

VA North Texas Health Care System

Doctoral Internship Training Program 2024 Brochure



VA



U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

Veterans Health Administration
VA North Texas Health Care System

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[Psychology Internship and Postdoctoral
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Our Setting

Living in Dallas



The Dallas-Fort Worth Metroplex is a thriving metropolitan area of 5 million people, including over 40% who consider themselves ethnic minorities. There is a dynamic and growing arts community including both professional and community theater groups, the Dallas Symphony, Dallas Civic Opera, The Fort Worth Ballet, the Dallas Museum of Art, the Kimbell Art Museum, and the Amon Carter Museum of Western Art. There are also hundreds of shops, galleries, and restaurants throughout the city. Outdoor recreation is abundant with many areas available for backpacking and rock climbing and with several area lakes suitable for fishing, water skiing, and other water sports. Major league professional athletics include football (the Dallas Cowboys), baseball (the Texas Rangers and three minor league teams), basketball (the Dallas Mavericks), hockey (the Dallas Stars), and soccer (the FC Dallas).

Housing is readily available throughout the city within easy commuting distance from the medical center, which is located 10 miles south of downtown Dallas and is served by several traffic arteries. Information concerning housing, transportation, and employment opportunities may be obtained from the Dallas Chamber of Commerce, 1597 Pacific, Dallas, Texas 75201.

The Dallas area is a major educational center in the Southwest. The area fosters training in academics and science in addition to the arts and humanities. Area universities include the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center, the University of Texas at Dallas, the University of Texas at Arlington, Texas Woman's University in Denton, University of North Texas in Denton, Southern Methodist University in Dallas, Dallas Baptist University, and the University of Dallas. Dallas is also the site for many professional workshops, seminars, and conventions. There is a state professional organization, the Texas Psychological Association, and local professional organizations, the Dallas Psychological Association and the Tarrant County Psychological Association, that fellows may join as student members. The state organization frequently holds its annual convention in Dallas, and students are encouraged to submit their research for presentation at this convention. The local organizations hold monthly meetings that address a variety of issues of concerns to psychologists in the area. A number of specialized professional and student organizations are active in the area.

Fun Facts about the Dallas Area

- Dallas is the only city in the South Central region of the United States to be considered of key importance for the global economy
- The Dallas Arts District is the largest center of Urban Art in the United States
- Dallas is the home of many inventions, including the microchip, electronic traffic light, car radio, and maragita machine

- German chocolate cake was actually named after the creator, Sam German, a native Dallasite, and not the country of Germany
- Dallas' Galleria mall is home of America's tallest indoor Christmas tree
- Dallas is the home of many well-known stores, brands, and television shows, including 7-Eleven, Neiman Marcus, Barney the Dinosaur, Wishbone the dog, and, obviously, *Dallas*
- The NFL's Super Bowl was allegedly inspired by Dallas' Super Ball (deputant ball)
- Dallas was home to the first outdoor shopping center
- DFW allegedly has more shopping malls per capita than any other metro area in the United States
- Notorious American Outlaws, Bonnie and Clyde, first met in Dallas.

Visit www.visitdallas.com for city information.

VA North Texas Health Care System



VA North Texas Health Care System (VANTHCS) with headquarters in Dallas has multiple locations (listed below) serving Veterans in North Texas and southern Oklahoma.

- Dallas VA Medical Center
- Polk Street VA Clinic, Dallas
- Plano VA Outpatient Clinic
- Fort Worth VA Outpatient Clinic
- Garland VA Outpatient Clinic
- Grand Prairie VA Outpatient Clinic
- Tyler VA Outpatient Clinic
- Sam Rayburn Memorial Veterans Center, Bonham

VANTHCS serves 38 north Texas and 2 southern Oklahoma counties and is one of 5 designated Centers of Innovation by the Office of Patient Centered Care and Cultural Transformation. Current trends indicate continued growth of the number of patients served through VANTHCS.

Our facility houses the largest VA Mental Health Service Line in the nation. This makes our hospital rich with clinical training opportunities in psychology and mental health. VANTHCS provides mental health services across levels of care, including primary care mental health integration, general outpatient, residential and domiciliary treatment, and inpatient psychiatry.

The VA North Texas Health Care System's training in Psychology includes APA-Accredited programs at the Doctoral and Postdoctoral levels. Supervisory psychologists are members of the Psychology Section of our Mental Health Service. There are now approximately 100 doctoral-level, licensed psychologists who provide clinical care, many of whom are available as clinical supervisors. Interns will work with a minimum of 6 clinical supervisors during the training year to provide training from multiple perspectives and with a number of clinical populations. Training occurs in inpatient, residential and outpatient venues.

VANTHCS is a teaching hospital, with over 2000 trainees of all disciplines working and learning in our medical center each year. As such, providing excellent clinical training is a significant priority not just for our Internship program, but for our facility as a whole. Our trainees are respected and supported regardless of where they work in our sprawling medical center.

Psychology Setting

The Psychology Section of Mental Health within the Veterans Affairs North Texas Health Care System (VANTHCS) (i.e., the integrated Dallas, Texas and Bonham, Texas Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Centers) offers to doctoral students in Clinical and Counseling Psychology a full-time, one-year, Predoctoral Internship in Professional Psychology that is fully accredited by the American Psychological Association (APA). VANTHCS is affiliated with the UT Southwestern Medical Center in Dallas. Many of our psychology staff hold faculty appointments with UT Southwestern Medical Center and are engaged in training medical students, residents, as well as psychology trainees. In addition to the various satellite clinics associated with the VANTHCS, psychology training staff are embedded throughout the medical center in both Mental Health and Medically oriented teams and clinics.

Background

The Dallas VAMC Doctoral Internship Program has been accredited by the American Psychological Association since the early 1980s. We are pleased to announce that our Internship program was reaccredited in 2022 for the full 10 years (i.e., through 2032). The Dallas VA Doctoral Internship Program is also a member of the Association of Psychology Postdoctoral and Internship Centers (APPIC) with information included in the APPIC directory. The Dallas VA Internship abides by all APPIC policies as well as matching policies and procedures.

The VANTHCS Internship stresses mastery of core skills in clinical and counseling psychology yet is sufficiently flexible to allow Interns to pursue areas of particular interest. Clinical populations include psychiatric, medical, substance dependent, geriatric, neurologically impaired, and homeless patients. Patients come from a variety of ethnic backgrounds. The majority of patients are male, but an increasing number of women seek medical and psychiatric services at VANTHCS. There are, however, numerous opportunities to work with female Veterans within our women's mental health programming. VANTHCS psychologists and allied staff are committed to providing the highest caliber of training possible with a diversity of training experiences. Psychologists are integrated, and involved, in medical and surgical areas of the medical center including Ambulatory/Primary Care medicine, Pain Clinic, Spinal Cord Injury Unit, Geriatric Evaluation Management Unit, and the Cardiac Rehabilitation Program. The approximately 100 psychologists on staff range in experience from newly graduated psychologists to having over 30 years of service in the VA. Their roles include providing assessment and therapy, consultation, administration, and research in the medical center. Many staff have years of experience in working with specific populations, such as patients with problematic substance use/addiction, patients with neuropsychological problems, and patients with chronic posttraumatic stress disorder. Others are involved in the treatment of the newly returning Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans.

The training of professional psychologists has a long and proud tradition within the VA with over 60 years of such service. Not only is the VA the largest employer of clinical and counseling psychologists in the U.S., but the VA was a pioneer in establishing graduate training in psychology. The VANTHCS has been active in training professional psychologists for over 40 years, with Interns drawn from universities across the U.S. We are committed to upholding the overall mission of the VA, *to fulfill President Lincoln's promise to care for those who have served in our nation's military and for their families, caregivers, and survivors.*

The VANTHCS Internship stresses mastery of core skills in clinical and counseling psychology. The Internship program provides Interns with an opportunity to work, to a large extent, within an underserved and minority population. Given the diversity of patients seen at VANTHCS, issues of multicultural competence are essential components of our Interns' training experiences. Interns are encouraged to consider the role that factors such as age, ethnicity, spirituality, culture, sexual orientation, gender identity, socioeconomic status and others play in their clients' presentation. Additionally, Interns are trained to recognize how such issues impact treatment approaches, implementation and outcomes.

Training Model and Program Philosophy

The fundamental goal of the Internship is to help each Intern develop a strong sense of professional identity and a dedication to the highest standards of practice within the profession and science of psychology. The primary education model endorsed by the Internship program and faculty may best be described as "practitioner-scholar." All Interns are expected to develop skills in basic areas of clinical/counseling psychology, but provision is also made for the development of skills in more specialized areas of interest. Thus, the Internship might further be described as a "modified-generalist" in scope.

Diversity Mission Statement

The VA North Texas Healthcare System's Clinical Psychology Internship is deeply committed to fostering multicultural competence and diversity awareness. The overall goal of our training activities is to produce Interns that are sensitive to individual differences and demonstrate the ability to apply diversity-based models in clinical settings.

The Psychology Diversity Committee is comprised of VANTHCS psychologists who are committed to helping trainees, psychologists and other stakeholders develop the increased awareness, knowledge, and skills necessary for working with a highly diverse patient population. It also aims to explore how, as mental health professionals, our biases, power, privilege, assumptions, and life experiences affect our clinical work. Interested Interns can serve as Diversity Committee members during their Internship year. Student members are an integral part of the Diversity Committee and are encouraged to aid with planning as well as serve as a liaison with their cohort.

The Diversity Committee conducts a series of diversity journal clubs and reflective discussions to foster professional development. The diversity series includes diversity readings that aim to address a variety of topics relevant to specific patient populations and to the promotion of multicultural competence (e.g., cultural perceptions of psychotherapy and psychotherapists, spirituality, socioeconomic status, disability, LGBTQ Veterans, immigration/acclimation, aging, women's issues, etc.). Reflective discussions bring trainees and staff together to provide in-depth conversation on how to improve care for diverse groups. Lastly, the Diversity Committee assists trainees with their incorporation of diversity-based models into psychotherapy and assessment case conceptualizations.

The Dallas VA serves Veterans from a highly diverse area, encompassing urban and suburban communities around Dallas. Our heterogeneous setting gives Interns the opportunity to provide services to Veterans from a variety of backgrounds. Veterans in this area are ethnically diverse, providing trainees with the opportunity to develop competencies in working with patients from many different cultural backgrounds. Interns can provide services to a variety of minority and underserved populations, which is vital to the training of well-rounded psychologists. The Dallas VA has an active homeless program, which coordinates health care, services, and advocacy for homeless Veterans. Lesbian, Gay, Bi-sexual, and Transgendered (LGBT) Veterans are increasingly seeking services at the Dallas VA, and the broader Dallas metropolitan area features an active LGBTQ+ community. In this context, Interns will be able to develop their appreciation for diversity in sexual orientation. Increasingly, the Veteran population includes greater numbers of women, which presents more opportunities for Interns to develop skills for competently addressing sex and gender issues in their training. The Dallas VA provides services tailored to address the needs of Veterans across their lifespan, and Interns are offered opportunities to work in settings where age-related issues are relevant (e.g., younger Veterans setting education goals and re-integrating into their families after deployment, middle-aged Veterans adjusting to retirement and medical problems, elders facing end-of-life issues). Interns will also be encouraged to explore other dimensions of diversity, including but not limited to national origin, immigration status, language differences, religious/spiritual beliefs, parental/caregiver status and physical ability.

Training Goals and Objectives

The overall goal of the training program is the development of well-rounded, entry-level psychologists whose clinical practice is informed by the professional literature. The skills and knowledge expected to be learned and demonstrated within our model of training have been operationalized in our "Core Competencies," which reflect APA's required Profession Wide Competency (PWC) elements. Meeting these competencies is seen as an integral part of each Intern's training experience at the VANTHCS. At the start of each rotation, the Interns and supervisors develop a set of training objectives for the rotation. These objectives must include specification of how each competency element will be addressed during the rotation and may include further objectives as determined by the supervisor and Intern. The goal is the honing of the Intern's overall competency as well as refining their training in areas of interest for the Intern. Competencies include foundational knowledge/skills (professionalism, communication skills, ethics, cultural competence and self-awareness/self-assessment) as well as functional knowledge and skills such as assessment and therapy abilities consistent with empirically based interventions, assessment, consultation, interprofessional functioning and supervision.

Program Structure

The VANTHCS Internship program consists of two tracks: Neuropsychology and General Psychology. Within the General track are rotations related to the treatment of patients who were involved in Operation Enduring Freedom/Operation Iraqi Freedom/Operation New Dawn (OEF/OIF/OND) with funding for Intern training related to patients having returned from these theaters of war. Three quarters of the training year consists of rotations emphasizing track-related skills and patient populations. Within each track there is variability in training experiences. The fourth quarter is designed to "round out" clinical skills and offers several choices that serve to "stretch" the skills and exposure of the trainee. While Interns' expressed interests are given important weight in determining all rotation activities, the Training Committee must approve the Interns' individualized training plan based on all sources of information regarding training needs.

Training in each of the tracks includes the following (not necessarily in the sequence listed):

Neuropsychology Track (3 positions): (1) Neuropsychology Consult, (2) Mental Health Silver Team, (3) a rotation chosen from the Community Living Center (CLC) or the Spinal Cord Injury Center, and (4) a more psychotherapeutically, general mental health-oriented fourth rotation such as a Mental Health Team (Trauma, Diamond, or Gold Teams) or inpatient psychiatry rotation completing the training year. This track meets Division 40/ Houston Conference guidelines for training in Neuropsychology.

General Psychology Track (5 positions): (1, 2, and usually 3) a choice of the Mental Health Teams or specialty programs (e.g., Homeless Domiciliary, Trauma) and (4) a contrasting rotation that will provide a stretch experience that is different from the trainee's background or historical training experiences (e.g., inpatient psychiatry for a trainee who has only outpatient experiences, or Homeless Domiciliary/SUD/5N SAR RTP for a trainee with limited SUD or residential experience).

Evidence Based Psychotherapies

A component of the training year will be the treatment of patients using Evidence Based Psychotherapies (EBP). The VA has introduced EBP's, including Acceptance and Commitment Therapy, Cognitive Processing Therapy, Cognitive Behavioral Therapy, Prolonged Exposure, and Integrative Behavioral Couples Therapy with the goal of having EBP's available at each VA for disorders such as Posttraumatic Stress Disorder, Depression, and relationship discord. Training has been initiated for VA staff, and more EBP's are being introduced. As the purpose of VA Internship is to train the "next generation" of VA psychologists, our program sees the training and integration of these approaches as being important. Thus, each Intern will be expected to provide EBP's throughout the year. A two-hour overview of each EBP will be presented during dedicated slots the first 3 weeks of the training year, and each Intern will select 2 EBP approaches for the year. The expectation would be that they would provide therapy to two to three patients per EBP rotation. The first EBP would be concurrent with major rotations for half of the training year, changing to a different EBP at approximately the mid-point of training. Supervision for the EBP's will be in addition to the regular rotation supervision.

Supervision

Supervision of Interns is a cornerstone of the training program. The individual supervisory relationship is seen as the most facilitative context for professional development. Rotation supervisors can offer opportunities to process clinical experiences, exchange ideas, provide appropriate role models for professional practice, review the technical aspects of the Intern's clinical work, provide support and feedback regarding new areas of endeavor, and bring new information or perspectives to clinical situations. The Internship at VANTHCS-Dallas recognizes the importance of this learning modality and encourages frequent supervisory contacts. Supervision regarding professional role definition, professional identity and values, clinical decision-making, program development, and coordination with other disciplines in a treatment team setting is offered in addition to the more technical aspects of clinical skill development.

Each rotation has a primary clinical supervisor, and some may also provide secondary supervisors. The primary rotation supervisor is determined by the clinical assignments of the Psychology staff (e.g., one of the neuropsychologists will supervise the Neuropsychology Consult rotation, one of the psychologists assigned to the Spinal Cord Injury Center will supervise that rotation, etc., while others involved on each team or program will provide secondary supervision and experiences).

Two hours of face-to-face supervision is provided weekly by rotation supervisors for full-time rotations (6-month halftime rotations will have 1 hour per week, per rotation), 1 hour of supervision for EBP rotation, and for general track interns, up to 1 hour per week of supervision with their assessment supervisor. Group supervision is provided weekly by the Training Directors for the whole Intern class with group supervision being a component of the “training day” schedule on Mondays, along with didactics, case presentations and dedicated research time.

An Intern's work week consists of 40 hours of work. The typical tour of duty, or work week, is from either 7:30a.m.-4:00p.m. or 8:00 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. and mirrors their supervisor's tour of duty. Should their rotation include evening groups, their tour is adjusted to include this time while adhering to the 40 hours per week guideline. Interns are not to see patients unless a supervisor is on site to aid as necessary. Interns are allowed to complete non-patient contact duties if a supervisor is not on-site but are encouraged to adhere to their 40-hour work week.

Two written evaluations are conducted during a given rotation period for 3 month rotations, one at the midpoint and the other at the conclusion of the rotation. The midpoint evaluation provides information regarding progress-to-date in the rotation and helps to emphasize areas in which the Intern is demonstrating strengths and to clarify areas where the Intern may need further attention in training. For 6 month rotations, written evaluations occur quarterly, thus each Intern is evaluated every 6 weeks regardless of the length of rotation. The evaluation at the conclusion of the rotation summarizes the Intern's activities over the course of the entire rotation and provides guidelines that can be useful in planning subsequent training experiences. Similarly, each Intern provides an evaluation of his/her rotation experiences and of his/her supervisor at the end of each rotation. As noted earlier, the VANTHCS Internship has implemented a Core Competency evaluation process. Attainment of a minimum level of achievement (MLA) score on each core competency element will be required of all Interns, regardless of training track and rotation selections, in order for Interns to satisfactorily complete the Internship program. On the rotation evaluation forms, supervisors rate performance on Core Competencies and competency elements.

Also, at the end of each rotation, Interns are asked to evaluate their training experiences in terms of both the quality of supervision and the learning opportunities that are available in the clinical work they are performing. Interns are also asked to complete a program evaluation survey regarding their perceptions of their training and the program at the midpoint and end of the year.

As research is a vital component of our profession, Interns will be evaluated during 2 presentations throughout the year from the following options: 1) mock dissertation defense 2) other research project/manuscript or 3) presentation of scientific article in either group supervision or in one of the journal clubs. The presentation audience includes the Intern cohort, as well as the Training Director and Associate Training Director to demonstrate their proficiency of knowledge in this area. Time will be allocated to prepare for this presentation on a weekly basis.

At a minimum, feedback about Interns' progress is provided to respective academic programs near the midpoint (February) and end of the Internship (July).

Mentorship Experiences

Interns are matched with a professional mentor at the beginning of the training year. Matches are determined based on the Interns' interest in a host of professional areas that may include but are not limited to: balancing work and family, balancing a research and clinical career, administrative roles in VA, maintaining a private practice, cultural considerations, professional development and self-care, and

leadership aspirations. As we have a large and diverse staff, we are typically able to accommodate Interns' preferences for mentorship based on our staff members' interest areas and areas of expertise. Time is allocated monthly for the Intern and mentor to meet for discussion.

Training Experiences

Rotations are available in medical, neuropsychological, and psychiatric areas. As noted, the modified-generalist approach requires that Interns have experiences from more than one area. To fulfill this, rotations are offered with emphases in numerous psychological realms. Interns are part of interdisciplinary teams on almost every rotation and provide consultative services to these teams.

Supervision Training

As the provision of clinical supervision is an important competency in our field, this is an area of discussion and focus throughout the training year. Supervision articles, vignettes, and resources are reviewed and discussed during several didactic and group supervision meetings throughout the training year. The program hosts an annual Supervision Seminar which is required for Interns. During the seminar, there are panel discussions on a host of topics related to clinical supervision with an emphasis on theories of supervision, ethics in supervision, and diversity factors related to supervision. Panels consist of experienced staff, junior staff, postdocs, and Interns to highlight the varied perspectives on these issues based on one's developmental level. Some Interns may have opportunities to provide layered supervision for practicum students depending on rotations selected.

Didactic Training

Intern training seminars are provided weekly with two to three scheduled didactics presented each week. These seminars afford an opportunity to receive pertinent information and to exchange ideas regarding a range of clinical and professional issues. The two or three weekly training seminars are scheduled for all Interns and are each typically 50-60 minutes in length. The training seminars are held on Mondays, as are other administrative meetings. The format of these training activities includes didactic seminars, discussions, case conferences, practice sessions (e.g., test administration, supervision role playing), and various combinations thereof. The content of the seminars includes exposure to a broad range of issues and topics in clinical practice rather than an in depth coverage of a smaller number of topics. The schedule is planned to follow a logical progression of skills, from more basic information needed to work in the VA system, to general assessment and therapy issues, to more specialized topics. Some topics are covered in a single session, while others are addressed in a series of sessions.

The didactic presenters include VA Psychologists, other Medical Center staff, invited outside consultants, and postdocs. These training seminars are subject to constant review and revision in an attempt to maintain high quality, professional relevance, and the interest of Interns. Interns are asked to rate each seminar on quality and relevance, as well as to suggest topics that are of particular interest to them. Various other training seminars may be available on individual program units, sponsored by various services (e.g., Mental Health, Social Work Service, Medicine) or presented by the Medical Center. Mental Health Continuing Education programs are scheduled routinely for both trainees and staff, typically on Thursdays.

The seminar time slots will also be utilized for Interns presenting two psychotherapy cases in a structured case presentation format and one psychological assessment evaluation, also in a structured case presentation format.

Program Requirements

Interns and members of the Training Committee will formulate a year-long training plan during the first month of the Internship year. Given our philosophy of "modified generalist" training, this plan will provide for integration of training experiences, with an emphasis on the balance between mastery of basic clinical skills and training in more specialized areas of personal interest. This basic plan for the Internship year may be subject to subsequent revision throughout the year by negotiation between the Intern and the Training Committee in response to changing perceptions of training needs and skill development.

Core Competencies for the training year are provided to the Interns. These competencies address basic clinical skills to be mastered by all Interns, and include an understanding of adaptive and dysfunctional human behavior in a variety of contexts; the ability to administer, score, and interpret psychological assessment instruments; the use of clinical interviewing techniques; and the ability to conceptualize, plan, and implement a range of individual and group treatment procedures. Additionally, the Internship year is a time in which Interns learn time management in terms of balancing the needs of patients assigned to them along with training and supervision activities. The Internship affords the opportunity, and demands, for numerous skills and services to be provided over a range of activities in an effective and reasonably efficient manner. The Core Competency ratings are done every 6 weeks during each rotation. Feedback is regularly provided to the Intern with information and guidance related to improving areas of weakness and enhancing areas of strength. As this occurs at the mid-point of the rotation (or the quarter point for 6 month rotations), there is ample time to make corrections as needed and to gain the skills needed to maintain good standing in the program. Should the Intern not meet these requirements, the Training Directors are notified and the Training Committee meets to address the problem with the supervisor and Intern. If problems are recognized early in the training year, or during regularly scheduled evaluation periods within the rotation, it can be addressed in plenty of time to attempt to remediate the problem. Additionally, the Psychotherapy Presentations and Capstone Assessment Presentation also allow the Intern to provide a sample of their abilities in these areas. Feedback is given at the end of each of these presentations. Thus extra-rotation evaluation is available if questions arise related to ability. At the end of the Internship year, a Clinical Oral Examination is administered. This has the multiple purpose of assessing the Intern's ability to formulate a case presentation from novel information and to provide a picture of how they have progressed at the culmination of their training year.

At a minimum, feedback about Interns' progress is provided to respective academic programs near the middle and end of the Internship.

Dedicated Research Time

Research is an important part of our professional identity. Interns will be allotted 4 hours/month to facilitate scholarly activity. This can be used for working on one's dissertation or other research project, or to prepare for a presentation in one of the journal clubs that are part of the training program.

Each Intern will be evaluated during 2 presentations throughout the year from the following options: 1) mock dissertation defense 2) other research project/manuscript or 3) presentation of scientific article in either group supervision or in one of the journal clubs. If an Intern elects to use the allotted research time to work on their dissertation, they would present their dissertation defense prior to formally defending the project within their graduate program. The presentation is evaluated, performance reflects the research competency for the program. An Intern electing to complete another research project (literature review, etc.) would present that project toward the end of the year. Time is allocated for research on a weekly basis while the project is being completed.

Facility and Training Resources

The Psychology Section of Mental Health Service provides support for Interns with clerical employees, offices with PC's (equipped for telehealth technology), and the availability of appropriate assessment tools. The VANTHCS-Dallas has an automated clinical information system/Electronic Medical Record (EMR) – CPRS. System functions include the scoring and interpretation of over 90 psychological tests; administration of structured interviews and social histories; the collection of medical information to assist with diagnosis and treatment planning; and monitoring of administrative and clinical concerns such as length of stay and bed occupancy. This system provides a unique opportunity for psychology Interns to acquire hands-on experience with an extensive computer system in a large mental health setting. Most training rotations utilize automated assessment (Mental Health Assistant/Q Global, BHL Touch). Additional scoring software is available on various staff or service PC's. The Medical Center Library Service has several psychology publications, including journals and access to Psychological Abstracts and PsychInfo. Materials not in the library or available in on-line full-text can typically be obtained on interlibrary loan within a few days. Computerized literature searches on selected topics are available online from the Intern's office PC.

Major Rotations

Neuropsychology Consult Rotation

This rotation emphasizes advanced neuropsychological evaluations with a diverse medical and psychiatric inpatient and outpatient population. The training emphasis on this rotation includes: 1) familiarization with cognitive models of normal brain functioning; 2) neuroanatomy; 3) theoretical and practical issues of neuropathology; 4) strategic selection of neuropsychological test instruments; 5) experience in evaluating a variety of neurological conditions; 6) case conceptualization and test interpretation; 7) efficiency in report writing; 8) patient feedback and follow-up; and 9) effective interaction with other disciplines. By the end of this rotation, Interns will have a firm grounding in principles of neuropsychological evaluation, allowing for advanced training in neuropsychology (postdoctoral fellowship) sometime during their career. To facilitate these goals, neuropsychology specific didactics are offered to the Neuropsychology track Intern and Interns taking the Neuropsychology Consult rotation. These include weekly neuropsychology group supervision meetings, journal club with VA South Texas Health Care training program and a once monthly brain cutting and neurology grand rounds at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical School. While group supervision and journal club are available throughout the training year based on supervisor approval, grand rounds/brain cutting is typically only available during neuropsychology focused rotations.

The Neuropsychology Consult rotation is structured with 100% of an Intern's time spent in assessment-oriented activities. Due to the specialized nature of neuropsychological evaluations, an Intern will be required to have the following minimum prerequisites to select the neuropsychology rotation: 1) completion of graduate level classes in psychobiology and neuropsychology; and 2) completion of at least five neuropsychological assessments (in a supervised practicum or clerkship setting), which include administering, scoring, case conceptualization, and written report using a diverse battery of cognitive tests.

Neuropsychology Supervisors: Drs. Barry Ardolf, Greg Westhafer & Andrea Zartman

Community Living Center

The Community Living Center (CLC) is a 120-bed extended care facility which provides interdisciplinary medical rehabilitation, long-term residential care, and hospice care. The CLC includes a CARF-accredited program for acute-intensive rehabilitation for survivors of serious injury or illness. Veterans admitted for rehabilitation often present with orthopedic injuries, amputation, stroke, and other medical and neurological conditions along with adjustment, mood, and behavioral concerns that may impact recovery. Veterans who reside in the long-term care unit have diverse and often complex chronic illnesses (e.g., cardiac disease, diabetes, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, dementia). Veterans admitted to the CLC hospice unit have terminal diagnoses (e.g., cancer, COPD) with typical life-expectancy of less than six months. Interns will be required to participate in the rehabilitation settings and will have opportunities to participate in long-term care and hospice units if interested. Interns participate in all the activities of the interdisciplinary treatment team and will function with responsibility for the assessment, diagnosis, and treatment of Veterans. Opportunities for experience with groups include participation in support groups for caregivers and development of groups in the CLC. Approximately 50% of an Intern's time will be spent in assessment-oriented activities and 50% in treatment activities during this rotation.

CLC Supervisors: Drs. Helen Chung and Nancy Vreeland

Spinal Cord Injury Center

The Spinal Cord Injury Center (SCIC) is an \$11 million addition to the Dallas VA that opened in 1996. The center includes a 30-bed inpatient unit to care for the medical and rehabilitation needs of persons with spinal cord injuries or other neurological dysfunctions (e.g., Multiple Sclerosis, Guillain-Barre Syndrome, and cervical myelopathy) as well as an outpatient clinic for comprehensive care throughout the lifespan. Patients served at the SCI Center comprise a diverse population in terms of ages (19-98), disabilities, medical conditions, education (4th grade through Ph.D. level), occupations, family support, and psychiatric diagnosis. The SCIC operates a CARF-accredited rehabilitation program for spinal cord injury. The clinical mission of the Spinal Cord Injury Center is to enhance the health, functional abilities and quality of life for persons with spinal cord injury or disease. Psychology is an integral part of the interdisciplinary team that works together toward this stated goal. Other members of the team include physicians, nurses, social workers, occupational therapists, physical therapists, kinesiologist, recreational therapists, chaplain, and dietitian.

Inpatient SCI Rotation

The Inpatient SCI rotation provides a training opportunity for Interns in Rehabilitation Psychology, offering experience in addressing behavioral medicine issues, neuropsychological disorders, behavioral issues, and psychological disorders within a specialized medical unit. The overarching goal of the rotation is applying clinical skills to help individuals achieve optimal psychological, behavioral, and social functioning. To accomplish this task, the Intern will learn how to function effectively within a dynamic inpatient medical unit as a member of a large medical interdisciplinary team. Interns who complete this rotation will increase their comfort level working with individuals with disabilities and gain an exposure to a vast array of medical conditions. Interns will have the opportunity to gain competence in working on an inpatient medical unit as well as gain knowledge of medical conditions and medications.

Interns will learn to conduct comprehensive assessments of an individual's coping status and adaptation to chronic illness and disability in the context of personality, cognitive status, as well as family and social systems in order to implement an appropriate treatment plan. This includes the opportunity to conduct clinical diagnostic interviews for Veterans with newly-diagnosed SCI who are participating in inpatient

rehabilitation. This initial assessment will include the Satisfaction With Life Scale, Hamilton Anxiety and Depression Scale (HADS), and/or RBANS/SLUMS as well as any other needed measures.

Other services Interns may provide as part of an Inpatient SCI rotation include: neuropsychological assessment, brief psychotherapeutic interventions, development of behavioral management plans, sexuality counseling, tobacco cessation services, pain management, and substance abuse screenings. One of the more challenging aspects of this rotation can be determining the most appropriate battery of tests given a Veteran's level of SCI, medical status (including protocol for pressure ulcer treatment), current medications, possible acquired brain injury (ABI), and limitations for upper extremity function/mobility. Another important role for SCI Psychology is providing staff consultation and education.

Inpatient SCI Supervisor: Dr. Jennifer LaBuda (coming to VANTHCS in November 2023)

Outpatient SCI Rotation

The Outpatient SCI Rotation offers a unique blend of experience in health, rehabilitation, and organizational psychology. The goal of the rotation is twofold: (1) apply clinical skills to assist individuals with SCI achieve and maintain optimal psychological, behavioral, and social functioning (while adjusting to disability) and (2) apply organizational systems interventions to increase the effectiveness of team, clinic, and programmatic functions. A variety of modalities (e.g., health behavior coaching, goal-setting/action-planning, cognitive/behavioral therapies, Motivational Interviewing, Acceptance and Commitment Therapy) will be utilized to treat psychological conditions, promote health behavior change, and increase patient treatment adherence. Interns will learn how to choose appropriate assessment tools for brief and ongoing therapeutic interventions in both group and individual settings.

Interns will complete SCI Annual Psychological Evaluations during which they will assess current/recent medical/health, psychological, and/or psychosocial functioning. Assessment may also include the Satisfaction With Life Scale, Beck Depression Inventory-II, Patient Health Questionnaire (PHQ-9), Generalized Anxiety Disorder (GAD-7), PCL-5, Montreal Cognition Assessment (MoCA), and/or Saint Louis University Mental Status (SLUMS). Recommendation(s) made as a part of the evaluation process may include brief outpatient psychotherapeutic intervention, development of behavioral management plans, and/or consultation with SCI provider(s). Outpatient psychotherapeutic interventions may include adjustment to disability, grief and loss, as well as behavioral medicine treatments related to the following: weight management, tobacco cessation, chronic pain management, sleep hygiene, activity and recreation, sexual functioning, and stress management.

The complexity of a specialized interdisciplinary healthcare setting such as SCI poses exciting challenges and creates a context in which an understanding and application of organizational psychology (human behavior in work settings) can be of great benefit. Interns will participate in training related to organizational development theory, practice, and application. Topics covered may include assessment, culture change, leadership, team-building, change management, consulting, and program development/evaluation activities. Within the SCI Center, Interns will gain experience in the design, development, implementation, and evaluation of clinical programs focusing on whole health, patient-centered care. This rotation can be included as part of the Medical Psychology or General Psychology tracks.

Outpatient SCI Supervisors: Drs. Rebecca Frontera and Nicole Ryan-Nolla

Chronic Pain Psychology

This rotation places high priority on providing Interns with a broad-range of training experiences in evidence-based chronic pain therapy to develop competencies in the fundamentals of pain management in an outpatient and rehabilitation setting. Interns will gain skills in pain-related, biopsychosocial assessment, intervention, and interdisciplinary experience aimed at enhancing quality of life and functioning of patients with complex chronic pain. Interns will develop competency in individual and group psychotherapy such as Cognitive Behavioral Therapy for Chronic Pain (CBT-CP) and mindfulness-based interventions.

The rotation also includes exposure to our interdisciplinary outpatient chronic pain rehabilitation program (CPRP). This program focuses upon team-based treatments empowering Veterans through implementing learned exercises, skills, and techniques to improve functioning and quality of life. The interdisciplinary team is comprised of mental health, medical, physical therapist, nutrition, recreational therapy, and pharmacy. As part of this unique experience, Interns will have exposure to team activities (e.g., staffing, team review) and observe patients in their programming. Regarding comprehensive assessment opportunities, Interns will observe and conduct Spinal Cord Stimulator psychological evaluations involving a comprehensive testing battery and integrated report.

Unique Aspects of the Rotation

- In-depth experience with evidence-based approaches for chronic pain opportunity on an outpatient basis with possibility of working within inpatient unit(s).
- Participate in a pain education group that introduces patients to the biopsychosocial model of pain. This may be conducted via VVC or face to face.
- Opportunity to observe the salient impact of pain treatment within an interdisciplinary pain team on patients with severe and long-standing chronic pain
- Exposure to CPRP, a program that uses a range of behavioral techniques to promote behavior change.
- Familiarity with a wide range of medical disorders that have chronic pain as a component.

Chronic Pain/CPRP Supervisor: Dr. Rebecca Frontera

Medical/Surgical Consultation

The medical/surgical psychology rotation is a 3-month full-time rotation that focuses on psychological assessment and brief therapy using the biopsychosocial perspective. Services will be provided to medical populations including bariatric surgery, organ transplantation, hepatitis C virus, oncology, sleep, and amputation. The primary responsibility is in assessment and diagnosis, with a strong emphasis on report writing and effective communication with other medical professionals. Psychological testing will be administered as a part of the pre-surgical psychological assessments for bariatric and transplant populations. Individual and group therapy will be somewhat limited on this rotation, but Interns may have opportunities to provide brief therapy with outpatients and inpatients related to coping with medical conditions and adherence to medical regimens. Additionally, Interns will have an opportunity to do cognitive-behavioral therapy for insomnia (CBT-i), an evidence-based intervention.

Medical/Surgical Supervisor: Dr. Janet Ashworth

Primary Care/Mental Health Integration (PCMHI)

PCMHI is often the “front door” for MH services within the VANTHCS system. Referrals for PCMHI typically come from the PCP physicians within the HCS. Assessment and triage involve a brief functional assessment and short-term treatment and/or referral disposition. Individual therapy treatment within PCMHI is brief, typically a maximum of four to six 30-minute sessions. Common concerns treated with brief therapy in PCMHI include depression, anxiety, alcohol use, tobacco cessation, chronic pain, insomnia, grief, and health-interfering behaviors. Group therapy opportunities include depression management, PTSD psychoeducation, anxiety management and anger management. During the initial functional assessment the trainee will get exposure to the electronic measurement based care (MBC) system for screening measures such as GAD-7, PHQ-9, and PCL-5.

Unique aspects or areas of emphasis of rotation:

- Provide brief, targeted treatment
- Develop skill in triaging and quickly determining appropriate level of care
- Opportunity to work with Veterans across the VA North Texas system, within both rural and urban settings
- Operate as a member of a large multidisciplinary team in a fast-paced environment
- Collaborate with and provide consultation to primary care staff

PCMHI Supervisor: Drs. Kelley Leach, Martha Martinez, Kristen Medina & Abbi Pollack

Mental Health Diamond Team (Outpatient Mental Health)

The Diamond team treat patients with affective disorders, anxiety disorders, and psychotic disorders. The Diamond team is assigned patients without regard to clinical mental illness diagnoses or problems. Their relatively equivalent staffing patterns allow for the full gamut of clinical services, including group, individual, and couples therapy, to be provided per patients' needs. The team has a Behavioral Health Interdisciplinary Program (BHIP) model that will allow Interns to work closely within a multidisciplinary team providing Veteran-centered, recovery focused care. On this rotation, an Intern will be able to follow patients across levels of mental health care. All services may be provided on an outpatient level; but, in the case of some patients, care may begin with an inpatient stay. The Intern has the opportunity to follow the patient providing assessment and clinical services across these levels of care. A wide range of psychological services will be learned and utilized during assignment to one of these teams. Most of the Intern's clinical time will be spent in providing individual, group and/or other forms of psychotherapy. The team offers Interns the opportunity to perform psychological assessments in the service of treatment planning and disposition.

Diamond Team Supervisors: Drs. Angela Beard & Christopher Holland-Deguire

Mental Health Silver Team (Geriatric Mental Health Team)

The Silver Team specializes in the mental health care of older adult patients. Patients age 62 and older are assigned to this team for their care regardless of their psychiatric diagnosis. In this manner, the Silver Team is very much a general practice team with specialization in terms of the age cohort which it treats. Interns work within the context of an interdisciplinary team at all stages of patient evaluation and treatment. They acquire knowledge of and skills in areas including cognitive screening, neuropsychological assessment, and common mental health problems associated with aging. The vast majority of work will be with outpatients although the Psychology Intern may be called upon periodically to see inpatients for

comprehensive assessment and/or psychotherapy. Interns may engage in brief, supportive psychotherapy with selected patients and/or their caregivers.

Approximately 70% of the Intern's time is spent in neuropsychological assessment and integrative report writing. An Intern will spend the remaining time involved in family consultation and education, individual and/or group psychotherapy, and psychoeducational groups in the Mental Health Rehabilitation module. Supervision may be provided in a layered manner, with that supervision being from the Geropsychology Post Doctoral student under the supervision of one of the licensed psychologists on the Silver Team.

Due to the specialized nature of neuropsychological evaluations, an Intern will be required to have the following minimum prerequisites to select the Silver Team rotation: 1) completion of graduate level classes in psychobiology and neuropsychology; and 2) completion of at least two neuropsychological assessments (in a supervised practicum or clerkship setting), which include administering, scoring, case conceptualization, and written report using a diverse battery of cognitive tests.

Silver Team Supervisor: Drs. Mary Catherine Dodson, Heejin Kim, Lena Luong and Liz Wiley

Mental Health Gold Team (Substance Use Disorders Team)

The Mental Health Gold Team is a multidisciplinary team that specializes in providing mental health care to Veterans whose primary diagnoses involve Substance Use Disorders. The Gold Team is comprised of a residential rehabilitation program, an intensive outpatient program, and aftercare services. Interns participating in this rotation will have the opportunity to see MH Gold Team Veterans on multiple levels of care. Most chemically dependent Veterans also have co-occurring psychiatric disorders, such as affective disorders, anxiety disorders, adjustment disorders, psychotic disorders, and personality disorders. Within the residential rehabilitation program, Interns may provide psycho-educational groups which concern both substance abuse and psychiatric disorders. Additionally, Interns would follow a Veteran through the rehabilitation process including assessment, individual therapy, and treatment coordination services. Within the outpatient population, Interns would have the opportunity to provide psychological assessment, individual therapy, and group therapy. An Intern on this rotation would spend 60-70% of their time in individual and group therapy, approximately 20% providing treatment coordinator services, and 10-20% providing assessments and psycho-educational classes. Supervision is provided on a "layered" basis with Postdoctoral Psychology Fellows serving as the primary direct supervisors of Interns.

Gold Team Supervisors: Drs. Michael Dolan, Lori Napier, Elizabeth Gibbons & Jennifer Okere

Mental Health Inpatient Unit

The inpatient rotation will provide Interns with an opportunity to experience the full continuum of psychopathology while providing interventions that contribute to remediation of acute symptoms. Typically, psychology Interns will play an active role on a multidisciplinary treatment team, providing direct clinical services, leading therapy groups, and contributing to treatment planning and facilitation/implementation. The overall approach of care is from a recovery and empowerment perspective, with psychology Interns promoting recovery through empowering patients to use adaptive strategies to manage various psychiatric illnesses, increase self-efficacy, improve & enhance coping skills in addition to reinforcing and expanding current positive behaviors. They will educate Veterans, families and others on the nature of mental illness and its manifestations for the specific Veteran. The psychology

Intern also strives to enhance the milieu by contributing to the structure and consistency of treatment on the inpatient unit.

On this rotation, psychology Interns will attend morning report and participate in rounds/treatment team meetings. They will conduct group psychotherapy on the unit, with the groups varying in theme, and typically utilizing a psycho-educational or cognitive behavioral approach. Interns will provide short-term, intensive individual psychotherapy. Since a large number of our population come to us with a history of engaging in psychotherapy, the Intern may use skills that promote the continued progress & familiarity with a specific approach, intervention, or technique such as: Relaxation Training, Cognitive Behavioral Skills Training, Distress Tolerance and Symptom Management (i.e. grounding strategies for flashbacks, distress tolerance skills for borderline patients), education on mental illness and the relationship with other accompanying illnesses (diabetes, HIV), education and support to families, conducting brief psychological assessments for diagnostic and treatment planning purposes, and assisting in facilitating further psychological treatment and in the role of liaison for treatment between the inpatient unit and outpatient psychology services.

Interns who choose the Inpatient Unit have the opportunity of gaining limited experience with Home Based Primary Care (HBPC) by "shadowing" the psychologists who are assigned to this setting. HBPC psychologists are members of an interdisciplinary team which makes home visits to Veterans who are unable to come to the VA Medical Center. Psychologists in HBPC provide consultation, assessment and psychotherapy.

Inpatient Unit Supervisor: Dr. Alejandro Santiago-Colon

Mental Health Trauma Team:

PCT & OEF/OIF/OND Team

The PTSD Clinical Team (PCT) has been in continuous operation since its inception in January, 1987. It is staffed by psychologists, a social worker, and a psychiatrist. This team was originally developed to serve Veterans of the Desert Storm era and earlier, however in recent years providers on this team have seen increasingly seen a mix of Korean, Vietnam, Desert Storm, and Iraq/Afghanistan. The OEF/OIF/OND Team has been treating patients from the Afghanistan and Iraq wars since 2007. Their primary focus is the treatment of mental health problems such as PTSD, depression, and anxiety. The patient population from these wars requires a specialized focus on the unique problems faced by this cohort. These teams can be merged for training purposes with interested Interns seeing only OEF/OIF/OND Veterans or a mixture of patients from both team subsets. Clinical services include: diagnostic evaluation; group therapy, and individual treatment; case management; education; psychological testing; and psychopharmacological assessment and management. This rotation includes opportunities for trainees to learn and be supervised in delivery of any of the following EBTs: Imagery Rehearsal Therapy for Nightmares, Prolonged Exposure Therapy, Cognitive Processing Therapy and/or Integrative Behavioral Couple Therapy.

OEF/OIF/OND Supervisors: Drs. Lisa Thoman & Alexis Arevalo

PTSD/SUD Team

The primary focus of this rotation is the assessment and treatment of Veterans with comorbid PTSD and substance use disorders in an outpatient clinic (as part of an interdisciplinary MH treatment team). The

patient population is comprised of male and female Veterans from all war eras, with male OEF/OIF/OND being the most common. PTSD/SUD patients often have complex histories and symptom presentations, which gives trainees the opportunity to refine differential diagnosis skills and gain experience with treatment planning that best meets the patient's needs/readiness level and stage of recovery. Trainees will gain exposure to therapeutic techniques relevant to this subpopulation (e.g., motivational enhancement, behavioral modification/activation, CBT for alcohol use disorders), Seeking Safety, EBPs for PTSD (CPT, PE) as well as present-centered, time-limited therapy geared toward developing coping skills for anxiety management, PTSD and sobriety maintenance/relapse prevention. Trainees will gain experience with assessment, including comprehensive PTSD intake evaluations, and opportunities for assessment of symptom validity and malingering.

PTSD/SUD Supervisor: Dr. Lindsey Cooper & Dr. Julia Evans

Women's Stress Disorder and Military Sexual Trauma Program (WSD-MST)

The Women's Stress Disorder and Military Sexual Trauma Program (WSD-MST) is a program that provides outpatient mental services to male and female Veterans who have experienced a Military Sexual Trauma (MST), and female Veterans with childhood, adult civilian and combat trauma histories.

The term Military Sexual Trauma (MST) is defined by Federal law (Title 38 U.S. Code 1720D) and is "psychological trauma, which in the judgment of a VA mental health professional, resulted from a physical assault of a sexual nature, battery of a sexual nature, or sexual harassment which occurred while the Veteran was serving on active duty, active duty for training, or inactive duty training." Sexual harassment is further defined as "repeated, unsolicited verbal or physical contact of a sexual nature which is threatening in character."

The VA is committed to treating Any Veteran who had an experience of sexual assault or repeated, threatening sexual harassment during a period of active duty, active duty for training, and inactive duty for training. The Veteran does not have to be service connected for a mental health condition secondary to MST or have reported the MST while in the military in order to receive MST-related care through the VA. Also, Veterans who do not meet length of active duty requirements for general enrollment in VA health care are still eligible to receive care only for MST-related conditions. Veterans with an 'Other than Honorable' discharge may receive MST-related care if a VBA Regional Office rules that the character of discharge is not a bar to health care benefits. Both women and men can experience MST and are eligible to receive services.

The outpatient mental services offered in the WSD&MST program include evidence-based individual psychotherapies such as Prolonged Exposure (PE), Cognitive-Processing Therapy (CPT), Acceptance and Commitment Therapy (ACT), Cognitive-Behavioral Therapy for Depression (CBT-D), and Dialectical Behavior Therapy (DBT). Treatment is individually tailored for each Veteran after a thorough psychological evaluation that includes objective, standardized interviews and psychometrically valid measures of psychopathology and distress. The WSD-MST Team offers three types of therapy groups: structured/didactic (psychoeducational, skills-based, and support). Pharmacotherapy is also offered via a psychiatrist assigned to the program. Opportunities to learn about assessment, clinical treatment, and research with this specialty population are available to Interns.

WSD-MST Supervisors: Drs. Laura Morris & Sarah Sadler

Telemental Health (TMH) Team

Technology is expanding the ways in which VA psychologists may reach out to Veterans with mental health needs. The Telemental Health (TMH) program provides outpatient mental health care to Veterans served in rural Texas VA community-based outpatient clinics (CBOCs) located in Bridgeport, Denton, Greenville, Sherman, and Tyler. The program aims to increase patient access to specialty mental health care in rural and underserved areas, and to reduce the number of miles that patients must travel to receive mental health services. Using secure videoconferencing technology, the TMH service connects mental health providers to clinics that require additional mental health services for their patients, including consultation, initial patient assessments, individual psychotherapy, group psychotherapy, and specialized interventions (e.g., evidence-based therapies). The TMH provider collaborates with the patient's other local VA providers to ensure quality comprehensive care. Because the TMH program serves an array of different clients with variable clinical needs, the placement may align with a diversity of training goals. Commonly requested services include Cognitive Processing Therapy, Prolonged Exposure, Cognitive Behavioral Therapy, and Integrative Behavioral Couples Therapy. Emphasis is placed on the provision of empirically supported treatments. In addition to these clinical opportunities, Interns have the option of contributing to several ongoing quality improvement and research projects. Interns will receive training in the technology used in telemental health, as well as specialized clinical and programmatic considerations for this mechanism of service delivery.

Telemental Health Supervisor: Drs. Heidi Koehler, Colette Miesse, David Rose & Abi Lorenzo-Orama

Homeless Domiciliary

A rotation on the Homeless Dom exposes Interns to the full continuum of psychopathology as well as other psychosocial barriers to mental health. The typical resident has dual diagnoses as well as a period of homelessness and unemployment. Additionally, many of the residents have medical disorders amenable to remediation through psychotherapy. The Intern, under the guidance of a multidisciplinary team gains experience in treatment planning, testing and assessment, individual and group psychotherapy, consultation, psychoeducational groups, and using the milieu to affected psychological growth towards health. When possible, the Intern also gets experience supervising practicum students. The staff psychologists provide instruction and supervision on a broad array of therapeutic techniques and theoretical orientations. Interns have wide flexibility in selecting patients and activities so they can tailor the rotation to meet their strengths and needs as a trainee.

Homeless Domiciliary Supervisor: Dr. Jonathan Fluck

Fort Worth Mental Health Clinic (FW MHC)

The Fort Worth Mental Health Clinic is a satellite clinic of the Medical Center, operating since 1992 to provide a full range of mental health services to Veterans living in the western region of our catchment area. Due to the large number of Veterans seeking services in this area, a new facility was built in 2010 to house a variety of specialty care needs. The FW MHC functions as a multi-disciplinary treatment team. Current staff includes 7 psychologists, 8 full-time and 2 part-time psychiatrists, 4 advanced practice nurses, 1 psychiatric clinical pharmacist, 4 licensed clinical social workers and 1 part-time licensed clinical social worker, 1 addiction therapist, 3 full-time registered nurses and 1 part-time registered nurse, 1 nursing assistant, 3 licensed vocational nurses, and 1 peer support specialist. There is a high degree of treatment coordination and supportive interaction amongst the disciplines at the FW MHC.

The vast majority of an Intern's training experience is usually devoted to the provision of therapy, both individual and group. To allow adequate time to develop competency in the selected therapy modalities, it is strongly recommended that Interns complete the rotation on a six-month, half-time basis (i.e., two

days per week for 6 months). Interns will also have opportunities to conduct clinical interviews and perform psychological and personality testing to assist with diagnosis and treatment recommendations, largely but not exclusively within the context of psychotherapy.

Interns with an interest in working with Couples and Families may choose to structure a FW rotation specifically focused in this area with an emphasis on evidence-based treatments for couples and ethical issues inherent to couples/family therapy.

Veterans diagnosed with PTSD or Major Depression represent the most commonly treated populations at the FW MHC; however, the full spectrum of adult DSM-5 diagnoses are treated here. Interns can participate in a wide variety of treatments including skills training groups, process groups, and time-limited, evidence-based 1:1 psychotherapy. Similarly, FW MHC Interns can receive supervision in providing a number of therapeutic approaches that include the following evidence-based treatments: PE, CPT, ACT for Depression, CBT for Insomnia, CBT for Chronic Pain, and IPT for Depression. If a student has already been trained in EMDR, supervision is available for the use of this cognitive behavioral treatment modality. Staff at the Fort Worth MHC possess a variety of theoretical backgrounds and training – and there is supervision by very experienced clinicians who use a more eclectic approach to treatment. Interns can also gain experience in a variety of groups, including: 1) skills-training modules targeting different patient populations and issues (i.e., modified Stress Inoculation Skills training groups for combat and non-combat trauma or military sexual trauma, modified DBT groups, Mindfulness groups, ACT groups, etc.); 2) a couple of process-oriented groups targeting different populations of patients; 3) a substance use recovery Relapse Prevention group; and 4) tobacco cessation groups. Interns could also choose to train in Mental Health Primary Care, where they would further develop brief assessment, short-term counseling, and behavioral medicine skills while embedded within general medical Patient Aligned Care Teams.

FW MHC Supervisors: Drs. Justin Litvin & Yasisca Pujols

Administrative Policies and Procedures

Our privacy policy is clear: We will not collect personal information about any visitors to our website.

Policies regarding the training program

It is expected that trainees will follow the APA Ethical Principles and Code of Conduct as a guiding principle of their professional conduct. This can be accessed through the APA website at the following URL: <http://www.apa.org/ethics/code/index.aspx>. It is expected that trainees will follow these principles and will expect others in psychology to likewise do so. If the trainee becomes aware of violations, it is expected that they will notify their supervisor, the Training Director, Associate Training Director, or the Chief of Psychology.

Although Interns accrue annual leave and sick leave per each pay period, it is the program's policy that Interns should not take more than 5 days of annual leave during any quarter of the year regardless of the amount of leave they have accrued. Exceptions can be made for extraordinary circumstances. The purpose of this policy is to minimize absence from the work-related learning which is the core of the training program. One day of Authorized Absence is allowed for defense of dissertation. Others may be granted for presentations at professional meetings at the discretion of the Director of Training and the Chief, Psychology Service.

If Interns exhibit impaired or deficient performance and progress, the following procedures are noted including grievance procedures:

Potential domains of problematic Intern behavior include two general areas:

1. Professional skills, competence and functioning
2. Adherence to professional ethics

Relatively minor problems identified at the time of rotation evaluations may result in the modification of training experiences for the rest of the year, as has been noted above. Such modifications are the responsibility of the supervisor but may be based on consultation with the Director of Training and/or Internship Training Committee. Minor problems identified at the time of the evaluations will be communicated by the supervisor to the Director of Training to determine if any assistance is needed for the Intern.

Problems deemed to be sufficiently serious to pose a potential threat to the Intern's successful completion of the Internship will be referred to the Internship Training Committee for consideration. Such problems may be identified at any time. In case of a serious breach of ethical principles, the Internship Training Committee may recommend to the Chief of Psychology that the Intern be terminated immediately. In most cases, though, the Internship Training Committee will develop a written remediation plan to help the Intern achieve an acceptable level of performance. The remediation plan will specify the skills and/or behaviors to be changed and will stipulate a date for their remediation. The remediation plan may include a revision of the Intern's training activities. A copy of this plan will be given the Intern. Within one week of the stipulated date for the remediation of problems, the Training Committee will make a determination of progress. The Internship Training Committee may consider input from the supervisor and the Intern. All Internship Training Committee decisions will be by majority vote and will be communicated in writing to the Intern.

Three determinations by the Internship Training Committee are possible, each followed by a different course of action:

1. If a determination of satisfactory progress is made, the remediation plan will be terminated.
2. If the Internship Training Committee determines that sufficient progress has been made so that it seems possible the Intern will successfully complete the Internship but that further remediation is necessary, a revised remediation plan will be developed.
3. If a determination of unsatisfactory progress is made, the Internship Training Committee will conduct a formal hearing with the Intern within one week. The Intern will receive a minimum three days notice to prepare for this hearing. Issue(s) of concern will be addressed to the Intern by the Internship Training Committee and any other staff electing to attend. The Intern will be afforded an opportunity to respond and may invite anyone of his/her choice to attend the hearing to provide additional information. Within one week of the hearing, the Internship Training Committee will either develop a revised remediation plan or will recommend termination of the Intern to the Chief of Psychology. Proceedings of the hearing will be documented in a summary transcript.

At any time prior to termination from the Internship program, an Intern may be permitted to resign his/her Internship.

Grievance Procedure/Appeal Process

If the Internship Training Committee recommends termination of the Intern from the Internship, the Intern may appeal this decision in writing to the Chief of Psychology within one week. If an appeal is made, the Chief of Psychology will appoint a panel to hear and rule on the appeal. The appeal panel will consist of no less than three professional staff members of the Intern's discipline, some or all of whom may be members of the VA North Texas Health Care System's staff. No panel member will be a member of the Internship Training Committee, a current or past supervisor of the Intern, or anyone who has previously lodged a formal complaint against the Intern. The Intern will present the appeal. The Director of Training will present the position of the Internship Training Committee. The hearing will be conducted in an informal manner and will not be bound by legal rules of evidence or testimony. Either side may call and examine witnesses or present other information as it deems appropriate. A decision to terminate will be based on the evidentiary standard of clear and convincing proof. Any decision of the panel will be by simple majority. Proceedings of the appeal hearing will be documented in a summary transcript.

If the appeal panel recommends that the Intern's appointment be continued, the Director of Training, Internship Training Committee, and discipline staff will abide by this decision, taking into account any further recommendations of the panel. It will be the responsibility of the Director of Training, under these circumstances, to negotiate with the Intern and the supervisor an acceptable training plan for the balance of the training year.

A recommendation of termination by the appeal panel will be communicated to the VA North Texas Health Care System's Chief of Staff, accompanied by transcripts of both hearings and any pertinent supporting information or documents.

The Chief of Staff will review the material for:

1. Evidence of failure to follow the procedures specified in this policy.
2. Evidence of capriciousness or arbitrariness in the action.

Affirmation of either of these by the Chief of Staff would result in the Intern being retained. Otherwise the Intern will be terminated immediately.

The results of the appeal proceedings will be communicated in writing to the Intern.

Grievances Against Supervisors

While we encourage faculty to participate as supervisors for the psychology training programs, psychology staff are not required to serve as training supervisors as part of their employment. As such, psychology staff should feel free to evaluate their time, resources, abilities each year to determine if they can take on trainees for supervision.

If an Intern has a concern or complaint against a supervisor (or some other aspect of the training experience), or if another member of the supervising faculty has a concern or complaint about a supervisor's actions involving an Intern or postdoc, the following sequence of actions should occur:

1. Efforts to resolve an identified problem within a training rotation will be made by the rotation supervisory staff and the involved trainee in a timely manner.

2. If the problem is not resolved at the supervisory level, the Intern and/or staff member shall immediately communicate the concern to the DOT for further assistance.
3. If the problem continues to remain unresolved, it will be referred to the Internship Training Committee for expedient resolution. If the supervisor is found to have engaged in behavior that is inconsistent with expectations detailed in this handbook and/or the APA Ethics Code, the Training Committee will intervene as necessary. Intervention may include requiring the supervisor to complete additional continuing education in supervision, to receive mentorship, to have their supervision of Interns supervised, to limit supervisory activities for a limited period, or to terminate their supervision privileges.
4. The decision of the Training Committee may be appealed by the supervisor through the Chief of Psychology. The decision of the Chief of Psychology can be appealed simultaneously to the ACOS of Mental Health.

Application Process

Applications are due: 11/6/2023

The Dallas VA Doctoral Internship Program is also a member of the Association of Psychology Postdoctoral and Internship Centers (APPIC) with information included in the APPIC directory. The Dallas VA Internship abides by all APPIC policies as well as matching policies and procedures. Please see the APPIC website for APPIC-related information (www.appic.org).

The VA North Texas Health Care System uses the uniform APPIC Application for Psychology Internship (AAPI). This form is completed electronically online at <http://www.appic.org>. All applications are completed through the online portal.

Our program abides by the Department of Veterans Affairs commitment to ensuring equal opportunity (EEO), and promoting diversity and inclusion, all applicable Federal EEO laws, regulations, Executive Orders, and Management Directives. As provided by the Policy, the VA will not tolerate discrimination or harassment on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, pregnancy, gender identity, genetic information, parental status, sexual orientation, age or disability.

The VA North Texas Healthcare System is committed to upholding an inclusive environment so that the associated stakeholders, (Veterans, supervised trainees, staff psychologists, technical and clerical staff) feel encouraged and supported to incorporate all aspects of themselves into their experience at our facility. We believe that the honoring of the unique aspects of each individual is compulsory for the optimal development of highly qualified, effective and satisfied professionals, and ultimately, improves the quality of the services that we provide to our Veterans.

VANTHCS seeks applicants who are interested in gaining training experience with adults with various disorders including mental health problems, neuropsychological disorders, and physical illnesses which may have psychological sequelae. The goal of VA Internship training is the development of skills related to training possible future psychologists for employment in the VA system. Thus an interest in and ability to treat patients with the above noted problems is of primary interest. Applicants who are working towards either a Clinical or Counseling, Ph.D or Psy.D., degree are considered equally. As noted in the APPIC directory, our minimum criteria for consideration include 600 hours of practicum intervention experience and 75 hours (minimum for Assessment) Additionally, we require five or more, each, of scoring and reporting on WAIS-IV and MMPI-2RF or PAI's, and integrated reports of evaluations of adults. We

evaluate each application in its totality and individuals who do not fully meet guideline criteria are certainly considered and invited to interview if other parts of their application are strong.

To be considered complete, an application must consist of the following documents:

- APPIC Application for Psychology Internship (AAPI)
- Cover letter stating Track application (**Designate one only**)
- Three (3) letters of recommendation
- Graduate transcripts
- A curriculum vita
- Assessment report that is **cosigned by the supervisor**
- Psychotherapy case summary from an actual case

Application Worksamples:

Assessment Report

Applicants are expected to submit an assessment report that is **cosigned by the supervisor**. This report should be for an **actual case** (de-identified) in which psychological assessment was provided within the past 2 years. The assessment report should reflect an evaluation involving a clinical interview, cognitive, and/or personality for an adult client.

Psychotherapy Case Summary

Applicants are expected to submit a therapy case summary for an adult client. This summary should be for an **actual case** (de-identified) in which psychotherapy was provided. The summary should reflect the reason for the treatment referral, rationale for the intervention(s) selected, progress within therapy, and the treatment outcome.

Applicants are expected to submit their AAPI's no later than November 6th. Applicants' AAPI's are reviewed by members of the Internship Training Committee and Training Supervisors. Applicants submitting an application with information reflecting these criteria will be invited to a virtual Open House for interview. Attempts will be made to notify the applicants of an invitation to the Open Houses by November 20, 2023. The Open House is a virtual, day-long process with information about the VANTHCS being provided, individual supervisors speaking about their rotations, interviews conducted, and meeting with current Interns who will provide the applicant with first-hand information about their training experiences within our program. Invited applicants will have the option of choosing one of three virtual Open House dates (January 8, 11, or 18, 2024). We are aspiring to provide virtual tours of the medical center during the open house and are working with our in-house media department regarding the feasibility of this. There will also be an opportunity for informal questions and answers as a part of the day.

If you are selected as an Intern, you will be considered a Federal employee, and the following requirements will apply.

1. U.S. citizenship. VA is unable to consider applications from anyone who is not currently a U.S. citizen. Verification of citizenship is required following selection. All Interns and fellows must complete a Certification of Citizenship in the United States prior to beginning VA training.
2. 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. Male applicants must sign a pre-appointment Certification Statement for Selective Service Registration before they can be processed into a training program. Exceptions can be granted only by the US Office of Personnel Management; exceptions are very rarely granted.

3. Interns and Fellows are subject to fingerprinting and background checks. Match result and selection decisions are contingent on passing these screens. Please find additional information about the required background checks at the following website (<http://www.archives.gov/federal-register/codification/executive-order/10450.html>)
4. To comply with federal and VA rules and provide Interns with liability protection, a current and valid Affiliation Agreement between VA and the sponsoring doctoral program must be on file before the Intern can be appointed. Most APA-accredited doctoral programs already have an agreement on file. More information is available at [Affiliate Resources - Office of Academic Affiliations \(va.gov\)](#) (see section on psychology Internships).
5. Following the match and prior to the start of Internship, the Internship Training Director will contact the Directors of Clinical Training (DCTs) for all eight Interns. Each DCT for each matched Intern will be asked to complete the Trainee Qualifications and Credentials Verification Letter (TQCVL). This document is required for all VA Psychology Internship programs. In essence, this document confirms that you (as a VA Trainee) are in satisfactory physical condition to meet the requirements of the Internship program as well as attesting those Interns have met appropriate tuberculosis screening as well as other immunization screenings. Such documentation is not uncommon to need prior to working in a healthcare setting. Appointment to the Internship cannot happen until this document has been signed by both the Intern's graduate program and senior leadership from the VA North Texas Health Care System. We will work closely with your graduate program to ensure this document is completed in a timely manner. For more information about this document, please see the web address linked here ([Trainee Qualifications and Credentials Verification Letter \(TQCVL\) - Office of Academic Affiliations \(va.gov\)](#)).
6. Matched Interns will be required to complete pre-employment documentation prior to the start of Internship. These forms include the Application for Health Professions Trainees (VA 10-2850D), the Declaration for Federal Employment (OF 306), and the Health Professions Trainee Random Drug Testing Notification and Acknowledgement Memo. These documents are available online for review ([Resources for Health Professions Trainees Coming to VA | Eligibility and Forms - Office of Academic Affiliations](#)). Falsifying any answer on these required Federal documents will result in the inability to appoint an Intern or will result in the Intern's immediate dismissal from the training program.
7. 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 will provide you with the information you need to understand the requirement and reasons for the requirement in timely manner. Please refer to this website for further information: [Am I Eligible? Checklist for VA HPTs](#)
8. Most HPTs are subject to random drug testing and must sign a Random Drug Testing Notification and Acknowledgement Memo. For additional information see: [VA Drug-Free Workplace Program Guide for Veterans Health Administration Health Professions Trainees](#). Although medical and recreational use of cannabis is legal in some states, it is prohibited for federal employees and trainees to use cannabis and its derivatives, including CBD, on or off duty, no matter which state they reside.
9. Proof of identity for VA. Onboarding requires two source identification documents (IDs) to prove identity. Documents must be unexpired and names on both documents must match. For more information visit: https://www.oit.va.gov/programs/piv/_media/docs/IDMatrix.pdf
10. Per VA policy, incoming trainees must show written proof of full COVID-19 vaccination prior to the start date of the Internship.

Contact Information

Director of Psychology Training



Dr. Julia Smith (she/her/hers) is a supervisory psychologist, and currently serves as the Training Director for the VANTHCS Psychology Internship, Postdoctoral Fellowship and Practicum programs. She was formerly the Clinical Director of the MH Trauma Services Team (PTSD clinic) at VANTHCS (2016-2022) while she was the Associate Director of Training (2014-2022). She enjoys administration and leadership, as well as supervision and teaching. She has been a clinical supervisor at VANTHCS in the areas of PTSD/SUD and assessment since 2012. Dr. Smith is also an Associate Professor in the Department of Psychiatry at UT Southwestern Medical Center.

Dr. Smith was born and spent most of her life in Illinois – specifically the suburbs of Chicago, and Chicago proper – where she attended college (DePaul University) and graduate school (ISPP). She completed her Doctoral Internship at the North Chicago VA (2007-2008). She moved to Dallas in 2008 for a SUD postdoc at VANTHCS, planning to have a one-year adventure and immediately return to Illinois. However, the universe had other plans. She met her husband during the postdoc year and has been in Dallas ever since. She is passionate about mentoring related to resilience building and work/life integration, especially when it comes to family planning and balancing being a mother of 2 small children (ages 6 and 2) while maintaining an active professional life. She is especially interested in helping trainees develop unique and personalized, flexible, self-care regimens based on their current values, goals, and professional stage of development.

Clinically, Dr. Smith's interests include assessment of symptom validity and malingering, co-occurring disorders (PTSD/SUD), exposure therapy, behavioral therapy for obsessive compulsive disorders and motivational enhancement techniques, including the role of personal values in commitment to change. She conceptualizes through a behavioral lens, and considers herself a behavioral therapist, first and foremost. Other clinical/professional interests: program evaluation, process improvement, making things more efficient and less of a headache, EBP outcomes, dimensional approach to personality disorders, women in leadership, and making meetings productive and helpful instead of unnecessary and perfunctory.

Dr. Smith may be contacted at:

Julia C. Smith, Psy.D, Director of Psychology Training

VANTHCS - 4500 S. Lancaster Rd.

Mental Health Service (116B)

Dallas, TX 75216

Direct: (214) 857-1983

E-mail: julia.smith2@va.gov

Associate Director of Psychology Training



Dr. Wyatt Evans (he/him/his) is a licensed psychologist in the state of Texas and is board certified in Behavioral and Cognitive Psychology by the American Board of Professional Psychology. He earned his PhD in Clinical Psychology from Palo Alto University in 2017. He completed his predoctoral Internship at the Houston VA and a two-year clinical research fellowship with UT Health San Antonio and the STRONG STAR Consortium. Dr. Evans joined the staff of the VANTHCS in 2019 and joined his current team at the Plano CBOC in 2021. He transitioned to the role of Associate Director of Psychology Training here at VANTHCS in 2023. His clinical interests include combat and operational stress sequelae including PTSD, moral injury, and grief. He provides individual and

group therapy including Acceptance and Commitment Therapy, Prolonged Exposure, Cognitive Processing Therapy, and Cognitive Behavioral Therapy for Insomnia. His ongoing research focuses on increasing psychological flexibility to facilitate moral healing, foster posttraumatic growth, and enhance resilience.

Accreditation Status

The doctoral Internship at the **Veterans Affairs North Texas Health Care System** is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of the American Psychological Association. The most recent site visit was in November 2022. Our next site visit will occur in 2032.

For information regarding APA accreditation of this Internship or other accredited Internships, please write or call:

Office of Program Consultation and Accreditation
American Psychological Association
750 First Street, NE
Washington, DC 20002-4242
Phone: (202) 336-5979
Fax: (202) 336-5978
E-mail: apaaccred@apa.org
Program Tables Updated: 8/10/2023

Internship Admissions, Support, and Initial Placement Data

Internship Program Admissions

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:

VANTHCS seeks applicants who are interested in gaining training experience with adults with various disorders including mental health problems, neuropsychological disorders, and physical illnesses which may have psychological sequelae. The goal of VA Internship training is the development of skills related to training possible future psychologists for employment in the VA system. Thus an interest in

and ability to treat patients with the above noted problems is of primary interest. Applicants who are working towards either a Clinical or Counseling, Ph.D or Psy.D., degree are considered equally.

The VA North Texas Healthcare System’s Clinical Psychology Internship is deeply committed to fostering multicultural competence and diversity awareness. Applicants seeking a placement in which clientele presentations will be diverse and multifaceted will fit well with our site. We have a large and multicultural staff and feel that a wide variety of backgrounds and cultural experiences makes for a strong Intern cohort. The overall goal of our training activities is to produce Interns that are sensitive to individual differences and demonstrate the ability to apply diversity-based models in clinical settings.

The fundamental goal of the Internship is to help each Intern develop a strong sense of professional identity and a dedication to the highest standards of practice within the profession and science of psychology. The primary education model endorsed by the Internship program and faculty may best be described as "practitioner-scholar." All Interns are expected to develop skills in basic areas of clinical/counseling psychology, but provision is also made for the development of skills in more specialized areas of interest. Thus, the Internship might further be described as a "modified-generalist" in scope.

Minimum criteria:

Does the program require that applicants have received a minimum number of hours of the following at time of application?

Total Direct Contact Intervention Hours	Yes, 600 hours
Total Direct Contact Assessment Hours	Yes, 75 hours

Describe any other required minimum criteria used to screen applicants:

Minimum assessment criteria is having administered, scored, and written integrated reports for at least 5 WAIS-IV and 5 MMPI-2-RF or PAI. These administrations need to have occurred within an adult population as our Veteran population is solely adult.

Individuals with fewer than 600 intervention hours and/or fewer than the previously stated assessment requirements will be considered within the context of the remaining portions of their applications and may be invited to interview if other aspects of their application are particularly strong.

Financial and Other Benefit Support for Upcoming Training Year

Annual Stipend/Salary for Full-time Interns	\$36,200
Annual Stipend/Salary for Half-time Interns	N/A
Program provides access to medical insurance for Interns?	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)	13 days
Hours of Annual Paid Sick Leave	13 days
In the event of medical conditions and/or family needs that require extended leave, does the program allow reasonable unpaid leave to Interns/residents in excess of personal time off and sick leave?	Yes
Other Benefits (please describe)	11 Federal Holidays FED VIP – Dental and Vision Plans

Initial Post-Internship Positions

	2018-2021	
Total # of Interns who were in the 3 cohorts	24	
Total # of Interns who did not seek employment because they returned to their doctoral program/are completing doctoral degree	2	
	PD	EP
Community mental health center		
Federally qualified health center		
Independent primary care facility/clinic		
University counseling center		
Veterans Affairs medical center	18	2
Military health center		
Academic health center	3	
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	1	
Not currently employed		
Changed to another field		
Other		
Unknown		

Note. “PD” = Post-doctoral residency position; “EP” = Employed Position. Each individual represented in this table is counted only one time. For former trainees working in more than one setting, the setting that represents their primary position was selected.

Appendix A: Summary of Supervisory & Mentor Staff Bios



Dr. Barry Ardolf (he/him/his) is Board Certified in Clinical Neuropsychology (ABPP). He earned his Psy.D. in Clinical Psychology for the Forest Institute of Professional Psychology in 2005. He completed his Doctoral internship at VANTHCS in 2005 and a Neuropsychology fellowship at Henry Ford Hospital in Detroit, Michigan in 2007. He has been on staff at VANTHCS since 2007 and current serves as a staff neuropsychologist on the Neuropsychology Consult service. Dr. Ardolf is an Associate Professor in the department of Psychiatry at University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center. His clinical interests include neuropsychological assessment, dementia and geropsychology. Research interests include memory, dementia and frontal lobe impairments. Dr. Ardolf’s theoretical orientation is comprised of psychodynamic and cognitive-behavioral approaches. *Supervision roles: Postdoc Training Committee Member, Assessment Supervisor, Neuropsychology Consult Team (Internship and Neuropsychology Fellowship)*



Dr. Alexis Arevalo (he/him/his) is a staff psychologist in the state of Texas. He received his Ph.D. in Counseling Psychology from Texas Tech University in 2019. He completed his Predoctoral internship in general psychology and his Postdoctoral fellowship with a focus in Trauma at the VANTHCS. He has been on staff since 2020 and is currently part of the MH Trauma Services Clinic. His clinical and research interests include trauma-focused treatment, suicidal ideation, LatinX cultural beliefs, and ethnic identity. He primarily uses an Acceptance and Commitment Therapy (ACT) approach but is also trained in other Cognitive-Behavioral approaches including Dialectical Behavior Therapy (DBT). He is also the chair of the MH Diversity Committee at the VANTHCS. *Supervision roles: Internship Training Committee Member, Internship*

Assessment Supervisor, MH Trauma Services Rotation (Internship)



Dr. Angela Beard (she/her/hers) is a staff psychologist in the MH Diamond Clinic and she is licensed in Kansas and Texas. She earned her PsyD at Baylor University after completing a dissertation on masculinity in media. Her theoretical orientation is largely psychodynamic in conceptualization and eclectic in clinical practice. She is certified in PE, CPT, IBCT, and SST. Areas of clinical interest include treatment of Borderline PD, cultural competence and diversity topics, and masculinity issues. *Supervision roles: MH Diamond Team Rotation (Internship), EBP Supervisor (IBCT) – Internship and Postdoc*



Dr. Terri Belville-Robertson is a licensed psychologist in the state of Texas. She earned her PhD in Clinical Psychology from Western Michigan University in 1999. She completed her predoctoral internship and two-year clinical research fellowship with Henry Ford Health System in Detroit, Michigan. Dr. Belville-Robertson remained on staff at Henry Ford Health System for nearly 20 years before relocating to Texas. While at Henry Ford she spent 10 years working in behavioral medicine as a member of the Consultation-Liaison Psychiatry staff. Dr. Belville-Robertson joined VANTHCS in 2015 starting on the PCMHI team. She transferred to specialty Mental Health at the Plano CBOC in 2017. Her clinical interests include trauma informed care, anxiety disorders, and behavioral medicine. Dr. Belville-Robertson provides assessment and individual and group therapy. Areas of specialty for

individual therapy include Cognitive Behavioral Therapy, CBT-Chronic Pain, CBT-Insomnia, Cognitive Processing Therapy, Prolonged Exposure, Imagery Rehearsal Therapy for Nightmares and STAIR (Skills Training for Affective and Interpersonal Regulation). Dr. Belville-Robertson has experience with the following groups: PTSD Orientation, CBT-Chronic Pain, STAIR, CBT-Anger Management and CBT- Anxiety. She also currently serves as a consultant for the Dallas Vet Center.



Dr. Helen Chung received her Ph.D. in Counseling Psychology from Oklahoma State University in 2014. She completed her predoctoral internship in medical/health psychology and postdoctoral fellowship in geropsychology at VANTHCS. She joined the staff in 2015, first in the Spinal Cord Injury (SCI) Center and currently within the Community Living Center (CLC). Her clinical and research interests include general rehabilitation, geropsychology, post-stroke cognitive rehabilitation, coping with chronic medical conditions, consultation-liaison, hospice/palliative care and psycho-oncology. Her theoretical orientation is eclectic, utilizing techniques from CBT, ACT, Solution-focused, person-centered therapies. She is a member of the American Psychological Association – Divisions 20, 22, 40. *Supervision roles: Postdoc Training Committee Member, CLC Rotation (Internship), CLC Fellowship rotation for the Health & Rehab Postdoc.*



Dr. Lindsey Cooper (she/her/hers) is a licensed psychologist in the state of Kansas and Texas. She received her Psy.D. in Clinical Psychology from The Chicago School of Professional Psychology in 2015. She completed both her pre-doctoral internship and her post-doctoral fellowship at the Dallas VA. She is the Clinical Director for the MH Trauma Services Team. She previously worked in the MH Trauma Clinic as the PTSD/SUD Specialist and for MH Gold as the Clinical Director. Her clinical interests include treatment of PTSD, substance use disorders, symptom validity assessment, personality disorders, Cognitive Processing Therapy, Motivational Interviewing, Dialectical Behavior Therapy and Prolonged Exposure Therapy. Dr. Cooper's research interests

include severe mental illness, dual diagnosis of substance use disorder and mental illness, and PTSD in

returning Veterans. *Supervision roles: MH Trauma PTSD/SUD Rotation (Internship and Postdoc), EBP Rotation (PE, CPT) – Internship and Postdoc*



Dr. Catherine Dodson (she/her/hers) serves as Clinical Director for the MH Silver Team. She is a licensed psychologist in the states of Kansas and Texas. She received her Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology from Southern Methodist University in 2013. She joined the staff at VANTHCS during that year. She is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Psychiatry at University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center. Her clinical interests are geropsychology and the treatment of mental disorders associated with aging and illness. She also serves as the Chair of the Employee Threat Assessment Team for VANTHCS, which provides threat assessment evaluations and risk mitigation plans for the hospital. Dr. Dodson's theoretical orientation is cognitive behavioral and behavioral. *Supervision roles: MH Silver rotation, EBP Supervisor (CBT, CBT-I)*



Dr. Michael Dolan (he/him/his) is a licensed Psychologist in the state of Texas. He earned his Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology from the University of Kentucky in 1975. He has been on staff at VANTHCS since 1978, and currently works on the MH Gold team, focusing on the assessment and treatment of chronic substance use disorders, which is his primary clinical interest. His theoretical orientation is cognitive-behavioral. His research interests include the use of contingency contracting to decrease drug abuse, cocaine addiction, needlesharing and AIDS education. He is a member of the American Psychological Association. *Supervision roles: MH Gold Team Rotation (Internship), MH Gold*

Fellowship Supervisor (SUD Postdoc)



Dr. Julia Evans (she/her/hers) is a licensed psychologist in the state of Texas. She received her Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology from the University of Tulsa in 2020. She completed both her predoctoral and postdoctoral training at VA North Texas. She joined the staff in 2021 as the PTSD/SUD psychologist on the Mental Health Trauma Team. Her theoretical orientation integrates both cognitive-behavioral and a third-wave approaches. Her clinical interests include evidence-based therapy for PTSD, couples therapy, psychological assessment, and diversity issues. She is VA certified in Cognitive Behavioral Conjoint Therapy for PTSD, CBT for Substance Use Disorders and soon to be certified in Written Exposure Therapy. *Supervision roles: Internship Assessment Supervisor, MH Trauma*

Rotation (Internship & Postdoc)



Dr. Jonathan Fluck (he/him/his) is a licensed Psychologist in the state of Arizona. He received his Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology from Texas Tech University in 2010. He completed his Pre-doctoral internship at the VANTHCS. He has had postdoctoral employment at the VANTHCS Domiciliary in Bonham, TX where he worked from 2010-2017. Dr. Fluck currently serves as a staff Psychologist with the Dallas Homeless Domiciliary program. His clinical interests include: PTSD, Substance Abuse, Risk Assessment, and Objective Personality Assessment. Dr. Fluck's primary theoretical orientation is cognitive-behavioral. *Supervision roles: Internship Training Committee Member, Internship Assessment Supervisor, HDOM Rotation (Internship and Postdoc)*



Dr. Robert Forrester (he/him/his) is a staff psychologist/neuropsychologist licensed in Texas and Massachusetts. He received his Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology with an emphasis in Neuropsychology from Palo Alto University in 2020. He completed a Predoctoral Internship at the Boston VA and a two-year Fellowship at the University of Massachusetts Chan Medical School. Since completing fellowship in 2022, Dr. Forrester has worked as a staff psychologist/neuropsychologist at the Bonham CLC and assists the Neuropsychological Consult Service in Bonham. Dr. Forrester's theoretical orientation is cognitive-behavioral. Clinical interests include dementia, capacity, ethics, couples therapy, and anger/conflict management. *Supervision roles: Internship Assessment Supervisor.*



Dr. Rebecca A. Frontera (she/her/hers) serves as Program Manager for the Chronic Pain Rehabilitation Program (CPRP). She is a licensed psychologist in the states of Illinois and Texas. She received her Psy.D. in Clinical Psychology from the Adler School of Professional Psychology in 2011. She completed her Doctoral internship at the Mount Sinai Medical Center within the department of Rehabilitation Medicine in New York, NY and a 2-year Postdoctoral Fellowship in Rehabilitation Psychology at the James A. Haley VAMC in Tampa, FL. Dr. Frontera joined VANTHCS in 2013 and works within the Spinal Cord Injury Center and Chronic Pain Clinic. Dr. Frontera's clinical interests involve rehabilitation of spinal cord injury (SCI) and traumatic brain injury (TBI), adjustment to disability, multiple sclerosis, ALS, disability and sexuality, and coping with chronic medical conditions. Her theoretical orientation is eclectic, utilizing techniques from CBT, ACT, Solution-focused, and Person-centered therapies. *Supervision roles: Postdoc Training Committee Member, SCI/Pain Clinic Rotation Supervisor (Internship and Health & Rehab Postdoc), EBP Supervisor (CBT-CP)- Internship.*



Dr. Liz Gibbons (she/her/hers) is a licensed Psychologist in the state of Texas. She received her Ph.D. in Counseling Psychology from Texas Woman's University in 2018 and completed her Postdoctoral Fellowship at VANTHCS in Substance Abuse. She joined the staff at the Dallas VA in 2019 and worked on the Gold Team (substance use disorders specialty team) and Silver Team (geropsychology specialty team) before joining the Telemental Health Team. She currently serves as the Clinical Director for the MH Gold Team. Her clinical interests include depression, chronic pain, insomnia, substance use disorders, personality disorders, trauma, suicidality, LGBTQ+, and multicultural issues. Her primary treatment approaches are Acceptance and Commitment Therapy and Cognitive Behavioral Therapy. *Supervision roles: Internship Training Committee Member, MH Gold team rotation (Internship), LGBTQ+ Fellow Supervisor (when track is active).*



Dr. Victoria Henderson (he/her/hers) is a licensed psychologist in the state of Texas. She received her Ph.D. in Counseling Psychology from Texas Tech University in 2019. She completed her Predoctoral internship in general psychology at Texas A&M University Counseling and Psychological Services. She has had postdoctoral employment at Texas Woman's University prior to joining VANTX in 2022. She is currently part of the Telemental Health Team based out of the Denton CBOC. Her clinical interests include LGBTQ+, PTSD, Military Sexual Trauma, Intimate Partner Violence, diversity and inclusion, and depression treatment. Dr. Henderson's theoretical orientation

is primarily Interpersonal with multicultural considerations.



Dr. Christopher Holland-Deguire (he/him/his) is a staff psychologist, licensed in the state of Texas. He received his PsyD. in Clinical Psychology from the Chicago School of Professional Psychology in 2019 and completed the Dallas Addiction Leadership Training (DALT) Advanced Fellowship in Addiction Treatment at VANTHCS (2019-2021). He currently serves as the LGBTQ+ Veteran Care Coordinator (VCC) for VANTHCS as well as a staff Psychologist for the Diamond Team (outpatient mental health team). Dr. Holland-Deguire is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Psychiatry at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center. Dr. Holland-Deguire's clinical interests include treatment of trauma and stress-related disorders, chronic pain, and insomnia. His primary treatment approaches are

Prolonged Exposure (PE), Cognitive Processing Therapy (CPT), and Cognitive Behavior Therapy for Chronic Pain and Insomnia (CBT-CP & CBT-I). As LGBTQ+ VCC, Dr. Holland-Deguire completes various staff training in LGBTQ+ clinical care, develops and allocates LGBTQ+ resources, and advocates for LGBTQ+ affirming clinical care. *Supervision roles: MH Diamond Team Rotation (Internship).*



Dr. Heejin Kim (she/her/hers) is Board Certified in Clinical Neuropsychology (ABPP). She is a licensed psychologist in the state of Texas. She earned her Psy.D. in Clinical Psychology from Pepperdine University. She completed her neuropsychology internship at NYU Rusk Institute of Rehabilitation. Her two year neuropsychology post-doctoral fellowship was completed at the San Antonio Military Medical Center. She joined the staff at VANTHCS in 2015. Dr. Kim is an Assistant Professor in the department of Psychiatry at University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center. Dr. Kim provides clinical services on the Mental Health Silver Team, including neuropsychological assessments, individual therapy, and group therapy. Her clinical interests include geropsychology, assessment of dementia disorders, and assessment and rehabilitation with stroke populations. *Supervision roles: Silver Team Neuropsychology*

Track Rotation (Internship), Silver Team Supervisor (Neuropsychology Residency)



Dr. Heidi J. Koehler (she/her/hers) is board certified in Clinical Psychology (ABPP). She received her Ph.D. in Counseling Psychology from Texas A&M University in 2000. Dr. Koehler joined VANTHCS in 2006. She is licensed in the state of Texas and serves as a psychologist on the TeleMH team. She is an Associate Professor in the department of Psychiatry at University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center and a member of the Texas Psychological Association. Her clinical interests include adult and childhood trauma, military sexual trauma, the grieving process, group psychotherapy, and dialectical behavior therapy. Her theoretical orientation is primarily existential. *Supervision roles: EBP Supervisor (PE, CPT)- Internship and DBT – Postdoc*



Dr. Kelley Leach (she/her/hers) is a licensed psychologist in the state of Texas. She received her Ph.D. in Counseling Psychology from Texas Woman's University in 2018. She completed her predoctoral internship at the Travis County Juvenile Probation Department in Austin, TX, and postdoctoral training at VA North Texas in the MH Gold Clinic (substance use-focused). She joined the staff of VANTHCS in 2019 as a psychologist on the Primary Care Mental Health Integration (PCMHI) team. Her theoretical orientation is cognitive-behavioral. Her clinical interests include brief evidence-based treatments, substance use, trauma, and multicultural issues. *Supervision roles: Internship Training Committee Member, Internship Assessment Supervisor, PCMHI Rotation (Internship)*



Dr. Marquisha Lee (she/her/hers) is board certified in clinical health psychology (ABPP). She received her Ph.D. in Clinical Health Psychology from The Ohio State University in 2009. She completed her doctoral internship (2009) and postdoctoral fellowship (2011) in clinical health psychology at Duke University Medical Center in Durham, North Carolina, and she is licensed in North Carolina. Dr. Lee has been with VANTHCS since August 2017, serving as a staff psychologist in Medical/Surgical Psychology and starting in 2019, Clinical Director for the PCMHI clinic in FW. Her clinical interests include behavioral sleep medicine, coping with chronic medical conditions, stress management, weight management, and pain management. Dr. Lee's theoretical orientation is cognitive-behavioral therapy. She is a member of the American Psychological Association – Division 38. *Supervision roles: EBP Supervisor (CBT-I) – Internship*



Dr. Justin Litvin (he/him/his) is a licensed psychologist in the state of Texas. He received his Ph.D. in Counseling Psychology from the University of North Texas in 2019. He completed his predoctoral internship (2018-2019) in clinical psychology at the Syracuse VA in New York. He then completed his postdoctoral fellowship (2019-2020) in the couple/family therapy and trauma services track at VANTHCS. He has been a staff psychologist at the Ft. Worth Outpatient Clinic since August 2020. His clinical interests include couple/family therapy, trauma-focused treatments, and anxiety/depression management. Dr. Litvin's theoretical orientation is best described as Cognitive Behavioral within the Acceptance and Commitment Therapy framework. *Supervision roles: Fort Worth MHC Rotation Supervisor (Internship), EBP Supervisor (CBCT, IBCT, PE) – Internship and Postdoc*



Dr. Abilmariys Lorenzo-Orama (she/her/hers) is a Licensed Psychologist. She received her Psy.D. in Clinical Psychology from Carlos Albizu University, San Juan Campus in 2020. She completed her Predoctoral internship (2019-2020) in Clinical Psychology at Aspire Health Alliance (Community Based) with a rotation at Mclean Hospital (Inpatient Unit and Partial Hospitalization Program) in Massachusetts. She then completed a postdoctoral fellowship (2020-2021) which emphasized in Substance Use Disorders at VANTHCS. She has been a staff psychologist at the North Texas Va since 2021. Her clinical interests include treatment of PTSD, Personality Disorder, Substance Use Disorder, Eating Disorder and MDD, as well as providing a variety of evidence-base therapies in individual and group setting including Dialectical Behavior Therapy, Cognitive Processing Therapy, Acceptance Commitment Therapy, Prolonged Exposure, Skill Training in Affective and Interpersonal Regulation, Cognitive Behavioral Therapy for Depression, Cognitive Behavioral Therapy for Anxiety and Cognitive Behavioral Therapy for Eating Disorder. Dr. Lorenzo's theoretical orientation is best described as focused on Dialectical Behavioral Therapy and third-wave approaches.



Dr. Lena L. Luong (she/her/hers) is a licensed psychologist in the state of Texas. She received her Ph.D. in Counseling Psychology from Texas Woman's University in 2020 and completed both her predoctoral internship (general track) and postdoctoral fellowship in PTSD/SUD at VANTHCS. She has been on staff since August 2021 on the Mental Health Silver Team. Her clinical interests include geropsychology, co-occurring disorders, dual diagnosis of substance abuse and trauma-focused treatments such as Cognitive Processing Therapy, Prolonged Exposure therapy and Eye Movement Desensitization and Reprocessing therapy. Dr. Luong's theoretical orientation is integrative of Cognitive Behavioral and Acceptance and Commitment Therapy approaches with multicultural considerations. *Supervision roles: MH Silver Team (Internship)*



Dr. Martha Adilene Martinez (she/her/hers) is a licensed psychologist on the Primary Care Mental Health Integration (PCMHI) team in Dallas. She received her Psy.D. in Clinical Psychology from the American School of Professional Psychology at Argosy University, Southern California in 2018. She completed her predoctoral internship at Federal Correctional Institution (FCI) Terminal Island in San Pedro, California. She subsequently worked as a staff psychologist at FCI Pekin, Illinois from 2018 to 2020, and as a Sex Offender Management Program psychologist at FCI Seagoville, Texas from 2020 to 2023. Dr. Martinez joined VANTHCS in January 2023. Her theoretical orientation is cognitive-behavioral. Her clinical interests include brief evidence-based treatment, group psychotherapy, stress and anxiety management, mindfulness, motivational interviewing, risk assessment and reduction, and psychological assessment. She is a member of the American Psychological Association. *Supervision roles: PCMHI Rotation Supervisor (Internship)*



Dr. Kristen Medina (she/her/hers) is a licensed psychologist. She received her Ph.D. in Clinical and Health Psychology from the University of Florida. She completed her predoctoral internship at Michael E. DeBakey VA Medical Center in Houston, Texas. After internship, she continued to work on her dissertation while employed for Dallas County Juvenile Justice Department. She completed her dissertation, graduated, obtained her post-doctoral hours, and eventually worked as a psychologist while employed for Dallas County. During this time, she worked with detained youth and adolescent females in a post-adjudicated residential treatment center providing Dialectical Behavioral Therapy, Cognitive Behavioral Therapy, and Trauma Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy. Dr. Medina joined VANTHSC in 2020 as a psychologist on the Primary Care Mental Health Integration team. Her theoretical orientation is cognitive-behavioral. She is a member of the American Psychological Association. *Supervision roles: PCMH/*

Rotation Supervisor (Internship).



Dr. Colette Miesse (she/her/hers) is licensed in the states of Iowa and Texas. She earned her degree from the University of North Texas (UNT) in 2009. She completed her internship in a community mental health center offering intensive WRAP Services to low-income children and their families throughout the Sacramento, California, area. Dr. Miesse joined the staff at VANTHCS in 2018 and is a part of the Telemental Health Team. She is actively working to promote the NTX Eating Disorders Clinic. Her clinical and research interests include motivational interviewing, solution-focused therapies across the lifespan, domestic violence, and eating disorders treatment. Dr. Miesse's theoretical orientation is acceptance-based and solution-focused while keeping in mind Ecological Systems Theory. *Supervision*

roles: Internship Assessment Supervisor, Telemental Health Rotation (Internship), EBP Supervisor: IPT (Internship and Postdoc)

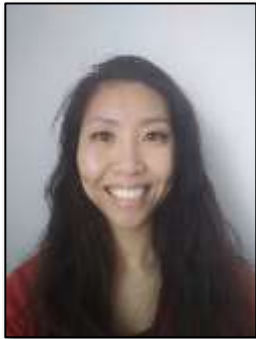


Dr. A. Nicole Miller (she/her/hers) earned a Psy.D. in Clinical Psychology with an emphasis in Health Psychology from Loma Linda University in 2018. She completed both her Predoctoral Internship and a one-year Substance Abuse/PTSD Fellowship here at the North Texas VA Health Care System. Dr. Miller joined the staff as a psychologist on the MH Diamond Team following the completion of her Substance Abuse/PTSD Fellowship in 2019. Her clinical and research interests include PTSD/MST, Personality Disorders, Insomnia, and Anxiety/Panic Disorders. Dr. Miller's theoretical orientation is cognitive-behavioral. She has a particular passion for Dialectical Behavior Therapy.



Dr. Laura Morris (she/her/hers) is a licensed psychologist in the state of Texas. She received her Ph.D. in counseling psychology from Texas Woman's University in 2017. She completed her pre-doctoral internship at VA North Texas Healthcare System in 2016-2017. Dr. Morris completed her post-doc at the Steven A. Cohen Military Family Clinic from 2017-2019 where she worked with post 9-11 veterans and their family. She returned to VA North Texas in 2020 and assumed the role of military sexual trauma coordinator in 2021. Her administrative role is to serve the Veterans of North Texas who have a history of MST by clarifying eligibility and working alongside other providers in offering the best available care. She is currently attached to Trauma Services and is part of the women's stress disorder sub team. Her theoretical orientation is cognitive behavioral. *Supervision roles: EBP Supervisor (CBT-I, CBT-CP, CPT) –*

Internship and DBT (Postdoc).



Dr. Hyeji Na (she/her/hers) is a licensed psychologist in the state of Texas. She received her Psy.D. in Clinical Psychology from Baylor University in 2019. She completed her predoctoral internship in medical psychology and postdoctoral fellowship in Patient Aligned Care Team (PACT)/PCMHI at VANTHCS, both experiences she loved! Following postdoc, she joined the staff in 2020 and is now currently serving as the Health Behavior Coordinator. Her clinical and research interests include health promotion, positive psychology, integrative medicine, and hypnotherapy. Her theoretical orientation is positive cognitive-behavioral, grounded in the biopsychosocial model. *Supervision roles: Internship Assessment Supervisor, EBP Supervisor (CBT-I).*



Dr. Lori Napier (she/her) earned her PsyD in Clinical Psychology from George Fox University in Newberg, Oregon in 2021. She completed her doctoral internship at the Cheyenne VAMC primarily focusing on PTSD and SUD treatment in a residential setting. She recently served as the PTSD/SUD fellow at VANTHCS with primary rotations on 5N SARRTP and the Homeless Domiciliary. Dr. Napier is currently starting her first year as a staff psychologist at VANTHCS working with outpatients on the Gold Team. Her theoretical orientation is cognitive-behavioral. Her research interests include resilience, integrating PTSD/SUD care, and strength-based factors that lead to improved mental health. She is a member of the American Psychological Association. *Supervision roles: MH Gold Team (Internship and Postdoc)*



Dr. Brad Nederostek is a licensed Psychologist in the state of Kansas. He received his Psy.D. in Clinical Psychology from La Salle University in Philadelphia in 2010. Dr. Nederostek completed the Doctoral internship at VANTHCS and a clinical fellowship in Human Sexuality at the University of Minnesota in Minneapolis in 2012. He joined the staff at VANTHCS in 2012 and currently serves as staff psychologist on the Home Based Primary Care team. His clinical interests include sexual dysfunctions, anxiety disorders, stress management, acceptance and commitment therapy, and individual and couples therapy. Research interests involve sexual health within the Veteran population and psychological factors affecting/exacerbating medical conditions. Dr. Nederostek is a member of the Dallas Psychological Association,

the Society for Sex Therapy and Research, and the American Association of Sex Educators, Counselors, and Therapists.



Dr. Abbi Pollack (she/her/hers) is a current graduate psychologist on the Primary Care Mental Health Integration Team at the Plano CBOC. She received her Psy.D. at Adler University in Chicago, Illinois in 2021. She completed a predoctoral internship at the North Texas Veterans Healthcare System General Track utilizing the wide range of clinical rotations offered. Dr. Pollack later completed a postdoctoral fellowship at a private practice in Dallas specializing in LGBTQ+ and ENM relationships, somatic symptom development/treatment, and health psychology. Her research interests include clinical implications of excessive caffeine use, Moral Injury, and psychology through pop culture.



Dr. Yaisca Pujols is a licensed psychologist in the State of Texas. She earned her PhD in Clinical Psychology from the University of Texas at Austin in 2013 and completed a psychology internship at the Austin VA Clinic within the VA Central Texas Healthcare System. She was hired after internship as the Veterans Justice Outreach Program psychologist in VA Texas Valley Coastal Bend Healthcare System, where she worked with justice-involved Veterans to address their psychotherapeutic and legal advocacy needs until 2018. Since that time, she has worked as a forensic psychological evaluator in the South Texas and Houston, Texas areas as well as working with patients on a 55-bed psychiatric inpatient unit at Rio Grande State Hospital in Harlingen, Texas. Dr. Pujols completed a brief stint as a staff psychologist from 2022 to 2023 with the Dallas VA Medical Center's substance abuse residential 28-day treatment program and is currently a Clinical Director of the Fort Worth Mental Health Outpatient Clinic. Her theoretical orientation is largely integrative and person-centered with a strong cognitive-behavioral EBP foundation. Clinical interests include treatment of comorbid mood and substance use disorders, mental health treatment of justice-involved Veterans, and cluster B personality disorders. *Supervision roles: **Fort Worth** MH Team Rotation (Internship), Assessment Supervisor (Internship).*



Dr. David Rose is a licensed Psychologist in the state of Texas. He received his Ph.D. in Counseling Psychology from Texas Woman's University in 2006. He completed his Doctoral internship at Hamilton Center, Inc. in Terre Haute, IN. Dr. Rose has been with VANTHCS since 2013 and previously served as a staff psychologist with the General DOM within the Bonham Domiciliary. He moved to the Dallas campus in 2017 and is currently serving as the Clinical Director for the Telemental Health Team. His clinical interests include: Depression, Anxiety, Couples Therapy, PTSD, and Substance Abuse. Dr. Rose's primary theoretical orientation is cognitive-behavioral. *Supervision roles: Telemental Health Rotation (Internship and Practicum).*



Dr. Sarah Sadler (she/her/hers) is a licensed psychologist on the WSD/MST subteam of the MH Trauma Team. She received her Ph.D. in Counseling Psychology at Oklahoma State University in 2017. She completed a predoctoral internship at the Central Arkansas Veterans Healthcare System in North Little Rock, Arkansas and a postdoctoral fellowship at Michael E. DeBakey VA Medical Center in Houston, Texas. Her clinical interest include PTSD, Military Sexual Trauma, and sexual functioning following sexual trauma. Her theoretical orientation combines cognitive-behavioral and humanistic approaches. *Supervision roles: EBP Supervisor (PE, CPT) – Internship.*



Dr. Alejandro Santiago-Colon (he/him/his) received his Psy.D. in Clinical Psychology from Carlos Albizu University, San Juan Campus in 2019. He completed his Predoctoral internship at Talbert House (Community Based) in Cincinnati, Ohio and Postdoctoral fellowship in Substance Use Disorders at VANTHCS. He has been on staff since 2020, specifically in the Psychiatric Inpatient Unit (2D300). His clinical and research interests include Substance Use Disorders, Personality Disorders, Homelessness, SMI, LGBTTQ+, Forensic Psychology, Harm Reduction, Group Therapy and Positive Psychology. His theoretical orientation is primarily integrating a humanistic view with a cognitive behavioral approach. He is a member of the American Psychological Association. *Supervision roles: Inpatient Psychiatry Rotation (Internship)*



Dr. LaDonna Saxon (she/her/hers) serves as the Chief of Psychology. She is a licensed Psychologist in the state of Kansas. She received her Ph.D. in Clinical Health Psychology and Behavioral Medicine from the University of North Texas in 2008 and completed a fellowship in Chronic Pain Rehabilitation at James A Haley VAMC in Tampa, FL in 2009. She is an Associate Professor in the Department of Psychiatry at University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center. Dr. Saxon serves as a trainer and consultant for the Motivational Interviewing/Motivational Enhancement Therapy and Cognitive Behavioral Therapy for Chronic Pain evidence-based psychotherapy training programs. Her clinical interests include motivational interviewing, mindfulness, and health psychology practice. She is a member of the international Motivational Interviewing Network of Trainers and the American Academy of Sleep Medicine.



Dr. Emma Shapiro (she/her/hers) earned a Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology with an emphasis in Neuropsychology from Palo Alto University in 2016. She completed a Predoctoral Internship at the Battle Creek VA in Michigan, and a two-year Neuropsychology Fellowship at the North Texas VA Health Care System. Dr. Shapiro joined the staff as a Neuropsychologist on the Spinal Cord Injury unit upon completion of her Neuropsychology Fellowship in 2018 and currently works as a Staff Neuropsychologist in the Neuropsychology Consult Clinic. Her clinical and research interests include PTSD, dementia, MS, and movement disorders. Dr. Shapiro's theoretical orientation is cognitive-behavioral. *Supervision roles: Internship Training Committee Member, Internship Assessment Supervisor, Neuropsychology Consult Team Supervisor (Practicum, Internship and Postdoc).*



Dr. Sarah Spain (she/her/hers) serves as the Associate Chief of Staff (ACOS) for Mental Health Service. She is board certified in Clinical Psychology (ABPP) and received her Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology from the University of South Florida in 2004. Dr. Spain is licensed in the state of Texas and joined VANTHCS in 2009. She is an Associate Professor in the department of Psychiatry at University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center. Her clinical interests include cognitive-behavioral psychotherapeutic interventions and DEI factors in mental health care. Dr. Spain is a member of the Association of VA Psychologist Leaders.



Dr. Lisa Thoman (she/her/hers) is a licensed Psychologist in the state of Texas. She earned her Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology from the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center at Dallas in 2003. She has been on staff at VANTHCS since 2002, and currently works within the MH Trauma Services Clinic, a specialty MH clinic which provides evidence-based assessment and psychotherapy to veterans with Posttraumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD). More specifically, Dr. Thoman provides individual, group and marital therapy to veterans of the OEF/OIF/OND era. Dr. Thoman is an Assistant Professor in the department of Psychiatry at University of Texas Southwestern Medical

Center. Dr. Thoman is the VANTHCS Evidence-Based Psychotherapy Coordinator and also serves as a national consultant to the Prolonged Exposure (PE) training rollout through VA. Her clinical interests include treatment of PTSD and other disorders related to trauma. Her theoretical orientation is integrative with cognitive-behavioral, solution-focused and systemic emphases. Her research interests include treatment of PTSD and anxiety disorders, meditation and mindfulness in treatment of mental disorders, and impact of exercise on mood and anxiety. She is a member of the American Psychological Association and Dallas Psychological Association. *Supervision roles: Postdoc Training Committee Member, MH Trauma Services Rotation (Internship and PTSD Fellowship), EBP Supervisor (CPT, PE, IBCT) – Internship and Postdoc.*



Dr. Nancy Vreeland (she/her/hers) is a licensed psychologist in the state of Texas. She received her Psy.D in Clinical Psychology from Baylor University in 2017. She completed her predoctoral internship in medical/health psychology and Postdoctoral fellowship in rehabilitation psychology at VANTHCS. She has been on staff since 2018, initially working in outpatient mental health with Diamond Team. Currently she serves Veterans receiving long-term care for medical comorbidities and those on hospice care within the CLC. Her clinical interests include health behavior intervention, chronic disease management, pain management, adjustment to disability, end-of-life care, and geropsychology. Her theoretical orientation is primarily

cognitive behavioral, including third-wave interventions such as ACT. *CLC Rotation (Internship) and CLC supervisor for Health & Rehab Fellowship.*



Dr. J. Gregory (Greg) Westhafer (he/him/his) is Board Certified in Clinical Neuropsychology (ABPP). He earned his Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology from the University of Texas at Austin. He completed his doctoral internship at the University of Alabama at Birmingham consortium and a neuropsychology fellowship at West Virginia University School of Medicine. He is a licensed Psychologist in the state of Texas. He joined VANTHCS in 2011 as a Clinical Neuropsychologist and works within the Neuropsychology Consult Team. He is an assistant Professor in the department of Psychiatry at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center. His clinical interests involve neuropsychology broadly, geropsychology, and individual and group psychotherapy. Dr. Westhafer's research interests include capacity, dementia, stroke, and healthy aging. His theoretical orientation is cognitive behavioral. He is a member of the

National Academy of Neuropsychology, International Neuropsychological Society, American Academy of Clinical Neuropsychology, and the American Psychological Association— Division 40 (Clinical Neuropsychology). *Supervision roles: Internship Assessment Supervisor, Neuropsychology Consult Team Supervisor (Internship and Postdoc)*



Dr. Elizabeth Wiley (she/her/hers) is a licensed Psychologist in the state of Texas. She earned her Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology from Texas A&M University in 2006. Dr. Wiley completed her Doctoral internship and Postdoctoral fellowship at VANTHCS and has been on staff since 2007. She currently serves as staff psychologist on the MH Silver Team. Her clinical interests involve anxiety, trauma, and insomnia. She ascribes to a cognitive behavioral theoretical orientation. *Supervision roles: MH Silver Team Rotation (Internship).*



Dr. Andrea Zartman (she/her/hers) is Board Certified in Clinical Neuropsychology (ABPP). She earned her Ph.D. in Clinical Health Psychology and Behavioral Medicine from the University of North Texas in 2006. She completed her Doctoral internship at VANTHCS (2006) and a Neuropsychology fellowship within the VA South Texas Health Care System (2008). She currently serves as the Clinical Director of the Behavioral Health Team at VANTHCS as well as a staff neuropsychologist on the Neuropsychology Consult Service. Dr. Zartman is an Associate Professor in the department of Psychiatry at University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center. Her clinical interests

include Rehabilitation, TBI and blast injury, stroke, movement disorders and coping with chronic medical illness. Research interests include Traumatic Brain Injury and ecological validity of neurocognitive assessment. Dr. Zartman's theoretical orientation is cognitive-behavioral. She is a member of the National Academy of Neuropsychology, International Neuropsychological Society, American Psychological Association – Division 40 (Clinical Neuropsychology), and the Association of VA Psychologist Leaders. *Supervision roles: Internship Assessment Supervisor, Neuropsychology Consult Team Supervisor (Internship and Postdoc).*

Appendix B: Past Interns by School, Specialty and Degree

2022-2023

SCHOOL	SPECIALTY	DEGREE TYPE
Chicago School of Professional Psychology - DC	Clinical	Psy.D.
William James College	Clinical	Psy.D.
Wright State University	Clinical	Psy.D.
Stanford – PGSP Consortium	Clinical	Psy.D.
University of Kansas	Clinical	Ph.D.
Carlos Albizu University – San Juan	Clinical	Psy.D.
Texas Woman’s University	Counseling	Ph.D.
University of North Texas	Clinical	Ph.D.

2021-2022

SCHOOL	SPECIALTY	DEGREE TYPE
Illinois School of Professional Psychology	Clinical	Psy.D.
University of Indianapolis	Clinical	Psy.D.
George Fox University	Clinical	Psy.D.
Mercer University	Clinical	Psy.D.
University of Alabama	Clinical	Ph.D.
Carlos Albizu University – Miami	Clinical	Psy.D.
Carlos Albizu University – San Juan	Clinical	Psy.D.
University of North Texas	Clinical	Ph.D.

2020-2021

SCHOOL	SPECIALTY	DEGREE TYPE
University of Mississippi	Clinical	Ph.D.
Carlos Albizu University – Miami Campus	Clinical	Psy.D.
Regent University	Clinical	Psy.D.
University of North Texas	Counseling	Ph.D.
Adler University – Chicago	Clinical	Psy.D.
Rosalind Franklin University Med & Science	Clinical	Ph.D.
William James College	Clinical	Psy.D.
Midwestern University – Glendale	Clinical	Psy.D.

2019-2020

SCHOOL	SPECIALTY	DEGREE TYPE
University of North Dakota	Clinical	Ph.D.
Carlos Albizu University – San Juan Campus	Clinical	Ph.D.
Chicago School of Professional Psychology	Clinical	Psy.D.
University of Tulsa	Clinical	Ph.D.
University of Nevada – Reno	Clinical	Ph.D.
William James College	Clinical	Psy.D.
Texas Woman’s University	Counseling	Ph.D.
Texas A&M University	Clinical	Ph.D.

2018-2019

SCHOOL	SPECIALTY	DEGREE TYPE
Texas Tech University	Counseling	Ph.D.
University of North Texas	Clinical	Ph.D.
Georgia School of Professional Psychology	Clinical	Psy.D.
Spalding University	Clinical	Psy.D.
University of Nevada Las Vegas	Clinical	Ph.D.
Adler School of Professional Psychology	Clinical	Psy.D.
Azusa Pacific University	Clinical	Psy.D.
Washington State University	Counseling	Ph.D.

2017-2018

SCHOOL	SPECIALTY	DEGREE TYPE
University of Iowa	Counseling	Ph.D.
Florida School of Professional Psychology	Clinical	Psy.D.
Chicago School of Professional Psychology	Clinical	Psy.D.
Loma Linda University	Clinical	Psy.D.
Baylor University	Clinical	Ph.D.
Baylor University	Clinical	Psy.D.
Indiana State University	Clinical	Psy.D.
University of Louisville	Clinical	Ph.D.

2016-2017

SCHOOL	SPECIALTY	DEGREE TYPE
University of Louisville	Clinical	Ph.D.
Philadelphia School of Osteopathic Medicine	Clinical	Psy.D.
George Fox University	Clinical	Psy.D.
University of North Texas	Clinical	Ph.D.
University of Akron	Counseling	Ph.D.
Texas Women’s University	Counseling	Ph.D.
University of Houston	Clinical	Ph.D.
Wright Institute	Clinical	Psy.D.

2015-2016

SCHOOL	SPECIALTY	DEGREE TYPE
Philadelphia School of Osteopathic Medicine	Clinical	Psy.D.
Jackson State University	Clinical	Ph.D.
Texas Tech University	Counseling	Ph.D.
Southern Methodist University	Clinical	Ph.D.
Loma Linda University	Clinical	Psy.D.
University of North Texas	Clinical	Ph.D.
University of Akron	Counseling	Ph.D.

2014-2015

SCHOOL	SPECIALTY	DEGREE TYPE
Chicago School of Prof Psych	Clinical	Psy.D.
Roosevelt University	Clinical	Psy.D.
Texas Women’s University	Counseling	Ph.D.
University of North Texas	Clinical	Ph.D.
Southern Methodist University	Clinical	PhD

University of Oklahoma
Chicago School of Prof Psych

Counseling
Clinical

Ph.D.
Psy.D.

2013-2014

SCHOOL

Southern Methodist University
Jackson State U.
Chicago School of Prof. Psych
Oklahoma State U.
University of North Texas
Wright Institute
University of Louisville

SPECIALTY

Clinical
Clinical
Clinical
Counseling
Counseling
Clinical
Clinical

DEGREE TYPE

Ph.D.
Ph.D.
Psy.D.
Ph.D.
Ph.D.
Psy.D
Ph.D.

2012-2013

SCHOOL

S.M.U.
University of Houston
Kent State University
Nova Southeastern University
University of North Texas
Wright Institute

SPECIALTY

Clinical
Counseling
Clinical
Clinical
Clinical
Clinical

DEGREE TYPE

Ph.D.
Ph.D.
Ph.D.
Psy.D.
Ph.D.
Psy.D

2011-2012

SCHOOL

Wright Institute
University of Akron
Baylor U.
Southwester Methodist University
Wheaton College
University of Nevada, Las Vegas

SPECIALTY

Clinical
Counseling
Clinical
Clinical
Clinical
Clinical

DEGREE TYPE

Psy.D
Ph.D.
Psy.D.
Ph.D.
Psy.D.
Ph.D.

2010-2011

SCHOOL

Argosy University, Tampa
Philadelphia School of Osteopathic Medicine
University of Louisville
University of Nevada, Las Vegas
University of North Texas
University of Northern Colorado

SPECIALTY

Clinical
Clinical
Counseling
Clinical
Clinical
Clinical

DEGREE TYPE

Psy.D
Psy.D.
Ph.D.
Ph.D.
Ph.D.
Ph.D.

2009-2010

SCHOOL

Argosy University, Phoenix
LaSalle University
Texas Tech University
University of Louisville
University of North Texas
University of Western Michigan

SPECIALTY

Clinical
Clinical
Clinical
Clinical
Clinical
Counseling

DEGREE TYPE

Psy.D.
Psy.D.
Ph.D.
Ph.D.
Ph.D.
Ph.D.

2008-2009

SCHOOL	SPECIALTY	DEGREE TYPE
Argosy University, Tampa	Clinical	Psy.D.
Nova Southeastern University	Clinical	Psy.D.
Pacific University, Oregon	Clinical	Psy.D.
Pacific University Palo Alto	Clinical	Ph.D.
Regent University	Clinical	Psy.D.
University of North Texas	Clinical	Ph.D.

2007-2008

SCHOOL	SPECIALTY	DEGREE TYPE
Nova Southeastern University	Counseling	Psy.D.
Nova Southeastern University	Counseling	Ph.D.
Texas A & M	Clinical	Ph.D.
University of Colorado	Clinical	Ph.D.
Argosy University of Georgia	Clinical	Psy.D.

2006-2007

SCHOOL	SPECIALTY	DEGREE TYPE
Spaulding University	Clinical	Psy.D.
University of S. Mississippi	Clinical	Ph.D.
University of North Texas	Clinical	Ph.D.
Iowa State University	Counseling	Ph.D.
University of Memphis	Clinical	Ph.D.

2005-2006

SCHOOL	SPECIALTY	DEGREE TYPE
University of Hartford	Clinical	Psy.D.
University Virginia Beach	Clinical	Psy.D.
Wright State University	Clinical	Psy.D.
Texas A & M	Clinical	Ph.D.
University of North Texas	Clinical	Ph.D.

2004-2005

SCHOOL	SPECIALTY	DEGREE TYPE
Forest Schl. Of Prof. Psych.	Clinical	Psy.D.
Nova Southeastern University	Clinical	Psy.D.
Baylor University	Clinical	Psy.D.
University of North Texas	Clinical	Ph.D.
Illinois Institute of Technology	Clinical	Ph.D.