

Orlando VA Healthcare System Psychology Postdoctoral Fellowship Program Brochure (2024-2025)



Department of Veterans Affairs

Orlando VA Healthcare System

Dear potential applicants,

We are delighted that you are considering the Orlando VA Healthcare System for your postdoctoral fellowship! Making an informed decision on which fellowship would be a good fit for your interests and training needs is a difficult task. The Orlando VA is one of the largest VA healthcare systems in the country and offers a diverse and rich training environment. The fellowship offers individuals the ability to gain specialized training and experience working with trauma/PTSD or health psychology. Additionally, to meet your unique training and career goals, we place a large emphasis on tailoring the training experiences to each fellow. The staff within our training program are committed to providing a quality and fulfilling fellowship that will prepare you for the next step in your career. Please take a closer look at our materials and do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions regarding our program.

Sincerely,

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

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THE SETTING

ORLANDO, FLORIDA

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



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

Access to world-class entertainment is only a part of what living in Central Florida has to offer. Nicknamed "The City Beautiful," Orlando is the third-largest metropolitan area in Florida with a population of roughly 2.5 million in the greater Central Florida region. Orlando is an ethnically diverse city with population consisting of 35% White individuals, 34% Hispanic, 23% Black, 4% Asian, and 12% Two+/Native/Other (based on Census Data). Orlando is known as an LGBTQ+ friendly community, achieving a perfect score on the Human Rights Campaign's Municipal Equality Index, which measures the LGBTQ+ inclusiveness of cities' laws, policies, and services.



Central Florida is also a paradise for nature lovers. The Orlando VA catchment area includes world-class beaches including Daytona Beach and Cocoa Beach. Natural springs are spread throughout the region and offer opportunities to get up close with nature and wildlife. Popular natural springs include Blue Springs, where manatees can be seen up close and personal at certain times of the year.



ORLANDO VA HEALTHCARE SYSTEM

The Orlando VA Healthcare System (OVAHCS) was officially established as a new VA facility in 2006. It has grown to become the fourth-largest VA medical center in the country and serves close to 200,000 Veterans in Central Florida. It includes one of the nation's newest VA hospitals in Lake Nona with 370 operating beds, including a 120-bed Community Living Center in Lake Nona and two residential rehabilitation programs (Lake Nona and Lake Baldwin). The OVAHCS has health care services at 13 locations serving east central Florida. Facilities include our hospital at Lake Nona and 11 community-based outpatient clinics in Clermont, Daytona Beach, Deltona, Kissimmee, Orlando, Palm Bay, Port Orange, Tavares, Viera, and Winter Park.

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



POSTDOCTORAL FELLOWSHIP IN CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGY

MISSION

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



TRAINING MODEL

The psychology postdoctoral fellowship at the Orlando VA Healthcare System follows a scholar practitioner model of training. The fellowship is an integrated component of a multilevel training program at the Orlando VA.

The fellowship program focuses on advanced clinical practices that prepare Fellows to function independently as a psychologist. The fellowship program provides generalist training within a specific area of focus (trauma/PTSD or health psychology). Each Fellow will receive a range of clinical experiences and trainings that hone their general clinical skills while offering advanced knowledge of skills within an area of specialty. Each Fellow's experience is tailored to meet their specific training and professional goals.

Our generalist approach to training emphasizes evidence-based practice that converges clinical expertise, research, and individual patient characteristics. Such individual attributes include aspects of diversity, personal values, strengths, and histories, as well as demographic variables and culture. Fellows receive specific training in the delivery of evidence-based psychotherapies within their specialty.



Our training program values active learning and supervision. Supervision of Fellows follows a junior colleague model, affording Fellows a graduated level of responsibility, culminating with the expectation that Fellows are fully prepared for licensure attainment and independent practice by the end of the Fellowship. Continual communication between the Fellow and their supervisor is expected, with Fellows providing ongoing feedback to their supervisors regarding the supervision process and their supervisory needs. Additionally, Fellows are expected to provide ongoing feedback and evaluation of the training program as a whole.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

Over the course of the training year, Fellows will be able to demonstrate competency within the following areas:

1. Integration of science and practice
2. Ethical and legal standards
3. Individual and cultural diversity
4. Advanced clinical competency
5. Supervision competency

DIVERSITY

The Orlando VA Healthcare System serves our nation's Veterans, who represent a wide range of cultural and individual differences and diversity as including, but not limited to, age, disability, ethnicity, gender, gender identity, language, national origin, race, religion, culture, sexual orientation, and socioeconomic status. The Psychology Training Program is deeply committed to the appreciation of diversity as well as the development of multicultural competence. The fellowship program incorporates a variety of training experiences to help Fellows expand their awareness, knowledge and appreciation related to diversity and cultural factors. Issues related to culture and diversity are highlighted



throughout didactics and seminars, readings, other learning activities, and clinical supervision.

PROGRAM STRUCTURE

The OVAHCS Fellowship is a generalist training experience that is individually tailored to an emphasis area of either trauma/PTSD or health psychology. Fellows will spend 32 hours per week engaging in clinical work within their specialty area of choice; either the Trauma Recovery Specialty Team (TRuST) or the Health Psychology program. Of note, even though these are specialty clinics, the diagnostic overlap within our Veteran population is such that each Fellow will encounter a range of presentations within each clinic and thus develop their generalist skills as well as trauma- or health psychology-specific skills.

The eight hours not dedicated to clinical activities are spent in formal educational, supervisory, and professional development activities. Additional complementary clinical experiences may be added based on the individual Fellow's training and professional development goals.

DIDACTIC/TRAINING SEMINARS

Postdoctoral Fellows engage in didactics and training seminars throughout the year. An Advanced Topics didactic and discussion series spans a wide range of areas and topics to increase the breadth and depth of clinical skills and knowledge. Fellows also participate in didactics on clinical supervision to promote development knowledge and skills related to supervising. The training in clinical supervision includes a supervisory-like experience providing clinical consultation to psychology interns. Fellows receive additional individual supervision on their supervision of interns from clinical staff.

MENTORSHIP PROGRAM

Fellows have the option to participate in the trainee mentorship program, where they select a faculty member from a list of available mentors. The mentor and Fellow decide on the frequency of their meetings and the topics discussed, and the relationship is designed to be non-evaluative and supportive. Examples of areas of focus in the mentor/Fellow relationship have included discussions related to career planning, work/life balance, and professional development.



SAMPLE FELLOW WEEKLY SCHEDULE

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	
8:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.	Clinical Practice	Professional Development Time	Clinical Practice	Clinical Practice	Clinical Practice	
9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.		Vertical Supervision with Intern & Intern’s Supervisor				
10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.						Training in Supervision Didactic
11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.						
12:00 p.m. – 12:30 p.m.	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	
12:30 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.	Administrative Time	Fellows’ Socialization Time	Administrative Time	Administrative Time	Administrative Time	
1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.	Clinical Practice	Advanced Topics Discussion	Clinical Practice	Clinical Practice	Clinical Practice	
2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.						Professional Development Time
3:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.						
4:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.	Administrative Time	Administrative Time	Administrative Time	Administrative Time	Administrative Time	

MAJOR CLINICAL EXPERIENCES

TRAUMA RECOVERY SPECIALTY TEAM (TRUST)

The Trauma Recovery Specialty Team (TRuST) is the Posttraumatic Stress Disorder Clinical Team (PCT) at the Orlando VA Healthcare System. The TRuST team specializes in the assessment and treatment of trauma-related disorders, with an emphasis on Posttraumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD). Fellows with a focus on trauma will be an integrated member of the TRuST team and receive specialized training in the assessment and treatment of PTSD and trauma-related disorders. The assessment of PTSD and trauma includes advanced diagnostic evaluations to differentiate PTSD from other trauma-related disorders (e.g., depression, anxiety, panic, personality disorders, cognitive disorders). Fellows will also provide individual and group psychotherapy aimed at helping Veterans recover from trauma-related symptoms. Treatment of PTSD emphasizes evidence-based psychotherapies, including both Prolonged Exposure and Cognitive Processing Therapy for PTSD. The fellow can also elect to participate in the VISN (i.e., Florida, Puerto Rico, and southern Georgia) Virtual Intensive Outpatient Program to provide massed PE or CPT over 4 weeks or massed DBT or DBTPE over 8 weeks. The TRuST team also offers options for additional clinical experiences such as clinical cases with more complex presentations of trauma, eating disorders, nightmares, insomnia, and moral injury through training in EBPs such as ACT, CBT-ED, CBT-N, CBT-I, CPT group, and Building Spiritual Strength. Fellows also have the option of participating as members of the Dialectical Behavior Therapy (DBT) team, including co-leading DBT skills group and working with individual DBT patients. DEI is highly valued in this team and is incorporated throughout all levels of training and supervision. The TRuST patient population is highly diverse, serving Veterans across a broad range of military eras, age, race, ethnicity, sexual identity and orientation, spiritual and religious beliefs, disability, and types of traumas.

Location(s): Lake Nona and/or Lake Baldwin

Supervisors: Laura Meyers, Ph.D., ABPP, Laurel Brown, Ph.D., Noelle Balliett, Ph.D., Heather Kacos, Psy.D., Savannah McSheffrey, Ph.D., Marty Strachan, Ph.D., Mimi Zhao, Ph.D., & Jacqueline Lefebre, Psy.D.

HEALTH PSYCHOLOGY

The Health Psychology area of emphasis offers fellows the opportunity to gain a wide range of health psychology experiences. Fellows will provide care on multidisciplinary teams through consultation, groups and/or shared medical appointments. Training areas may include pre-surgical assessments, nicotine cessation, weight management, chronic pain, sleep, adherence to medical recommendations, and adjustment to medical illness. Fellows will have the opportunity to complete brief health behavior assessments and provide individual and group treatment utilizing motivational interviewing, cognitive-behavioral and acceptance-based approaches.

The fellow will become proficient in conducting pre-surgical psychological assessments (e.g., emotional, behavioral, cognitive assessment) for Veterans undergoing evaluation for organ transplant, bariatric surgery, spinal cord stimulators, and gender confirmation surgeries. There are also opportunities to provide psychoeducation in a group setting for Veterans seeking surgery or transplant.

Within the Pain Clinic, the fellow will have the opportunity to provide Cognitive Behavioral Therapy for Chronic Pain (CBT-CP) and Acceptance and Commitment Therapy (ACT) for chronic pain. Fellows can also be part of interdisciplinary treatment team meetings with providers from other disciplines in the Pain Clinic, during which time Veterans with high-risk opioid use are reviewed and multidisciplinary recommendations to support safe use are made.

Fellows will also work with a Health Behavior Coordinator to gain experience providing nicotine cessation treatment in both individual and group settings, which includes a strong emphasis on Motivational Interviewing. These opportunities include collaboration and co-facilitation with other disciplines (e.g., Pharmacy) and development of nicotine cessation programming across the hospital. The fellow will also have the opportunity to co-facilitate weight management groups with other disciplines. Lastly, the fellow may choose to be involved in Motivational Interviewing staff trainings to practice consultation and teaching skills with disciplines across the hospital.

The fellow will also have the opportunity to acquire knowledge regarding the science of sleep as well as gaining skills for the effective treatment of common sleep concerns in the Veteran population including insomnia, nightmares, and difficulty adhering to PAP (positive airway pressure) therapy. The fellow will have the option to gain proficiency in evidence-based approaches including CBT for Insomnia (CBT-I), CBT for Nightmares (CBT-N), and/or PAP desensitization. Training will also include learning to consult with other medical providers to provide sleep-related recommendations for patient care.



Fellows will shadow in the Sleep Clinic and interface with Sleep Clinic staff to deepen understanding of sleep medicine. Additionally, the fellow will gain competencies in higher level administrative tasks including consult management.

Location: Lake Nona, Lake Baldwin

Supervisor(s): Laurie Wolf, Ph.D., Bryant Steury, Psy.D., Jessica McDonald, Psy.D., M.S.W., and Noelle Balliett, Ph.D.



EVIDENCE-BASED PSYCHOTHERAPIES

Fellows may have the opportunity to receive specific training and consultation in various evidence-based psychotherapies in conjunction with their area of emphasis. Often the trainings include formal, multiday VA trainings with follow-up consultation. Past trainings in evidence-based psychotherapies have included Cognitive Processing Therapy (CPT) for PTSD, Prolonged Exposure (PE) for PTSD, and Cognitive Behavioral Therapy for Substance Use Disorders. The availability of specific trainings may vary each year. Specific training requirements are associated with each evidence-based psychotherapy training. Time commitments vary and may often last for six months to one year.

Location(s): Various

Supervisor(s): Various

DIDACTIC AND TRAINING SEMINARS

ADVANCED TOPICS SERIES

Advanced Topics Series is a didactic and discussion opportunity to add to both the breadth and depth of clinical and professional knowledge and skills. The seminar covers a variety of areas ranging from evidence-based practice/treatments, cultural and diversity factors, relevant clinical topics, and professional development. Fellows and series facilitators incorporate review of topics, relevant literature, and in-depth discussions to promote advanced understanding and ability to critically evaluate topic areas. The series may occasionally include joint didactics with Psychiatry Residents and Psychology Interns. As part of the Advanced Topics Series, Fellows will present on a relevant topic area to the training program (e.g., postdoctoral Fellows, interns, and psychology staff).

Recent topics for Advanced Topic Series include:

Suicide Risk Assessment and the Baker Act	Diversity Considerations for Trauma Treatment
Military Culture	ACT as a Transdiagnostic Approach
Intersection of Chronic Pain & Trauma	Diversity Considerations for Assessment
Interventions for Trauma-Related Nightmares	Administrative Aspects of Mental Health: Challenges and Ethical Implications
Intersectionality in LGBT+ Veterans	Race-Based Stress and Trauma
Professional Development: Job Searches and Negotiation	Concurrent Treatment of PTSD and Substance Use Disorders
Florida Laws and Rules	Complex Trauma
ABPP Board Certification	Psychopharmacology for PTSD and Substance Use Disorders
Preparing for the EPPP	Professional Development: Transitioning to Independent Practice
Trauma and Aging	
Advocacy in Mental Health	

TRAINING IN CLINICAL SUPERVISION

The *Vertical Supervision* program promotes the Fellow's development of emerging skills in clinical supervision, including knowledge of and sensitivity to ethical, legal and multicultural issues in providing supervision, formal educational, and experiential training throughout the year.

To facilitate the transition from supervisee to potential supervisor in his/her professional endeavors, Fellows receive didactics on supervision of supervision and, on selected rotations, have direct experience providing supervision-like clinical consultation to interns while receiving supervision on this supervision from the licensed psychologist responsible for the case. The Fellow is expected to demonstrate understanding of basic supervision concepts and principles, and the developmental process of clinical supervision, and to begin to develop a philosophy or model for their own practice of supervision. The Fellow is also expected to demonstrate understanding of the complexity of the supervisor role including ethical, legal, and contextual issues, and to demonstrate an awareness of the current needs of supervised trainees, including how to provide developmentally appropriate feedback.

MENTAL HEALTH GRAND ROUNDS

Fellows are able to attend monthly Mental Health Service Grand Rounds topics vary throughout the year and are informed by peer-reviewed research and cultural/population-based considerations and are often presented from a variety of professional viewpoints (e.g., Psychiatry, Social Work, etc.). Fellows are strongly encouraged to attend and present to Mental Health Grand Rounds. Other interdisciplinary Grand Rounds, Medical Center Grand Rounds, or other educational offerings may also be available throughout the year and are also optional for Fellows.

INTERPROFESSIONAL LUNCH AND LEARN

Fellows have the option of attending Orlando VA's monthly Interprofessional Lunch and Learn. This learning activity is open to all Orlando VA trainees, from over 70 different professional training programs. The sessions cover a wide arrange of professional and clinical topics relevant to all professionals working in the VA healthcare system.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

The training program encourages and values the pursuit of training opportunities beyond those offered within the clinical experiences. Fellows are provided with a list of available mentors and their areas of interest/expertise and are encouraged to meet as many of the staff as possible early in their training year to determine if they would like to work with one of them as a Mentor. Mentors serve as non-evaluative staff, and therefore cannot not be one of the Fellow's clinical supervisors. The Mentor's primary role is to be a resource to assist the Fellow's professional development, both within the program and by helping to plan their path towards becoming early-career psychologist.

Built into each Fellows' schedule is professional development/flex time, which Fellows may spend with their mentor, preparing professional presentations, manuscripts or conducting clinical research, preparing for the licensure exam, job-seeking, or engaging in other professional endeavors. It is our aim that each Fellow will complete the training year fully prepared for licensure and with employment secured.



POSTDOCTORAL RESIDENCY ADMISSIONS, SUPPORT, AND INITIAL PLACEMENT DATA

Date Program Tables are updated: May 25th, 2023

POSTDOCTORAL 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:

- Fellows must have completed all degree requirements for a Ph.D. or Psy.D. in Clinical or Counseling Psychology from an APA-, CPA-, or PCSAS-accredited program.
- Fellows must have completed an APA- or CPA-accredited internship.

Describe any other required minimum criteria used to screen applicants:

- Fellow must be a citizen of the United States. The Department of Veterans Affairs is unable to consider applications from anyone who is not currently a U.S. Citizen. Verification of citizenship is required following selection. All Fellows must complete a Certification of Citizenship in the United States prior to the beginning of VA training.
- Federal law requires that most males living in the US between the ages of 18 and 26 register with the Selective Service System. Male, for this purpose, is any individual assigned male on their birth certificate regardless of current gender. Males required to register who failed to do so by their 26th birthday are barred from holding any position in any Executive Agency. Visit <https://www.sss.gov> to register for the Selective Service System, print proof of registration, or apply for a Status Information Letter.
- Postdoctoral Fellows are subject to fingerprinting and background checks following match selection. Match results and selection decisions are contingent on passing these screens.



- The Department of Veterans Affairs is a drug-free workplace in accordance with federal mandates and laws. All VA employees, including trainees, are subject to randomized drug screening. Ongoing participation in the internship is contingent on passing these screens. For additional information, please refer to the VA’s Office of Academic Affiliation (OAA) at [VA Drug-Free Workplace Program Guide for Veterans Health Administration Health Professions Trainees](#).
- Health Professions Trainees (HPTs), including Psychology Postdoctoral Fellows and Interns, 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 Orlando VA Training Director will provide you with the information you need to understand the requirement and reasons for the requirement in timely manner.
- Please review the VA’s Office of Academic Affiliations “[Am I Eligible? Checklist for VA HPTs](#)” for a list of additional eligibility requirements.

FINANCIAL AND OTHER BENEFIT SUPPORT FOR UPCOMING TRAINING YEAR

Annual Stipend/Salary for Full-time Interns	\$52,005
Annual Stipend/Salary for Half-time Interns	n/a
Program provides access to medical insurance for intern?	Yes
If access to medical insurance is provided:	
Trainee contribution to cost required?	Yes
Coverage of family member(s) available?	Yes
Coverage of legally married partner available?	Yes
Coverage of domestic partner available?	Yes
Hours of Annual Paid Personal Time Off (PTO and/or Vacation)	104
Hours of Annual Paid Sick Leave	104



In the event of medical conditions and/or family needs that require extended leave, does the program allow reasonable unpaid leave to interns/residents in excess of personal time off and sick leave?	Yes
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FINANCIAL AND OTHER BENEFIT SUPPORT FOR UPCOMING TRAINING YEAR
(Continued)

Other benefits (please describe):
Fellows qualify for Federal vision and dental benefits. Fellows may also be additionally allocated up to five days of authorized absence (AA) for professional development activities (e.g. conferences, presentations, interviews, or meetings with academic program advisor/ faculty). The United States government covers Fellows for malpractice under the Federal Liability Reform Tort Act. Please note that Florida does not have a state income tax.

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

INITIAL POST-RESIDENCY POSITIONS

(Provided an Aggregated Tally for the Preceding 3 Cohorts)

	2019-2022	
Total # of fellows who were in the 3 cohorts	6	
Total # of fellows who remain in training in the fellowship program	0	
	PD	EP
Academic teaching	0	0
Community mental health center	0	0
Consortium	0	0
University Counseling Center	0	0
Hospital/Medical Center	0	0
Veterans Affairs Health Care System	0	6
Psychiatric facility	0	0
Correctional facility	0	0
Health maintenance organization	0	0
School district/system	0	0
Independent practice setting	0	0
Other	0	0

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

APPLYING TO THE FELLOWSHIP

Number of Available Postdoctoral Fellowship Positions: 2

APPIC MATCH NUMBER

9167

FELLOWSHIP YEAR

August 11th, 2024 – August 9th, 2025

The Fellowship is a one-year, full-time appointment (constituting 2080 hours). Stipend funding is not available for any extension. Unpaid maternity/paternity leave is available; all Fellows are required to complete 12 months of training, and thus any use of extended leave will require a discussion with the Training Director and an update to their individualized training plan.

INTERVIEWS & SELECTION PROCESS

The application process for the Psychology Postdoctoral Fellowship is completed online through the APPA CAS portal at <https://appicpostdoc.liaisoncas.com>. Individual interviews will be conducted by invitation only, following initial evaluation of application materials. Current information on interview dates and format (e.g., virtual, in-person, etc.) can be found in APPIC's Universal Psychology Postdoctoral Directory (UPPD) which can be accessed on APPIC'S website (www.appic.org).

Our training program follows the APPIC postdoctoral selection guidelines: [Postdoctoral Selection Standards \(appic.org\)](#).

Complete application packets and materials must be received by us **by 11:59 PM Eastern Time Zone December 10, 2023** for consideration for Fellowship appointment beginning the following August 2024.

Your online APPA CAS application package should include:

- Completed APPA CAS application
- Current official graduate transcript(s)
- Three letters of reference from faculty members or internship supervisors who know you and your work well with two of the letters being from internship supervisors.
- Cover letter

- Curriculum vitae
- A letter from your Internship Training Director that an APA-accredited internship will be completed before the start date of the Fellowship.
- A letter from your APA-accredited graduate program Training Director that the Ph.D./Psy.D. has been awarded or that all degree requirements will be completed before the start date of the Fellowship.

INTERVIEWS

Individual interviews will be conducted by invitation only, following initial evaluation of application materials. Applicants invited for interviews will be notified by **January 5th, 2024**.

All interviews will be virtual and are scheduled for **January 24th, 2024**.

NON-DISCRIMINATION

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

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

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

SUPERVISED DUTY HOURS

The typical supervised duty hours or "Tour of Duty" is 8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. Fellows may be permitted to make minor adjustments to these hours to align with their clinical supervisor or clinic schedule.



ACCREDITATION STATUS

The Orlando VA Psychology Postdoctoral Fellowship Program is accredited by the American Psychological Association (APA).

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

The Orlando VA Psychology Postdoctoral Fellowship Program is a member of APPIC. The Program abides by the APPIC Fellowship selection and notification guidelines.



POSTDOCTORAL FELLOWSHIP CONTACT INFORMATION

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

Physical Address

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

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

APPENDIX A: FACULTY & STAFF

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

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

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

TRAINING STAFF

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

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

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

SUPERVISORY STAFF & FACULTY

Noelle Balliett, Ph.D., Trauma Recovery Specialty Team, Virtual. Dr. Balliett is a Staff Psychologist in the TRuST team. She completed her undergraduate work at Wake Forest University and received her PhD in clinical psychology from The University of Tulsa. She completed her pre-doctoral internship at the Bay Pines VA Medical Center and her postdoctoral residency in evidence-based psychotherapy in the Anxiety Disorders Clinic at the VA San Diego Healthcare System. She is licensed in the state of Washington. Dr. Balliett's research interests include the treatment of trauma related nightmares; the role of sleep in the development and maintenance of PTSD; treatment dissemination; and the impact of sleep on treatment engagement and effectiveness. Her clinical interests include treatment of PTSD and nightmares, use of evidence-based interventions, and culturally informed care. She serves as a trainer for Exposure,

Relaxation, and Rescription Therapy for trauma-related nightmares. Dr. Balliett's professional diversity interests include the impact of cultural factors on evidence-based psychotherapies, improvement of access to services, and working with historically marginalized populations. She especially enjoys supervising trainees in evidence-based interventions such as Prolonged Exposure, Cognitive Processing Therapy, CBT for Insomnia, and Exposure, Relaxation, and Rescription Therapy for trauma-related nightmares.

Laurel G. Brown, Ph.D., *Trauma Recovery Specialty Team (TRuST-PTSD treatment team), Lake Baldwin*. She earned her doctorate in Clinical Psychology from the University of California, Santa Barbara. She completed her pre-doctoral internship at the Northport VAMC, specializing in the treatment of PTSD and co-occurring substance use and personality disorders. Following internship, she completed a postdoctoral clinical fellowship at VA Boston in the PTSD and Women's Trauma Recovery Team clinics. She then took a research fellowship at the Behavioral Science Division of the National Center for PTSD where she collaborated with researchers in the NCPTSD. At VA Boston, she was involved in training practicum, intern, and postdoctoral clinical and research trainees and served as the PTSD track co-leader within the fellowship program. She moved to Orlando VA in 2021 and currently supervises trainees through TRuST, as well as in PE, CPT, and DBT. She has a strong passion for supervision and fostering trainees' growth and development. Her major clinical and research interests are in the areas of PTSD treatment, co-occurring disorders, moral injury, and provider burnout and vicarious traumatization/secondary traumatic stress. Personally, she is thrilled to be back in a warmer climate and enjoying all the outdoor activities that Florida has to offer.

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

Savannah McSheffrey, Ph.D., *TRuST-PTSD treatment team, Lake Baldwin*, completed her undergraduate work at the University of South Florida and received her doctorate in clinical psychology from the University of Rhode Island. Her predoctoral and postdoctoral training were both completed at Boston VA Healthcare System with an

emphasis in treating PTSD. She then worked as a staff psychologist at the Rhode Island Hospital Partial Hospital Program and was a clinical assistant professor at the Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University. She moved to Orlando VA in 2020 and provides supervision to trainees in evidence-based approaches including Dialectical Behavioral Therapy, Prolonged Exposure, and Cognitive Processing Therapy. Her clinical interests include working with underserved populations, trauma, emotion dysregulation, and Borderline Personality Disorder.

Laura Meyers, PhD, ABPP, is the Program Manager of the *Trauma Recovery Specialty Team (TRuST – PTSD treatment team)* and a Psychology Supervisor at Lake Nona. She earned her PhD in Clinical-Community Psychology at the University of South Carolina in 2006, completed internship at the Bay Pines VA Healthcare System, completed a postdoctoral fellowship in Health Psychology and Serious Mental Illness at the Minneapolis VA Healthcare System, and completed her ABPP certification in Clinical Psychology. She worked on the new Primary Care Mental Health Integration Team at the Minneapolis VA for 5 years, co-directed the DBT program, and was the Evidence-based Psychotherapy Coordinator. She then worked as the Program Coordinator for the PTSD treatment team at the Minneapolis VA for 5 years and developed and ran the Journeys Program, a national 12-week intensive outpatient program that provided DBT and PE. She then moved to the Orlando VA in 2017 to help develop the PTSD program and because Minneapolis is chilly. She is certified in Cognitive Processing Therapy (CPT) and Prolonged Exposure (PE) and is a national trainer and consultant for PE. She is also certified in Dialectical Behavior Therapy (DBT) by the DBT-Linehan Board of Certification and a VA national Subject Matter Expert in DBT and co-developed the VA DBT roll-out as a trainer and consultant. She loves to supervise all levels of trainees in evidence-based approaches for trauma and/or Borderline Personality Disorder, specifically PE, CPT, DBT, ACT, and IBCT. Her primary approach in supervision is to help trainees explore their professional and personal values and figure out how to most effectively make the world a better place. It's time to start enjoying life instead of just accomplishing the next thing! She loves spending time with her family and fostering dogs, who are the perfect examples of inconsistently applied behavioral principles (both her kids and the dogs).

DIDACTIC INSTRUCTORS, AVAILABLE MENTORS, AND OTHER POSTDOCTORAL FELLOWSHIP TRAINING STAFF

Alicia Agana, Psy.D., *PCMHI Viera Clinic*, is a licensed psychologist working in Primary Care Mental Health (PCMH) at the Viera Outpatient Clinic. She works as a behavioral health consultant to primary care physicians, nurses, pharmacists, dietitians, and other members of the Patient Aligned Care Team (PACT) and provides same day

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

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

Teri Carper, Ph.D. is the Chief of Connected Care at the Orlando VAHCS as well as the VISN8 Telemental Health Lead. She completed her undergraduate work at Boston University and earned her Ph.D. in 2010 from the University of Central Florida (UCF). Dr. Carper completed her doctoral internship at Boston Consortium for Clinical Psychology and her postdoctoral fellowship at the National Center for PTSD at Boston VA, where she also held the positions of Clinical Fellow in Psychiatry at Harvard Medical School and Teaching Fellow in Psychiatry at Boston University School of

Medicine. Dr. Carper's clinical and research interests center around trauma trajectories and resiliency factors, and she is currently a PI or co-I on three research projects. Dr. Carper's personal interests include animals, distance running, skiing, and most importantly, spending time with her husband and twin daughter and son.

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

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

Alysa Ivey, Psy.D., *MHRRTP, Lake Nona*, completed her doctorate in Clinical Psychology with a concentration in Organizational Consulting at Pacific University's School of Graduate Psychology in Oregon. For her dissertation, Dr. Ivey conducted qualitative research on the effects of workplace discrimination and microaggressions on minority Veterans' overall job satisfaction with their military career. Dr. Ivey completed the APA-accredited Psychology Internship training program and Postdoctoral Residency at the Orlando VA Medical Center and now serves as a Licensed Clinical Psychologist

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

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

Jacqueline Lefebre, Psy.D. completed her undergraduate and graduate training at Nova Southeastern University in Davie, FL. She completed her predoctoral internship at the Central Alabama VA Health Care System in Montgomery, AL, and completed her postdoctoral fellowship at the St. Louis VA Health Care System – PTSD track. Dr. Lefebre began working as a staff psychologist on the PTSD Clinical Team (PCT) at the Central Alabama VA, later moving into the PCT coordinator role in 2020. In September 2021, she accepted her involuntary ties to the state of Florida and excitedly joined the

Orlando VA, splitting her time between TRuST and PTSD VIOP. She continues to reside in Montgomery, AL and is passionate about EBP for PTSD (admittedly biased toward Prolonged Exposure), working with rural and underserved veterans, and having her feelings hurt by two of the most dramatic huskies in the Southeast. Her self-care includes travelling, home renovations (questionable quality), and cultivating queer community in the Deep South.

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

Keri K. Griffin, LCSW, CAP, has been working as a clinical social worker since 1996. Keri's first job was working in detox at Miami Valley Hospital in Dayton, OH. Keri then graduated from the University of Dayton in Dayton, OH. with a major in Psychology and minors in Social Work and Sociology in 1997. Keri graduated with her Masters in Social Work from the University of Maryland, School of Social Work in Baltimore, MD. with a Clinical Concentration and Substance Abuse Specialization in 1999. While working on her Masters Keri worked at the Social Work Community Outreach Service at Maree Farring Elementary School and with the University of Maryland Medical System Intensive Outpatient Program and Maternal Substance Abuse and Acupuncture Program. After graduating with her Masters Keri continued to work in Baltimore, MD. at the Johns Hopkins University Cornerstone Program and at the University of Maryland Medical System Comprehensive Recovery Program. Keri moved to Florida in 2000 where she became a Licensed Clinical Social Worker and a Certified Addictions Professional in the state of Florida. Keri has worked with Lakeside Alternatives at the Orange Regional Juvenile Detention Center, at the Center for Drug-Free Living Addiction Receiving Facility as well as the Women's Residential Program in Kissimmee, and at Mental Health Network.

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

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

Diana M. Mendez, PhD., ABPP. (pronouns: she/her/hers). *General Mental Health Program Manager for the Orlando VA Healthcare System Community Based Outpatient Clinics (CBOCs).* Dr. Mendez earned her doctorate in Clinical Psychology from the University of Detroit Mercy and completed a postdoctoral fellowship in Clinical Health Psychology through the University of Miami Miller School of Medicine, and is Board

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

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

Bryant Steury, PsyD, *Medical Psychology Program*. As a Clinical Health Psychologist, Dr. Steury is embedded in a number of medical clinics including Nephrology, Hepatology, Hematology, Oncology/Radiation Oncology, Cardiology, Chronic Pain/Pain Management, Nutrition/Bariatric Surgery, Psychiatry, and Endocrinology. Within these settings, he provides pre-surgical evaluations and health behavior treatment for Veterans seeking to under a variety of surgical procedures such as organ transplants, bariatric surgery, hormone replacement therapy/gender confirmation surgery, and spinal cord neurostimulator/pain pump implants for chronic pain. He completed his

undergraduate studies at Illinois Wesleyan University in Bloomington, Illinois, and both master's and PsyD degrees from Pepperdine University in Los Angeles, California. His predoctoral internship was completed at the Tennessee Valley Healthcare System (Nashville VA) in Transplant Psychology, Neuropsychology and Pain Psychology rotations, with his postdoctoral training in Rehabilitation Psychology completed at Tampa General Hospital.

Shelby Stewart, Ph.D., DRRTP, Lake Baldwin. Dr. Stewart completed her doctorate in Clinical Psychology at Louisiana State University in 2022. She completed the APA-accredited Psychology Internship training program at the Orlando VA Healthcare System in 2022 and now serves as a Graduate Psychologist at the Lake Baldwin Domiciliary. Professional and clinical interests include diversity in all forms, treatment of co-occurring disorders, brief substance use interventions (e.g., alcohol and e-cigarette use), CPT, and MI.

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

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