

Columbus VA, Chalmers P. Wylie Ambulatory Care  
Center

# Psychology Internship Program



**VA**



**U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs**

Veterans Health Administration  
VA Central Ohio Healthcare System



## Columbus VA

The Columbus VA, Central Ohio Veteran Affairs Ambulatory Care Center is an independent, state-of-the-art healthcare facility with its origins in a large freestanding clinic developed following World War II. We

strive for excellence in healthcare and are recognized as the preferred provider for Veterans in Central Ohio. The Columbus VA ACC currently treats approximately 50,000 Veterans per year within an intensive outpatient setting.

As one of the facility's strategic plans includes advancing the health and well-being of Veterans, we are committed to a patient-centered, team-based delivery model for providing clinical services to Veterans. To achieve the core values of providing world-class benefits and services earned by this country's Veterans, the Columbus VA ACC currently has 36+ licensed psychologists on staff to provide quality services and training.



The Columbus VA has a strong commitment to diversity, as demonstrated by many active Equal Employment Opportunity groups, hosting an annual diversity fair, its celebration of LGBTQ pride month, and many other diversity related events throughout the year. The Columbus VA is identified as an HEI 2020 Leader in LGBTQ

Healthcare Equality.

## Columbus Living

Columbus is the capital city of Ohio. It is the largest city in the state and the 14th largest city in the United States with a metro population of 1,644,000 (2020), and 2.3 million including the surrounding metropolitan area. Columbus is proud to be home to a large, vibrant and active LGBTQ community. The City received a perfect score on the Human Rights Campaign Foundation's 2020 Municipal Equality Index. Columbus has multiple community initiatives that promote social-cultural inclusion, attracts collegiate students from around the world, and has a diverse, robust, economy. In addition, Columbus is centrally located and it is only a short trip to Cincinnati (2 hours), Cleveland (2 hours), Pittsburgh (3 hours), and Indianapolis (3 hours). Both the Port Columbus and Rickenbacker Airports offer ease when traveling longer distances. Columbus has a very affordable cost of living and offers many opportunities for well-rounded interests.

### *Dining*

There are ample opportunities for foodies in Central Ohio. There are a bevy of restaurants ranging from delicious Italian cuisine, to deluxe diner options and high-end steak and seafood. Columbus is also proud to be home to Short North, Grandview, the Arena District, the Brewery District, and German Village while the surrounding areas provide other unique options for dining.

### *Recreation and Fun/Attractions*

Central Ohio is also a hub for fun, recreation and learning. Columbus has 17 metro parks that are pedestrian, biker and pet friendly allowing for a wide range of outdoor activities throughout the city. Ohio is also home to dozens of state parks with ample opportunities for camping, boating and fishing. For thrill seekers, there are multiple record-holding amusement parks including Cedar Point (2.5 hours North) and Kings Island (1.5 hours South).

Columbus is home to two professional sports teams including the NHL Columbus Blue Jackets and MLS Columbus Crew SC as well as a MLB AAA affiliate team, the

Columbus Clippers. NCAA sports are abundant with The Ohio State Buckeyes just down the road and regular meetings for NCAA regional and national championships in the metropolitan area.

With multiple major theater and concert venues, Columbus hosts a wide variety of entertainment including Broadway productions, the Columbus Symphony, Opera Columbus, comedians and other performers. The Columbus Zoo and Aquarium is consistently ranked in the top two zoos in the country. The Wilds, located 90 minutes east in Cumberland, OH, is the largest wildlife conservation center in North America offering a safari-like experience along with zip lining, fishing and more.

The Ohio State Fair is the largest community event throughout the year drawing an average of 1 million people. Central Ohio is known for festivals celebrating cultures and events of all kinds including LGBTQ Pride, ComFest, the Doo Dah Parade, and the Pumpkin Festival in Circleville, OH (45 minutes south). Numerous ethnic festivals (Asian, Greek, Ethiopian, German, African American, etc.) are held throughout the year including the world's largest 3-day Irish Festival in August. For the shopping enthusiast, Columbus boasts numerous retail areas including Easton Town Center and Polaris Fashion Place.

## **Psychology Internship**

The Columbus VA HCC celebrated its psychology internship's inaugural year during the 2015-2016 training year following approval from the VA Office of Academic Affiliation (OAA) as part of the Mental Health Education Expansion Initiative. The primary training method is experiential and will include socialization into the doctoral profession of psychology. Interns will also receive didactic education regarding the professional practice of psychology.

## **Accreditation**

The Psychology Internship at the Columbus VA HCC is a member of the Association of Psychology Postdoctoral Internship Centers (APPIC). The Internship is fully accredited by the American Psychological Association (APA). Please see the APA Commission on

Accreditation for additional details:

c/o Office of Program Consultation and Accreditation Education Directorate American Psychological Association 750 First Street, NE  
Washington, DC 20002-4242

## Mission

To provide a robust doctoral training program allowing for high quality, experiential training that establishes competency in the evolving world of professional psychology; delivered in an environment that celebrates diversity and interprofessional collaboration with an emphasis on evidence-based care.



## Values

The Columbus VA ACC psychology internship provides supervised clinical training in line with the VA's I CARE values:

**Integrity:** Act with high moral principle. Adhere to the highest professional standards. Maintain the trust and confidence of all with whom I engage.

**Commitment:** Work diligently to serve Veterans and other beneficiaries. Be driven by an earnest belief in VA's mission. Fulfill my individual responsibilities and organizational responsibilities.

**Advocacy:** Be truly Veteran-centric by identifying, fully considering, and appropriately advancing the interests of Veterans and other beneficiaries.

**Respect:** Treat all those I serve and with whom I work with dignity and respect. Show respect to earn it.

**Excellence:** Strive for the highest quality and continuous improvement. Be thoughtful and decisive in leadership, accountable for my actions, willing to admit mistakes, and rigorous in correcting them.

## Training Model, Goals and Core Competencies

The psychology internship follows a practitioner-scholar model and focuses on training interns for clinical practice, while also teaching them to be consumers of research. This is consistent with the "Vail Model." Through both experiential and didactic learning experiences, the psychology internship will ensure that the interns become competent in the following core educational areas vital to the professional practices of psychology:

1. Theories and methods of assessment and diagnosis: Psychology interns will develop moderate to advanced level proficiency in psychological assessment and psychodiagnostics. The interns will learn interview skills to assist in diagnosis and treatment planning. In addition, the interns will receive training in appropriate test selection and in the administration, scoring and interpretation of psychological assessment instruments. The interns will be expected to understand the basics of test construction and have working knowledge of psychometric properties of tests used. They will learn to use assessment results to guide evidence-based practice at all stages of treatment and answer referral questions in interdisciplinary consultation.
2. Evidence-based psychological intervention: Psychology interns will be trained in evidence-based psychological practices. At the completion of the internship, the psychology interns will be expected to have intermediate to advanced skills in providing adult clients with psychological interventions that are informed by research and science. The interns will demonstrate competency in effective interventions for a diverse range of populations and a variety of treatment concerns. This will include

incorporating patient preferences into the goals of treatment to promote and support a recovery model and whole-person care. Interns will be expected to evaluate treatment progress, define, measure, and monitor outcomes, and demonstrate the ability to adapt interventions as appropriate. The interns will be expected to be proficient in one or more evidence-based psychotherapy techniques, and demonstrate the ability to use evidenced-based principles to foster the overall recovery and well-being of patients. With this proficiency, the interns will be able to voice understanding of the chief benefits and limitations of evidence-based psychotherapies. The interns will be expected to display fidelity to the evidence-based interventions that they employ.

3. Consultation: The interns will demonstrate intermediate to advanced skills in providing consultation to professionals from a variety of disciplines within the mental health and medical clinics. The interns will be trained to engage in consultation to promote whole-person care by conveying patient preferences in treatment planning. The interns will be trained to communicate the concepts of psychological science and practice to other disciplines. They will also demonstrate the ability to provide effective assessment feedback and properly articulate appropriate recommendations to providers from a variety of disciplines within the mental health and/or medical clinics.
4. Supervision:  
The interns will develop intermediate skills in supervision primarily through being trained in theories and methods of supervision, as well as experiential activities (e.g. role play). Interns will demonstrate an understanding of supervision models as well as the issues (i.e. ethical, legal) pertaining to the role of a clinical supervisor.
5. Interface between scientific thinking and practice: At the completion of their training, the psychology interns will have developed skills in applying scientific research to guide their interventions as well as using empirical methodology to effectively monitor

outcomes. In addition to being educated on how to incorporate knowledge from scientific literature into their interventions with patients, the interns will be expected to present such knowledge via didactic presentations and during supervision. Interns will be expected to understand and apply a conceptual framework to their practice.

6. Diversity, Ethics and Professional issues: Psychology interns will receive education and training in a wide variety of ethical and professional issues pertinent to the practice of psychology. Special attention will be given to the APA's Ethical Principles of Psychologists and Code of Conduct as it informs practice and professional development. Interns will be expected to demonstrate knowledge of the APA code as well as other relevant professional standards and guidelines. Interns will be expected to demonstrate integration of ethical standards across competencies. The doctoral internship program will promote an integration of evidence-based, cultural-informed treatment and clinical case conceptualization. The interns will be expected to demonstrate knowledge of and an ability to integrate ethical and diversity issues throughout each element of their professional practice.

## Curriculum Elements

The following elements are embedded into each of the Rotations:

*Shared Decision Making:* The professional staff at the Columbus VA HCC are committed to the assessment and alignment of clinical care with patients' preferences. All educational experiences for interns will include the opportunity to discuss and treat Veterans in a collaborative setting, to allow for whole-person care. The interns will be taught how to incorporate patient preferences in treatment planning. Trainees will be educated on how to collaborate with patients in setting goals for treatment, promoting healthy behaviors, and self-management. The interns will be taught the importance of appropriate informed consent procedures.

*Sustained Relationships:* Psychology interns will be fully integrated into patient-centered practices at the Columbus VA HCC. They will participate in regular

interdisciplinary meetings designed to facilitate communication among providers regarding patient care. Moreover, the interns will be trained in evidence-based psychotherapy and assessment practices, which have been shown in research to improve patient outcomes.

*Interprofessional Collaboration:* Interns will be involved in Interprofessional teams, allowing for the shared responsibility for patient care. Interns will gain experience in generating treatment plans and delivering psychological services on teams exhibiting coordination among team members and disciplines. This training will allow interns to gain extensive knowledge of and respect for how the contributions of other team members from a variety of disciplines can improve patient care and compliment psychology as a profession.

## **Evaluation & Performance Improvement**

The psychology interns' competency will be assessed several times throughout the internship year. Interns will complete self-assessments in addition to formal assessments by primary psychotherapy supervisors and the rotation supervisors.

This evaluation will include:

- Initial assessment of level of competency at start of rotation by clinical supervisor
- Self-assessment by intern of competency at start and end of the internship
- Mid-rotation evaluation by rotation supervisor
- Final rotation evaluation by rotation supervisor
- Evaluation by the psychotherapy minor supervisor every 6 months
- Intern evaluation of each rotation at its conclusion
- Intern evaluation of supervisor at completion of supervisory experience
- Intern evaluation of didactic presentations

The psychology interns will receive ongoing monitoring and feedback on their clinical skills by their clinical supervisors. This may include audio or video tapes of psychological services provided by the intern. The clinical supervisors will also review the psychology interns' assessments and psychotherapy notes and provide feedback as

needed. The interns will be provided with opportunities to directly observe clinical interventions by experienced, licensed psychologists. The interns will co-lead various psychotherapy groups with more experienced clinicians. Co-leading such groups will provide the interns with the chance to learn and practice psychotherapy techniques and to model interventions used by clinicians who are considered experts in their field of practice.

## **Internship Major Rotations**

The psychology interns will be integrated throughout the facility. There are several common core elements that are included in all of the clinics and programs that are part of the interns' educational experience. The focus of each rotation is on patient-centered, whole-person care and the promotion of self-management. The development of clinical skills that support collaborative treatment planning and shared decision making will be promoted. This will be accomplished through interprofessional teams that utilize each discipline's specialized training for the care of the patient. It is expected that interns will be an integral part of any team to which they are assigned so they can gain hands-on experience in the application and provision of psychological theory, science and evidence-based practices. In addition, other allied health professionals will gain a better appreciation of the value of psychology through their collaboration with the psychology interns.

During the internship year, psychology interns will experience two major rotations that will be 6 months in duration. Interns may not be assigned to their first choice of rotations. At least one of these major rotations, but potentially both (depending on intern interests and training needs) will be in one of the two identified core settings: The Behavioral Health Clinic or the Medical Clinics. At least one primary rotation will need to include an experience designated as an intraprofessional team experience\* (i.e. BHIP, Recovery Services or any of the health psychology clinic rotations). The second primary rotation will be more strictly determined by the training goals and needs of the intern. The interns will also each participate in a year-long minor rotation in evidence-based

psychotherapeutic (EBP) interventions, as well as a psychological assessment minor rotation. The interns are expected to spend at least 18 hours per week in face-to-face delivery of psychological services to patients.

## **Available Major Rotations Include:**

### General and Specialty Mental Health:

- Behavioral Health Integrative Program (BHIP)\*
- Couple and Family Therapy
- Neuropsychological Assessment
- Outpatient Substance Use Disorders (Recovery Services)\*
- Rural Behavioral Health\*
- Severely Mentally Ill & Psychosocial Rehabilitation and Recovery (PRRC)\*
- Trauma Recovery

### Health Psychology Major Rotations:

- Cardiology/Pulmonology Clinics\*
- Chronic Pain Rehabilitation Program\*
- Primary Care-Mental Health Integration (PCMHI)\*
- Medical Weight Management\*

## **General and Specialty Mental Health Rotation Descriptions**

A team based approach is woven into the evidence-based treatment of the core mental/behavioral health clinical programs. The interdisciplinary cooperation across the behavioral health care line is a strength of the Columbus VA. The service model of the Columbus VA ACC has been restructured to include intraprofessional teams, and the rotations will enable the psychological intern to gain experience and foster professional development within these settings.

*Behavioral Health Interdisciplinary Program (BHIP):* This model is accepted as the primary model of health care delivery within the general behavioral health clinics. The psychology interns will be part of the BHIP teams and focus on the treatment of Veterans with a wide range of DSM-5 diagnoses, including mood, anxiety and personality disorders. There is a strong focus on individualized treatment planning developed by the patient in concert with the clinical team members. The emphasis of the rotation for the psychology intern will be training in Evidence-Based Psychotherapies (EBPs) which may include Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBT), Cognitive Processing Therapy (CPT) for non-military trauma, Acceptance and Commitment Therapy (ACT), Dialectical Behavioral Therapy (DBT) and Radically Open-DBT (RO-DBT). Training in evidence-based couple and family therapy such as Integrative Behavioral Couple Therapy (IBCT) may be available for psychology interns interested in developing skills in this area.

*Couple and Family Therapy:* Interns will develop core competencies in the provision of couple and family therapy to address a wide variety of relational problems. Interns in this rotation will learn family based methods of assessment to inform case conceptualizations using behavioral systems and attachment theories. Interns will have an opportunity to learn evidence based interventions to address common couple and family problems such as recovery from infidelity, general relationship distress and sexual concerns. Specific couple and family evidence based modalities may include Integrative Behavioral Couple Therapy, Cognitive Behavioral Conjoint Therapy for PTSD, Conjoint Therapy for SUD, Behavioral Family Therapy, Multi-Family Group Therapy, and Strategic Family Therapy. This rotation is designed to fit any skill level including interns with no previous experience seeing couples or families.

*Neuropsychological Assessment:* Psychology interns participating on this rotation will have an opportunity to become familiar with a wide range of presenting problems such as neurological conditions, depression/PTSD, traumatic brain injury, ADHD/learning disorders, various types of dementia, as well as cerebrovascular disease and other medical conditions with direct and/or secondary impact on neuropsychological functioning. Interns in this rotation will become familiar with conducting clinical

interviews, medical record reviews, staff consultation, and the administration, scoring and interpretation of common intelligence, cognitive, and emotional/psychological and personality assessment instruments. An important aspect of this rotation will be the development of report writing skills. Moreover, didactics in clinical psychology, neurosciences and neuropsychology will be incorporated into this rotation. Opportunities to collaborate with other disciplines such as psychiatry, neurology, social work and geriatric medicine will be provided.

*Outpatient Substance Use Disorders (Recovery Services):* Psychology interns who participate in this rotation will have the opportunity to treat Veterans with substance use disorders and other comorbid mental health conditions. During the rotation the interns will help clients better understand their co-morbid issues and address psychosocial stressors. There will be opportunities to perform comprehensive substance use evaluations and complete collaborative treatment plans. Interventions include psychoeducation to new and long-term clients (both group and individual format), integrative evidence-based psychotherapies, and relapse prevention skills enhancement. This nationally recognized interdisciplinary program utilizes a care-on-demand model with a strong integration of Motivational Intervention (MI).

*Rural Behavioral Health:* This is an opportunity for Psychology interns to work in an integrated care clinic providing general behavioral health to rural veterans. The interns will be part of a multi-disciplinary team in one of our rural Community Based Outpatient Clinics (CBOCs) – travel is required- with focus on the assessment and treatment of Veterans with a wide range of DSM-5 diagnoses, including mood, anxiety, trauma, and personality disorders. Interns may provide psychodiagnostic testing, individual, group, or couples therapy as part of this rotation. The emphasis of the rotation will be in training in evidence-based treatment approaches with consideration of cultural sensitivity with veterans from rural areas, as well as Veterans across diverse cultures. Interns will develop competency in rural mental health and demonstrate the knowledge and ability to practice psychology effectively when working in a rural setting and develop an understanding of how to practice ethically, when coping with complex issues that

may arise in rural culture.

*Severe Mental Illness & Psychosocial Rehabilitation and Recovery.* The PRRC focuses on the delivery of recovery-based services for Veterans with severe mental illness (SMI). This training experience involves the delivery of recovery-oriented, evidence-based psychosocial treatments that are holistic and person-centered. Specific clinical duties will include psychological assessment as well as individual, group and family psychotherapy. The evidence-based practices delivered may include specific training in social skills training for schizophrenia, or Behavioral Family Therapy (BFT). Additionally, interns will have the opportunity to complement their training experience in the PRRC with exposure to interventions for dually diagnosed Veterans (both group and individual), depending on intern interests and training needs. The program also includes staff trained in the implementation of Cognitive Enhancement Therapy (CET), which can further serve as a training opportunity for future interns if interested. The ultimate goal of this training experience is for the interns to understand the value of providing care to Veterans with SMI in a manner that enhances strengths, provides social connection, and instills a sense of empowerment and hope.

*Trauma Recovery Service.* The Trauma Recovery Rotation will allow the psychology interns to serve on a team of psychologists and social workers that work intensely in the assessment and treatment of military and non-military related trauma. This team specializes in evidence-based treatment for trauma-related disorders, including combat and non-combat related trauma and military sexual trauma. The interns will be trained in the use of the Clinician-Administered PTSD Scale (CAPS) standard assessment measure for PTSD. The interns will also have the opportunity to learn EBPs including Prolonged Exposure (PE), Cognitive Processing Therapy (CPT) and Nightmare Resolution



Therapy (NRT), which are the core treatments delivered by this team. As co-facilitators in treatment groups, the interns will gain proficiency in relaxation skill acquisition, stress reduction, anger management and mindfulness-based interventions. Participation in weekly team meetings will provide the interns with additional exposure to case conceptualization and the scientific basis for PTSD treatment. During this training experience the interns will develop skills needed to independently perform assessments, collaboratively develop individualized treatment plans and provide treatment for PTSD.

## Health Psychology Major Rotation Descriptions

A patient-centered, team-based model guides the daily delivery of patient care in the medical clinics at the Columbus VA. Behavioral Health services are embedded into several of the medical clinics. A team-based model fosters an integrated care environment that allows all health care team members to use their complementary skills to effectively manage the needs of their patients. Consistent with this model, interdisciplinary team members regularly engage in treatment planning, case consultation, and daily team meetings (huddles) that are designed to ensure collaborative delivery of integrated health care services. Participation in team meetings will provide the psychology interns with opportunities to interact with staff members from multiple disciplines and discuss treatment options with the aim of promoting the mental health and overall welfare of their patients.

*Cardiology & Pulmonology/Sleep:* This rotation will provide interns with exposure to complex relationships between biopsychosocial factors and health. Interns will have the opportunity to provide evidence-based cognitive-behavioral intervention (e.g. CBT, ACT, MI, BA) to Veterans with a variety of cardiac and/or pulmonary/sleep conditions in both individual and group formats. Treatment will be focused on promoting health behavior change, enhancing health outcomes, encouraging medical adherence and chronic disease management, facilitating healthy coping/adjustment, and improving overall quality of life. Common intervention targets include adjustment

to cardiac/pulmonary conditions and treatments/procedures as well as prevention and management of co-occurring conditions including: obesity, stress, irritability, anxiety, depression, diabetes, tobacco use, chronic pain, and insomnia. There may also be opportunity to participate in a 4-session sleep education group and an interdisciplinary pulmonary rehabilitation program. In addition to providing treatment, interns may have the opportunity to conduct biopsychosocial evaluations to determine Veteran readiness for medical procedures and provide recommendations to enhance outcomes. Interns will also develop consultation skills working with other healthcare providers on both the cardiac and pulmonary/sleep medical teams.

*Chronic Pain Rehabilitation:* In this rotation, the psychology interns will gain experience in the assessment and treatment of Veterans with complex chronic pain and comorbid mental health conditions such as depression, anxiety, PT and substance use problems. The interns will learn to implement evidence-based principles and clinical methods within an interdisciplinary, chronic pain rehabilitation model. Veterans are typically treated using a cognitive-behavioral framework that focuses on developing and maintaining active pain self-management strategies. Clinical opportunities include psychosocial assessment, group and individual psychotherapy, patient education, and participation in weekly interdisciplinary team meetings. As a part of this rotation, interns will have the opportunity to participate in the intensive chronic pain rehabilitation program, which offers the following outpatient services: group and individual psychotherapy, relaxation training, health and wellness education, physical therapy, recreation therapy, nutrition counseling, medication management, and individual case management. The interdisciplinary pain team is comprised of staff from psychology, physical therapy, medicine, recreation therapy, nutrition, chaplaincy, and social work.

*Primary Care Mental Health Integration (PCMHI):* At the core of this rotation is the application of a primary care psychology model within the primary care clinics. There is a strong emphasis on whole-person care and the promotion of health behavior management. There will be a special focus on consultation and liaison with medical

providers as part of an interdisciplinary team that integrates behavioral health and medical care. Supporting mental and behavioral health care of conditions commonly seen in a primary care medical clinic, such as depression, anxiety, grief, insomnia, and chronic illness management (diabetes, obesity, pain) will be emphasized. The individual treatment modalities center upon MI, brief CBT, and Problem Solving Therapy (PST). Experience with groups including smoking cessation, MOVE!, and coping with chronic illness may also be incorporated into this rotation.

*Weight Management Program:* This rotation will provide interns with an understanding of obesity from a biopsychosocial perspective. Interns will gain experience in the assessment and treatment of Veterans diagnosed with obesity and comorbid medical conditions, including chronic pain, diabetes, and other metabolic-related concerns. They will gain an in-depth understanding of the impact of psychological disorders, such as depression, anxiety, disordered eating, and insomnia on obesity and weight loss efforts. Clinical opportunities include psychological assessment, including the opportunity to conduct pre-surgical bariatric surgery evaluations as available, individual psychotherapy, ranging from health behavior change to more in-depth treatment, interdisciplinary treatment groups, patient education, and interdisciplinary team meetings. The intern will work closely with the interdisciplinary Weight Management Program treatment team, including endocrinologists, dietitians, a nurse manager, and physical therapists. The individual treatment modalities center upon ACT, CBT, and MI with a focus on helping veterans create sustainable, healthy lifestyle changes and addressing the impact of psychological concerns on obesity/weight loss.

### **Evidence-Based Psychotherapy Minor Rotation**

Each intern will participate in a year-long Evidence-Based Psychotherapy minor rotation. During this minor rotation, interns will carry a caseload of at least 7-9 long-term psychotherapy patients. Interns interested in delivery of services in a rural health setting also have the opportunity to be supervised by one of our psychologists stationed at a

Community Based Outpatient Center (CBOC). This would require assignment to a CBOC for one day per week, which are located approximately 45-60 mins away from the main internship site. Supervision will be provided for the entire rotation by one assigned licensed psychologist for at least 1 hour per week. Audio and/or videotaping sessions are expected for supervision purposes.

### **Psychological Assessment Minor Rotation**

Psychology interns at the Columbus VA HCC will participate in a weekly psychological assessment minor rotation which will focus on training in comprehensive psychological assessment. Interns will participate in weekly group supervision. This experience will include training in clinical interviewing, psychological assessment, psychopathology diagnosis, and report writing. During this experience, interns will learn how to administer, score, and interpret psychological tests for the purpose of diagnosis and treatment planning. The assessment instruments that the interns will be trained in include instruments such as the MMPI-2-RF/MMPI-3, PAI, MCMI-III, Beck Depression Inventory, Beck Anxiety Inventory, and other instruments that are pertinent to the issue being assessed. The interns will be educated on the 2014 edition of the "Standards for Educational and Psychological Testing." Interns interested in the compensation & pension process can learn about how to properly assess Veterans seeking benefits for mental conditions that may have resulted from their military service.

### **Supervision of Supervision:**

During the course of the training year, all interns will be involved in a structured opportunity to develop their skill set in the application of competency-based supervision. The interns will meet as a group every other month for ninety minutes as part of this consultation program. The first half of the training year will focus on learning and applying the core competencies as outlined in the American Psychological Association's (2014) Guidelines for Clinical Supervision in Health Service Psychology. The remainder of the training year will afford trainees the opportunity to focus on developing their supervision skills from the lens of specific theoretical orientations of their choosing. Training objectives will be met through assigned readings, discussion, and role-playing.

The role-playing will consist of each intern demonstrating their developing skills by “supervising” a fellow intern using a clinical case. Their colleagues and the facilitator will provide metasupervision of the process in order to afford real-time feedback and support. The goal is to make this a fun, interactive process that will better prepare our interns to meet the demands of their professional endeavors.

## **Application Procedures**

The Columbus VA HCC internship program encourages applicants from diverse backgrounds who value cultural diversity and practice inclusivity. The Columbus VA HCC internship program does NOT discriminate on the basis of age, race, ethnicity, religion, culture, language, physical or mental disability status, gender identity or expression, socioeconomic status, sex, or sexual orientation.

## **Internship Year & Stipend**

The 2022-2023 internship year begins on 8/15/2022; Interns complete a 2080-hour internship year. The training stipend is \$27,096. State and federal income tax and FICA (Social Security) are withheld from interns’ checks. Interns receive 11 paid federal holidays, 13 days of sick leave and 13 days of leave for vacation and/or professional development. Interns may be approved for up to 3 days of Administrative Absence for activities such as conference presentations or dissertation defense.

## **Eligibility: [Am I Eligible? Checklist for VA HPTs](#)**

Applications for the doctoral psychology internship program are welcome from students who have met the following requirements *at the time of application*:

- Three years of graduate study, completion of comprehensive exams, and acceptance as a doctoral candidate into an APA-accredited graduate program in Clinical or Counseling Psychology. Persons with a doctorate in another area of psychology who meet the APA criteria for respecialization training in Clinical or Counseling Psychology are also eligible.
- Approval for internship status by graduate program training director
- Completion of a minimum of **500** doctoral level intervention AAPI Hours

- Completion of a minimum of **100** doctoral level assessment APPI Hours
- Dissertation proposal approved prior to application
- 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.
- A male applicant born after 12/31/1959 must have registered for the draft by age 26 to be eligible for any U.S. government employment, including selection as a paid VA trainee. Male applicants must sign a pre-appointment Certification Statement for Selective Service Registration before they can be processed into a training program. Exceptions can be granted only by the US Office of Personnel Management; exceptions are very rarely granted.
- Interns are subject to fingerprinting and background checks. Match result and selection decisions are contingent on passing these screens.
- VA conducts drug screening exams on randomly selected personnel as well as new employees, including interns. Match results and selection decisions are contingent on passing these screen.

## **Application & Selection Procedure**

We rely on the Association of Psychology Postdoctoral and Internship Centers (APPIC) website for application materials. Interested individuals who meet eligibility criteria should submit the following application materials using the online AAPI application process by **11/15/2021**:

- A cover letter indicating intent to apply to the internship program, training goals, and a list of major rotations of interest
- APPIC Application for Psychology Internship (AAPI)
- Deidentified Work Sample or Assessment
- Curriculum Vita
- Official graduate transcript(s)

- Minimum of three letters of reference (in addition to the letter of verification from the Training Director)

Applications will not be considered for applicants who do not meet minimum criteria, including the submission of all application materials.

The psychology training committee will review all completed applications to evaluate for a goodness of fit. This committee includes the Co-Directors of Training and psychology staff. Those not meeting the eligibility requirements will be notified as soon as possible. Interviews may be offered to applicants. Interviews for our site are conducted via telephone conference calls.

### **Match Process**

We follow the match policies established by APPIC. Our program uses one match number for all positions: **23411** The only information that we may communicate to applicants prior to the February deadline is whether they are still under consideration for admission. Additional information regarding the match is available through the National Matching Services.

### **Appointment to Internship**

For applicants that match with us, a valid affiliation agreement with the applicant's doctoral program is required prior to appointment. In addition, applicants that match with our site are required to undergo a background check prior to the appointment. Please see Section 8 of the Executive Order establishing this process:

<http://www.archives.gov/federal-register/codification/executive-order/10450.html>

Health Professions Trainees (HPTs) are appointed as temporary employees of the Department of Veterans Affairs. As such, HPTs are subject to laws, policies, and guidelines posted for VA staff members. There are infrequent times in which this guidance can change during a training year which may create new requirements or responsibilities for HPTs. If employment requirements change during the course of a training year, HPTs will be notified of the change and impact as soon as possible and



## Psychology Staff

### **Gregory Alfred, Ph.D. (He/Him/His)**

2011, University of Missouri

Psychologist, Trauma Recovery Team

Interests: PTSD, Men & Masculinity, Moral Injury, Military-to-Civilian Life transition, Multiculturalism

### **Laren Conklin, Ph.D. (She/Her/Hers)**

2013, The Ohio State University

Psychologist, BHIP & DBT Teams

Interests: Anxiety, Obsessive-Compulsive Disorders, Transdiagnostic Treatment, Couple Therapy, Measurement Based Care

### **Eric Drown, Psy.D. (He/Him/His)**

2004, Wright State University School of Professional Psychology

Psychologist, Trauma Recovery Team, PTSD/SUD clinic

Interests: Complex PTSD, Moral Injury, Substance Misuse

### **Jennifer Finnerty, Psy.D., ABPP (She/Her/Hers)**

2002, Forest Institute of Professional Psychology

Clinical Health Psychologist, Integrated Behavioral Health Division Director, Co-Director of Training, Team Lead, PCMHI

Interests: Endocrine disorders, Presurgical Psychological Evaluations, Primary Care Psychology, Bioethics

### **Rachel Gabelman, Ph.D. (She/Her/Hers)**

2017, Illinois Institute of Technology

Clinical Health Psychologist, Medical Weight Management Team

Interests: Health Psychology, Stress Management

**M. Grace Hamelberg, Psy.D. (She/Her/Hers)**

2016, The Chicago School of Professional Psychology (Chicago)

Psychologist, Trauma Recovery

Interests: PTSD, Anxiety Disorders, Psychological Assessment

**Michelle Harris, Psy.D. (She/Her/Hers)**

2005, Illinois School of Professional Psychology Chicago

Psychologist, BHIP and DBT Teams, Psychology Supervisor, GMH

Interests: Mood & Anxiety Disorders, Personality Disorders, Crisis Intervention, Suicide Prevention, Trauma Recovery, Assessment

**Julia Huston, Ph.D. (She/Her/Hers)**

2018, Western Michigan

Clinical Health Psychologist, Cardiology and Pulmonology

Interests: Health Psychology, Behavioral Medicine

**Nicole Jackson, Ph.D. (She/Her/Hers)**

2012, Columbia University

Psychologist, BHIP Team, Clinical Director of Whole Health

Interests: Multicultural Practice, PTSD, Couple-based Interventions

**Adrienne Jet, Psy.D. (She/Her/Hers)**

2014, Argosy University

Psychologist, BHIP & DBT Teams

Interests: Mood and Anxiety Disorders, Trauma Recovery, Personality Disorders

**Casey Judge, Ph.D. (She/Her/Hers)**

2008, The Ohio State University

Psychologist, Trauma Recovery

Interests: Eating Disorders, Body Image

**Daniel Judge, Psy.D. (He/Him/His)**

2008, Xavier University

Psychologist, Home-based Primary Care

Interests: SMI/Dually Diagnosed Veterans

**William Kalush, Psy.D. (He/Him/His)**

2009, Xavier University

Psychologist, PCMHI, Health Behavior Coordinator

Interests: Positive Psychology, Health Psychology, Geropsychology, Grief

**Jeremy Kaufman, Psy.D. (He/Him/His)**

2005, Georgia School of Professional Psychology

Psychologist, BHIP Team C

Interests: AD/HD, behavioral therapy, assessment, family therapy

**William Lawhorn, Ph.D. (He/Him/His)**

1992, Illinois Institute of Technology

Pain Psychologist, PCMHI and Pain Teams

Interests: Pain, Pain and Weight loss, Pain Implant Presurgical Psychological Evaluations, Tinnitus, Insomnia, Smoking Cessation

**Tobin Lovell, Psy.D. (He/Him/His)**

2001, Wright State University

Psychologist, Primary Care Mental Health Integration

Interests: GLBTQ Issues in Psychotherapy, Diversity, Group Therapy, Sleep issues

**Jason McCray, Ph.D. (He/Him/His)**

2004, University of North Dakota

Psychologist, Trauma Recovery

Interests: PTSD, Eating Disorders, Neurobiology

**Berhane Messay, Ph.D. (She/Her/Hers)**

2017, University of Pittsburgh

Psychologist, BHIP Team C

Interests: Individual, group and couple therapy with adults, behavioral medicine, positive psychology

**Kadian Miracle, Ph.D. (She/Her/Hers)**

2015, Ohio University

Psychologist, BHIP Team D

Interests: Women's Issues, Couple Therapy, Sexual Concerns, Multicultural Practice, Trauma & Recovery

**Patrick Meyer, Ph.D. (He/Him/His)**

2004, George Mason University

Psychologist, Home-based Primary Care

Interests: Geriatrics, Couples, Trauma, Forensic Psychology, Clinical Hypnosis

**Gregg Nigl, Ph.D., ABPP (He/Him/His)**

2007, Nova Southeastern University

Neuropsychologist

Interests: Differential Diagnosis of Dementia Syndromes, TBI, Performance and Symptom Validity Assessment, Capacity-Related Assessment, teleneuropsychological assessment, use of RCI/SRB in repeat evaluations

**Brian O'Reilly, Ph.D. (He/Him/His)**

2007, Kent State University

Psychologist, BHIP & MHCM Teams, Local Evidenced-Based Psychotherapy Coordinator

Interests: Psychological Assessment, Forensic Assessment

**Danielle R. Probst, Ph.D. (She/Her/Hers)**

2011, Ohio University

Pain Psychologist, Team lead Chronic Pain Rehabilitation Program

Interests: Chronic Pain, Palliative Care, Psycho-Oncology

**Jacob Raak, Ph.D. (He/Him/His)**

2016, Central Michigan University

Neuropsychologist

Interests: Performance Validity Testing, Dementia, TBI

**Christopher Ray, Ph.D., ABPP (He/Him/His)**

1998, University of Akron

Psychologist, Compensation and Pension, Co-Director of Training, Psychology Supervisor, GMH

Interests: Forensic Psychology, Symptom Validity Assessment, Risk Assessment, Bioethics

**Derek Ream, Psy.D. (He/Him/His)**

2021, Albizu University

Psychologist, BHIP Team D

Interests: PTSD, Chronic pain, neurobiology, assessment, personality disorders, SUD, SMI/dual diagnosis, group therapy

**Jenna Renqvist, Ph.D. (She/Her/Hers)**

2015, University of Nevada, Reno

Psychologist, BHIP Team A

Interests: ACT, Couple Therapy, Motivational Interviewing, Care for Women Veterans

**Heather Robinson, Psy.D., ABPP (She/Her/Hers)**

2006, Spalding University

Psychologist, Trauma Recovery Service Division Director

Interests: PTSD, Women Veterans, Moral Injury

**Amy Shaver, Ph.D. (She/Her/Hers)**

2003, The Ohio State University  
Psychologist, Crisis and Acute Care Clinic  
Interests: Peer Support, General Mental Health

**Amanda Shea, Ph.D. (She/Her/Hers)**

2013, Indiana University Perdue University Indianapolis  
Psychologist, BHIP & DBT Teams, Women's Mental Health Coordinator  
Interests: Complex Trauma, Women's mental health, Borderline Personality Disorder, Depression

**Kimberly Smeltzer, Psy.D. (She/Her/Hers)**

2006, Chicago School of Professional Psychology  
Psychologist, Rural Outpatient Clinic- Marion Community Outpatient Clinic,  
Supervisory Psychologist Rural Outpatient Clinics  
Interests: Rural Psychology, Integrated Behavioral Health, Diversity and  
integrating spiritual into mental health, Supervision & Training

**Lisa Sterling, Psy.D. (She/Her/Hers)**

2004, Xavier University  
Psychologist, Rural Outpatient Clinic- Marion Community Outpatient Clinic  
Interests: Geropsychology, Health Psychology

**Nathan Tomcik, Ph.D., ABPP (He/Him/His)**

2005, University of Tennessee  
Psychologist, BHIP & DBT Teams, Chief Psychologist, Ambulatory  
Behavioral Health Services Division Director  
Interests: Couple & Family Therapy

**Kelsee Tucker, Ph.D., (She/Her/Hers)**

2020, University of Huston  
Psychologist, BHIP Team C  
Interests: Mood and Anxiety Disorders, Couple Therapy, Health  
Psychology

**Christine Valenti, Psy.D. (She/Her/Hers)**

2012, Wright State University

Psychologist, Recovery Services & PRRC

Interests: SPMI, Women's issues, PTSD, Dual Diagnosis

**Ciara Wright, Psy.D. (She/Her/Hers)**

2021, Marshall University

Psychologist, Zanesville Rural Outpatient Clinic

Interests: Geropsychology, Suicide Prevention, Rural/Underserved Areas, PTSD

**Cassandra Zierk, Ph.D. (She/Her/Hers)**

2013, Texas Tech University

Psychologist, Trauma Recovery Team

Interests: PTSD