-term care*, Geropsychology*, Cognitive Assessment, Training/supervision, Family Caregiving*.
- Dr. Christensen has completed VA training and consultation in Cognitive Behavioral Therapy for Depression and has provider status.

Shannon Coleman, Ph.D.

- Binghamton University (SUNY), 2010
- Psychologist, Combat Stress Recovery Clinic (PTSD Clinic), Evidence-Based Psychotherapy Coordinator for the PTSD Clinical Team
- Interests: PTSD*, OCD*, GAD*, Social Anxiety, Mental Health Literacy*, Prolonged Exposure, Anger Management
- Dr. Coleman has completed VA training and consultation in Prolonged Exposure (PE) and Cognitive Processing Therapy (CPT) and has provider status. Dr. Coleman is also a national consultant for the National Center for PTSD Prolonged Exposure Therapy Initiative.

Kathleen DeNardi, Ph.D.

- Miami University, 2008.
- Psychologist, Combat Stress Recovery Clinic
- Interests: PTSD, Sexual Victimization*, Substance Use Disorders, Prolonged Exposure, DBT.

- Dr. DeNardi has completed VA training and consultation in Prolonged Exposure and Cognitive Processing Therapy and has provider status. She is also a national consultant for the National Center for PTSD Prolonged Exposure Therapy Initiative.

Mary T. Dorritie, Ph.D.

- University at Buffalo (SUNY), 2003
- Psychologist and Team Leader, Beta Behavioral Health Interdisciplinary Program (BHIP)
- VA-recognized provider for: Cognitive Processing Therapy (CPT), Prolonged Exposure (PE), Acceptance and Commitment Therapy (ACT). National PE Consultant
- Dr. Dorritie served as an active duty Army psychologist for 6 years, including a combat tour in Mosul, Iraq.

Maria El-Tahch, Psy.D.

- Nova Southeastern University, 2017
- Psychologist, Center for Treatment of Addictive Disorders
- Interests: Health psychology and substance use, chronic pain, motivational interviewing (MI), cognitive-behavioral therapy, and social determinants of health
- Dr. El-Tahch has completed VA training and consultation in Motivational Interviewing and Acceptance and Commitment Therapy for Depression (ACT-D), and has provider status

Alyssa Ford, Ph.D.

- Western Michigan University, 2012
- Psychologist, University Drive Primary Care Clinic and VAPHS Cancer Center
- Interests: Geriatric Health Psychology, Psycho-Oncology, Adjustment to Medical Illness, Family Caregiving, End-of-life, C&L, Health Behavior Change
- Dr. Ford has completed VA training and consultation in Problem Solving Therapy (has provider status) and has completed VA Training in Motivational Interviewing Facilitation.

Marci L. Gaither, Ph.D.

- Ball State University, 2002.
- Psychologist and Team Leader, Sigma Behavioral Health Interdisciplinary Program (BHIP).
- Interests: Schizophrenia-spectrum disorders*, CBT for Psychosis*
- Dr. Gaither has completed VA training and consultation in Behavioral Family Therapy and Social Skills Training for Serious Mental Illness and has provider status in both treatments. She also completed a 6-month certification in Cognitive-Behavioral Therapy, focused on treating psychosis, through the Beck Institute.

Leigh A. Gemmell, Ph.D.

- University of Maryland, Baltimore County, 2007
- Program Manager, Center for Treatment of Addictive Disorders
- Dr. Gemmell has completed VA training and consultation in CBT-SUD and Cognitive Behavioral Therapy for Depression, and she has provider status in both treatments.
- Interests: Motivational Interviewing, Behavioral Medicine, Chronic Illness Self-Management, Health Behavior Change

Jennifer F. George, Ph.D.

- Bowling Green State University, 2001
- Psychologist and Team Leader, Omega Behavioral Health Interdisciplinary Program (BHIP)
- VAPHS Women's Mental Health Champion
- VA Acceptance and Commitment Therapy for Depression (ACT-D) Regional Trainer and Consultant

- Interests: Acceptance and Commitment Therapy (ACT), Anxiety Disorders, Women's Mental Health, Cognitive-Behavioral Therapy (CBT), Training and Supervision
- Dr. George carries VA provider status in Acceptance and Commitment Therapy for Depression (ACT-D), Cognitive Processing Therapy (CPT), and Integrative Behavioral Couple Therapy (IBCT).

Susan Jefferson, Psy.D.

- Indiana University of Pennsylvania, 2013
- Psychologist, Community Based Outpatient Clinic in Beaver County
- Interests: Geropsychology*, Mindfulness, Training/Supervision
- Dr. Jefferson has completed VA training and consultation in Cognitive Processing Therapy (CPT) and Cognitive Behavioral Therapy for Chronic Pain (CBT-CP) and has provider status.
- Dr. Jefferson also has completed specialized training in Geropsychology through the VA Geriatric Scholars program.

Melissa K. Johnson, Ph.D.

- University of Minnesota, 2011.
- Staff Psychologist, Center for Treatment of Addictive Disorders
- Dr. Johnson has completed VA training and has provider status for CBT-SUD and Cognitive Processing Therapy.
- Interests: Substance Use, trauma, Borderline Personality Disorder
- Dr. Johnson is a consultant for CBT-SUD

Lauren Jost, Psy.D.

- Xavier University, 2014
- Psychologist, Geriatric Evaluation and Management (GEM) Clinic and Omega Behavioral Health Interdisciplinary Program (BHIP)
- Interests: Geropsychology, Dementia, Cognitive Assessment, Caregiver Support, Diversity
- Dr. Jost has completed VA training and consultation in Problem-Solving Training (PST) in Primary Care and has provider status
- Dr. Jost has also completed specialized training in Geropsychology through the VA Geriatric Scholars program

Jennifer M. Keller, Psy.D., ABPP

- Board Certified in Clinical Neuropsychology
- Argosy University/Washington, DC, 2007
- Clinical Neuropsychologist, Neurobehavioral Program
- Interests: Neuropsychology, Symptom and Performance Validity Testing, Movement Disorders, Dementias, Caregiving

Edward M. Kendjelic, Ph.D.

- University of Louisville, 1998.
- Neurobehavioral Program Team Leader.
- Interests: Neuropsychology, Dementias, Geropsychology*, Case Formulation*.

Roksana Korchynsky, Ph.D.

- Bowling Green State University, 2000
- Beta Team/Military Sexual Trauma (MST) Coordinator/Evidence-Based Psychotherapy (EBP) Coordinator
- Interests: PTSD, Women's Health, Cognitive-Behavioral Therapy

- VA-recognized provider for: Cognitive Processing Therapy (CPT), Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBT), Acceptance and Commitment Therapy (ACT). Regional CPT Trainer & Consultant

David Menges, Ph.D.

- Rutgers University, 2010
- Psychologist, Veterans Recovery Center
- Interests: Motivational Interviewing, CBT for SUDs, couples therapy, and 12-Step Facilitation.
- Dr. Menges has completed VA training and consultation in Motivational Enhancement Therapy (MET), has provider status in MET, and serves as a consultant and trainer for the MI/MET VA Initiative. Dr. Menges has also completed VA training for Behavioral Couples Therapy for SUDs (BCT-SUD) and has provider status for this intervention.

Anya Moon, Ph.D.

- Virginia Commonwealth University, 2008
- Psychologist, Center for Treatment of Addictive Disorders
- Interests: Acceptance and Commitment Therapy, Mindfulness-based therapies, compulsive sexual behaviors.
- Dr. Moon has provider status for Cognitive Processing Therapy for PTSD (CPT) and Acceptance and Commitment Therapy for Depression (ACT-D) and has provider status.
- Dr. Moon is a Regional Trainer and Consultant for Acceptance and Commitment Therapy for Depression (ACT-D).

Jebediah Northern, Ph.D.

- Bowling Green State University, 2010.
- Psychologist, Primary Care Clinic at the H.J. Heinz Facility.
- Interests: Health Psychology*, Stress*, Geropsychology, Health Behavior Change, Motivational Interviewing
- Dr. Northern has VA provider status for Acceptance and Commitment Therapy for Depression (ACT-D) and Cognitive Behavioral Therapy for Insomnia (CBT-I). Dr. Northern is a National Training Consultant for the CBT-I program. He also has experience with CBT for depression and Motivational Interviewing.

Danielle M. Novick, Ph.D.

- University of Pittsburgh, 2010
- Psychologist, Beta BHIP, Women's Health Clinic, and Interdisciplinary Transgender Treatment Team; Clinic Coordinator, Behavioral Health Initial Evaluation Clinic
- VA recognized national Interpersonal psychotherapy (IPT) provider, trainer, and consultant; Internationally recognized Interpersonal and social rhythm therapy (IPSRT) provider, trainer, and consultant
- Interests: Bipolar disorder, Reproductive mental health*, Grief, IPT*, IPSRT*, Diversity, Training/supervision

Maryann Owens, Ph.D.

- University of Central Florida, 2016
- Psychologist, Combat Stress Recovery Clinic (PTSD Clinic) and Omega Clinic
- Interests: PTSD, Military Sexual Trauma, Anxiety Disorders, Training/Supervision, CBT, Interpersonal frameworks, DBT, Substance Use Disorders
- Dr. Owens has completed VA training and consultation in Prolonged Exposure (PE) and Cognitive Processing Therapy (CPT) and has provider status.

Dawnelle Paldino, Ph.D.

- Binghamton University (SUNY), 2007
- Psychologist, Omega Behavioral Health Interdisciplinary Program (BHIP)
- VAPHS LGBT Veteran Care Coordinator & VISN 4 LGBT Lead
- Team Leader, VAPHS Interdisciplinary Transgender Treatment Team
- Co-Director, LGBT Veteran Care Coordinator Program, LGBT Health Program (10P4Y), Patient Care Services, Veterans Health Administration
- Interests: Couple Therapy, Marital Satisfaction and Discord*, Gender Dysphoria, Transgender Veteran Healthcare, Training/Supervision
- Dr. Paldino carries VA provider status in Integrative Behavioral Couple Therapy (IBCT), Cognitive Processing Therapy (CPT), and Cognitive Behavioral Therapy for Depression (CBT-D).

Bernadette Pasquale, Ph.D., ABPP

- Board Certified in Geropsychology
- Ohio University, 1995
- Director of Clinical Training and Coordinator for Ex-POW Program, Omega BHIP, GEM/GDSC Teams.
- Interests: Geropsychology*, Training/Supervision.
- Dr. Pasquale has completed VA training and consultation in Cognitive Behavioral Therapy for Depression and has provider status.

Phillip A. Raab, Ph.D. ABPP

- Board Certified in Behavioral and Cognitive Psychology
- University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, 2015
- Psychologist, Combat Stress Recovery Clinic (PTSD Clinic)
- Interests: PTSD*, depression*, anger*, training/supervision, case conceptualization, spirituality-based interventions
- Dr. Raab has completed VA training and consultation in Prolonged Exposure (PE) and Cognitive Processing Therapy (CPT) and has provider status.

Jenna G. Renqvist, Ph.D.

- University of Nevada, Reno, 2015
- Clinical Psychologist, Heinz General Mental Health Clinic
- VA Motivational Interviewing/Motivational Enhancement Therapy (MI/MET) Consultant
- Interests: Acceptance and Commitment Therapy (ACT), Cognitive-Behavioral Therapy (CBT), Dialectical Behavior Therapy (DBT), Integrated Behavioral Couple Therapy (IBCT), General Mental Health, Women's Mental Health, Problem-solving Therapy (PST), CBT-Eating Disorders, Intuitive Eating
- Dr. Renqvist carries VA provider status in Motivational Interviewing (MI) and Cognitive Behavioral Therapy for Insomnia (CBT-I).

Michael Rosen, Ph.D.

- University of Kansas, 2017
- Psychologist, Combat Stress Recovery Clinic
- Interests: PTSD, Military Sexual Trauma, Acceptance and Commitment Therapy, Dialectical Behavior Therapy
- Dr. Rosen has completed VA training and consultation in Cognitive Processing Therapy (CPT) and has provider status

Lauren E. Roth, Ph.D.

- Lehigh University, 2012
- Psychologist, Post Deployment (PD) Clinic
- Interests: Cognitive Behavioral Therapy, Trauma Focused Treatment, Training and Supervision, Multicultural Competence
- Dr. Roth is a VA trained and certified provider of Cognitive Processing Therapy (CPT), Prolonged Exposure (PE) and Cognitive Behavioral Therapy for Depression (CBT-D).

Nazar D. Seyala, Ph.D.

- Ball State University, 2011
- Psychologist, H.J. Heinz Community Living Center (CLC)
- Interests: Geropsychology, Cognitive Assessment, Staff Intervention, Capacity Assessment, Behavior Management, Caregiver Support
- Dr. Seyala has completed VA training and consultation in Motivational Interviewing (MI) and has provider status. Dr. Seyala has also completed VA training in STAR-VA and is a national STAR-VA coach.

Sarah A. Smith, Ph.D.

- Northern Illinois University, 2010.
- Psychologist, Post Deployment (PD) Clinic
- Interests: Anxiety Disorders, PTSD, Prolonged Exposure Therapy, Cognitive-Processing Therapy
- Dr. Smith has completed VA training and consultation in Prolonged Exposure (PE) and Cognitive Processing Therapy (CPT) and has provider status. Dr. Smith is also a national consultant for the National Center for PTSD Prolonged Exposure Therapy Initiative.

Laura Smith-Seemiller, Ph.D., ABPP

- Board Certified in Clinical Neuropsychology
- Ohio State University, 1989
- Neuropsychologist, Neurobehavior Program.
- Interests: Neuropsychology*, Traumatic brain injury*, post-concussion syndrome*, rehabilitation.

Mollie R. Sprung, Ph.D.

- University of Maryland, Baltimore County (UMBC), 2015
- Psychologist, Home Based Primary Care (HBPC)
- Interests: Geropsychology, Health Psychology, Rehabilitation Psychology, Neuropsychology, Caregiver Support
- Dr. Sprung has completed VA training and consultation in Problem Solving Training in Home Based Primary Care and has provider status.

Trent T. Thatcher, Psy.D.

- Wright State University, 2003.
- Psychologist, H.J. Heinz Community Living Center.
- Interests: Long-term care, Geropsychology, Capacity and Cognitive Evaluation, Palliative and Hospice Care.
- Dr. Thatcher has completed didactic VA training and consultation in Motivational Interviewing (MI) and has provider status.

Jody Tomko, Ph.D.

- Western Michigan University, 2008

- Psychologist, Primary Care Clinic at the H. J. Heinz Facility
- Interests: Geropsychology*, Health Behavior Change, Family Caregiving, Training/Supervision, Cultural Diversity.
- Dr. Tomko has completed VA training and consultation in CBT for Depression, Problem Solving Therapy, and Motivational Interviewing and has provider status.

P. Taylor Van Zile IV, Ph.D.

- The Gordon F. Derner School of Psychology, Adelphi University, 2017
- Psychologist, Center for Treatment of Addictive Disorders
- Interests: Acceptance and Commitment Therapy, Mindfulness, Psychodynamic Psychotherapy, Psychoanalysis, Motivational Interviewing