



## Clinical Psychology Postdoctoral Fellowship With an Emphasis in Primary Care Integration and Health Psychology

### White River Junction VA Medical Center

Adam Smith, Psy.D.  
215 North Main Street  
White River Junction, VT 05009  
(802) 295-9363 (x5827)

[www.va.gov/white-river-junction-health-care/work-with-us/internships-and-fellowships/](http://www.va.gov/white-river-junction-health-care/work-with-us/internships-and-fellowships/)

**Applications Due: January 3, 2024**

### **Accreditation Status**

The postdoctoral fellowship program at the **White River Junction VA Medical Center (WRJ VAMC)** is accredited as a Clinical Psychology Residency Program by the Commission on Accreditation of the American Psychological Association. The program was reaccredited in 2019 for 10 years with our next site visit scheduled to be held in 2028.

### **Application & Selection Procedures**

**General Qualifications:** A candidate for the WRJ VAMC Clinical Psychology Postdoctoral Fellowship—Focus in Primary Care Integration and Health Psychology must be:

- a U.S. citizen
- a male applicant born after 12/31/1959 must have registered for the draft by age 26 to be eligible for any US government employment, including selection as a paid VA trainee.
- Fellows are subject to fingerprinting and background checks. Selection decisions are contingent on passing these screens.
- VA conducts drug screening exams on randomly selected personnel as well as new employees.
- successful completion of an APA-accredited psychology internship
- completion of a doctoral degree, including dissertation defense, from an APA-accredited Clinical or Counseling Psychology program prior to the start date of the fellowship.

The WRJ VAMC encourages applications from members of all ethnic groups, women and persons with disabilities.

**Specific Qualifications:** The postdoctoral fellowship program seeks applicants with some prior training and experience in working in a primary care setting and health psychology. The fellowship at the WRJ VAMC is clinically-oriented and so places a premium on those experiences that prepare applicants for clinical practice informed by scholarship. Highly regarded candidates will have completed clinically-oriented internships and have experiences conducting individual psychotherapy (i.e., brief and long-term psychotherapy with adults and clinical interviewing), psychological assessment, health psychology, and clinical practice in primary care. Highly regarded candidates will also have completed coursework in health psychology and have experience with both and cognitive-behavioral psychotherapy and psychodynamic psychotherapy.

WRJ VAMC Clinical Psychology Postdoctoral Program strives to create an environment supportive of diversity.

**Application Procedures:** Interested persons who meet the eligibility criteria should submit the following materials:

1. A letter of interest indicating intent to apply to the postdoctoral fellowship program and why you are applying to our program. Please include a brief description of your professional goals and aspirations for the fellowship program and your career.
2. Curriculum vitae describing previous training (including internship) and work experiences, and other scholarly activity and/or research.
3. Three letters of recommendation, one of which must be from an internship clinical supervisor.
4. Official graduate transcripts.
5. Letter from your dissertation chair regarding dissertation status and anticipated completion date, if dissertation has not been defended at the time of this application.

The deadline for receipt of completed applications is January 3, 2024.

Applicants can choose between two different application processes: 1) If necessary, applicants can mail all application to the training director. Please contact us beforehand if you are using this option 2) Applicants can apply electronically via the APPA CAS application portal: [www.appic.org/Postdocs/APPA-CAS-Postdoc-Application-Information](http://www.appic.org/Postdocs/APPA-CAS-Postdoc-Application-Information)

In addition to the materials submitted by applicants to the postdoctoral fellowship program, the WRJ VAMC may also consider other publicly available materials including, but not limited to, information available through the internet.

**Adam Smith, Psy.D.**  
Training Director  
[Adam.Smith2@va.gov](mailto:Adam.Smith2@va.gov)  
(802) 295-9363, ext. 5827

**Casey Allington, Ph.D.**  
Associate Training Director  
[Casey.Allington@va.gov](mailto:Casey.Allington@va.gov)  
(802) 295-9363, ext. 2104

Veterans Affairs Medical Center (116B)  
215 N. Main Street  
White River Jct., VT 05009-0001

**APPIC Program Code Number: 9120**

**Policies:** The WRJ VAMC psychology postdoctoral fellowship program abides by all APA guidelines and requirements. Questions related to the program's accredited status should be directed to the Commission on Accreditation:

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

In accordance with the Federal Drug-Free Workplace Program, postdoctoral fellows accepted for the WRJ VAMC postdoctoral fellowship program may be asked to submit a urine specimen at the beginning of the training year. Other branches of the federal government may conduct routine background checks at their discretion.

The selected applicant must have successfully defended his/her dissertation and completed all other degree requirements before they begin the fellowship program. Selected fellows, under extraordinary circumstances, may petition the Training Committee for a thirty day extension. If granted, the start date of the fellowship would be delayed, and the fellow would be required to extend his/her fellowship (possibly without compensation) in order to fulfill fellowship requirements. Selected fellows who are denied an extension or are unable to begin the fellowship within thirty days of the original start date will be de-selected from the program. In this unusual circumstance, alternative candidates may be contacted to fill the position as quickly as possible.

**Selection and Interview Process:** Written application materials will be reviewed upon receipt, and top candidates will be invited for personal interviews. Candidates for interview will be selected based on several criteria including meeting the requirements described above, clinical experiences, and match with our program. Applicants will be notified of their interview status before January 23<sup>rd</sup>. Please be sure to indicate daytime and evening telephone numbers in your application materials so you can be reached to schedule an interview.

The training committee meet to review the applicants invited for interviews and rank order the candidates. The postdoctoral program begins on September 2, 2024 and ends August 29, 2025. In certain circumstances we can allow for different start dates.

## **Psychology Setting**

The Clinical Psychology Postdoctoral Fellowship Program at the WRJ VAMC is located in the Mental Health and Behavioral Science service. The White River Junction Mental Health and Behavioral Science service is proud of our tradition of integrating multiple disciplines in the care of our patients. Psychologists, psychiatrists, social workers, nurse practitioners and master's level mental health professionals work alongside each other in meetings, leading groups, collaborating on the care of individual patients and in developing treatment offerings. In our service trainees literally work next to and collaborate with other mental health disciplines on a daily basis. As a result, trainees become used to regular consultation with other staff and participate in inter-professional teams as a normal mode of professional practice.

The Mental Health and Behavioral Science service has established programs in general outpatient mental health care and acute care (inpatient), primary care, specialty care medicine, substance abuse, recovery-based services (including transitional housing, CWT and supported employment), PTSD outpatient services, and psychology assessment. The programs in Primary Care and Specialty Care medicine include the Primary Mental Health Care Clinic (located in medicine's primary care clinic), as well as a range of individual and group interventions with individuals struggling with diabetes adherence and behavior changes, new or chronic cancer diagnosis, lifestyle change/weight loss, sleep disorders referrals from the pulmonary service, smoking cessation and interventions for patients with hypertension. Most patients receiving specialized mental health care are dually diagnosed with one or more of the following diagnoses: substance use disorder, PTSD, depression spectrum disorders, and personality disorders. We serve primarily, though not exclusively, patients from the lower half of the socioeconomic strata. Recently there has been a growing number of middle-class, working patients primarily represented by the increasing numbers of veterans from the Global War on Terrorism, and veterans of armed conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan.

The WRJ VAMC training program has a faculty of ten doctoral-level psychologists. Administratively, the program is supervised by the Director of Psychology Training, who oversees and implements internship and postdoctoral recruitment and selection, assigns trainees to faculty supervisors, and coordinates clinical experiences. In addition to the postdoctoral fellowship program in primary care, we sponsor an APA-accredited psychology internship program.

**Medical School Affiliations:** The WRJ VAMC is dually affiliated with the Geisel School of Medicine at Dartmouth College (GSMDC) and University of Vermont (UVM) College of Medicine.

The WRJ VAMC affiliation with GSMDC supports more than 150 individuals in 17 specialties. Forty percent of the clinical medicine activity for GSMDC students takes place at the VA and these students rank the VA superior to their non-VA training options. This affiliation has also provided the substrate to support the National Center for PTSD, the National Quality Scholars Program, a field station of the VA National Center for Patient Safety, VA Outcomes Group, a Rural Health Initiative, a VA Research and Development Service and a new Inter-Professional Patient Safety Fellowship.

The WRJ VAMC has supported a formal affiliation with the University of Vermont (UVM) College of Medicine, Burlington, Vermont since 1994. This affiliation provides the mechanism for medical residents, cardiology and psychiatry fellows and students to rotate through our Lakeside Medical Center Community Based Outpatient Clinic (CBOC) in Burlington, Vermont. This CBOC also supports UVM trainees in advance nurse practice and social work.

**Allied Health Affiliations:** WRJ VAMC maintains over 40 other current academic affiliations with colleges and vocational schools, to provide a variety of professional and technical experiences for students in nursing, physician assistants, optometrists, psychologists, physical and occupational therapy, social work, radiology, medical technology, and other fields.

## ***Training Model and Program Philosophy***

The postdoctoral fellowship program at the WRJ VAMC subscribes to the following characteristics commonly associated with the scholar-practitioner model of training:

- 1) A scholarly approach to practice via reflection and critical thinking;
- 2) An application of scholarly work and empirically-based research data to the practice of psychological assessment and clinical practice;
- 3) An emphasis on the psychologist as an informed consumer of scholarly work including theoretical material and empirical research;
- 4) A recognition of the importance of generating knowledge through practice;
- 5) An expectation that fellows will attend and become active participants in academic/didactic activities.

Our postdoctoral fellowship program is based on the philosophy that sound and effective clinical practice is built on knowledge of the theoretical and empirical literatures, critical thinking, and self-reflection. We train our fellows to implement and promote established, efficacious treatments and encourage our fellows to draw upon theoretical and empirical literature to enhance the development of their professional skills over time. Moreover, we train our fellows to view knowledge and understanding of themselves as integral to the treatment process.

## ***Program Goals & Objectives***

The Clinical Psychology Postdoctoral Fellowship Program-Focus in Primary Care Integration and Health Psychology at the WRJ VAMC is designed to teach early-career professionals the knowledge and skills to function as independent, ethical, and competent psychologists consistent with the highest standards of practice. We emphasize the development of compassionate and humane approaches to the alleviation of human suffering and the enhancement of personal health and growth.

The primary goal of the psychology postdoctoral fellowship program is to prepare early-career professionals in the ethical practice of clinical psychology in Primary Care, a variety of other settings, and to serve as leaders in the integration of mental and physical health care. Our postdoctoral fellowship graduates are well prepared to begin working in a diverse number of environments including primary care

settings, outpatient clinics, and medical center-based care. A second major goal is to develop clinical psychologists who will be scholars and practitioners. We train our postdoctoral fellows to be active, continuous consumers of the professional literature and to use this literature to inform their practice, providing effective, evidence-based treatment for a variety of clinical conditions. The third major goal of our training program is to develop psychology leaders who continue to expand the practice and application of psychological principles into existing and newly developing areas of practice including primary and specialty care medicine as well as biomedical ethics. A fourth major goal of our postdoctoral program is to train professional psychologists well-versed in the understanding and treatment of psychopathology and utilization of psychological principles for health promotion and chronic disease management with the ability to utilize multiple theoretical orientations (cognitive behavioral therapy and psychodynamic psychotherapy) in their case conceptualization and treatment. We believe that the ability to draw upon these rich bodies of knowledge will enable our postdoctoral students to more effectively conceptualize and treat a diverse group of patients with a wide range of clinical issues.

Our fellowship program uses a competence-based practice and assessment model. We strive to operationalize the skills and abilities we believe are most essential to effective, ethical clinical practice. Fellow's skill levels are formally assessed three times during the year. We begin with assessing competence in seven general areas and then assess more specific competencies in skill/practice areas.

The general competence areas in which fellows are assessed are:

- Competence in professional conduct, ethics and legal matters:
  - professional interpersonal behavior
  - knowledge of ethics and law
  - seeks consultation/supervision
  - uses positive coping strategies
  - professional responsibility and documentation
  - efficiency and time management
- Competence in individual and cultural diversity:
  - patient rapport
  - sensitivity to patient diversity
- Competence in psychological diagnosis and assessment:
  - diagnostic skill
  - psychological test selection and administration
  - conducting thorough and timely initial evaluations
  - psychological test interpretation
  - assessment writing skills
  - feedback regarding assessment
- Competence in professional consultation:
  - consultation assessment
- Competence in psychotherapeutic interventions:
  - patient risk management and confidentiality
  - case conceptualization and treatment goals
  - treatment goals and outcomes
  - objective therapeutic interventions
  - effective use of emotional reactions in therapy (countertransference)
- Competence in group psychotherapy skills:
  - group therapy skills and preparation
- Competence in scholarly inquiry and application of theoretical and scientific knowledge to practice:
  - seeks current scientific knowledge

These general areas are assessed every four months with a formal, summative evaluation. Together with the fellow, competence levels are discussed and assessed using the following competency descriptions:

A	Advanced: skills comparable to autonomous practice as the licensure level
HI	High intermediate: occasional supervision needed
I	Intermediate: should remain a focus of supervision

E	Entry level: continued intensive supervision is needed
R	Remedial: needs remedial work

Descriptions of skills necessary at each competency level are clearly articulated. By the end of the training year, fellows are expected to achieve competence at the advanced (A) level on at least eighty percent with no ratings at the intermediate (I), entry (E) or remedial (R) level. Specific skills/competencies are also assessed for each practice area/rotation and will be described in the Training Experiences section.

## **Program Structure**

The postdoctoral fellowship is composed of a number of core experiences, most of which occur simultaneously throughout the year. These experiences include a rotation in the Primary Mental Health Clinic (located in the Primary Care Service), Primary Care Integration, Specialty Care Medicine (insomnia, diabetes care and pain service), a year-long rotation in the Specialty Mental Health Clinic (SMHC – outpatient mental health clinic), and serving on the Clinical and Preventive Ethics Committees. Fellows will also develop and implement a quality improvement project in conjunction with a supervisor.

Postdoctoral fellows engage in varied activities during the course of a work week which approximates the schedules of staff members. A typical day for a fellow includes seeing outpatients in Primary Care and/or Specialty Care Medicine Clinics and Specialized Mental Health care, collaborating with medical providers, attending a seminar/case conference or journal club and receiving supervision. Fellows also attend weekly staff meetings and participate in multidisciplinary treatment and ethics teams. Fellows typically work a forty-five hour week and are expected to complete reading and other assignments for seminars/journal clubs outside of this time.

Postdoctoral fellows receive a minimum of two hours of individual supervision per week as well as one hour of group supervision in the Clinical Case Conference. Fellows also attend several seminars/didactics focused on professional development, research methods and theories, supervision, and diversity.

**Supervision:** Supervision, both individual and in groups, is a core part of the fellowship experience. Fellows receive at least two hours of individual supervision per week: one hour for their work in the Primary and Specialty Care Medicine Clinics, and an hour for their work in the Specialized Mental Health Care (outpatient) clinic. In addition fellows also receive an hour of group supervision in the weekly clinical case conference. These supervisory sessions introduce fellows to a variety of clinical approaches and help them develop and understand a particular treatment philosophy and develop a style of their own. The postdoctoral fellowship program offers supervision from an integrated theoretical perspective. The fellowship encourages all trainees to become thoughtful and knowledgeable about the evolution of their own professional identity and able to conceptualize their clinical decisions.

Seven doctoral psychologists on the core faculty serve as supervisory staff for outpatient psychotherapy (see section on Training Faculty). Fellows will be assigned one outpatient psychotherapy supervisor, one Primary Care Mental Health supervisor and will have two health psychology supervisors. The supervisors will mentor the fellow via modeling, teaching, supervising skills, and professional demeanor. The Director of Training along with the supervisors will assist the postdoctoral fellows in establishing a caseload and acquiring the types of experiences necessary for that particular individual to grow in the role of psychologist. Each supervisor will help ensure that the fellow's training objectives are met and will complete evaluations of fellow's performance three times during the training year. Live observation and audiotapes of sessions are used in the supervision process.

The faculty of the White River Junction VA postdoctoral fellowship values self-reflection in professional training. We view self-reflection as an integral component of being an effective, compassionate professional. While supervisors vary in the level of self-disclosure they encourage in supervision, some level of self-reflection and self-disclosure is part of the supervisory process. Applicants and fellows are encouraged to discuss this issue with prospective supervisors.

## **Training Experiences**

Postdoctoral fellows will be involved in six primary areas of emphasis consisting of the Primary Mental Health Clinic, primary care integration programs (smoking cessation, pain management, insomnia, weight management), specialty care integration (, diabetes care), specialty mental health care (outpatient psychotherapy), ethics committee, and the quality improvement project. These opportunities provide a wide array of experiences.

PMHC: First, postdoctoral fellows provide assessment and short-term psychotherapy in the Primary Mental Health Clinic which is located in the Primary Care Service. In this year-long rotation fellows learn to conduct brief, problem-focused assessments and brief psychotherapy. Patients come to this access mental health clinic from primary and specialty care medicine for walk-in or pre-scheduled mental health services. Patients can be seen by both a therapist, who conducts a brief psychosocial assessment and a medication provider who conducts a brief, biopsychosocial assessment. Therapists and medication providers consult with each other and the patient and make treatment recommendations including referrals for psychotherapy, trials of medication, hospitalization, and referral to support groups. In this setting postdoctoral fellows learn to consult with both psychiatric medication providers as well as primary care physicians about each patient seen in the clinic.

Primary Care Integration: Second, postdoctoral fellows work closely with the mental health team in primary care to implement and expand mental health programs in the primary care service. Fellows provide behavioral health care (health promotion and disease management strategies) as well as providing care through an open access clinic for primary care patients as well as consultation to medical providers. These programs include evidenced-based individual and group interventions for hypertension, and lifestyle change/weight loss, smoking cessation, pain management and insomnia programs.

Specialty Care Integration: Third, postdoctoral fellows work with the team providing diabetes shared medical visits. When working with the diabetes team the fellow provides consultation, short-term psychotherapy, co-facilitates support groups and participate in multidisciplinary treatment team meetings.

Ethics Committee: Fourth, postdoctoral fellows serve as part of the medical center's biomedical ethics committees. These committees are led by a psychologist and respond to medical center consults regarding biomedical ethics questions. The Clinical Ethics Committee meets monthly and responds to ethics consults requested by various services throughout the medical center. The Preventive Ethics Committee also meets monthly and uses quality improvement techniques to address systemic biomedical ethics issues. Fellows serve on both multidisciplinary committees and develop an understanding of complex ethical questions.

Specialty Mental Health Care: Outpatient Psychotherapy: Fifth, fellows work in the general outpatient mental health clinic and carry a caseload of up to six outpatients seen weekly in either short-term or long-term psychotherapy. Fellows are supervised in the practice of short-term and long-term psychotherapy from a theoretically integrated perspective. In this clinic a holistic, recovery-oriented approach to care is taken so fellows work closely with medication providers (nurse practitioners and psychiatrists), social workers (homeless veteran coordinator, CWT and supported employment coordinator) as well as collaborating with primary and specialty care physicians.

Quality Improvement Project: Sixth, postdoctoral fellows design a quality improvement project in one of their practice areas. Fellows use this method to evaluate the quality of improvements to treatment as usual. In addition to developing research skills, this project reinforces an empirical approach to the delivery of services.

**Seminars and Case Conferences:** Fellows attend a weekly clinical case conference, focusing on treatment. The Clinical Case Conference focuses on psychotherapy issues. Fellows, interns, and staff

present cases, watch videorecordings of psychotherapy and are assigned readings to correspond to case presentations.

Fellows participate in the Special Issues and Diversity Seminar which focuses on topics of special interest to veterans, diversity, and supervision. This seminar meets weekly for the first several months of the fellowship.

In addition to the seminars, fellows participate in a weekly multidisciplinary journal club which alternates with a Department Grand Rounds program. This is offered weekly by the VAMC Mental Health and Behavioral Science service. Staff members, psychiatry residents, and interns present articles of their choosing to the groups and lead a discussion.

## ***Requirements for Completion***

**Requirements:** In order to remain in good standing, postdoctoral fellows are required to make progress toward competency in all domains; utilize supervision for professional growth and achievement of competencies; participate in and complete readings/assignments for all seminars, case conferences, journal clubs and supervision; demonstrate reasonably appropriate ethical and professional behavior and maintain a full workload.

To successfully complete the fellowship, postdoctoral students are required to meet minimum practice (workload) expectations, achieve competency in all required domains, be in good standing throughout the year and are expected to complete the program in its entirety. Early departures from the program will disqualify the fellow from official completion/graduation. Performance standards within each competency domain are detailed in the evaluation forms which are completed three times a year by supervisors.

## ***Facility and Training Resources***

Abundant resources exist to support training. Comfortable office space and individual computers are provided trainees that allow them access to electronic records, email, and the Internet. In addition, we have an array of computer-administered and scored tests, and a wide assortment of psychological and neuropsychological testing equipment.

The Learning Resource Center (LRC) at the WRJ VAMC maintains books and periodicals encompassing an array of psychology and medical journals. Trainees can sign-up for the review service in which they receive the tables of contents to selected journals to review and select articles they wish to read. In addition, the LRC maintains audiocassettes, videocassettes, and other audiovisual resources. The LRC also provides Internet access for searches of professional literature. The Librarian at the LRC is available to help trainees with literature searches as well as inter-library loan requests for journal articles and books.

## ***Administrative Policies and Procedures***

**Time Requirements:** The postdoctoral fellowship is a one year experience requiring at least 40 hours of "on duty" time per week. The starting date is generally the first business day of September and the end date is the last business day in August. Postdoctoral fellows are required to gain a minimum of 2080 hours of training (minus leave time) during the training year. If fellows are not able to complete the full 2080 hours during the training year or have not satisfied the minimum requirements, they can, with approval from the training director, complete the remaining hours and requirements during the next training year; fellows will not receive a stipend for the additional hours required to complete their training.



**Stipend:** Fellows receive a competitive stipend paid in 26 biweekly installments. VA postdoctoral fellowship stipends are locality adjusted to reflect different relative costs in different geographical areas. Currently, the stipend for the WRJ VAMC postdoctoral fellowship is \$52,005 annually.

**Benefits:** The postdoctoral fellowship appointments are for 2080 hours, which is full-time for a one year period. VA fellows are eligible for health insurance (for self, married spouse, and legal dependents), just as are regular employees. As temporary employees, fellows may not participate in VA retirement programs.

**Holidays and Leave:** Fellows receive the 11 annual federal holidays. In addition, fellows accrue 4 hours of sick leave and 4 hours of annual leave for each full two week pay period as a fellow, for a total of between 96 and 104 hours of each during the year.

**Authorized Absence:** Subject to approval by the Director of Training, fellows may be given authorized absence without charge to leave, when the activity is considered to be of substantial benefit to VA in accomplishing its general mission or one of its specific functions, such as education and training.

**Due Process Statement:** It is the practice of the WRJ VAMC internship program to attempt to address all problems and complaints at the lowest possible level, utilizing formal procedures only when standard supervisory approaches have proven unsuccessful in resolving an issue.

Since no one set of procedures can be established to cover all potential problem scenarios, emphasis is placed on resolving issues (a) at the lowest possible level, (b) using the least formal means, and (c) in a manner that supports all parties involved.

**Self-Disclosure:** The faculty of the WRJ VAMC internship value self-reflection in professional training. We view self-reflection as an integral component of being an effective, compassionate professional. While supervisors vary in the level of self-disclosure they encourage in supervision, some level of self-reflection and self-disclosure is part of the supervisory process. Applicants and fellows are encouraged to discuss this issue with prospective supervisors.

As stated in the APA Ethics Code, a fellow may be required to disclose personal information if it becomes necessary to evaluate or obtain assistance for the fellow whose personal problems are preventing them from performing their training or professionally related activities in a competent manner or posing a threat to students or others.

The faculty recognizes the benefit of personal psychotherapy for all psychology trainees. We consider the decision to seek psychotherapy a personal one, but may, in some circumstances, suggest or encourage fellows to seek personal psychotherapy.

## **Training Staff**

### **Allington, Casey, Ph.D.**

Psychologist, VAMC White River Junction, VT

Interests: Primary Care Mental Health Integration, Trauma-Focused Treatments, Prolonged Exposure-Primary Care

### **Bagby, Sarah, Psy.D.**

Psychologist, VAMC White River Junction, VT

Interests: PTSD, Prolonged Exposure Therapy, DBT, Substance Use Disorders

### **Kutter, Catherine, Ph.D.**

Psychologist, VAMC, White River Junction, VT

Adjunct Assistant Professor of Psychiatry, Geisel Medical School at Dartmouth

Interests: PTSD, Assessment, Clinical Research, Cognitive-Behavior Therapy

**Mills, Peter D., Ph.D.**

Psychologist and Chair, Ethics Advisory Committee, VAMC White River Junction, VT  
Adjunct Associate Professor of Psychiatry, Geisel Medical School at Dartmouth  
Director, VA National Center for Patient Safety Field Office  
Interests: Individual and Marital Therapy, Bio-Medical Ethics, Medical Safety Improvement, Health Care Consultation

**Rousseau, Glenna, Ph.D.**

Psychologist, VAMC, White River Junction, VT  
Health Psychologist/Health Behavior Coordinator  
Interests: Brief assessment/treatment interventions, Health Psychology, Behavioral Medicine, Group Treatment for Obesity and Diabetes, Integrated Mental Health and Primary Care

**Serrano, Jose, Psy.D.**

Health & Integrated Care Psychologist, VAMC White River Junction, VT  
Interests: Sleep, Chronic Pain, PCMHI, Coping with Chronic Illness, Humanism/Existentialism

**Smith, Adam, Psy.D.**

Psychologist, VAMC White River Junction, VT  
Director of Psychology Training  
Assistant Professor of Psychiatry, Geisel Medical School at Dartmouth  
Interests: PTSD, Substance Abuse, CBT

**Veillette, Laurie, Psy.D.**

Psychologist, VAMC White River Junction, VT  
Assistant Professor of Psychiatry, Geisel Medical School at Dartmouth  
Interests: ACT, integrative therapy, Intuitive Eating, depression, anxiety, and eating concerns - particularly binge and emotional eating

## **Trainees**

### **Graduates and Current Postdoctoral Fellows Degrees and Graduate Programs**

#### **2019-2020**

Nova Southeastern University  
Psy.D. in Clinical Psychology  
Internship: VA Medical Center-White River Junction

Nova Southeastern University  
Psy.D. in Clinical Psychology  
Internship: Broward County Medical Center, FL

#### **2020-2021**

Regent University Clinical Psychology Program  
Psy.D. in Clinical Psychology  
Internship: Cheyenne VA Medical Center, WY

#### **2022-2023**

Illinois Institute of Technology  
Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology  
Internship: VA Medical Center, Togus, Maine

## **Local Information**

The WRJ VAMC is located in rural New England on the border of New Hampshire and Vermont. Situated in the scenic New England countryside, the location offers easy access to the pleasures of country living including picturesque New England villages and farms, excellent skiing, hiking, and boating as well as Arts and Cultural events sponsored by Dartmouth College across the river in Hanover, New Hampshire. White River Junction also affords easy travel to Boston and Montreal. Both Hanover and Dartmouth provide a culturally and ethnically diverse community with opportunities for social and culturally diverse networking and support.

### **Links to Local Information:**

#### **VA Medical Center, White River Junction, Vermont**

<http://www.whiteriver.va.gov/>

#### **National Center for PTSD**

<http://www.ptsd.va.gov/>

#### **Housing:**

<http://www.dartmouthre.com>

#### **Local Events:**

<http://hop.dartmouth.edu/>

<http://www.lebanonoperahouse.org>

<http://www.claremontoperahouse.com>

<http://www.newportoperahouse.com>

<http://www.flynncenter.org/>

<http://www.thecolonial.org/CalendarOfEvents.htm>

#### **Racial/Ethnic and Gender:**

Networking and Support at Dartmouth College

- First Friday of the Upper Valley (Black Professionals)
- French, Italian and German Conversation and Potluck Lunchs
- Hanover-Joigny and Hanover-Nihonmatsu Exchanges
- Multicultural Families of Vermont and New Hampshire
- Nomaste Friends (South Asians in the Upper Valley)
- Upper Valley Chinese School

[www.dartmouth.edu/~ide/](http://www.dartmouth.edu/~ide/)

Rainbow Resources (Gay/Lesbian Education and Resources)

[www.rainbowresources-nh.org](http://www.rainbowresources-nh.org)

Upper Valley Fatherhood Network 603-448-5922

WISE (Women's Information Service) 603-448-5922

Women's Resource Center 603-650-4377

Women's Network of the Upper Valley 603-643-6819

#### **Religious Diversity**

For a complete list of religious groups in the area please visit

[www.dartmouth.edu/~tucker/](http://www.dartmouth.edu/~tucker/)

#### **Local News:**

<http://www.vnews.com/>

**Local Organizations:**

<http://www.valley.net/communityOrganizations/index.html>

**Outdoor Sports:**

<http://www.skinh.com/>

<http://www.vermontvacation.com/>

<http://www.visitnh.gov/?c1=activities-us~general&source=overture&kw=hiking+nh>

**Transportation:**

<http://www.dartmouthcoach.com/schedules.html>

<http://www.flymanchester.com/>

**Weather:**

<http://www.montshire.org/weather/>

<http://forecast.weather.gov/MapClick.php?zoneid=VTZ012>

## Postdoctoral Program Admissions

Date Program Tables are updated: 5/25/2023

**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:**

The postdoctoral fellowship program seeks applicants with some prior training and experience in working in a primary care setting and health psychology. The fellowship at the WRJ VAMC is clinically-oriented and so places a premium on those experiences that prepare applicants for clinical practice informed by scholarship. Highly regarded candidates will have completed clinically-oriented internships and have experiences conducting individual psychotherapy (i.e., brief and long-term psychotherapy with adults and clinical interviewing), psychological assessment, health psychology, and clinical practice in primary care. Highly regarded candidates will also have completed coursework in health psychology and have experience with both and cognitive-behavioral psychotherapy and psychodynamic psychotherapy. WRJ VAMC Clinical Psychology Postdoctoral Program strives to create an environment supportive of diversity.

**Describe any other required minimum criteria used to screen applicants:**

The selected applicant must have successfully defended his/her dissertation and completed all other degree requirements before they begin the fellowship program. Selected fellows, under extraordinary circumstances, may petition the Training Committee for a thirty day extension. If granted, the start date of the fellowship would be delayed, and the fellow would be required to extend his/her fellowship (possibly without compensation) in order to fulfill fellowship requirements. Selected fellows who are denied an extension or are unable to begin the fellowship within thirty days of the original start date will be de-selected from the program. In this unusual circumstance, alternative candidates may be contacted to fill the position as quickly as possible.

**Financial and Other Benefit Support for Upcoming Training Year\***

Annual Stipend/Salary for Full-time Residents	\$ 52,005	
Annual Stipend/Salary for Half-time Residents	n/a	
Program provides access to medical insurance for resident?	Yes	
<b>If access to medical insurance is provided:</b>		
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?		No
Hours of Annual Paid Personal Time Off (PTO and/or Vacation)	96	
Hours of Annual Paid Sick Leave	96	
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?		No
Other Benefits (please describe): VA interns are eligible for health insurance (for self, married spouse, and legal dependents) and for life insurance. Interns receive paid leave for annual federal holidays. Interns may be given authorized absence without charge to leave for education and training.		

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

### Initial Post-Residency Positions

(Provide an Aggregated Tally for the Preceding 3 Cohorts)

	2019-2022	
Total # of residents who were in the 3 cohorts	3	
Total # of residents who remain in training in the residency program	0	
	PD	EP
Community mental health center		
Federally qualified health center		
Independent primary care facility/clinic		
University counseling center		
Veterans Affairs medical center		3
Military health center		
Academic health center		
Other medical center or hospital		
Psychiatric hospital		
Academic university/department		
Community college or other teaching setting		
Independent research institution		
Correctional facility		
School district/system		
Independent practice setting		
Not currently employed		
Changed to another field		
Other		
Unknown		

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.