

**Orlando VA Healthcare System
PSYCHOLOGY INTERNSHIP PROGRAM
(2023-2024)**



VA



Department of Veterans Affairs

Orlando VA Healthcare System

Dear potential applicants,

We are delighted that you are considering the Orlando VA Healthcare System for your psychology internship! Making an informed decision on which internship would be a good fit for your interests and training needs is a difficult task. The Orlando VA is one of the largest VA healthcare systems in the country and offers a diverse and rich training environment. The internship has a strong focus on evidence-based practices in a wide range of clinical areas that span both emotional and physical health. Additionally, to meet your unique training and career goals, we place a large emphasis on tailoring the training experiences to each intern. The staff within our training program are committed to providing a quality and fulfilling internship that will prepare you for the next step in your career. Please take a closer look at our materials and do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions regarding our program.

Sincerely,

Bryan Batién, Ph.D., ABPP
Psychology Training Director

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THE SETTING

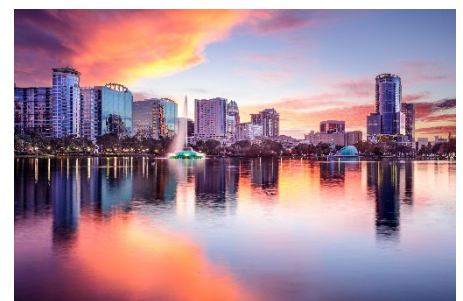
ORLANDO, FLORIDA

Orlando and the Central Florida region are known as vacation hotspots, attracting around 60 million visitors every year. Orlando is home to world-famous theme parks and attractions such as Disney World, Universal Studios, and SeaWorld among many others.



Central Florida is also home to NASA's Kennedy Space Center, where rocket launches can regularly be seen throughout the entire region including from the windows of the Orlando VA Medical Center. Orlando is the home to professional sports teams including NBA's Orlando Magic and the Orlando City Soccer Club. Orlando offers an abundance of performing arts through venues such as the Dr. Phillips Center for Performing Arts as well as a number of museums.

Access to world-class entertainment is only a part of what living in Central Florida has to offer. Nicknamed "The City Beautiful," Orlando is the third-largest metropolitan area in Florida with a population of roughly 2.5 million in the greater Central Florida region. Orlando is an ethnically diverse city with population consisting of 36% White individuals, 32% Hispanic, 25% Black, 3% Asian, and 4% Two+/Native/Other (based on Census Data). Orlando is known as an LGBTQ+ friendly community, achieving a perfect score on the Human Rights Campaign's Municipal Equality Index, which measures the LGBTQ+ inclusiveness of cities' laws, policies, and services.



Central Florida is also a paradise for nature lovers. The Orlando VA catchment area includes world-class beaches including Daytona Beach and Cocoa Beach. Natural



springs are spread throughout the region and offer opportunities to get up close with nature and wildlife.

Popular natural springs include Blue Springs, where manatees can be seen up close and personal at certain times of the year.



ORLANDO VA HEALTHCARE SYSTEM

The Orlando VA Health Care System (VAHCS), was officially established as a new VA facility in October of 2006. The Orlando VAHCS includes one of the nation's newest VA hospitals in Lake Nona with 134 inpatient beds, a 120-bed Community Living Center in Lake Nona, a two-site 110-bed Residential Rehabilitation Treatment Program at Lake Nona and Lake Baldwin, a multispecialty medical center at Lake Baldwin (uptown Orlando), two very large, comprehensive outpatient clinics in Daytona Beach and Viera (Cocoa Beach area), five Community-Based Outpatient Clinics (CBOC) in Clermont, Kissimmee, Deltona, Tavares, and Palm Bay.

The Orlando VAHCS Lake Nona Campus is co-located with the University of Central Florida College of Medicine, the University of Florida Academic and Research Center, the National Simulation, Learning, Education and Research Network (SimLEARN) Center, and Nemours Children's Hospital in the area known as the "Medical City." Orlando is rapidly becoming a prime destination for healthcare professionals and patients seeking state-of-the-art care.



INTERNSHIP IN HEALTH SERVICE PSYCHOLOGY

MISSION

The mission of the Orlando VA Healthcare System (VAHCS) Psychology Internship program is to develop ethical and competent psychologists capable of delivering quality care through evidence-based practice for the purpose of improving the quality of life and well-being for America's Veterans. The Psychology Training Program's mission is part of the larger mission of the Department of Veterans Affairs, set by President Abraham Lincoln to "To care for him who shall have borne the battle and for his widow, and his orphan."



TRAINING MODEL

The psychology internship at the Orlando VA Healthcare System follows a scholar-practitioner model of training. Our aim is to assist interns develop the ability to evaluate and conceptualize their professional activities while also integrating that knowledge into the delivery of clinical services with care and compassion.

TRAINING PHILOSOPHY

Our training program provides generalist training for professional psychologists. Our generalist approach to training aims to help interns develop a strong foundation of general clinical skills and knowledge to prepare them for a variety of career paths. As such, we strive to provide a variety of training experiences that will facilitate the development of foundational professional and clinical competencies.

Our generalist approach to training emphasizes evidence-based practice that converges clinical expertise, research, and individual patient characteristics. Such individual attributes include personal values, strengths, and histories, as well as demographic variables and culture. Cultural diversity is celebrated at Orlando VAHCS and Interns'



ability to work with demographically diverse patients and incorporate issues related to culture, ethnicity, and race is seen as a vital component of skill development.

Our training program values active learning and supervision. Continual communication between the Intern and their supervisor is expected, with Interns providing ongoing feedback to their supervisors regarding the supervision process and their supervisory needs. Additionally, Interns are expected to provide ongoing feedback and evaluation of the training program as a whole.

DIVERSITY

The Orlando VA Healthcare System serves our nation's Veterans, who represent a wide range of diversity including, but not limited to, differences in gender, race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, physical ability, regional affiliation, age, and religious/spiritual orientation. The Psychology Training Program is deeply committed to the appreciation of diversity as well as the development of multicultural competence. The internship program incorporates a variety of training experiences to help Interns expand their awareness, knowledge and appreciation related to diversity and cultural factors. Issues related to culture and diversity are highlighted throughout weekly didactics and seminars, readings, other learning activities, and clinical supervision.

PROGRAM STRUCTURE

The internship year is comprised of three main components: major rotations, optional minor rotation(s), and didactic/training seminars.

MAJOR ROTATIONS

Interns will complete **three major rotations** (4 months each) during the internship year. Time commitment: Interns will spend between 28-32 hours per week in their major rotation. Variation in time per week on the major rotations is dependent on time commitment for the optional minor rotation(s); see below. Interns will receive at a minimum 2 hours of individual supervision per week on their major rotations.

MINOR ROTATIONS (OPTIONAL)

Interns may elect to participate in additional minor rotations to augment the clinical experiences of their major rotations. Some minor rotations offer focused experiences in specific clinical areas (e.g., formal VA evidence-based psychotherapy trainings or specific therapeutic modalities). Other minor rotations may involve more non-traditional or administrative activities in which psychologists may engage.

Time commitment: Minor rotations vary in length lasting anywhere from 4 weeks to all year long with the majority of minor rotations lasting 4 months. Minor rotations will also vary from 1-4 hours per week. See the minor rotation descriptions for specific details.

DIDACTIC/TRAINING SEMINARS

Interns are engaged in weekly didactics and training seminars throughout the year. These didactics and seminars span a wide range of areas and topics to increase the breadth and depth of clinical skills and knowledge. Trainings include a weekly two-hour didactic seminar, journal club, supervision of supervision seminar, group supervision, and case conceptualization seminar.



SAMPLE INTERN WEEKLY SCHEDULE

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
8:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.	Major Rotation	Administrative Time	Major Rotation	Major Rotation	Major Rotation
9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.		Supervision of Supervision Seminar			
10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.		Case Conceptualization Seminar			
11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.		Group Supervision			
12:00 p.m. – 12:30 p.m.	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch
12:30 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.	Administrative Time	Administrative Time	Administrative Time	Administrative Time	Administrative Time
1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.	Major Rotation	Didactic Seminar	Major Rotation	Minor Rotation	Major Rotation
2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.					
3:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.		Journal Club or Psychiatry Didactic Seminar			
4:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.	Administrative Time	Administrative Time	Administrative Time	Administrative Time	Administrative Time

ROTATION ASSIGNMENT

As a generalist program, Interns will be expected to participate in an array of rotations that emphasize core psychologist functions, including psychotherapy and assessment. Every effort is made to ensure rotation selection is a collaborative process that takes into account Intern preference as well as their identified training needs to fill any gaps in their graduate education and experience.

SUPERVISION

All clinical activities of Interns are supervised by professional clinical staff. At a minimum, each Intern participates in four hours of face-to-face supervision per week. Two hours are regularly-scheduled individual supervision with their primary clinical supervisor; one hour is group supervision focused on enhancing Interns' competency in providing supervision to others; and one hour is general group supervision. In addition, Interns who selected certain minor rotations may receive additional supervision or focused consultation regarding those experiences.

ASSESSMENT COMPETENCY

During the rotations, Interns also practice their assessment skills with a diagnostically complex Veteran population. Over the course of the year, Interns complete at least 3 comprehensive psychological assessments including behavioral observation, biopsychosocial history gathering, diagnostic assessment, cognitive assessment (such as WAIS-IV and WMS-IV), and personality instruments (such as MMPI-2/MMPI-2 RF and PAI). These comprehensive assessments, coupled with a minimum of six rotation-specific assessments throughout the year, provide practical skills training required to meet the competency benchmarks: to select and implement population-appropriate measures; recognize instrument strengths and weaknesses; administer, score, and interpret test results; integrate findings into a cogent report; provide feedback to patients and others; develop case conceptualization skills; and communicate findings in verbal and written formats.

MAJOR ROTATIONS

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH INTERDISCIPLINARY PROGRAM (BHIP)

The BHIP is a multidisciplinary, team-based clinic that serves as the foundation of the Mental Health Service. BHIP provides outpatient mental health treatment to Veterans of all service eras with a wide range of psychiatric disorders (e.g., mood disorders, anxiety disorders, PTSD, personality disorders, psychotic disorders, etc.). BHIP teams are comprised of psychologists, psychiatrists, social workers, mental health counselors, psychiatric nurse practitioners, and registered nurses.

While working as part of a BHIP team, Interns will provide outpatient treatment and assessment. Interns will gain experience working with Veterans who range in age, gender identity, ability levels, SES, racial identity, ethnicity, sexual identity, and other varying identity variables. Interns have the opportunity to practice a variety of evidence-based psychotherapies on the BHIP rotation such as Cognitive Behavioral Therapy for Depression, Acceptance and Commitment Therapy, Interpersonal Psychotherapy for Depression. Lastly, personality and cognitive assessments are administered for diagnostic clarification and/or assess learning, attention, or cognitive deficits.

Location(s): Lake Baldwin

Supervisor(s): Tiffany Misra, Ph.D. & Stacey Polott, Psy.D.

SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER (SUD) INTENSIVE OUTPATIENT TREATMENT

The SUD Intensive Outpatient Treatment program is a multidisciplinary intensive outpatient program for Veterans with mild to severe substance use disorders. The interdisciplinary team includes clinical psychologists, a licensed clinical social worker, counselors, a peer support specialist, a clinical pharmacist, and physicians/psychiatrists. Veterans often attend the Intensive SUD Outpatient program multiple days per week and engage in a variety group and individual interventions including Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBT) for SUD, Motivational Enhancement, and Motivational Interviewing.

While on the SUD rotation, Interns will gain experience with substance use to include comprehensive assessments of and treatment for substance use and co-occurring disorders. Interns will gain familiarity with both individual and group interventions for SUD. Interns are an integrated member of the interdisciplinary treatment team and will have the opportunities to help the treatment team conceptualization and input in clinical decision-making.

Location(s): Lake Nona

Supervisor(s): Pamela Brown, Ph.D., Cornelia Iucha, Ph.D., Lee Dunn, Ph.D. & Nicholas James, Ph.D.

TRAUMA RECOVERY SPECIALTY TEAM (TRUST)

The Trauma Recovery Specialty Team (TRuST) is the Posttraumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) Clinical Team (PCT) at the Orlando VA Medical Healthcare System. TRuST is an outpatient clinic specializing in the assessment and treatment of trauma-related disorders, with an emphasis on PTSD. Treatment options primarily consist of evidence-based psychotherapies for PTSD including Prolonged Exposure (PE), Cognitive Processing Therapy (CPT), and Eye Movement and Desensitization and Reprocessing Therapy (EMDR).

Interns on the TRuST rotation will gain experience on the assessment and differential diagnosis of trauma-related disorders. Assessment for trauma-related disorders include advanced diagnostic evaluations to differentiate PTSD from other trauma-related disorders (e.g., depression, anxiety, panic, personality disorders, malingering, cognitive disorders). Past interns have been able to further develop their proficiency in the treatment of PTSD by completing the formal VA training and consultation process for CPT and/or PE. Interns also have the ability to learn additional evidence-based psychotherapies associated with trauma such Dialectical Behavior Therapy (DBT).

Location(s): Lake Nona and Lake Baldwin

Supervisor(s): Laura Meyers, Ph.D., ABPP, Noelle Balliett, Ph.D., Laurel Brown, Ph.D., Savannah McSheffrey, Ph.D., Marty Strachan, Ph.D., & Mimi Zhao, Ph.D.

MENTAL HEALTH RESIDENTIAL REHABILITATION TREATMENT PROGRAM (MHR RTP).

The MHR RTP (also known as the Domiciliary, or “the DOM”) is a state-of-the-art residential rehabilitation and treatment program serving Veterans with multiple and severe medical conditions, psychological disorders, addiction, and/or psychosocial deficits. The residential component emphasizes a therapeutic community with an incorporation of clinical treatment gains into a lifestyle of self-care and personal responsibility. The MHR RTP at the Orlando VA has the capacity of 116 Veterans across two sites (Lake Nona and Lake Baldwin). The multi-disciplinary treatment team consists of psychologists, psychiatrists, social workers, recreation therapists, vocational rehabilitation specialists, nursing, and peer supports specialists. The treatment team works with the Veteran to establish an individualized recovery plan for improved coping skills, improved mental and physical health, sober living, improved well-being, housing, job training, and the development of community support.

Interns on this rotation will be embedded into the Lake Nona DOM, and will have the opportunity to conduct biopsychosocial assessments, complete discharge summaries, provide individual psychotherapy, engage in diagnostic assessment, facilitate conflict resolution/mediation, participate in resident community meetings, and participate in multidisciplinary treatment team meetings. Interns gain experience conducting individual therapy with Veterans as well as co-facilitating evidence-based groups therapy for Veterans with a variety of diagnoses.

Location(s): Lake Nona

Supervisor(s): Manjot Leafgreen, Ph.D. & Abere Church, Ph.D.

PRIMARY CARE MENTAL HEALTH INTEGRATION (PCMHI)

PCMHI describes mental and behavioral health care services that are provided to Veterans in collaboration with primary care providers. These services are fully integrated into the primary care setting (Patient-Aligned Clinical Teams, or PACT), and support PACT-based treatment of both mental health conditions and behavioral aspects of chronic medical conditions. PCMHI providers are members of the PACT interdisciplinary team, where they collaborate on assessment, support or provide primary care-based treatment and brief therapy, and conduct follow-up assessments.

Interns on this rotation work alongside primary care providers regarding the psychological needs of Veterans by providing brief functional assessments and treatment. Interns receive consultation requests, complete initial intakes, provide feedback and consultation to other team members, and maintain an ongoing caseload of short-term outpatient psychotherapy/health psychology patients. Interns can expect to assess and treat Veterans with psychological issues (e.g., anxiety, depression, chronic pain, PTSD) and help patients work through barriers to transition to the Mental Health Clinic (BHIP). Interns may also work with Veterans who have psychological issues that exacerbate their medical conditions, as well as help patients with the psychological sequelae of medical problems such as hypertension, hepatitis C, cancer, diabetes, coronary artery disease, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, etc.

Location(s): Lake Nona

Supervisor(s): Chris Blagg, Ph.D.



COUPLES & FAMILY

The Couples and Family Team (CFT) at the Orlando VA Medical Healthcare System provides interns the opportunity to work in an outpatient setting with Veterans, their significant others and/or family members providing couples and family therapy services addressing a variety of relational problems impacting the Veteran's life.

This rotation offers experience with couples and family therapy modalities and evidence based treatment interventions (e.g., CBCT-PTSD). Interns will complete biopsychosocial assessments focused on relationship and family history impacting current functioning and diagnostic formulation. Additionally, they will observe and independently implement clinically appropriate interventions. In addition, interns will participate in group therapy with Veterans and their family members on the topics of parenting, healing after separation/divorce, couples relationship skills, coping with PTSD, and perinatal care (e.g., Enduring Infant Loss, Motherhood and Mood). Referrals for Couples and Family Therapy come from many sources within Orlando VAMC and interns will have opportunities to consult with referring providers, the Veteran's mental health treatment providers, and attend and consult during the Couples and Family Therapy treatment team meetings.

Location(s): Lake Nona/Virtual, Viera/Virtual

Supervisor(s): Meghann Sallee, Ph.D., Anthony Ferretti, Ph.D.

HEALTH PSYCHOLOGY

A number of training opportunities are available within outpatient Health Psychology services. Our health psychologists work exclusively with patients presenting for adjustment to medical illnesses and the need to make healthy lifestyle changes to boost adherence and self-management of chronic conditions. Patients are typically seen from a variety of medical services including Cardiology, Oncology/Radiation Oncology, Endocrinology, Gastroenterology, Prosthetics, and Transplant. Patient populations include Veterans living with heart disease, lung disease, cancer, diabetes, gastrointestinal disorders, kidney and liver disease, chronic pain, and obesity, among other medical conditions that create physical limitations and associated emotional distress. Typical cases involve health behavior treatment for smoking cessation, dietary adherence, weight loss, adherence to medical recommendations, insomnia, and adjustment to medical illnesses. Our health psychologists are typically embedded within multidisciplinary teams, allowing for the opportunity to practice consultation skills with staff from other disciplines.

The Health Psychology rotation provides interns the opportunity to complete brief health behavior assessment and treatment with individuals as well as co-lead groups for patients with a variety of medical illnesses. Opportunities are also available to complete pre-surgical psychological assessments (e.g., emotional, behavioral, cognitive assessment) for Veterans undergoing evaluation for organ transplant, bariatric surgery, spinal cord stimulators, and gender confirmation surgeries. Motivational interviewing skills to support health behavior changes are heavily utilized and practiced as well as cognitive-behavioral and acceptance-based approaches. Providing care alongside other medical professionals through groups and/or shared medical appointments as well as consultation with multidisciplinary staff is also embedded within the rotation.

Location: Lake Nona

Supervisor(s): Laurie Wolf, Ph.D., Bryant Steury, Psy.D., and Rachel Chan, Psy.D.

MINOR ROTATIONS

Interns may elect to participate in additional training experiences with faculty who serve in non-traditional professional roles or provide non-traditional experiences. Each minor rotation can be up to 4 hours per week and may span across rotations. That time is subtracted from the major rotation time.

HEALTH PSYCHOLOGY

Focus: Group and individual health behavior treatment focused on adjustment to medical illnesses and making healthy lifestyle changes. The minor rotation allows for exposure to the above-described Health Psychology major rotation on a smaller scale. Interns may choose to lead health behavior group(s) and/or provide individual health behavior treatment for a wide variety of medical conditions.

Time Commitment: Individualized according to intern's interest and schedule.

Location(s): Lake Nona

Supervisor(s): Laurie Wolf, Ph.D., Bryant Steury, Psy.D., & Rachel Chan, Psy.D.

FORENSIC TOPICS: THREAT AND RISK ASSESSMENT

Focus: forensic topics involving threat and risk of violence assessments, clinical or other interventions within these areas, and administrative management of threats and disruptive behaviors.

Examples of tasks and projects may include attendance at Disruptive Behavior Committee meetings; disruptive behavior case analysis and brief presentation at meetings; threat/risk assessment of Veterans displaying such behaviors using evidence-based structured clinical judgment tools; clinical interviews of Veterans regarding reports of disruptive behavior; occasional readings and discussion of relevant research or literature reviews on special forensic topics of interest to the trainee.

Note: There is not clinical workload credit available in this minor rotation. Although it involves clinical assessment and intervention experiences, workload encounters/procedure codes are not credited due to the nature of the work (non-billable).



Time Commitment: 2-3 hours weekly, Thursdays – exact time each week TBD by Supervisor and trainee (never to exceed 4 hours).

This minor rotation can last 4 or 8 months, based on program needs and trainee schedule and interests. Available Rotations 2 & 3 only.

Location(s): Lake Nona

Supervisor(s): April Ace, J.D., Ph.D.

PSYCHOLOGY ADMINISTRATION

Focus: The major focus of this minor rotation is to develop an understanding of general Mental Health Service line management. Time is spent learning about mental health program requirements, such as the Uniform Mental Health Services Handbook, as well as data management. The intern attends scheduled management meetings as permitted.

Time Commitment: 4 hours per week

Location(s): Lake Nona

Supervisor(s): Kara Boyer, Ph.D.

DIALECTICAL BEHAVIOR THERAPY (DBT) FOR BORDERLINE PERSONALITY DISORDER

Focus: This is an 8-month or year-long experience providing DBT to Veterans with significant difficulties with emotion regulation, tolerating stress, relationships, and self-harm and/or suicidality. The experience includes working with 1-2 Veterans at a time, co-leading a DBT skills group, and attending weekly group consultation on DBT. Patients may come from the Intern's primary rotation or from the trauma recovery team. The 8-month (2 rotation) option is for Interns who would like experience in DBT in order to provide DBT-informed therapy in the future; the 1-year option is for interns who would like to be fully trained in DBT and have a solid foundation toward certification by the DBT-Linehan Board of Certification. Additional experience can also be obtained in DBT during a rotation on TRuST.

Time Commitment: 4 hours per week for 6-12 months

Location(s): Lake Nona and Lake Baldwin

Supervisor(s): Laura Meyers, Ph.D., ABPP, Laurel Brown, Ph.D., Savannah McSheffrey, Ph.D., Marty Strachan, Ph.D., & Mimi Zhao, Ph.D.

COUPLES AND FAMILY THERAPY

Focus: The Couples and Family Therapy minor rotation offers interns experience providing couples and family therapy services to Veterans and their significant others and/or family members. Interns on this rotation gain experience with biopsychosocial assessments focused on relationship and family history, couples and family therapy modalities, and evidence-based interventions while working with variety of relationship problems. In addition, interns may have the opportunity to participate in group therapy with Veterans and their family members on the topics of parenting, healing after separation/divorce, couples' relationship skills and coping with PTSD. Interns have the option of attending Couples and Family Therapy treatment team meetings as part of the minor rotation.

Location(s): Viera/Virtual; Available on 2nd and 3rd rotation.

Supervisor(s): Anthony Ferretti, Ph.D.

SLEEP DISORDERS

Focus: The minor is intended for learners interested in acquiring knowledge regarding the science of sleep as well as gaining skills for the effective treatment of common sleep concerns in the Veteran population including insomnia, nightmares, and difficulty adhering to PAP (positive airway pressure) therapy. There is tremendous variability in the demographics of Veterans referred for sleep-focused treatment. They may range in age from the early 20s to their 90s and encompass all war eras. Although many will have experienced traumatic events during their time in service, which can cause or exacerbate sleep disturbances, some are referred in generally good health without any mental health diagnoses.

Common Referrals-Typically, our referrals struggle with at least one of the following:

- Having difficulty falling asleep, staying asleep, or waking up too early
- Being distressed by their dreams, often related to traumatic experiences
- Struggling to adhere to PAP therapy
- Desire to reduce sleep medication use, or being instructed to do so by a provider

Treatment Approaches

- Evidence-based assessment, including semi-structured clinical interviewing and empirically validated measures
- CBT for Insomnia (CBT-I)
- CBT for Nightmares (CBT-N)
- PAP desensitization

Structure: This minor is intended to be customized to trainees' learning goals. Learners will select whether they desire to focus on CBT-I, CBT-N, or both treatment approaches sequentially. For learners new to the area of behavioral sleep medicine, an initial focus on CBT-I and then moving to CBT-N is suggested. PAP desensitization work is likely to be clinically indicated with many referrals and can be emphasized or de-emphasized according to the individualized learning plan.

Learners can elect to take part in a 6 or 12-month long experience, available either at the beginning of the training year shortly after the start or the first rotation, or at the start of second rotation. The minor is not available to begin at the third rotation. It is expected that learners will carry a minimum of one and a maximum of three cases throughout the minor once the initial didactic components have been completed.

Supervision will include one hour of group supervision weekly. Additional supervision can be discussed/provided on an individual basis. This experience is based around becoming comfortable with the sleep medicine literature, reviewing audio recordings of active cases, receiving feedback on treatment delivery, and providing feedback to other learners. Within the context of a developmental model of supervision, it is expected that learners will take an increasingly independent and collegial role in providing feedback to each other over the course of the minor.

Time Commitment: 4 hours per week for 6-12 months

Location(s): Virtual

Supervisor(s): Noelle Balliett, Ph.D.

PSYCHOLOGICAL SERVICES FOR SPANISH SPEAKING POPULATION

Focus: The demand for Spanish speaking mental health services continue to expand nationwide, while Spanish speaking clinicians continue to be significantly underrepresented in the field of psychology. The goal of this minor is to provide interns who are proficient in Spanish with direct training experiences that would allow them to obtain clinical cultural and language competence to provide psychological services in said language. This includes the delivery of diagnostic evaluation, individual, and group psychotherapy with Spanish speaking veterans. Areas explored in this minor will include best practices, evidenced based care with diverse Spanish speaking communities, Bi-culturalism/multi-linguistics in the psychotherapeutic process, the challenges of the different dialects in the Spanish language and impact in therapy dynamics. Other topics to be discussed in supervision will include family system in Latinx communities, rapport building through language, the translation of psychological terms from English to Spanish, the possible loss of the meaning of the word when translating, and overall,



culture and personality, acculturation and self-identification, gender role socialization, among others.

Time Commitment: Up to 4 hours weekly.

Location(s): Kissimmee CBOC and/or Virtual

Supervisor(s): Angelica Monteverde, Psy.D. and Diana M. Mendez, Ph.D., ABPP.

DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION (DEI)

Focus: As the field of psychology is becoming more ethnically and culturally diverse, so has our society. Therefore, it is critical for psychologists and psychology trainees to continue to expand the current knowledge base to meet the needs our expanding and diverse veteran population. Interns will be offered training opportunities to advance their knowledge of multicultural considerations in case conceptualization, assessment, diagnostic impressions, and psychotherapy interventions. Interns will also be afforded the opportunity learn helpful therapeutic strategies and skills based on current multicultural literature to assist with establishing rapport with veterans of color and other marginalized groups of veterans through a deeper understanding some of the harmful effects of discrimination, stereotypes, and social inequities. Supervision opportunities may also involve selection of cases to expand opportunities for self-reflection of personal and cultural values as well as exploring those of our veterans. Interns may also learn more about the impact of Race-based stress and trauma and methods of providing appropriate care to our veterans of color. Through acknowledging and validating the unique social and cultural experiences of each of our veterans, we can help to reduce barriers to care (e.g. historical mistrust, stigma, shame) and increase the treatment utilization and retention rates of all of our veterans.

Time Commitment: Up to 4 hours weekly.

Location(s): Deltona CBOC and/or Virtual

Supervisor(s): Princeton J. Smith, Ph.D. and Diana M. Mendez, Ph.D., ABPP

EVIDENCE-BASED PSYCHOTHERAPIES

Interns may have the opportunity to receive specific training and consultation in various evidence-based psychotherapies. Often the trainings include formal, multiday VA trainings with follow-up consultation. Past trainings in evidence-based psychotherapies include Cognitive Processing Therapy (CPT) for PTSD, Prolonged Exposure (PE) for PTSD, and Social Skills Training (SST) for Schizophrenia. Please note availability of specific trainings may vary from year to year. Additional requirements such as



completing certain number of cases with that specific evidence-based psychotherapy may be required to complete the consultation process. Time commitments vary and may often last for six months to one year.

Location(s): Various

Supervisor(s): Various

DIDACTIC AND TRAINING SEMINARS

CLINICAL DIDACTICS

The ***Didactic Seminar*** focuses on relevant topics selected to address specific competencies and interests, as well as the multiple roles of the contemporary psychologist. Factors considered in developing the didactic curricula include intern-identified training needs and interests, faculty areas of specialty, cultural competencies, and evidence-based clinical practices. Special attention is given to issues related to diverse populations and multicultural factors, including those that may not be typically considered. Topics related to professional and ethical development are also emphasized. Various teaching methods are employed including didactic instruction, live demonstrations, videos, discussions, and recommended readings. See Appendix for a list of recent didactic seminar topics.

TRAINING SEMINARS

Supervision of Supervision seminar facilitates the Interns' growth as clinical supervisors. The seminar consists of a weekly training in clinical supervision and provides direct experience providing supervision to practicum students while under the supervision and guidance of a licensed psychologist. The Supervision of Supervision seminar covers areas including basic supervision principles and the developmental process of clinical supervision. The seminar and supervision experience help the intern to develop a philosophy or model of supervision. The Intern is expected to also demonstrate understanding of the complexity of the supervisor role including ethical, legal, and contextual issues, and to demonstrate an awareness of the current needs of supervised trainees, including how to provide developmentally appropriate feedback. In this vertical model, consistent with the VA Psychology Training Council (VAPTC) recommendations, some Interns also participate as "supervisees" of the postdoctoral fellows.

Case Conceptualization Seminar is a weekly seminar that focuses on the formulation and application of case conceptualizations from a cognitive-behavioral perspective. The seminar consists of didactics as well as experiential case presentations. Each intern rotates responsibility for presenting a case using conceptualization tools that are introduced towards the beginning of the seminar. Presentations are designed to be informal, and Interns and faculty facilitators will have the opportunity to ask questions and discuss ideas throughout the presentation. The goal of the seminar is to strengthen

Interns' ability to conceptualize the development and maintenance of psychological issues based on a centralized theory.

Journal Club supplements the Didactic Seminar, and is an opportunity for Interns to critically evaluate relevant articles in the scientific literature related to the didactic topic. Interns rotate responsibility for selecting an article of interest related to the scheduled didactic and lead a critical analysis and discussion of the research. The Intern presenter should include evaluation of research design and analysis, reliability of findings, implications and limitations of the study, multicultural and ethnic issues related to both the methodology and clinical application of findings, ethical considerations, and considerations for treatment with the identified populations.

A faculty member participates as both an active discussant and to provide supervisory guidance on meeting didactic objectives. Evaluations are completed by faculty for each Journal Club, and feedback is provided to the Intern who led the effort.



ADMISSIONS, SUPPORT, AND INITIAL PLACEMENT DATA

Date Program Tables are updated: September 21, 2022

PROGRAM DISCLOSURES

<p>Does the program or institution require students, trainees, and/or staff (faculty) to comply with specific policies or practices related to the institution's affiliation or purpose? Such policies or practices may include, but are not limited to, admissions, hiring, retention policies, and/or requirements for completion that express mission and values.</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No</p>
<p>If yes, provide website link (or content from brochure) where this specific information is presented: n/a</p>	

INTERNSHIP PROGRAM ADMISSIONS

<p>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:</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Completed at least three years of graduate course work in an APA-, CPA-, or PCSAS-accredited clinical or counseling psychology training program in good standing. Applicants from programs on probation will not be considered. • Approval for internship status by your graduate program training director. • Successfully defended the dissertation proposal. • 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 options provided. The VA Training Director for your profession will provide you with the information you need to understand the requirement and reasons for the requirement in timely manner.
<p>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:</p>
<p>Total Direct Contact Intervention Hours: <u>Yes</u> Amount: <u>250</u></p>
<p>Total Direct Contact Assessment Hours: <u>Yes</u> Amount: <u>150</u></p>



Describe any other required minimum criteria used to screen applicants:

- Be a citizen of the United States. The Department of Veterans Affairs 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 the beginning of VA training.
- Federal law requires that most males living in the US between the ages of 18 and 26 register with the Selective Service System. Male, for this purpose, is any individual assigned male on their birth certificate regardless of current gender. Males required to register, but who failed to do so by their 26th birthday, are barred from any position in any Executive Agency. Visit <https://www.sss.gov> to register, print proof of registration or apply for a Status Information Letter.
- Interns are subject to fingerprinting and background checks following match selection. Match results and selection decisions are contingent on passing these screens.
- The Department of Veterans Affairs is a drug-free workplace in accordance with federal mandates and laws. All VA employees, including trainees, are subject to randomized drug screening. Ongoing participation in the internship is contingent on passing these screens. For additional information, please refer to the VA's Office of Academic Affiliation (OAA) at [VA Drug-Free Workplace Program Guide for Veterans Health Administration Health Professions Trainees](#).
- Please review the VA's Office of Academic Affiliations "[Am I Eligible? Checklist for VA HPTs](#)" for a list of additional eligibility requirements.

FINANCIAL AND OTHER BENEFIT SUPPORT FOR UPCOMING TRAINING YEAR

Annual Stipend/Salary for Full-time Interns	\$26,297
Annual Stipend/Salary for Half-time Interns	n/a
Program provides access to medical insurance for intern?	Yes
If access to medical insurance is provided:	
Trainee contribution to cost required?	Yes
Coverage of family member(s) available?	Yes
Coverage of legally married partner available?	Yes
Coverage of domestic partner available?	Yes
Hours of Annual Paid Personal Time Off (PTO and/or Vacation)	104
Hours of Annual Paid Sick Leave	104



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
FINANCIAL AND OTHER BENEFIT SUPPORT FOR UPCOMING TRAINING YEAR (Continued)	
Other benefits (please describe): Interns may be additionally allocated up to five days of authorized absence (AA) for professional development activities (e.g. conferences, presentations, interviews, or meetings with academic program advisor/ faculty). The United States government covers Fellows for malpractice under the Federal Liability Reform Tort Act. Please note that Florida does not have a state income tax.	

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

INITIAL POST-INTERNSHIP POSITIONS

(Provided an Aggregated Tally for the Preceding 3 Cohorts)

	2018-2021	
Total # of interns who were in the 3 cohorts	22	
Total # of interns who remain in training in the internship program	0	
	PD	EP
Academic teaching	n/a	n/a
Community mental health center	n/a	n/a
Consortium	n/a	n/a
University Counseling Center	n/a	n/a
Hospital/Medical Center	3	n/a
Veterans Affairs Health Care System	9	8
Psychiatric facility	n/a	n/a
Correctional facility	n/a	n/a
Health maintenance organization	n/a	n/a
School district/system	n/a	n/a
Independent practice setting	n/a	1
Other	1	n/a

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.

APPLYING TO INTERNSHIP AND ADMISSION INFORMATION

Number of Available Internship Positions: 6

APPIC MATCH NUMBER

2221

INTERNSHIP YEAR

July 16, 2023 – July 13, 2024

APPLICATION PROCEDURE

The AAPI (APPIC Application for Psychology Internships) online application portal should be used by all interested students to apply to the Orlando VA Healthcare System Psychology Internship Program.

Your online AAPI application package should include:

- Verification of Internship Eligibility and Readiness, completed by University Director of Training
- Current official graduate transcript(s)
- Three letters of reference from faculty members or practicum supervisors who know you and your work well
- Cover letter
- Curriculum vitae

Complete application packets must be received by us **by 11:59 PM Eastern Time Zone November 1, 2022** for consideration for internship appointment beginning the following July 2023.

INTERVIEWS

Individual interviews will be conducted by invitation only, following initial evaluation of application materials. Applicants invited for interviews will be notified by December 2nd, 2022.

All interviews will be virtual and are scheduled for the following dates:

- January 9th, 2023
- January 11th, 2023
- January 19th, 2023

Policies and procedures regarding internship offers and acceptance recommended by the APPIC and the Council of Directors of Clinical Training Programs will be followed for the appointment of interns. The internship site agrees to abide by the APPIC Policy that no person at this training facility will solicit, accept or use any ranking-related information from any intern applicant prior to Uniform Notification Day.

NON-DISCRIMINATION

Federal law prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age and disability. The Orlando VAHCS Psychology Internship Program extends this definition to mean that no information about the applicant which is not relevant to the applicant's potential to succeed in the training program is utilized in the selection process.

During the internship year, should there be an instance of discrimination experienced or observed by trainees or staff, there is an obligation to address the problem so as to minimize psychological harm. Interns are encouraged to consult with their clinical supervisor, mentor, training director, or Chief of Psychology for assistance in such matters.

Where this level of resolution is not effective or the instances are systemic, Interns have access to formal procedures, as per Medical Center Policy. The local EEO program manager is available for consultation to assist in any employee's exercise of their rights.

ACCREDITATION STATUS

The Orlando VA Doctoral Psychology Internship Program is fully accredited by the American Psychological Association (APA).

The American Psychological Association
Commission on Accreditation
750 First Street, NE
Washington, DC 20002
(202) 336-5979 – Office of Program Consultation and Accreditation

The Orlando VA Psychology Doctoral Internship Program is a member of APPIC. The Program abides by the APPIC internship selection and notification guidelines.

INTERNSHIP CONTACT INFORMATION

Bryan Batién, Ph.D., ABPP
Director of Training, Psychology Programs
Orlando VA Healthcare System
Orlando, FL
Email: Bryan.Batien@va.gov
Phone: (321) 438-6436

Physical Address

Orlando VA Healthcare System – Lake Nona Campus
13800 Veterans Way
Orlando, FL 32827

Orlando VA Healthcare System – Lake Baldwin Outpatient Clinic
5201 Raymond St.
Orlando, FL 32803

APPENDIX A: FACULTY & STAFF

The Orlando VAHCS Psychology Staff includes over 100 doctoral level clinical and counseling psychologists, plus licensed professional counselors, marriage and family therapists, and vocational rehabilitation specialists.

The Education Service is led by **Jennifer Thompson, M.D., MPH**, Associate Chief of Staff for Education and **Bryan Batien, Ph.D., ABPP** is the Chief of Mental Health Education. Within Mental Health Service, the Psychology Section is led by **Steven Herman, Ph.D.**, Chief of Psychology.

Staff Psychologists are assigned to a variety of clinics, including the Behavioral Health Integrated Program (BHIP), medical psychology, Primary Care Mental Health Integration (PCMHI), the Substance Use Disorder (SUD) treatment program, Intensive Case Management in Mental Health Recovery (ICMHR), the inpatient psychiatry (MH CARE) unit, the Center for Recovery Education (CORE), the Residential Rehabilitation Treatment Programs (RRTP), the Trauma Recovery Specialty Team (TRuST), and the Community Based Outpatient Clinics (CBOCs). Our staff are diverse not only with regard to areas of clinical expertise, but in terms of theoretical orientations, training experiences, research interests, and cultural backgrounds. Staff psychologists participate in a number of profession-specific and system-wide committees that address issues relating to quality of patient care, efficient delivery of services, and development of new programs. In addition, the staff is highly committed to the training of new professionals and is actively involved in the fellowship training program. Psychology staff who contribute to our training programs are listed below along with brief biographies.

ADMINISTRATIVE TRAINING STAFF

Training Director, Chief of Mental Health Education: Bryan Batien, Ph.D., ABPP, Chief of Mental Health Education. Dr. Batien received his Ph.D. from the University of South Dakota and completed his internship at the Cincinnati VA Medical Center. Dr. Batien is a psychologist on the *PTSD treatment (TRuST) team*, and he is also a member of the Emergency Response team at the Orlando VAHCS. He is board certified in Behavioral and Cognitive Psychology. His professional interests include readjustment challenges of OEF/OIF Veterans, PTSD, and anxiety disorders. He routinely provides presentations on Veterans' mental health challenges and readjustment to a number of organizations including NASA, local universities and colleges, and law enforcement agencies. Dr. Batien is a Veteran of the U.S. Army, which included a 14-month deployment to Iraq in 2003-2004.

Associate Training Director: Laurie Wolf, Ph.D. is a Clinical Health Psychologist serving in the role of Health Behavior Coordinator and Tobacco Lead Clinician. She provides tobacco cessation counseling and health behavior treatment with a heavy emphasis on motivational interviewing techniques to improve adherence and healthy lifestyle behaviors. She also co-leads MOVE! Weight Management groups and works with Veterans individually on weight loss goals. Additionally, Dr. Wolf provides group and one-on-one motivational interviewing training and clinician coaching for staff. She previously provided individual and group health behavior treatment for patients associated with a number of medical specialty clinics, including Cardiology, Oncology/Radiation Oncology, Endocrinology, and Pulmonary. She completed her undergraduate work at the University of South Florida and obtained her Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology at Arizona State University in 2016. She completed predoctoral internship training in Behavioral Medicine, PTSD, and substance use at VA Boston Healthcare System. She continued at VA Boston to complete fellowship training in Behavioral Medicine. Professional interests include Health Psychology and program development aimed at improving physical functioning and well-being among patients with chronic illness.

Maybell Morgan, Program Support Specialist, Lake Nona, began her career with the federal government in 1994 at the Miami VA Healthcare System. She served in administrative roles within several departments, including the Chief of Staff, Director's Office, Customer Service, Quality Management, Medical Administration and Clinical Informatics. In 2020, Ms. Morgan transferred to the Orlando VA Healthcare System where she continues to provide administrative support at the Lake Nona VA Medical Center.

Peter Castranova, Education Program Specialist, Lake Nona, began his career with the federal government in 2009 at the Sarasota National Cemetery. In 2015, he relocated to Orlando and began working for the VA Healthcare System. He has worked various administrative roles in the VA since that time.

CLINICAL SUPERVISORY STAFF

April Ace, JD, Ph.D., Forensic Issues, Lake Nona. Dr. Ace graduated from the University of Florida College of Law in 1992, worked for five years as an attorney, then earned her doctorate in Clinical and Community Psychology from the University of South Carolina in 2004. She completed her doctoral internship at the Tampa VA in 2004 and a forensic psychology postdoctoral residency at the University of Washington and Washington State Hospital in 2005. She has worked in juvenile and adult correctional

facilities, a private medical practice, and has been with the Orlando VA since January 2008. With the VA she has worked as a Primary Care - Mental Health Integration (PCMHI) psychologist, the sole psychologist at a Community-Based outpatient Clinic (CBOC), a Psychology Supervisor, and now as the Orlando VA Workplace Violence Prevention Program Manager since 2016. She is a member of the international Association of Threat Assessment Professionals (ATAP), an organization of legal, mental health, law enforcement, and other experts who specialize in conducting structured threat and risk assessments for businesses, agencies, and medical facilities around the world. Her clinical and professional interests are primarily in forensic psychology and PTSD.

Noelle Balliett, Ph.D., *Trauma Recovery Specialty Team, Virtual.* Dr. Balliett is a Staff Psychologist in the TRuST team. She completed her undergraduate work at Wake Forest University and received her PhD in clinical psychology from The University of Tulsa. She completed her pre-doctoral internship at the Bay Pines VA Medical Center and her postdoctoral residency in evidence-based psychotherapy in the Anxiety Disorders Clinic at the VA San Diego Healthcare System. She is licensed in the state of Washington. Dr. Balliett's research interests include the treatment of trauma related nightmares; the role of sleep in the development and maintenance of PTSD; treatment dissemination; and the impact of sleep on treatment engagement and effectiveness. Her clinical interests include treatment of PTSD and nightmares, use of evidence-based interventions, and culturally informed care. She serves as a trainer for Exposure, Relaxation, and Rescription Therapy for trauma-related nightmares. Dr. Balliett's professional diversity interests include the impact of cultural factors on evidence-based psychotherapies, improvement of access to services, and working with historically marginalized populations. She especially enjoys supervising trainees in evidence-based interventions such as Prolonged Exposure, Cognitive Processing Therapy, CBT for Insomnia, and Exposure, Relaxation, and Rescription Therapy for trauma-related nightmares.

Christopher Blagg, Ph.D., *Primary Care Mental Health Integration, Lake Nona.* Dr. Blagg earned his doctorate in Clinical Psychology from Florida State University in 2012, where his research focused on measuring motivation to change, the relationship between smoking and anxiety, and the effectiveness of placebos in alcohol experiments. He completed his doctoral internship at the Federal Correctional Institution in Tallahassee, FL and his postdoctoral training at Southwestern State Hospital in Thomasville, Georgia. Dr. Blagg currently works at the Orlando VAHCS in Primary Care-Mental Health Integration, as part of a multi-disciplinary primary care team providing collaborative care. This includes conducting initial brief functional

assessments, providing time-limited therapy, completing cognitive screenings, and facilitating shared medical appointments.

Kara Boyer, Ph.D. is the Deputy Associate Chief of Staff for the Mental Health Service. She earned her Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology in 2009 from the University of South Dakota. She completed her predoctoral internship at the Gulfcoast Veterans Healthcare System where she continued on as frontline staff member in the PTSD Residential Program. She also served as the Assistant Residential Program Chief, the Residential Chief, and the Acting Associate Chief of Staff of the Mental Health Service before joining the Orlando VA Healthcare System in 2016. She then served as the Acting Associate Chief of Staff for Mental Health before accepting her current role in 2018. Dr. Boyer has been in leadership since 2012 and specializes in mentoring staff of various disciplines through leadership challenges in the VA, program evaluation and development, management of patient concerns and the reporting of negative events, as well as the use of data to guide the health of the Mental Health Service. She is a wife to a combat Army Veteran and the mom to two kids, her wonderful dog, George, and a number of “owned” and “foster cats” at any given time. She enjoys running with her friends and spending time with her family.

Pamela C. Brown, PhD *Substance Use Disorder Treatment Program*, Lake Baldwin. Dr. Brown earned her doctorate in Clinical Psychology from the University of Central Florida in 2010. She completed her doctoral internship at the VA Connecticut Healthcare System, West Haven campus and a 2-year NIDA T32 fellowship in Addictions at the Center for Addictions Research, University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences. She is licensed in Arkansas. She is the Program Manager for Substance Use Disorders Treatment at all sites of care for OVAMC. She received the Outstanding Clinician award from APA Division 18, VA Section in 2017. Her primary clinical interests are treatment of substance use disorders, co-occurring disorders, PTSD, and the recovery approach. Dr. Brown provides and supervises diagnostic assessment and empirically supported interventions for Veterans with Substance Use Disorders and various other mental health issues (i.e., Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder, Major Depressive Disorder, Bipolar Disorder, etc.). Her research interests include treatment outcome research and the use of technology for the prevention and treatment of substance use disorders.

Rachel Chan, Psy.D., *Medical Psychology*. Dr. Chan is a Clinical Psychologist within the Medical Psychology Program and directly works with several medical clinics including Prosthetics/PM&R, SCI, and Gastroenterology. She is a part of several multidisciplinary teams working to provide health behavior treatment to deliver holistic care to Veterans. Her work includes providing individual and group health behavior

treatment that aims to improve coping, functioning, and overall quality of life among Veterans with chronic health issues or physical disability. She provides brief interventions as well as short-term psychotherapy with an emphasis on cognitive behavioral and acceptance-based strategies. She completed her graduate work in Clinical Psychology at Nova Southeastern University in 2016. Her predoctoral internship was completed at St. Vincent Indianapolis Hospital with a focus on health and neuropsychology, and a postdoctoral fellowship at Shepherd Center: Shepherd Pathways was completed with a focus on rehabilitation psychology.

Abere Sawaqdeh Church, Ph.D., *Domiciliary Residential Rehabilitation Treatment Program.* Dr. Church completed her doctoral training at the Washington State University and internship at the Orlando VA Health Care System. Prior to graduate school, Dr. Church was the Senior Associate in the Research and Policy department of the American Psychological Association. She currently works as a Staff Psychologist at the Domiciliary and is licensed in the State of Florida. Dr. Church's areas of interest include severe and persistent mental illness, substance use disorders, restorative justice, group psychotherapy, and ecopsychology. Her interest in community as a mechanism for change led her to develop a comparative outcome state-wide study in Washington State comparing restorative community service and standard community service. Her study demonstrated that when offenders engage in meaningful service work alongside community members instead of menial work isolated from the community, their psychosocial outcomes improve significantly. Dr. Church also has a passion for diversity and multicultural competence. She traveled to India to represent psychology's role in international sustainability practices. She is also a founding member the WSU Psychology Diversity Committee and initiated a Division 45 chapter at WSU. She is a proud mother of two and wife of a disabled Veteran.

Emily (Lee) Dunn, Ph.D., *Substance Use Disorder Treatment Program, Daytona Westside Pavilion.* Dr Dunn earned her doctorate in Clinical Psychology from The Ohio State University in 2020. Her graduate school research focused on emotional regulation and psychophysiology. Dr. Dunn completed the APA-accredited Psychology Internship training program at the Orlando VA Medical Center in 2020. Dr. Dunn completed the Orlando VA Healthcare system Post-doctoral Fellowship specializing in substance use disorders in 2021 and now works as a staff psychologist in the Daytona based SUD specialty clinic. She holds a Florida license. Dr. Dunn provides and supervises diagnostic assessment and empirically supported interventions for Veterans with substance use disorders and co-occurring conditions.

Anthony Ferretti, Ph.D., *Couples and Family Therapy, Viera Outpatient Clinic.* Dr. Ferretti earned his doctorate from the University of Southern Mississippi and completed his internship at the Miami VA Medical Center followed by his postdoctoral training at St.

Louis Medical Center focusing on Behavioral Medicine. After 30 years in private practice, Dr. Ferretti joined the Viera VA in February 2021 and works on the BHIP unit counseling couples and individuals with a variety of mental health problems. He also offers didactic training to interns and residents. Dr. Ferretti co-authored and published a relationship book and has made numerous media appearances through print, radio, and television. One of his passions is public speaking and he has given several keynotes/seminars and recently gave a TEDx talk titled “Rethink Control.” His personal interests include running, cross-fit training, travelling, and spending time with family and friends.

Steven Herman, Ph.D., ABPP, Chief of Psychology. Dr. Herman is the Chief of Psychology at the Orlando VA Health Care System. He completed his bachelor’s degree in Psychology at the University of Maryland, College Park, a Master’s in Counseling at the University of Delaware, and a master’s and Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology at Rutgers University. He completed his clinical internship at the Indianapolis School of Medicine Psychology Consortium. Prior to working at the Orlando VA, Dr. Herman was the Chief of Psychology at the Indianapolis VA Medical Center. While at Indianapolis, he started one of the first telemental health programs in the VA and formed a state-wide peer-run support group network for Veterans with PTSD. His areas of clinical expertise include Multimodal Therapy (Lazarus), couples therapy, psychological assessment and PTSD. He supervises the Group Supervision for the Orlando Interns and has worked with Interns for minor rotations in psychological testing, couples therapy and Mental Health Management.

Cornelia Iucha, Ph.D., Supervision of Supervision Seminar Supervisor. Clinical location: Substance Use Disorders Treatment program, Lake Baldwin. Dr. Iucha received her Ph.D. from the University of Minnesota, the Clinical Science and Psychopathology Research program. She completed her internship at the Edward Hines, Jr. VA Hospital, and her postdoctoral fellowship with emphasis in trauma at the Washington DC VAMC. Dr. Iucha’s research interests center on the etiology and treatment of PTSD. She is the SUD PTSD specialist for the Orlando VAHCS and is a CBT for Substance Use Disorders consultant. She finds inspiration and joy in the exploration of Florida’s natural wonders. She also runs the Supervision of Supervision seminar for the postdoctoral fellowship program.

Alysa Ivey, Psy.D., MHRTP, Lake Nona, completed her doctorate in Clinical Psychology with a concentration in Organizational Consulting at Pacific University’s School of Graduate Psychology in Oregon. For her dissertation, Dr. Ivey conducted qualitative research on the effects of workplace discrimination and microaggressions on minority Veterans’ overall job satisfaction with their military career. Dr. Ivey completed

the APA-accredited Psychology Internship training program and Postdoctoral Residency at the Orlando VA Medical Center and now serves as a Licensed Clinical Psychologist at the Lake Nona Domiciliary. Additionally, Dr. Ivey is Training Committee Liaison of the Mental Health Diversity Committee and a Whole Health Clinical Education Champion. Trained as a Generalist, Dr. Ivey has sought additional specialized experience in evidence-based psychotherapies (EBPs) for insomnia (CBT-i), depression (CBT-D and ACT-D), PTSD (CPT), borderline personality disorder (DBT), OCD and Hoarding Disorder. Her organizational consulting work has centered on assessment, program evaluation, leadership development, team building, organizational culture and diversity. Personal interests include creative writing, attending live concerts and theatre, frequenting Universal and Disney theme parks, exploring Orlando foodie culture, and spending time with her beloved long-haired dachshund (Niko).

Manjot Dhooper Leafgreen, Ph.D., *Domiciliary, Lake Nona*. Dr. Leafgreen completed her doctoral training at the University of South Dakota and internship at Park Center, Inc., a Community Mental Health Center in Ft. Wayne, IN. She has worked as a Clinical Psychologist & Intensive Outpatient Program (IOP) Coordinator at the VA Daytona Beach Outpatient Clinic, a Senior Mental Health Clinician at Florida State Prison, Senior Psychologist at Union Correctional Institution (FL State Prison), Clinical Psychologist at SD Human Services Center/ George S. Mickelson Center for the Neurosciences (State Psychiatric Hospital), Vertical Clinical Team Instructor at University of South Dakota and Psychology Associate at SD State Penitentiary. She currently works as a Staff Psychologist, Lake Nona Domiciliary. She is licensed in South Dakota & Florida. Dr. Leafgreen's areas of interest include severe and persistent mental illness, personality disorders, substance use disorders, forensics, animal-assisted therapy, inpatient and residential levels of care.

Savannah McSheffrey, Ph.D., *TRuST-PTSD treatment team, Lake Baldwin*, completed her undergraduate work at the University of South Florida and received her doctorate in clinical psychology from the University of Rhode Island. Her predoctoral and postdoctoral training were both completed at Boston VA Healthcare System with an emphasis in treating PTSD. She then worked as a staff psychologist at the Rhode Island Hospital Partial Hospital Program and was a clinical assistant professor at the Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University. She moved to Orlando VA in 2020 and provides supervision to trainees in evidence-based approaches including Dialectical Behavioral Therapy, Prolonged Exposure, and Cognitive Processing Therapy. Her clinical interests include working with underserved populations, trauma, emotion dysregulation, and Borderline Personality Disorder.

Diana M. Mendez, PhD., ABPP. (pronouns: she/her/hers). *General Mental Health Program Manager for the Orlando VA Healthcare System Community Based Outpatient*

Clinics (CBOCs). Dr. Mendez earned her doctorate in Clinical Psychology from the University of Detroit Mercy and completed a postdoctoral fellowship in Clinical Health Psychology through the University of Miami Miller School of Medicine, and is Board Certified in Behavioral and Cognitive Psychology. Dr. Mendez specializes in the treatment of trauma related disorders, with emphasis on advanced case conceptualization, differential diagnosis, and understanding of intersectionality and cultural related factors impacting symptom presentation and treatment with individuals exposed to various types of traumas. In her current role, Dr. Mendez serves as the Program Manager of the General Mental Health Program/ BHIP at the CBOCs, where she is responsible for mental health programming, operations, and supervisory duties of all staff, including psychiatrists, psychologists, clinical social workers, and peer support specialists. Dr. Mendez also currently serves as a Prolonged Exposure (PE) Therapy Consultant through the VA/ National Center for PTSD Dissemination Initiative; as well as a Justice, Equity, Diversity, & Inclusion (JEDI) through the Office of Mental Health and Suicide Prevention (OMHSP). Dr. Mendez' primary clinical and research interests include DEI, trauma, resiliency in marginalized communities, social determinants of health, and evidence-based practices, being actively engaged in multi-site collaborations addressing related research projects.

Laura Meyers, PhD, ABPP, is the Program Manager of the *Trauma Recovery Specialty Team (TRuST – PTSD treatment team)* and a Psychology Supervisor at Lake Nona. She earned her PhD in Clinical-Community Psychology at the University of South Carolina in 2006, completed internship at the Bay Pines VA Healthcare System, completed a postdoctoral fellowship in Health Psychology and Serious Mental Illness at the Minneapolis VA Healthcare System, and completed her ABPP certification in Clinical Psychology. She worked on the new Primary Care Mental Health Integration Team at the Minneapolis VA for 5 years, co-directed the DBT program, and was the Evidence-based Psychotherapy Coordinator. She then worked as the Program Coordinator for the PTSD treatment team at the Minneapolis VA for 5 years and developed and ran the Journeys Program, a national 12-week intensive outpatient program that provided DBT and PE. She then moved to the Orlando VA in 2017 to help develop the PTSD program and because Minneapolis is chilly. She is certified in Cognitive Processing Therapy (CPT) and Prolonged Exposure (PE) and is a national trainer and consultant for PE. She is also certified in Dialectical Behavior Therapy (DBT) by the DBT-Linehan Board of Certification and a VA national Subject Matter Expert in DBT and co-developed the VA DBT roll-out as a trainer and consultant. She loves to supervise all levels of trainees in evidence-based approaches for trauma and/or Borderline Personality Disorder, specifically PE, CPT, DBT, ACT, and IBCT. She supervises trainees through TRuST and DBT minor rotation. Her primary approach in supervision is to help trainees explore their professional and personal values and figure

out how to most effectively make the world a better place. It's time to start enjoying life instead of just accomplishing the next thing! She loves spending time with her family and fostering dogs, who are the perfect examples of inconsistently applied behavioral principles (both her kids and the dogs).

Tiffany Misra, Ph.D., BHIP, Lake Baldwin, earned her doctorate degree in Clinical Counseling Psychology from the University of South Alabama in 2013. She completed her doctoral internship at West Virginia University at the Carruth Center and completed her post-doctoral training at Oberlin College, in Oberlin, Ohio. Since that time, Dr. Misra has worked in a variety of settings, including college counseling (most recently University of Central Florida), long-term care and short-term rehab facilities, private practice, and currently has been with the Orlando VA since 2018. Dr. Misra has publications in the areas of Intimate Partner Violence and Narcissism; her research has additionally focused on Non-suicidal Self-Injury and Suicide. Throughout her experiences, Dr. Misra has specialized in Supervision, Training, and Administration. She is currently VA trained in CBT for Depression and Interpersonal Therapy for Depression, but has experience in other therapy approaches including Prolonged Exposure and Cognitive Processing Therapy. Current VA related activities include assessment (ADHD, memory/cognitive concerns, and psychodiagnostic), providing therapy, and serving on the Template and Training committees.

Stacey Polott, Psy.D., BHIP, Lake Baldwin completed her undergraduate education at the College of William & Mary in Williamsburg, Virginia, and is a graduate of Florida Institute of Technology's clinical Psy.D. program. She completed her internship training at the Coatesville VA Medical Center in Pennsylvania, and her doctoral fellowship at the Daytona Beach VA Outpatient Clinic. She has worked in the Kissimmee Community Based Outpatient Clinic for 2 years before transferring to her current position in BHIP 2 at Lake Baldwin in November 2018. Dr. Polott is truly a generalist who has spent her career thus far in general mental health settings, and is also a strong proponent of EBPs, having training and experience in CPT, CBT-D, ACT-D and IPT-D. She also has a strong interest in psychological assessment, and particularly enjoys utilizing assessment as a therapeutic intervention. Dr. Polott hails from the Maryland suburbs of Washington, D.C., and moved to Florida to escape those treacherous mid-Atlantic winters. When she is not working, she is spending time with her husband and two small children, trying to squeeze in distance runs with a local running group, and of course practicing plenty of mindfulness.

Princeton Smith, Ph.D. is a licensed psychologist at the Deltona VA Community-Based Outpatient Clinic. He is a proud HBCU alumnus and completed his undergraduate studies in Psychology and Master's degree in Community Psychology at Florida A&M

University, as well as Doctoral degree in Clinical Psychology from Jackson State University. Dr. Smith completed his predoctoral internship at the G.V. (Sonny) Montgomery VA Medical Center and Postdoctoral fellowship at the Miami VA Healthcare System, Bruce W. Carter VA Medical Center with an emphasis on Mental Health Integration, Recovery, & Rehabilitation. Dr. Smith has a strong background in EBPs for PTSD, including Prolonged Exposure Therapy, Cognitive Processing Therapy, and EMDR. He also has experience in Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBT) for depression, insomnia, and chronic pain. Dr. Smith's research interests include examining a broad spectrum of institutional and psychosocial factors that contribute to mental health disparities among African Americans and other persons of color. More specifically, this involves exploring access to mental health care and utilization of services for racial and ethnic minority groups. He is a native of Immokalee, Florida and enjoys a variety of sports, traveling, and trying new foods.

Bryant Steury, PsyD, Medical Psychology Program. As a Clinical Health Psychologist, Dr. Steury is embedded in a number of medical clinics including Nephrology, Hepatology, Hematology, Oncology/Radiation Oncology, Cardiology, Chronic Pain/Pain Management, Nutrition/Bariatric Surgery, Psychiatry, and Endocrinology. Within these settings, he provides pre-surgical evaluations and health behavior treatment for Veterans seeking to under a variety of surgical procedures such as organ transplants, bariatric surgery, hormone replacement therapy/gender confirmation surgery, and spinal cord neurostimulator/pain pump implants for chronic pain. He completed his undergraduate studies at Illinois Wesleyan University in Bloomington, Illinois, and both master's and PsyD degrees from Pepperdine University in Los Angeles, California. His predoctoral internship was completed at the Tennessee Valley Healthcare System (Nashville VA) in Transplant Psychology, Neuropsychology and Pain Psychology rotations, with his postdoctoral training in Rehabilitation Psychology completed at Tampa General Hospital.

Mimi Zhao, Ph.D., TRuST-PTSD treatment team, Lake Baldwin, is a staff psychologist as the Orlando VA Medical Center currently working BHIP and TRuST. She received her graduate training in Clinical Psychology at the University of Mississippi and completed her pre-doctoral internship at the Medical College of Georgia/Charlie Norwood VA Medical Center consortium and her post-doctoral training at the Orlando VA Medical Center. She is experienced in assessment and treatment of trauma, personality, mood, and anxiety disorders (PTSD, BPD, depression, anxiety, panic, chronic pain, insomnia, and eating disorders) using various evidence-based treatment modalities and is certified in Cognitive Processing Therapy (CPT) and Prolonged Exposure (PE). However, she has a special interest in third wave cognitive behavioral therapies such as Dialectical Behavioral Therapy (DBT) and Acceptance and

Commitment Therapy (ACT) focusing on acceptance, values, and meaning. Her personal interests include hiking, music, gardening, and traveling.

DIDACTIC INSTRUCTORS AND OTHER TRAINING STAFF

Alicia Agana, Psy.D., *PCMHI Viera Clinic*, is a licensed psychologist working in Primary Care Mental Health (PCMH) at the Viera Outpatient Clinic. She works as a behavioral health consultant to primary care physicians, nurses, pharmacists, dietitians, and other members of the Patient Aligned Care Team (PACT) and provides same day assessments as well as scheduled, brief psychotherapy appointments for Veterans. In addition to working on multiple general PACT teams, Dr. Agana is also assigned to the Specialty Geriatric PACT and Memory PACT focusing on interdisciplinary primary care services for our most medically complex older Veteran populations. As part of these specialized teams, Dr. Agana provides case consultation, Veteran and family interventions, and baseline cognitive assessments for memory clinic recommendations. Dr. Agana is a trained Geropsychologist. Prior to joining PCMHI, Dr. Agana trained at the Edith Nourse Rogers Memorial VAMC in a variety of clinical settings within the Geriatric and Extended Care Service. Dr. Agana's background includes program development for improving dementia care services, providing clinical care to older adult Veterans and their families, and using CBT and customized evidenced based behavioral interventions to improve agency and autonomy for aging Veterans. Dr. Agana also serves on the Dementia Steering Committee at the Orlando VAMC and the Council of Professional Geropsychology Training Programs (CoPGTP). She has also worked to have Viera Geriatric PACT become the first Orlando VAMC clinic to be recognized as an "Age Friendly" healthcare participate for 2022.

Teri Carper, Ph.D. is the Chief of Connected Care at the Orlando VAHCS as well as the VISN8 Telemental Health Lead. She completed her undergraduate work at Boston University and earned her Ph.D. in 2010 from the University of Central Florida (UCF). Dr. Carper completed her doctoral internship at Boston Consortium for Clinical Psychology and her postdoctoral fellowship at the National Center for PTSD at Boston VA, where she also held the positions of Clinical Fellow in Psychiatry at Harvard Medical School and Teaching Fellow in Psychiatry at Boston University School of Medicine. Dr. Carper's clinical and research interests center around trauma trajectories and resiliency factors, and she is currently a PI or co-I on three research projects. Dr. Carper's personal interests include animals, distance running, skiing, and most importantly, spending time with her husband and twin daughter and son.

Danielle Jahn, Ph.D., *Mental Health Center for Acute Recovery Empowerment (Inpatient), Lake Nona*. Dr. Jahn received her Ph.D. in clinical psychology from Texas

Tech University in 2014. She completed her internship at the VA Eastern Colorado Health Care System in Denver, Colorado. Her postdoctoral fellowship focused on serious mental illness at the VA VISN 5 Mental Illness Research, Education, and Clinical Center. Prior to joining the Orlando VA, Dr. Jahn held various positions, including Clinical Research Psychologist at the VISN 5 MIRECC, Assistant Professor in the Division of Psychiatric Services Research at the University of Maryland School of Medicine, Psychologist at Primary Care Institute (Gainesville, FL), and Health Psychologist at SIMED Health (Gainesville, FL). She is now the Program Manager for the Mental Health Center for Acute Recovery Empowerment, an acute psychiatric inpatient setting. Dr. Jahn is an appointed Research Program Member of the Military Suicide Research Consortium and Older Adult Advisor for the QPR Institute. She has published over 50 peer-reviewed articles and book chapters and authored over 50 research presentations at national and international conferences. She has served on a national task force addressing gaps in clinical training in suicide risk assessment and management through the American Association of Suicidology, acted as the program chair for the 47th Annual American Association of Suicidology Conference, and was a member of the older adult workgroup for the Maryland Governor's Commission on Suicide Prevention. Dr. Jahn's clinical and research interests focus on suicide prevention, serious mental illness, older adults, and transitions of care.

Nkaku Kisaalita, Ph.D., ABPP is a board-certified clinical health Psychologist at the West Texas Veteran Affairs Health Care System where he serves as their facility Pain Management, Opioid Safety, and Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (PMOP) Coordinator. He completed his undergraduate work at UNC at Chapel Hill and earned his doctorate in Clinical Psychology from the University of Florida Department of Clinical & Health Psychology in 2014. He completed his doctoral internship in Medical Psychology at the Medical College of Georgia/Charlie Norwood VAMC Psychology Consortium in Augusta GA. He then completed a Pain Psychology Postdoctoral Fellowship at the James A. Haley Veterans' Hospital in Tampa FL. Dr. Kisaalita was part of the Orlando VAMC Medical Psychology staff as an outpatient Pain Psychologist from 2015 – 2021. In addition to his clinical interests in behavioral pain management, Dr. Kisaalita has published peer-reviewed studies on chronic pain, opioid risk mitigation, and placebo analgesia, and has presented his research at national and international scientific meetings. Other professional interests include strength-based approaches, DEI, and suicide prevention. Personal interests include fitness/health, futbol, and traveling. Additionally, Dr. Kisaalita is self-described obsessive UNC basketball fan - GO HEELS!

Jacqueline Lefebre, Psy.D. completed her undergraduate and graduate training at Nova Southeastern University in Davie, FL. She completed her predoctoral internship at the Central Alabama VA Health Care System in Montgomery, AL, and completed her

postdoctoral fellowship at the St. Louis VA Health Care System – PTSD track. Dr. Lefebre began working as a staff psychologist on the PTSD Clinical Team (PCT) at the Central Alabama VA, later moving into the PCT coordinator role in 2020. In September 2021, she accepted her involuntary ties to the state of Florida and excitedly joined the Orlando VA, splitting her time between TRuST and PTSD VIOP. She continues to reside in Montgomery, AL and is passionate about EBP for PTSD (admittedly biased toward Prolonged Exposure), working with rural and underserved veterans, and having her feelings hurt by two of the most dramatic huskies in the Southeast. Her self-care includes travelling, home renovations (questionable quality), and cultivating queer community in the Deep South.

Judith F. Legault PhD/EdD, *Licensed Clinical Psychologist Clermont Community Outpatient Clinic (Virtual)*; Clinical Assistant Professor Dept of Psychiatry NSU-KPCOM; Assistant Professor of Medical Education in the University of Central Florida (UCF), College of Medicine; Director of Psychotherapy Training for the NSU KPCOM Orlando Psychiatry Residency Program; Interprofessional Training Coordinator for the Orlando VAMC. Dr. Legault is a 100% virtual provider seeing patients for weekly outpatient therapy primarily out of the Clermont Community Based Outpatient Clinic. Along with a strong background in educational leadership, she is trained in several EBPs including Cognitive Behavioral Therapy for Depression (CBT); Cognitive Behavioral Therapy for Chronic Pain (CBT-CP); Acceptance and Commitment Therapy for Depression (ACT-D); Cognitive Processing Therapy for PTSD (CPT); Eye Movement Desensitization and Reprocessing (EMDR); Skills Training in Affective and Interpersonal Regulation (STAIR); Motivational Interviewing (MI), Mindfulness for Stress Reduction (MBSR) and Behavioral Activation for Depression.

Purvi Gandi, Gandhi is a clinical psychologist by training and has worked full-time at the VA since 2016. She is currently working in Employee Whole Health and her focus is on finding ways to improve the culture of wellness at the VA, and supporting employees in their wellbeing. Prior to her current position, she was a Compensation and Pension mental health examiner and also had a private practice. She has been licensed since 2003 in California and 2008 in Florida.

Keri K. Griffin, LCSW, CAP, has been working as a clinical social worker since 1996. Keri's first job was working in detox at Miami Valley Hospital in Dayton, OH. Keri then graduated from the University of Dayton in Dayton, OH. with a major in Psychology and minors in Social Work and Sociology in 1997. Keri graduated with her Masters in Social Work from the University of Maryland, School of Social Work in Baltimore, MD. with a Clinical Concentration and Substance Abuse Specialization in 1999. While working on her Masters Keri worked at the Social Work Community Outreach Service at Maree Farring Elementary School and with the University of Maryland Medical System

Intensive Outpatient Program and Maternal Substance Abuse and Acupuncture Program. After graduating with her Masters Keri continued to work in Baltimore, MD. at the Johns Hopkins University Cornerstone Program and at the University of Maryland Medical System Comprehensive Recovery Program. Keri moved to Florida in 2000 where she became a Licensed Clinical Social Worker and a Certified Addictions Professional in the state of Florida. Keri has worked with Lakeside Alternatives at the Orange Regional Juvenile Detention Center, at the Center for Drug-Free Living Addiction Receiving Facility as well as the Women's Residential Program in Kissimmee, and at Mental Health Network.

For almost 17 years Keri has worked at the Orlando VA Health Care System. Keri worked for her first 5 years at the VA in the Alcohol and Drug Abuse Treatment Program and for 12 years as a therapist in the Mental Health Clinic. For the past 12 years Keri has served in collateral duty roles as the Orlando VA's LGBTQ+ Special Emphasis Program Manager and Veteran Care Coordinator providing support and services for employees and veteran patients as well as training and education, outreach, and development of community partnerships. Keri, through dedication and hard work, was able to facilitate and elevate the LGBTQ+ Veteran Care Program Coordinator to a full-time position at the OVAHCS as of FY 2021-22. Keri serves as the VA VISN 8 LGBTQ+ Veteran Care Coordinator Lead, she is the national LGBTQ+ VCC Lead Forum Lead, she developed and facilitates a monthly Inter-Disciplinary LGBTQ+ Treatment Team at the OVAHCS, and she chairs the OVAHCS LGBTQ+ Special Emphasis Program working closely with the Diversity and Inclusion Team and the EEO at the OVAHCS. Due to her hard work with the LGBTQ+ Veteran population at the VA Keri received national I CARE awards in 2015, 2018, 2020, and 2021, the VA Social Worker of the year award for 2016, and a national Special Contribution Award in 2016 for her contribution after the Pulse tragedy.

LCDR Gina Masessa, Psy.D., CIMHP, Clinical Psychologist. Dr. Masessa is an active duty officer (LCDR) in the United States Public Health Service stationed in the VA since 2021 as a psychologist. She commissioned into the USPHS as an officer in 2017. Prior to commissioning, she was stationed in the Federal Bureau of Prisons (BOP) starting in 2011 where she provided psychological services to incarcerated individuals and developed resiliency and optimism training for staff. Dr. Masessa has worked in the areas of General Mental Health and Forensic Psychology providing treatment for incarcerated individuals with serious and persistent mental illness as well as evaluating civilly committed individuals and authoring forensic evaluations to help the court determine release under the Federal Civil Commitment statutes. She has been studying and practicing Mindfulness Based Cognitive Therapy for Depression in both the prison system and the VA and thrives on finding research and evidence for ways to help people feel sustained joy and happiness while living a peaceful life. Dr. Masessa

also focuses on using nutrition as a component to strong and positive mental health. The trainings she has developed in the federal prison system led to her being recognized with both a national award from the director of the BOP and a Commendation Medal in USPHS.

Valerie Masten Hoese, Ph.D. received her degree in Human Services Psychology from the University of Maryland Baltimore County in 1990, having completed tracks in Behavioral Medicine and Clinical Psychology. She completed her internship at the Springfield Hospital Center in Sykesville, MD. She is a Clinical Neuropsychologist and has worked in a variety of settings, including a Level I trauma center, neurology practice, nursing homes, psychiatric hospital, jail, community medical centers, and continues in independent practice providing medicolegal assessment. She has published and presented in neurotoxic exposure, cognitive rehabilitation, professional practice issues, and cultural and diversity variables in neuropsychological assessment. She is an Associate Professor at the University of Florida College of Medicine and teaches a section on Neuropsychological Assessment. She teaches at the University of Central Florida as an Associate Professor in the Neurosciences doctoral program. She is licensed in Florida (active) and Maryland (inactive). She has served on several committees for APA and the National Academy of Neuropsychology. She is the former training director of the Orlando VA and former Medical Psychology supervisor. Her clinical interests are in the areas of assessment of performance validity, Measurement Based Care, cross cultural neuropsychological assessment, and professional ethics.

John Merladet, Ph.D., ABPP holds a doctorate in Counseling Psychology from the University of Minnesota, Department of Educational Psychology: Counseling, Student, and Personnel Psychology Program. This doctoral program is accredited by the American Psychology Association (APA). He also completed a clinical internship that was also APA approved at Mt. Sinai Elmhurst Hospital Center, in Queens, New York, rotating through inpatient psychiatry, outpatient psychiatry, child psychiatry, inpatient forensics, and substance abuse clinics. He has a one year of supervised postdoctoral training in the neuropsychological assessment of Alzheimer's and Dementia from New York's Mt. Sinai's Clinical Neuroscience Program. He is a licensed psychologist in the States of Minnesota, Florida, and New York. Dr. Merladet is a board-certified specialist and aspires to the Pikes Peak Model of geropsychology practice. He presently works in the Homebased Primary Care program, VA's primary care premier service for home bound Veterans many of which are frail elderly with multiple medical, cognitive, and MH conditions. Before that, he has worked in rehabilitation psychology, as a psychologist for a jail's medical unit, as a nursing home psychologist, as a grief counselor for visiting nurses, on an elderly suicide crisis line, for a NORC (naturally occurring retirement community) as a therapist, and a community based senior church-based outreach

program. Dr. Merladet has also been a trainer and adjunct professor. He has taught at Argosy University, St. Mary's University of Minnesota, and in New York City, Queens College. He has facilitated and created many workshops and presentations. His present interests are in assessment and testing of cognitive disorders, Hispanic elderly and caregivers, human-animal bond in caring for impaired elderly, cognitive enhancement groups for elderly, demystifying capacity evaluations, caregiver burden in the Latino community, and interplay between medical disorders and cognitive status. Dr. Merladet has been trained in CPT, ACT, MI, DBT, CBT-Sleep, CBT-Smoking, Pain Management, Biofeedback (Certified), Problem Solving, and EMDR. Dr. Merladet is bilingual and can do assessment, testing, and therapy in both English and Spanish along with understanding/appreciating the research and clinical implications in working across languages and cultures. His theoretical orientation is cognitive-behavioral/multimodal.

Cindy Moreira-Harris, Psy.D., *Mental Health Center for Acute Recovery Empowerment (Inpatient), Lake Nona*, is a licensed clinical psychologist and received her doctorate from Nova Southeastern University in 2006 with a Psy.D. in Clinical Psychology and concentration in SMI. She completed her doctoral internship at the Connecticut Valley Hospital and Capitol Region Mental Health Center in Hartford, Connecticut with a focus in SMI, forensics, and co-occurring disorders. Her postdoctoral fellowship was at Citrus Health in Miami, Florida with a practice that included individual and group psychotherapy and psychological assessment for children, adolescents, and adults. Dr. Harris served as the mental health director at Lowell Correctional Institution in Ocala, Florida. She has also been faculty with the Florida Department of Corrections Psychology Internship and Residency Training program. Since October 2018, Dr. Harris has been with the Orlando VA working in the Center for Acute Recovery Empowerment and MH Consultation and Liaison. She has also detailed with Domiciliary Residential Rehabilitation Treatment Program and the Suicide Prevention Team. Her clinical interests include SMI, co-occurring disorders, personality disorders, and forensic psychology.

Benson Munyan, Ph.D., is a US Army Veteran and Clinical Psychologist with the ACHIEVE Team, which serves veterans recently discharged from both acute hospitalizations and residential programs to facilitate continuity of care. Dr. Munyan earned his doctorate from the University of Central Florida as a member of UCF RESTORES, a clinical research laboratory specializing in veteran, law enforcement, and first responder trauma research. Clinically, Dr. Munyan's primary interest is that of trauma and stress-related disorders. He further has a passion for quantitative decision-making and improving clinical systems, tools, and processes for clinicians.

Joanne Pinsky, Ph.D., BHL Psychologist, Lake Nona. Dr. Pinsky earned her doctorate in Clinical Psychology from Nova Southeastern University in 2006 and completed her doctoral internship at Henry Ford Hospital in Detroit, MI. Following internship, she completed a 3-year NIH postdoctoral fellowship (T32) in Immunology and AIDS at the University of Miami in Coral Gables, FL. After working in research for many years at the University of Miami and then at the National Center for PTSD Women's Health Sciences Division, she returned to clinical work and is currently working at the Orlando as a BHL Psychologist providing care management services, which include conducting virtual initial brief functional assessments and providing referral management.

Fallon Ringer, Ph.D., Graduate Psychologist, LKB Primary Care, graduated from the University of Southern Mississippi in 2014 with her Bachelor's of Science in Psychology. After receiving her undergraduate degree, she worked as the lab coordinator for the Suicide and Emotion Regulation Lab. She attended Florida State University's Clinical Psychology program and was a member of the Laboratory for the Study and Prevention of Suicide Related Conditions. Her research interests include examining the role of interpersonal risk factors for suicide in military and veteran populations as well as the role of social media and online behaviors in suicide risk. Fallon Ringer completed her pre-doctoral internship at the Orlando Veterans Affairs Medical Center and is currently working as a graduate psychologist in primary care at the Orlando VA.

Meghann Sallee, PhD, Couples & Family Clinic, Lake Nona/Virtual. Dr. Sallee completed her undergraduate work at the University of Delaware, her master's in criminology at Queen's University Belfast in Northern Ireland, and received her doctorate in clinical psychology from the University of Alabama (Roll Tide!). She completed her internship at Duke University Medical Center followed by her postdoctoral fellowship at the Durham VA Medical Center. Dr. Sallee enjoyed collaborating with the Mid-Atlantic MIRECC as a fellow on projects aiming to improve services for caregivers and families. She has held staff positions in the Tampa and Gainesville VA systems embedded in PCMHI and the general mental health. She moved to the Orlando VA system in 2021 and has provided supervision to psychiatry trainees in evidence-based approaches including Motivational Interviewing, CBCT-PTSD, Dialectical Behavioral Therapy, Gottman Method, and Parent Training. Her clinical interests include working with couples, families, and parents. She is licensed in the state of Florida. She loves spending time with family (human & feline) and friends, all things Disney, playing and coaching softball, and traveling.

Shelby Stewart, Ph.D., DRRTP, Lake Baldwin. Dr. Stewart completed her doctorate in Clinical Psychology at Louisiana State University in 2022. She completed the APA-accredited Psychology Internship training program at the Orlando VA Healthcare



System in 2022 and now serves as a Graduate Psychologist at the Lake Baldwin Domiciliary. Professional and clinical interests include diversity in all forms, treatment of co-occurring disorders, brief substance use interventions (e.g., alcohol and e-cigarette use), CPT, and MI.

Jenni Sujka, Psy.D., BHIP Team, Daytona, received my doctorate from Nova Southeastern University. I did my internship at the Oklahoma Health Psychology Consortium and post-doc at the Washing D.C. VAMC in the Trauma Services Program. The type of treatments that I enjoy engaging in focus on trauma (certified in CPT), anxiety, and insomnia. I am also currently on the DBT team in Daytona Beach and enjoy running groups. I am firm believer that outcomes from therapy are increased if a patient is well prepared with skills and educated about their treatment. In my spare time, I love to do yoga, head to the gym, hike, play with my fur-child, try new foods, camp, and travel.

Matthew C. Waesche, Ph.D., Domiciliary Residential Rehabilitation Treatment Program, Lake Nona. Dr. Waesche earned his doctorate in Clinical Psychology from Florida State University in 2012. He completed his pre-doctoral internship at the University of Alabama at Birmingham School of Medicine Department of Psychiatry & Behavioral Neurobiology Psychology Training Consortium with the Birmingham Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Birmingham, Alabama. Dr. Waesche currently works at the Orlando VAHCS in the Domiciliary Residential Rehabilitation Treatment Program and serves on the Orlando VAHCS LGBTQ+ Interdisciplinary Treatment Team. Dr. Waesche has an appointment as an Instructor of Psychology with the University of Central Florida College of Medicine. Previously, he worked in Primary Care-Mental Health Integration (PCMH) and served as the Orlando VAHCS REACH VET Coordinator. His main clinical and research interests are substance use disorders (particularly alcohol) and their impact on emotional responding and suicide.

APPENDIX B: DIDACTIC TOPICS

Previous Didactic Seminars have included the following topics:

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| Suicide Risk Management | Cognitive Processing Therapy |
| Acceptance and Commitment Therapy for Depression | Self-Care/Wellness |
| Preparing for Postdoc | Cognitive Behavioral Therapy for Depression |
| LGBT+ | Individual and Cultural Diversity |
| Motivational Interviewing | Professional Development-Job Searches |
| Ethics in Mental Health | Military Sexual Trauma |



Harassment Training
Cognitive Behavioral Therapy for Chronic Pain
Sleep Disorders and CBT-I
Problem-Solving Therapy
Impression Management, Effort & Malingering
Neurobiological Model of Addiction and Psychosocial
Conceptualization
Intersectional of Personal Identities and Bias in
Psychotherapy

Advocacy in Mental Health
Evidence-Based Treatment for Couples/Families
Mild TBI and Assessment
Postvention
Cross-Cultural Considerations in PTSD
SUD Assessment, ASAM Criteria, and
Psychotherapies