

Accredited by the  
American Psychological  
Association

2024-2025

# PSYCHOLOGY RESIDENCY PROGRAMS



VA Northeast Ohio Healthcare System  
Louis Stokes Cleveland VAMC

Psychology Service 116B (W)  
10701 East Boulevard  
Cleveland, Ohio 44106



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## COVID-19

We of course cannot predict the course of COVID-19 and any new related procedures we might need for the 2024-2025 class. At the time of this writing, all people entering the hospital do a self-screening process for COVID-19 related symptoms. Employees (including trainees) with symptoms should contact Personnel Health who then directs testing and quarantine requirements. Masking requirements vary by treatment setting and current COVID-19 levels. Treatment settings use a mix of in-person, video, and telephone appointments, primarily based on clinical indication. Personal protective equipment (e.g., masks, eye protection) is available to all staff, including trainees. When indicated, we have all office space reviewed for appropriate use by consulting with infectious disease and environment of care. Supervision can be provided in-person or via telehealth supervision (note: telesupervision allowances are based on current Ohio State Board of Psychology and OAA telesupervision guidelines, and are subject to change). At times, some inpatient and residential treatment areas of the hospital have had additional COVID-19 testing requirements.

We understand that this continues to present unique challenges to professional training. We will continue to adjust programming as needed to provide the best currently available training opportunities while continuing to ensure trainee safety. We are striving to engineer experiences that will serve our trainees and the profession well into the future. We want to ensure you that we focus on the health and safety of our trainees as well as continuing to provide effective professional training.

## CLEVELAND LIVING

Cleveland and northeast Ohio are rich with cultural, educational, culinary, and recreational opportunities. VA Northeast Ohio Healthcare System is located in [University Circle](#), at edge of the [Rockefeller Cultural Gardens](#), along with such esteemed neighbors as Cleveland's renowned [Museum of Art](#), [Cleveland Botanical Gardens](#), [Museum of Natural History \(currently undergoing extensive renovations and expansion with expected completion in 2024\)](#), [Western Reserve Historical Society](#), Case Western Reserve University, Cleveland Institute of Art, and Cleveland Institute of Music. Kent State University, Cleveland State University and the University of Akron are major educational institutions within easy driving distance.

Severance Hall at University Circle is the winter home of the [Cleveland Orchestra](#), one of the world's finest. In the summer the orchestra plays at Blossom Music Center, also a major outdoor venue for rock concerts. Cleveland's music scene stretches across a multitude of genres and venues including the [Rock and Roll Hall of Fame](#), [Cain Park Arts Center](#), [Beachland Ballroom](#), [House of Blues](#) and many other intimate nightclubs featuring big name acts. The [Scene Magazine](#) keeps the pulse of the local entertainment scene, reporting on venues and styles to suite many different tastes. [Playhouse Square](#) is the largest performing arts center outside of New York, and hosts dozens of productions yearly including Broadway greats and nationally touring celebrities.



View of Downtown Cleveland by  
Kristin Cassidy (with permission)

Sports fans have their choice of excitement with the Cleveland [Browns](#), [Guardians](#), and [Cavaliers](#), as well as numerous opportunities for other affordable second tier professional sports. Outdoor recreation opportunities abound including beaches and boating on Lake Erie, hiking, running, and biking in the [Cleveland Metropark's](#) "Emerald Necklace," recently awarded the 2021 National "Best in Nation" Award for Excellence in Parks and Recreation Management, as well as the [Cuyahoga Valley National Park](#) and numerous nearby state parks and recreational sites. There is a Nordic skiing center just east of Cleveland in the Metropark, four alpine ski areas within an hour's drive, and more alpine and Nordic skiing within three hours. Canoeing and kayaking are popular, with launch sites from several liveries around Cleveland.

History, diversity, and culinary delights are found in Cleveland neighborhoods such as Slavic Village, Detroit Shoreway, Warehouse District, Little Italy, Collinwood, Ohio City, Shaker Square, Stockyards, and Tremont. The diversity of ethnic groups established in the Cleveland area adds to the community's charm as well as to its culinary pleasures. These neighborhoods and the nearby suburban areas offer a wide range of accommodations, including apartments, condominiums, and single-family dwellings. Many trainees have been pleasantly surprised by lower housing costs and living expenses than are found in many metropolitan areas, and have remained in the community to begin their professional careers.

## NORTHEAST OHIO DIVERSITY

[Live Cleveland](#) stated it well: "The City of Cleveland is an exceptional Midwestern community . . . made up of many vibrant neighborhoods, each offering fantastic amenities and various lifestyle opportunities. Diversity is evident throughout, as Cleveland is home to more than 75 different nationalities and ethnic communities . . . Our wonderful neighborhoods are filled with engaging residents, a thriving business community with an energetic workforce, and an amazing collection of arts, culture, entertainment and recreational opportunities."

The Cleveland VA Medical Center is a 2022 Top Performer in LGBTQ Healthcare Equality (HEI). Chaplain Service supports religious diversity with staff spiritual consultation in major religions and through community partnerships for religions not represented among staff. They have won a Best Practices Award in spiritual assessment.



View of Cleveland Botanical Garden and Case Western Reserve at University Circle



The

Dance Afrika performs the Samba at the Children's Games. With permission from Lynn Ischay, Plain Dealer

Cleveland-Elyria Metro area is the 33rd most populous metropolitan area in the U.S. based on 2020 census data with 19% African-American, 7% Hispanic, 2% Asian, .2% American Indian/Native Alaskan, and 4.0%

multiracial. Psychology Service staff consists of 11% ethnic minority, with approximately 25 percent of

residents in our recent cohorts identifying as an ethnic minority. The Cleveland Cultural Gardens commemorate ethnic groups whose immigrants have contributed to national and local heritage. Festivals celebrating Cleveland diversity and inclusion include the Cleveland One World Festival (September), and Annual Latino Heritage Festival (Fall), and Freedom Festival.



Psychology Service sponsors a Diversity Committee whose aim is to develop, recruit, and promote diversity in Psychology Service and the training programs. We encourage people with disabilities and from other diverse backgrounds to apply. We provide reasonable accommodations as needed to people with disabilities. Our site is wheelchair accessible and ASL interpreters are available as needed. Our trainees and staff reflect a wide range of socioeconomic, cultural, and religious affiliations, including people

with disabilities.

## VA Northeast Ohio Healthcare System

The **VA Northeast Ohio Healthcare System** focuses on treating the whole Veteran through health promotion and disease prevention, and provides comprehensive, seamless health care and social services for approximately 111,000 Veterans across Northeast Ohio. With 18 locations of care, including 13 outpatient clinics, two community resource and referral centers, a psychosocial rehabilitation and recovery center, a chronic dialysis center and an ambulatory surgery center, the VA Northeast Ohio Healthcare System's quality services are easily accessible to Veterans in 21 counties. The VA Northeast Ohio Healthcare System also contributes to the future of medicine through education, training, and research programs. The number of unique patients and complexity of care provided makes the VA Northeast Ohio Healthcare System the 3rd largest in the VA.



The Cleveland VA Medical Center is heavily invested in training health care professionals in basic and applied research, and supports several Centers of Excellence in healthcare. Residents and medical students from Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine train at the Cleveland VA Medical Center in all major specialties. The Cleveland VA Medical Center maintains many university affiliations for professional training in other health care disciplines including psychology, social work, nursing, dentistry, audiology and speech pathology, optometry, pharmacology, physical and occupational therapy, and nutrition. Nearly 2,000 health care profession students per year train at the Cleveland VA Medical Center.

The VA is the largest provider of health care training in the United States, including the nation's most extensive professional psychology training program. VA medical facilities are teaching hospitals affiliated with over 90% of the nation's 154 medical schools. Training programs address critical training needs for skilled health care professionals who serve the entire nation. Support for education has been consistently present, evidenced by a large number of internship and residency training program positions. These positions have encouraged innovation in education to improve patient care, promote interdisciplinary training, and incorporate state-of-the-art models of clinical care. These include emphasis on evidence-based practices, quality improvement, and patient safety programs.

## EXCELLENCE IN HEALTHCARE

During Public Service Recognition week our Healthcare System Director and Chief of Staff noted that the Northeast Ohio Healthcare System provided “excellent care to more than 112,589 VA Northeast Ohio Veterans . . . you place the mission first, caring for our nation’s heroes.” As a result of great, compassionate teamwork, the VA Northeast Ohio Healthcare System:

- Has more Centers of Excellence in Care, Research and Education than any other VA;
- Cares for more than 7,800 Veterans each day;
- Maintains a 5 Star Quality Rating;
- Has been a VHA leader in virtual/telehealth;
- Maintains one of the largest HBPC and MHICM programs;
- Was 1st VHA to receive Center of Excellence for ALS

In 2019 surveyors from Joint Commission reviewed the outpatient and inpatient locations of care, made visits to Veteran’s homes, and talked to many Veterans and staff. The VA Northeast Ohio Healthcare System was reviewed under five different Joint Commission Manuals: Hospital, Home Health Care, Behavioral Health, Methadone Treatment Program, and Advanced Inpatient Diabetes Certification. Together these five manuals encompass more than 1,200 elements of performance, and the only findings were a small number of easily correctable items. There are seven treatment areas that are accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF). Our research program is among the largest in the Department of Veterans Affairs, with clinical and basic researchers known nationally and internationally for their contributions to science. The total research budget from all sources is nearly 15 million dollars.

## FACILITIES AND PROGRAMS

The Cleveland VA Medical Center facility is the main hospital located five miles east of downtown Cleveland within University Circle, a major healthcare, educational, and cultural area of the city. Services include inpatient and partial hospitalization units treating serious mental illness and dual diagnosis conditions, a psychiatric emergency room, the Veterans Addiction Recovery Center - a comprehensive inpatient and outpatient substance abuse program including a national Gambling Addiction Program, our PTSD Clinical Team residential unit, acute and intermediate medicine, surgery, spinal cord injury, geriatrics, neurology, and physical medicine and rehabilitation. Outpatient services focus on mental health and on primary medical care with psychologists as full participants on these teams. Special clinical programs and services include a Pain Management Center, the Day Hospital partial hospitalization program, cardiothoracic surgery, a Women's Health Clinic, radiology service, and an innovative ambulatory surgery short stay unit. The Campus also includes the Community Living Center (our nursing home) and Domiciliary. There are also two community-based Vet Centers which provide readjustment counseling for Vietnam, Korea, Desert Storm, and OEF/OIF veterans.



The Parma VA Outpatient Clinic is located southwest of Cleveland in an adjacent suburb. Psychologists are involved in the care of veterans in outpatient primary care, mental health, substance abuse, and neuropsychological services. The community-based satellite outpatient clinics (CBOCs) including Akron, Canton, and Youngstown provide a range of outpatient medical, dental, mental health, and rehabilitation services to patients in those geographical areas. All locations are connected by high-capacity broadband networking capable of providing real time conferencing and Clinical Video Telehealth (CVT) connections. Clinical Video Telehealth and Home Telehealth operations are implemented across the system. Telehealth educational and evidence-based intervention practices have been implemented via CVT to better serve our rural and home-bound veterans, and to continue to provide services during unanticipated extreme weather events.



## PSYCHOLOGY SERVICE

The Cleveland VA Medical Center is organized around both service delivery and professional identity, with mental health programs in Outpatient Psychiatry, the Veterans Addiction Recovery Center, PTSD Clinical Team, Recovery Resource Center, Neuropsychology, General Medicine, Geriatrics, Cardiology, Polytrauma, Spinal Cord Injury, and Rehabilitation services. Over 80 psychologists in our service provide comprehensive services to patients and their families in these areas and other specialty clinics throughout the VA Northeast Ohio Healthcare System. They serve as members of interdisciplinary treatment teams in psychiatric care, as consulting and unit psychologists in specialized medical units, and as coordinators or program managers of several patient care programs. In addition to clinical and administrative duties, psychologists are also actively involved in research and training. The variety of program involvement creates a wide range of professional activities in which a trainee may engage, and a large, diverse, and experienced staff with whom to interact. Psychology Service is the direct administrative umbrella for most psychologists in the main medical centers and community outpatient VA clinics. The Chief of Psychology Service is ultimately responsible for discipline-specific professional activity including hiring, credentialing and privileging, program assignments, performance and peer reviews, and training programs. The two Directors of Psychology Training manage the day-to-day operation of the Psychology Internship Program and Psychology Postdoctoral Residency Training Programs.

## PSYCHOLOGY SERVICE DIVERSITY COMMITTEE

The Psychology Service Diversity Committee was established in 2014 with the goals of enhancing diversity in recruitment and selection of staff and trainees, training programs' curricula, awareness in service delivery and supervision, continuing education efforts, and any other areas deemed appropriate by the Committee. This has been accomplished through the following initiatives: monthly Diversity Grand Rounds, Trainee Multicultural Competence Feedback Survey, Diversity Today Newsletter, the Diversity Book Club, the Psychology Service Diversity Cookbook, and various social and community events (in person pre-Covid and virtually during Covid) including the Multicultural Potluck and Diversity

Walk/Run for the Diversity Center of Northeast Ohio. At this time, the committee has 13 members. Trainees can apply to be members and are warmly welcomed.



## PSYCHOLOGY TRAINING PROGRAMS

VA Northeast Ohio Healthcare System Psychology Service provides pre-doctoral internship and post-doctoral residency training in professional psychology. All programs are fully accredited by the American Psychological Association.

### MISSION

The mission of the VA Northeast Ohio Healthcare System Psychology Training Programs is to provide the highest quality general, focus area, and specialty training to diverse cohorts of doctoral and postdoctoral psychology trainees to prepare them for independent professional practice.

### VISION

Our programs will be recognized for their scope, depth, and quality by: (1) achieving and maintaining APA Accredited status, (2) embodying and modeling leadership through the introduction and implementation of innovative and empirically validated treatments, and (3) acknowledgment by national, regional, and local administrative entities both within and outside the VA.

### VALUES

Providing supervised clinical experiential training, the delivery of which serves the holistic needs of the diverse Veteran population, by (a) evaluating presenting issues with the most valid techniques, (b) preventing and ameliorating health care problems, (c) empowering Veterans with coping skills for behavior change, (d) providing person-centered care, and (e) fostering recovery. Developing, enhancing, and maximizing trainee competencies including diversity competence, appropriate to their program of study and level of training. Recruiting and selecting the highest quality trainees, emphasizing appointment of maximally diverse cohorts as a core value to provide multiple perspectives. Imparting knowledge to trainees in (a) the application of psychological science to practice, (b) professional

comportment and decorum, and (c) ethically responsible judgment in decision-making. Maintaining and enhancing the competencies of supervisors through support of their continuing professional development.

## GOALS

The goal of the Postdoctoral Residency Programs in Clinical Health Psychology, Clinical Psychology, and Rehabilitation Psychology is to provide an intensive and extensive core of specialized expertise in clinical work with the relevant populations, including assessment, intervention, consultation, and interdisciplinary team experience, as well as scholarly, teaching, and research activities. The goal of the Postdoctoral Residency Program in Clinical Neuropsychology is to provide science and research based specialized expertise in clinical work with the relevant populations, including assessment, consultation, intervention, and interdisciplinary team experience, as well as scholarly, teaching, and research activities.

## RESIDENCY PROGRAMS

VA Northeast Ohio Healthcare System Psychology Service offers APA accredited residency programs in the APA Council of Specialties defined professional practice areas of Clinical Psychology, Clinical Health Psychology, Clinical Neuropsychology, and Rehabilitation Psychology. Psychology Service recognizes that specialty area practice requires advanced knowledge, skills, attitudes, and behaviors applicable to these distinct populations and problem areas. The programs seek to provide supervised experience that fosters advanced professional development of competencies applicable to the respective areas. Training curriculum is organized within each specialty area and informed by the associated professional training guidelines.

A student handbook and detailed program operating procedures are provided on matriculation into programming and are available upon request.

## SUPERVISION

Formal individual supervision is provided to the resident by the rotation supervisor for a minimum of two hours weekly, with further consultation readily available. Residents also develop supervisory skills by participating in umbrella supervision of interns or practicum students consistent with their respective level of training. When practical, residents will be paired with supervisees providing psychological services within the same specialty or focus areas as the resident.

Supervisors and residents develop a learning plan at the beginning of a training experience, including discussion of foundational and advanced competencies to be developed. Opportunity is provided for residents to develop more detailed training objectives building on the competencies. This permits the residents to tailor the training experience to allow more individualized professional goals.

## EVALUATION

Assessment of competencies and training needs is a required component at each stage of our evaluation process. Supervisor and resident collaborate on formal written evaluations of the resident's progress at

least quarterly. Residents whose performance are not at an expected level of competence will be advised regarding the problem areas in their performance, and a specific plan to remediate those weaknesses will be developed. At the end of each training rotation, residents participate in final ratings, including evaluation of each rotation and the overall training experience.

## COMPETENCY DEVELOPMENT

Residents should already possess an independent practice level of competence in profession-wide foundational competencies. Program training objectives include the continued development of foundational profession-wide competencies, as well as specialty competencies and advanced competencies in individual focus areas. Programming is designed to encourage continued development of foundational competencies, provide the opportunity to solidify their emerging professional identities, and acquire advanced specialized skills. Advanced specialty and focus area competencies are described within the focus areas. The foundational competency domains that are included in evaluations are as follows:

**I. Science of Psychology:** The scientific knowledge and methods for understanding of research, research methodology, techniques of data collection and analysis, biological bases of behavior, cognitive-affective bases of behavior, and development across the lifespan.

**II. Ethical and legal standards:** The APA Ethical Principles and Code of Conduct and other relevant ethical/professional codes, standards and guidelines, laws, statutes, rules, and regulations.

**III. Individual and cultural diversity:** Professional awareness, sensitivity, and skill in working with diverse individuals and groups who represent broadly defined cultural and personal background characteristics that include age, disability, ethnicity, gender, gender identity, language, national origin, race, religion, culture, sexual orientation, and socioeconomic status.

**IV. Specialty and Focus Area Competencies:** Each specialty area has competencies that align with the respective specialty competencies modeled after ABPP specialty competencies.

## SCHOLARLY RESEARCH PROJECT

All residents must complete a scholarly research or program evaluation project and are allowed eight hours per week to develop, implement, and create the presentation of their projects. The projects may be original scientific research, program evaluation, quality improvement, or a program development project. The project should aim to complement the resident's clinical training by furthering the scientific knowledge base and/or quality of available treatment options within the specialty area for which the resident was selected. All projects must involve literature review, research design, methods, data, and data analysis similar to a publication submission. Some projects require the resident to complete mandatory training in good clinical practice and human subject protection and VA research credentialing for the local Institutional Review Board. By the third month of the residency, the resident should have a plan for a defined research or program evaluation project. The finished project must be presented in a venue open to all staff, usually Psychiatry Grand Rounds, and be sufficiently thorough and rigorous to qualify for State of Ohio Psychologist Continuing Education credits.

## CORE CURRICULUM REQUIREMENTS

- **Professional Issues Seminar:** A monthly seminar is moderated by staff psychologists and incorporates didactics and discussion of preselected topics on professional development and issues relevant to early career psychology practice. This seminar is open to supervisors and staff.
- **Supervision Seminar:** A monthly seminar for all residents is with both didactic and experiential components of supervision. Residents rotate responsibility for presenting a case example of trainee supervision and facilitating a discussion of relevant supervision issues. This seminar is open to supervisors and staff.
- **Diversity Grand Rounds:** Diversity Grand Rounds occurs once per month and all residents are required to attend. This Grand Rounds is organized by Psychology Service's Diversity Committee and is open to anyone in the hospital. Presentations cover a variety of topics that vary each year and are relevant for culturally competent care.
- **Specialty Seminars:** All residents attend a monthly seminar for their specialty area. These didactics cover key areas of competency for that specialty area. Residents can also choose to attend select talks at other specialties' monthly seminar series.

## TEACHING AND SUPERVISION EXPERIENCES

- **Colloquium/Staff Education Presentation:** As indicated above, each resident prepares a Continuing Education-level presentation in an area of expertise acquired during the residency year. This will be presented at a suitable venue, such as a regularly scheduled Grand Rounds, in the latter months of the residency year. There are typically other opportunities to provide professional presentations in various venues in the hospital if it is relevant to the resident's individual training goals.
- **Umbrella Training Supervision of Predoctoral Interns:** The residents have opportunity to provide formal supplementary "umbrella" training supervision to a professional learner. This umbrella supervision training experience occurs under the direct supervision of a rotation supervisor, with feedback both from the supervisor and supervisee.

## MENTORING PROGRAM

The VA Psychology Mentorship Program is a complement to the VA Psychology Training Program. Trainees are offered the opportunity to choose a staff mentor (or for interns a postdoctoral resident or staff member), who does not evaluate or supervise the trainee. Mentors serve as a nonjudgmental source of support and often help mentees develop personally and professionally. This may include career planning, developing leadership and administration skills, balancing work and family, etc. Mentored individuals report higher satisfaction and commitment to their profession and mentors often report personal and career satisfaction (O'Neil et al., 2014). Mentorship participation is voluntary. Trainees will be provided a list of names, professional and/or personal bios, areas of mentoring interest, and meeting availability for staff psychologists. Trainees provide their top three selections to the Mentorship Program coordinators who will attempt to match each trainee with their choices. The Mentorship Program coordinators will facilitate the initial email meeting and act as liaisons in the mentoring program.

**ADDITIONAL AVAILABLE DIDACTIC EXPERIENCES**

- **The VA Northeast Ohio Healthcare System GRECC:** The GRECC was established to develop, implement and disseminate innovative programs to maintain independence, prevent disability, and improve quality of life for older veterans. Clinical demonstration programs include preventive and rehabilitative interventions, as well as new protocols to improve medication compliance, and other successful initiatives including the Hospice/Palliative Care Initiative. The education arm of the GRECC strives to advance quantity and quality of education in geriatrics and gerontology across the disciplines, with continued emphasis on training of medical and associated medical trainees. The GRECC cosponsors the Topics in Geriatric Medicine Series (See 3, below). Considerable interaction among the disciplines occurs.
- **Psychiatry Grand Rounds:** This series provides a variety of content relevant to mental health. It is approved for continuing education credit by the Ohio Psychological Association, as well as for most healthcare professions within the state. Presenters include local and national VA staff, affiliated university educators, and outside consultants.
- **Topics in Geriatric Medicine Series:** This series offers weekly seminars on subjects relevant to working with the elderly. Local experts as well as nationally renowned figures present on topics such as dementia, delirium, older persons’ capacity to drive, perceptual functioning and information processing, affective disorders and substance abuse.
- **Psychology Intern Seminars:** Interns attend a weekly two-hour seminar that provides in-depth treatment of a range of topics across all specialties. The seminars are primarily by psychologist expert staff, with occasional speakers from other medical disciplines.
- **Educational Events:** Psychology Service sponsors continuing education events featuring nationally prominent presenters. In recent years, the following experts have presented workshops or lectures in this series:

- 2009 William Miller, Ph.D. on Motivational Interviewing  
James Prochaska, Ph.D. on Stages of Change  
Stephen Behnke, J.D., Ph.D. on Multidisciplinary Professional Ethics
- 2010 Steven Hayes, Ph.D. on Acceptance and Commitment Therapy  
Stephanie Covington, Ph.D. on Addiction and Trauma in Women
- 2013 Scott Stuart, M.D. on Interpersonal Psychotherapy
- 2014 Kenneth Adams, Ph.D. on Ethical Treatment Across the Lifespan
- 2014 Yossef Ben-Porath, Ph.D. on the MMPI-2-RF
- 2015 Bob Stinson, Psy.D., ABPP on Mandatory Reporting
- 2016 Frederick Leong, Ph.D., Cross Cultural Psychotherapy Part II
- 2016 Melinda Moore, Ph.D. Collaborative Assessment and Management of Suicidality

- 2017 Peter Gutierrez, Ph.D. Suicide Assessment, Safety Planning, & Treatment Planning
- 2018 Morgan Sammons, Ph.D., ABPP Update on Prescriptive Authority for Psychologists
- 2018 John Queener, Ph.D. Ethical Considerations in Cultural Competence
- 2021 Joseph Fineman, Ph.D. & Danielle Lespinasse, Ph.D. Diversity Dialogues in Supervision
- 2022 William Hua, Ph.D. Intentional Incorporation of Cultural Humility and Inclusion in the Supervision Process





## APPLICATION PROCEDURES

### ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS FOR PSYCHOLOGY RESIDENCY PROGRAMS

- Applicants must be U.S. citizens; applications from non-citizens cannot be considered, and verification of citizenship is required following selection.
- Federal law requires that most males between the ages of 18 and 26 register with the Selective Service System. Male applicants born after 12/31/1959 must have registered for the draft by age 26 to be eligible for any US government employment, including as a paid VA trainee. Male, for this purpose, is any individual born male on their birth certificate regardless of current gender. Males who are required to register, but who failed to do so by their 26th birthday, are barred from any position in any Executive Agency. You may visit <https://www.sss.gov> to register, print proof of registration or apply for a Status Information Letter. 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.
- Successful completion of an APA accredited doctoral program in Clinical, Counseling, or combined Psychology, including APA accredited doctoral internship.
- All requirements for the doctoral degree must be completed prior to the start date.
- Health Professions Trainees (HPTs) are appointed as temporary employees of the Department of Veterans Affairs. As such, HPTs are subject to laws, policies, and guidelines posted for VA staff members. There are infrequent times in which this guidance can change during a training year which may create new requirements or responsibilities for HPTs. If employment requirements change during the course of a training year, HPTs will be notified of the change and impact as soon as possible and options provided. The VA Training Director for your profession will provide you with the information you need to understand the requirement and reasons for the requirement in timely manner.

#### Requirements for Final Appointment:

Final appointment is contingent upon passing a routine physical examination, background security check, possible random drug screening, standard employment forms OF 612 and OF 306, and submission of documents demonstrating that all doctoral graduation requirements (including APA accredited internship) will be met before the start of residency. An oath of office is required at the beginning of residency.

- Appointees must undergo fingerprinting, passing a background check, and possible pre-employment random drug and alcohol screening. We are a federal facility with a zero-tolerance for substance use at work. Cannabis use even with prescription is not permitted. See the [VA Drug-Free Workplace Program Guide for Veteran Health Administration \(VHA\) Health Professions Trainees \(HPTs\)](#) for more details.
- Training occurs in a health care setting where patients may have an elevated risk of contracting common illnesses like influenza or COVID-19. You must document that your vaccinations are up to date and you have been screened for active tuberculosis prior to starting your training. The Office of Academic Affiliations requires a Training Qualifications and Credentials Verification



Letter (TQCVL) that documents requirements for Hepatitis B vaccination (or signing a declination form), TB screening, screening against the List of Excluded Individuals and Entities database. You will be required to self-certify that you are in satisfactory physical condition to work as a resident at the Louis Stokes Cleveland VA Medical Center during the 2024-2025 training year and are up-to-date on vaccinations.

- Hospital policy states you must have a current flu vaccination, or wear a barrier mask during flu season to limit patient exposure to the flu. Employees, including trainees, are also required to have the COVID-19 vaccine, with some exemptions that must be formally requested.

#### Applications:

Prospective residents may apply to, and be considered for, more than one residency specialty program and for more than one focus area within a residency specialty program. Applicants must submit separate applications if they are applying to more than one specialty program. Health and Clinical specialties may allow for a single application when applying to different focus areas. Clarify your intent with the program staff and in your letter of interest, specify the focus areas for which you would like to be considered.

The Clinical Health, Clinical Psychology, and Rehabilitation residency Programs follow the [APPIC Postdoctoral Selection Guidelines](#). **Please carefully review the guidelines as we will be following the Common Hold Date (CHD) guidelines. We will begin to make offers to our top-ranked candidates within a few weeks leading up to the CHD of Monday, February 26, 2024.** Applicants can hold offers made prior to the CHD all the way up to 10am Eastern time on the CHD, and for up to two hours when offers are made on the CHD. If you receive an offer elsewhere prior to the CHD and our program is your preferred choice, you are welcome to contact us to ask about your standing with us, when we plan to make offers, and/or where we are in our interview/selection process. Applicants will be notified when they are no longer in consideration. We ask the same consideration from applicants - please notify us if you are no longer considering coming to our site.

The Clinical Neuropsychology residency and Rehabilitation Psychology Programs **are two-year programs. We WILL be accepting applications for Neuropsychology program to start with the 2024-2025 training year.** The Clinical Neuropsychology residency participates in the Association of Postdoctoral Programs in Clinical Neuropsychology Residency Match. **We will NOT be accepting applications for the Rehabilitation Psychology program for the 2024-2025 year as our current resident will be in his second year.**

#### Application Requirements

- Curriculum Vitae
- Cover letter with statement of interest in the specialty and focus area(s) to be pursued. Please be clear about your priorities and positions for which you want to be considered if applying to more than one focus area
- Letter of good standing from the Director of Training of your internship program
- Two letters of recommendation from supervisors who can address your clinical capability in the specialty area to which you are applying
- A work sample of psychological assessment related to the specialty area of interest

- Official transcripts of graduate work

You may want to be considered for more than one focus area within a specialty. You may submit one application package per specialty area, however you must make clear for which focus areas you want to be considered and can indicate your desired priorities for those focus areas. If you are applying to more than one specialty area (e.g. Health and Clinical) you must submit two separate applications.

**We believe a variety of individual differences enhances your experience as trainees and ours as trainers. If you would like to disclose your unique background, personal characteristics, or cultural heritage in your application, we will consider it during application review and ranking.**

### APPA - CAS Online

All of our programs are registered with the online APPIC Psychology Postdoctoral Application Centralized Application System. Applicants should use that system for their application(s), and may include all application materials within the APPA portal. **If there is any problem with completing the online application, please scan and submit documents directly by email to Ms. Calmaree Giles and the Director of Training.**

### Applications Due

**December 11, 2023**

**Application materials should be received by MONDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2022.**

#### Application Address

Laura Roush, Ph.D., ABPP  
Director of Training, Psychology Residency  
Programs  
VA Northeast Ohio Healthcare System  
10701 East Blvd.  
116B (W)  
Cleveland, Ohio 44106  
[Laura.Roush@va.gov](mailto:Laura.Roush@va.gov)

Calmaree Giles, Program Assistant

[Calmaree.Giles@va.gov](mailto:Calmaree.Giles@va.gov)

216-791-3800 x66821

Web: <https://www.va.gov/northeast-ohio-health-care/work-with-us/internships-and-fellowships/psychology-residency-and-internship/>

#### Questions regarding the accreditation of the Residencies may be addressed to:

Office of Program Consultation and Accreditation  
American Psychological Association  
750 First Street N.E.  
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Telephone inquiries about our program are invited at (216) 791-3800, x66822. We encourage diversity in our residency cohort and invite application by qualified ethnic minority group members.

**Start Date**

August 26, 2024

**Stipend**

\$ 54,265      First Year  
\$ 57,198      Second Year

**Benefits**

Health insurance benefits, 13 days paid Annual Leave and up to 13 days of Sick Leave, up to 8 days of Authorized Absence with pay for attendance at approved conferences, trainings, or other approved professional activities. We follow federal Family Friendly Medical Leave guidance for accommodating the need for extended medical leave.

**RESIDENCY SELECTION PROCEDURES**

Training staff rate application materials on standard criteria and conduct a performance-based interview (PBI). The PBI consists of a standard set of questions for all residents in a specialty and/or focus area. Applicants are then ranked and the top applicant for each open position in the Clinical, Health, and Rehabilitation programs will be offered the residency in the weeks shortly before the Common Hold Date (CHD) as allowed by APPIC guidelines. We use the APPA-CAS application system and follow all APPIC guidelines for application including honoring the Common Hold Date guidelines. For the Neuropsychology program, we adhere to the APPCN procedures and deadlines, and participate in the APPCN Match. An applicant has the best chance of matching with us by having a well-rounded background pertinent to working at the VA, strong justification or experience for the specialty and focus area, attention to diversity issues, and professional presentation of themselves.

## CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGY PROGRAM

Reaccredited for 10 years in 2019

The Clinical Psychology Residency Program provides advanced training in the foundation of the knowledge, skills, and professional competencies that define clinical psychology, including assessment and intervention with a wide variety of psychiatric, behavioral, and environmental problems. The program fosters the development of advanced skills in the differential diagnosis of psychopathological disorders, treatment planning, and evidence-based intervention. Theoretical and therapeutic approaches will vary with the training setting and types of problems typically encountered. Supervisors work with the resident to develop an individual learning plan for developing advanced skill in focus areas such as psychological assessment, individual and group interventions, marital or family interventions, case management, vocational screening, multidisciplinary treatment team planning, supervision, and patient education.

We are especially proud that our program was honored with the 2016 APA Division 18 Excellence in Training Award for providing recovery-oriented, evidence-based services to adults diagnosed with serious mental illnesses. In addition to the seminars required of all residents, clinical psychology residents are also required to attend:

**Clinical Psychology Resident Seminar.** Residents in all clinical focus areas attend the monthly Clinical Psychology Residency Seminar, focusing on specialized content areas, advanced techniques, and presentation of scholarly topics.

## CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGY SPECIALTY COMPETENCIES

- **Assessment:** Demonstrates an in-depth understanding of assessment methods, the constructs being assessed, standardized assessment issues, psychometrics, and appropriate normative data. Provides articulate written reports that effectively convey assessment information and appropriate limitations of scope, application, diagnostic clarity, and conceptualization.
- **Intervention:** Demonstrates knowledge of evidence-based practice and performs evidence-based modality psychotherapy or environmental modification interventions.
- **Consultation:** Demonstrates knowledge of science base of consultation and the ability to serve as a consultant for other professionals such as those who provide psychological services, health care professionals from other disciplines, or educational personnel, and individuals in other institutions and settings.
- **Research:** Successfully engages in research designed to systematically improve the knowledge base of the profession or evaluates the effectiveness of programs and activities.
- **Supervision:** When supervising other trainees, demonstrate the ability to communicate and apply knowledge of the purpose, roles, and procedures in the practice of supervision.

## I. PSYCHOSOCIAL REHABILITATION FOR SERIOUS MENTAL ILLNESS

The resident will gain experience in the full continuum of care for Veterans with severe mental illness. Rotations are designed to maximize both breadth and depth of training in assessment, evidence-based treatment, and rehabilitation with persons living with severe mental illness. Residents complete rotations on the acute inpatient psychiatric unit, medical consultation and evaluation, Mental Health Residential Rehabilitation Treatment Program (MHR RTP), and outpatient community integration-focused care at the Psychosocial Recovery Resource Center (PRRC) or Partial Hospitalization Program (Day Hospital). Training emphasis is given to evidence-based practices for persons with severe mental illness such as Integrated Dual Diagnosis Treatment (IDDT), Social Skills Training, Cognitive Behavioral Therapy, and CBT for Psychosis (CBTp), with primary training rotations offering competency development in psychosocial skills training and cognitive-behavioral psychotherapy. Supplemental training experiences may include experience with other evidence-based practice programs such as assertive community treatment, supported employment, or Veterans Justice Outreach (VJO).

Our psychosocial rehabilitation programs assist veterans as they progress toward their individual recovery goals through enhanced empowerment, community integration, work and meaningful activity, and familial and social supports. Rotations and supplemental training sites offer experience across the domains of treatment and recovery. The training curriculum offers an opportunity for experiencing community-based consumer-run activities. There is an opportunity for interested residents to sit in on Institutional Review Board meetings to directly experience the VA research review process. The residency incorporates enhanced professional role development, teaching, and supervisory activities.

### PSR-SMI FOCUS AREA COMPETENCY COMPONENTS

- **Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBT) and Cognitive Behavioral Therapy for Psychosis (CBTp):** Demonstrates understanding and skills in individual and/or group cognitive-behavioral interventions for persons with SMI, including knowledge related to selection and effective implementation of specific interventions, and monitoring of progress and outcomes.
- **Psychosocial rehabilitative skills training:** Demonstrates competence in rehabilitative skills training for persons with SMI (e.g. illness management and recovery, communication and social skills, relapse prevention and planning, stress management, cognitive re-training, etc.), including incorporation of assessed needs and preferences, effective implementation, and monitoring of progress and outcomes.
- **Advanced SMI assessment:** Demonstrates competence in risk assessment and assessment of psychotic symptoms and related expressions of SMI, including utilization of holistic biopsychosocial and differential diagnostic psychological assessment techniques.
- **Consult-Liaison in Acute Medical Setting:** Demonstrates skill consulting on psychological assessment, diagnosis, and treatment planning in acute medical settings, with an emphasis on brief cognitive screening, capacity evaluation, and treatment of mental health disorders related to medical diagnoses.
- **Integrated Dual Diagnosis Treatment (IDDT):** This is an opportunity to develop competence in the administration of the manualized treatment for individuals with co-occurring serious mental illness and addiction.

## CLINICAL TRAINING EXPERIENCES

### ***A. Inpatient Psychiatry***

The resident initially gains intensive treatment and evaluation experience with veterans in an acute phase of illness on a 26-bed locked inpatient psychiatric unit. The primary training focus of this rotation is to provide the resident with both experience and comfort with the acute phases of psychopathology of severe mental illnesses. This rotation includes diagnostic evaluation of psychopathology and psychosocial issues, rapid assessment training, interdisciplinary care planning, and individual and group psychotherapeutic interventions. The resident's training includes:

- Screening assessments including mental status, cognitive and neuropsychological screening, psychiatric symptom inventory, substance use, functional status, and psychosocial support system review.
- Psychological evaluation of hospitalized veterans including clinical interviewing, psychosocial history, collateral family/support interviews, personality evaluation, and assessment of psychopathology. Training includes rapid psychological assessment techniques.
- Differential diagnosis of psychotic spectrum conditions utilizing traditional psychological assessment techniques.
- Interdisciplinary team participation, including staffing and development of multidisciplinary treatment plans.
- Acute psychological interventions including individual and group psychotherapy, and behavioral management planning.
- Capacity evaluations for competency hearings and risk assessment for civil commitment hearings.

### ***B. Consultation/Liaison Team***

This supplementary rotation coincides with the Inpatient Psychiatry experience, to broaden the resident's exposure to severe mental illness and acute psychopathology as it is encountered in a diverse healthcare system. The resident serves as a psychologist on this multidisciplinary team (including psychiatrists). The Consultation/Liaison Team provides mental health consultation to medical units at the Wade Park campus for hospitalized veterans presenting with emergent psychiatric issues. The resident conducts bedside assessments of the veteran's conditions, including diagnosis and recommendations for management or triage to alternative level of care. These assessments include rapid psychological assessment methodology, and training in evaluation of functional capacities relative to legal competency is offered. Interprofessional consultation and communication skills are emphasized.

### ***C. SMI Specialty within the Mental Health Residential Rehabilitation Treatment Program (MHR RTP)***

- Our SMI Specialty within the MHR RTP is housed in a 122-bed residential unit (known as the Homeless & Mental Health Residential Rehabilitation Treatment Center), with a mission to provide state-of-the-art, high-quality, trauma informed residential rehabilitation and treatment services. The SMI Specialty within MHR RTP is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF) in the area Residential Mental Health care.

- Residents work as members of an interdisciplinary treatment team which includes clinical and supportive service case managers, physicians, nurses, occupational therapists, recreation therapists, chaplains, and other mental health providers.
- Primary professional training experiences for the SMI specialty focuses on persons with severe mental illness from a psychosocial recovery perspective. This specialty employs evidence-based strategies for this population, including psychosocial skill development, illness management and recovery training, and an integrated dual disorder treatment component for those veterans with SMI and co-occurring addiction. This program utilizes the recovery model for SMI and applies stage-wise intervention strategies for addiction and illness management issues, with an emphasis on early engagement, individual values and goals, and motivational enhancement interventions.
- Primary professional training experiences may include opportunities for umbrella supervision, clinical interviewing and psychological assessment, treatment/rehabilitation planning, case coordination, and individual/group interventions with persons with severe mental illness. Comprehensive, recovery-oriented psychosocial assessment, motivational enhancement, measurement-based care intervention, cognitive-behavioral psychotherapy, and group facilitation skills are emphasized. Resident would function as a member of the SMI specialty team and function within the MHR RTP as a member of an integrative interdisciplinary team. Each resident also has the opportunity for participating in program development.

#### ***D. Psychosocial Rehabilitation and Recovery Center (PRRC)***

- ***The Psychosocial Rehabilitation and Recovery Center (PRRC)***, known as the Recovery Resource Center, is a fully CARF accredited (under Community Integration standards) that offers intensive outpatient mental health services to veterans with serious mental illness. The PRRC is a transitional learning environment housed in a community-based location designed to empower veterans using an individualized, person-centered approach. The PRRC strives to support mental health recovery and integrate veterans into meaningful community roles. This program offers wellness and recovery programming with an emphasis on realizing individualized recovery goals and full community integration.
- Programming includes social skills training, integrated dual disorders treatment (IDDT) and Illness Management and Recovery (IMR). The program also offers individualized recovery planning and recovery-oriented services coordination. As a member of the fully engaged interdisciplinary team based in the community, the resident works with the psychologist team leader, advanced practice nurse, social workers, and certified peer support specialist providers, and gains experience in learning to effectively engage, assess, and intervene with clients in their natural environment.
- The PRRC resident can design a training experience specific to their ongoing needs or desires for further training. In this four-month rotation, the resident gains extensive experience in evidence-based psychosocial skills training interventions across a range of rehabilitative milieus and modalities; as well as professional psychological experience as a full-member of multidisciplinary teams. The resident's training includes, but is not limited to, the following:
  - Potential opportunity for umbrella supervision.
  - Comprehensive initial and ongoing recovery-oriented biopsychosocial assessments.

- Interdisciplinary rehabilitation and recovery planning based upon the veterans' assessed needs, preferences and goals across psychosocial domains.
- Psychosocial skills training and psychoeducation in individual and group formats, also including integrated dual disorders treatment and social skills training.
- Individual psychotherapy, including cognitive behavioral psychotherapy interventions.
- Psychological assessment, including differential diagnosis of psychotic spectrum conditions utilizing traditional psychological assessment techniques.
- Program development and outcomes evaluation.

***E. The Day Hospital (Partial Hospitalization Program)***

The Psychiatry Day Hospital is a four-week intensive partial hospitalization program for veterans with serious mental illness, and is fully accredited by *the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF)* under Partial Hospital standards. Opened in 1996 in response to the closing of several inpatient psychiatric units, the Day Hospital was given three primary tasks: 1) prevent hospitalization; 2) reduce length of stay for inpatient psychiatric hospitalization; and 3) aid in and improve transition from an inpatient stay back into the community. The Day Hospital has continued success in meeting these goals by employing a multidisciplinary team consisting of a psychologist program manager, clinical nurse specialist, social worker, peer support specialist, and a part-time prescriber. Fully embracing the recovery model, veterans are provided with education, information, and psychotherapy along with psychopharmacological interventions. The psychiatric population of the Day Hospital consists primarily of individuals with schizophrenia, schizoaffective disorder, major depression, bipolar disorder, and PTSD. Residents are considered to be integrated team members and develop professional identity through experiences in multidisciplinary team consultation on psychotherapy, assessment and diagnosis. The resident will have the opportunity to hone skills in differential diagnosis, and implementation of CBT/CBTp in both group and individual format. Residents gain supervision experience through umbrella supervision of pre-doctoral interns or practicum students. The resident will develop skills in:

- Initial psychosocial assessments, including triage for Day Hospital versus other levels of care (e.g. inpatient).
- Full psychological evaluations and report writing including the use of MMPI-2 and other measures, usually for diagnostic purposes.
- Opportunities for coordinating the involvement of family and other support networks.
- Training in CBT and CBTp with persons with severe mental illness in both individual and group modalities.
- Skills-based group facilitation and individual psychotherapy.
- Clinical training supervision through umbrella supervision opportunities.
- Daily interdisciplinary rehabilitation planning.
- Outreach and liaison with community resources.
- Leadership with the Psychologist Program Manager will be emphasized.
- Opportunity for program evaluation and development experience.



### **F. Scholarly Research Project**

The research requirement is described [here](#).

### **G. Supplemental Training Experiences**

- **Evidence-Based Practices for Persons with Severe Mental Illness (Optional: 1-3 site visits each).** The VANEOLS offers a spectrum of interventions for veterans with severe mental illness, in accordance with nationally recognized clinical guidelines and recommendations. In primary training rotations, the resident gains competence in two widely recommended evidence-based practices for this population: CBT and psychosocial skills training, as well as practical experience in best practice recommended integrated dual diagnosis treatment approaches. The residency curriculum includes required literature review relevant to evidence-based practice areas. Clinical experiences across the year include interface and referral of veterans to supplementary rehabilitation programs in accordance with veterans' personal rehabilitation and recovery goals. To enhance the resident's practical exposure to additional evidence-based interventions, one to three site visits are **optionally** scheduled with each of the following programs:
  - **Mental Health Intensive Case Management (MHICM).** An assertive community treatment-model case management program offered through community-based outpatient clinics for veterans with severe mental illness. This program has also instituted an Integrated Dual Disorders Treatment case management initiative.
  - **Supported Employment.** Our supported employment program achieves excellent fidelity ratings for best-practice in this evidence-based employment services for persons with severe mental illness. Vocational employment specialists work closely with numerous clinical programs for persons with severe mental illness.
  - **Family Education/Psychoeducation.** Family psychoeducation and education programs are intermittently offered for veterans with severe mental illness and their supports through a community-based outpatient clinic and/or in partnership with the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI).

## **II. TRAUMA/POSTTRAUMATIC STRESS DISORDER**

The Trauma/Posttraumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) resident will gain experience in the full continuum of care for veterans with PTSD and other trauma-related mental health issues. Rotations are designed to maximize both breadth and depth of training in assessment, evidence-based treatment, and broader issues in recovery from trauma. Residents complete rotations in the PTSD Clinical Team (PCT) and other trauma-related areas of Specialty Mental Health, including outpatient, intensive outpatient, and residential levels of care. All residents will spend the year in these main rotations, with the length of time and activities within each to be individualized according to the resident's training plan. The intention is to foster development of expertise in working with veterans of all eras and varied types of traumatic experiences who present with a broad range of trauma-related mental health issues, including complex cases who struggle with comorbid conditions.

The PCT is a Specialty Mental Health Clinic that offers short-term (on average 3-6 months) evidenced-based therapies in individual and group formats. Within the PCT, training emphasis is given to evidence-based practices (EBPs) for veterans with PTSD including Prolonged Exposure (PE), Cognitive Processing Therapy (CPT), and other interventions recommended in the current VA/DoD Clinical Practice Guidelines

(CPG) for PTSD. Staff provide a wide variety of long and short-term individual and group therapies for veterans who have experienced trauma and have a variety of related mental-health sequelae. This includes the Intensive Treatment Program (ITP) which allows veterans to complete EBPs for PTSD in 1, 2, or 4 weeks either as an outpatient or as part of more comprehensive residential treatment in our Mental Health Residential Rehabilitation Treatment Program (MHR RTP).

Specialty Mental Health also provides training opportunities working with veterans who have experienced Military Sexual Trauma (MST) or who are using or experiencing intimate partner violence (IPV). The resident will work directly under the supervision of the facility MST and IPV coordinators. Training experiences for these opportunities involve assessment, consultation, and both individual and group interventions. Residents may also elect to engage in supplemental training with the Polytrauma Clinic, which provides exposure to assessment and individual psychotherapy with veterans suffering from PTSD alongside medical issues such as mild traumatic brain injuries and chronic pain.

Our training model encourages assessment of physiological, psychological, familial, and resilience factors to guide creation of an integrated, interdisciplinary treatment plan emphasizing empirically-based treatments. We begin the training year by carefully designing the resident's learning plan to include experiences that meet personalized learning needs and interests. Initially we include focused training in assessment (which may include more in-depth assessment as clinically indicated) and EBPs for PTSD, along with other evidence based approaches such as Dialectical Behavior Therapy (DBT) and Acceptance and Commitment Therapy (ACT). Treatment modalities will include an array of group formats along with individual and family psychotherapy. With the core evidenced-based therapy skills mastered, residents will be able to apply themselves to each of the rotations described below in a flexible manner; enabling these skills to be tailored to fit both the veteran population/clinical conditions of the rotation and the resident's specific training needs and interests. In terms of veterans served, training experiences will likely include opportunities to work with:

- veterans of all service eras (from pre-Vietnam to veterans of the Afghanistan and Iraq wars)
- veterans of varied gender and sexual orientation
- veterans with varied types of trauma (including combat, military sexual trauma, other military trauma, childhood trauma, and other non-military trauma)
- veterans with medical co-morbidities, including traumatic brain injuries
- veterans with widely varying co-occurring mental health disorders, such as psychotic, mood, substance use, and personality disorders.

#### TRAUMA FOCUS AREA COMPETENCY COMPONENTS

- **Evidence-based psychotherapy:** Demonstrates understanding of research-base and skills in delivery of Prolonged Exposure for PTSD, and Cognitive Processing Therapy, in both individual and group formats. Training in other evidence-based therapies may also be available.
- **Assessment and treatment planning for commonly co-occurring disorders:** Able to recognize, assess and make treatment recommendations regarding commonly co-occurring disorders, including traumatic brain injury (TBI), substance use disorders, and depressive disorders. Demonstrates familiarity with the clinical practice guidelines for these co-occurring conditions, and consistently consults with appropriate providers.
- **Adjunctive treatments for PTSD:** Demonstrates knowledge of the Clinical Practice Guidelines (CPG) for PTSD and the role of adjunctive therapies. Demonstrates skills in delivery of a minimum of two adjunctive therapies for PTSD outlined in the CPG.

### Optional Learning Experiences

- Consultative-level knowledge and skills in basic psychopharmacology and psychopharmacotherapy for PTSD.
- Family psychoeducation and/or couples-based therapy for those with PTSD.
- Skill in the delivery of Dialectical Behavioral Therapy (DBT) for persons with histories of severe trauma, productively participates in weekly group consultation, and functions as a group and individual therapist within a full DBT program.
- Polytrauma Clinic assessment and treatment planning for veterans with PTSD and co-occurring medical issues, including traumatic brain injury (TBI). Demonstrates ability to provide brief individual psychotherapy with veterans as a behavioral health provider embedded in a multidisciplinary treatment team.
- Women's trauma treatment environments for women veterans who have experienced trauma. Skills in short term treatments within the behavioral health setting of the within the Women's Health Clinic and consultation to providers within the Cleveland VA Medical Center.

### CLINICAL TRAINING EXPERIENCES

#### ***A. PTSD Clinical Team***

The PCT provides time-limited and empirically supported treatments for PTSD at multiple levels of care, including outpatient, intensive outpatient, and residential. Residents work within an interdisciplinary team comprised of psychologists, social workers, psychiatrists, and a peer support specialist. The client population includes men and women whose military experiences span all service eras. The PCT gives treatment priority to those who have sustained traumatic experiences in the military, including but not limited to combat and military sexual trauma. Patients may have severe, acute, and/or treatment-resistant PTSD as well as co-morbid diagnoses including substance use disorders. Treatments are offered in both individual and group format, and include: Cognitive Processing Therapy, Prolonged Exposure Therapy, Cognitive Behavioral Conjoint Therapy for PTSD, Written Exposure Therapy, Nightmare Resolution Therapy and several approaches to integrated care for PTSD/SUD (including COPE, Seeking Safety, Motivational Interviewing, and Relapse Prevention). Patient care and support services are tailored to meet the individuals' needs, taking into account their cultural, ethnic, gender and age-related characteristics. The resident conducts comprehensive assessments to arrive at accurate diagnosis, appropriate disposition for level of care, and referrals if indicated. Team members are involved in empirical research and outcome studies, and residents are encouraged to participate.

Outpatient treatment in the PTSD clinical team consists primarily of weekly, evidence-based treatment on an individual basis and various outpatient groups. Current and recent outpatient group offerings include PTSD Symptom Management, Seeking Safety, and Contingency Management for PTSD and Substance Use Disorders. Residents will have the opportunity to supervise interns as part of the outpatient rotation.

The PTSD Clinical Team also offers an Intensive Treatment Program (ITP) that consists of massed delivery of Prolonged Exposure (PE) or Cognitive Processing Therapy (CPT). Veterans participate either as outpatients or while admitted to our more comprehensive Mental Health Residential Rehabilitation Treatment Program (MHR RTP). We offer options for completing the ITP in 1, 2, or 4 week formats. All options include individual PE or CPT sessions along with 3 skills-based check-in groups per ITP treatment day to reinforce the work of the individual treatment. The 4 week program is comprised of 3 ITP treatment days per week for a total of 12 treatment days. The 2 week program is comprised of 5 ITP treatment days for 2.5 weeks for a total of 12 treatment days. The 1 week program is comprised of 5 ITP treatment days total with 2 individual sessions per day. The length of treatment can be shortened or lengthened based on an individual's clinical need. Please note that veterans engaging in the ITP while in the MHR RTP will have a different group schedule that will include other mental health and substance use related groups that are deemed to be clinically appropriate based on an individualized treatment plan. The resident may have opportunities to lead or co-lead supplemental MHR RTP groups as well.

### ***B. Other Specialty Mental Health Rotations***

The Mental Health Ambulatory Care Clinic (MHACC) is often the veteran's first encounter with treatment in the VA system, and provides a unique opportunity to work with patients at initial contact, in protocol-driven treatments, and longer-term working-through modalities of psychotherapy. The resident will be involved in assessment, advanced case conceptualization, development and implementation of meaningful treatment plans, individual psychotherapy, and as a co-therapist in group therapy formats. These outpatient rotations are focused on doing multifaceted assessment and psychotherapy with opportunities to engage in group and individual psychotherapy with male and female veterans. Veterans present with complex cases of PTSD, including sexual trauma, OIF/OEF/OND veterans at all stages of recovery, and comorbid diagnoses.

***Military Sexual Trauma (MST):*** MST training experiences may include assisting with in-depth assessments for veterans who are referred for services specifically related to their experience of MST. Residents may also gain experience with various group-based interventions including DBT skills group for survivors of MST and other interpersonal trauma, STAIR group for male survivors of MST and other sexual trauma, and Courage, a cognitively based group intervention for survivors of MST. Residents may also engage in trauma processing with survivors of MST. Additional opportunities include working on special projects, program development, and initiatives with the Military Sexual Trauma coordinator.

***Interpersonal Violence (IPV):*** Residents interested in advanced IPV training may obtain experience in assessment and interventions, including individual and group protocols. The IPV program offers treatment for veterans who have experienced and are using violence as well as current or previous partners of veterans who experienced violence in their relationships with veterans. Interventions include relationship health and safety groups for women and for men, RISE (an individual trauma-informed psychosocial intervention for individuals who experience ongoing or recent IPV), Strength at Home group (an evidenced based program that treats the use of violence), and Strength at Home Couples group (a group for couples who have current or past aggression in their relationship). Depending upon their learning needs/interests, Residents may also obtain experience in program development, consultation, and community engagement.

**C. Scholarly Research Project**

The research requirement is described [here](#).

**D. Additional Experiences as available:**

- Providing umbrella supervision to psychology interns.
- Developing additional programming based on needs/preferences of person served with rationale that is based on relevant literature and is consistent with the mission of the rotation.
- Participating in community partnership events and outreach that benefit veterans with Trauma/PTSD.

### III. SUBSTANCE ABUSE and PROCESS ADDICTIONS

The resident participates in a series of rotations to maximize the scope and depth of training in the assessment, treatment, and rehabilitation of individuals coping with a broad range of substance use disorders and behavioral addictions. Training emphasizes the use of empirically-validated approaches to conceptualizing, assessing and treating individuals with addictive disorders. Residents are afforded the opportunity to develop and enhance their competence in areas including motivational interviewing and enhancement techniques, cognitive-behavioral interventions, relapse prevention skills training, and mindfulness based relapse prevention. The residency uses an interdisciplinary approach which allows the resident to gain experience with developing comprehensive, integrated treatment plans based upon individual recovery goals. Training rotations focus on the development of competence in diagnosis of substance use disorders and gambling disorder, as well as differential diagnosis of complex co-occurring psychiatric disorders and their relationship to addictive disorders. The residency experience also incorporates enhanced professional psychological role development, teaching, and supervisory activities. Special emphasis is placed on gaining experience in program development, implementation, and outcomes monitoring.

A broad range of addictions programming is available in this setting, across the spectrum from clinical detoxification interventions, early engagement, outpatient and residential primary addiction rehabilitation services, and continuing care. The addiction recovery programs at LSCVAMC are among the largest in the VA healthcare system and include the first veterans' residential treatment program for gambling disorder in the nation for both the VA and Department of Defense (DOD), as well as the Women's Treatment Program which is the national VA treatment program for women and non-binary individuals with addictive disorders. Psychology training has been an emphasis within our addiction services for over 35 years.

### SUBSTANCE ABUSE FOCUS AREA COMPETENCY COMPONENTS

- **Psychosocial Intervention- Cognitive Behavioral Treatment:** Demonstrates understanding and skills in individual and/or group cognitive-behavioral interventions for persons with addictions, including knowledge related to selection and effective implementation of specific interventions, and monitoring of progress and outcomes.
- **Advanced Addictions Screening and Assessment:** Demonstrates competence in the selection and implementation of screening and assessment tools, including competencies in risk assessment, and utilization of biopsychosocial assessment instruments to then inform

treatment plans and prioritize a complex set of problems and goals.

- **Care coordination and consultation:** Demonstrates competence to collaborate and consult with other disciplines, service recipients, advocates, families and agencies, demonstrating a flexible and comprehensive view of treatment, rehabilitation, and recovery.

## SUBSTANCE ABUSE CLINICAL TRAINING EXPERIENCES

Several rotation options are available for trainees, designed to meet their individual training needs and preferences. The residency can be structured to include two 6-month rotations or three 4-month rotations. As such, the resident may choose two or three of the following experiences:

### ***A. Gambling Treatment Program (GTP)***

The GTP was the first program of its kind in the nation and remains one of only two residential programs for the treatment of pathological gambling within the VA system. It receives national referrals of veterans and active duty military service members with a broad array of complex comorbid conditions. The resident is an interdisciplinary team member, utilizing empirically-validated approaches to the treatment of pathological gambling including motivational enhancement and motivational interviewing, cognitive-behavioral strategies, mindfulness, relapse prevention, money protection and harm reduction, and Twelve Step integration. Intensive motivational interviewing training including taping and coded feedback is available.

The resident's training includes:

- Screening, assessment and diagnosis of gambling disorder and comorbid disorders using interviewing and psychological testing.
- Interdisciplinary team staffing and treatment planning.
- Individual therapy, group facilitation, family interventions, and development of continuing care plans.
- Program development, implementation, and outcomes monitoring.

### ***B. Primary Substance Abuse Programs***

One of the largest substance abuse programs in the VA Healthcare System, we offer a broad range of experiences ranging from brief intervention to Intensive Outpatient Programming (IOP), and Residential Treatment. Experience includes options for Early Intervention, Acute Detoxification, the Women's Addiction Treatment Program, the Residential (Male) Primary Substance Abuse Treatment Program, and/or the Intensive Outpatient Program.

#### ***Primary Substance Use Disorder Treatment Programs Options:***

- **Women's Addiction Treatment Program.** The Women's Treatment Program (WTP) is a residential addictions treatment program that was designed to help women in overcoming typical treatment barriers including shame, hopelessness, fear, and despair through providing a safe, non-confrontive treatment environment. Both cis- and transgender female veterans are treated in the program, along with those who identify as non-binary but who feel more comfortable in a predominantly women's treatment program. While addiction recovery is the main focus of program design, the curriculum is integrated with other residential treatment

programming in order to address other co-occurring concerns including trauma, depression, anxiety, and personality pathology. The program's goal is to help women veterans achieve and maintain a recovery lifestyle through the evidence-based treatment model Helping Women Recover (Covington), supplemented by Motivational Interviewing and Enhancement, Mindfulness, and Dialectical Behavior Therapy. The program receives national referrals from female veterans across the country who have not achieved their recovery goals through their local programming, most of which is co-ed in nature.

- **Residential Primary Substance Abuse Treatment or Intensive Outpatient Treatment.** The Residential Treatment Programs and Intensive Outpatient Treatment Program offer a full-range of addiction treatment services to male veterans seeking recovery from primary addictive disorders. In addition to primary educational and skills training interventions, these programs offer programming that emphasizes social skills training, other coping strategies, and brief motivational interventions.

Residents in this rotation gain experience across a range of recovery services and populations. The resident has opportunity to elect from a range of sites and populations, to support their personal training goals. The resident's training on these rotations includes:

- Screening for substance use, gambling and other process addictions, psychiatric symptoms, and support network problems;
- Differential diagnosis of comorbid psychiatric disorders;
- Motivational enhancement, relapse prevention skills training, mindfulness-based relapse prevention and cognitive behavior therapy;
- Interdisciplinary team participation, including staffing and development of multidisciplinary treatment plans.

These programs may include the following experiences in both acute detoxification and intake/assessment, again depending on the resident's training needs:

- **Acute Detoxification** including clinical detoxification protocols, with an emphasis on acute assessment and early engagement.
- **Intake/Assessment** including general intake and early engagement for veterans presenting to the addictions programs or to the primary care or other healthcare clinics in the medical center.

### ***C. PR RTP/Program for Recovery Skills***

The Program for Recovery Skills includes intensive residential programming for persons with severe mental illness (SMI). The resident is an interdisciplinary team member in this comprehensive residential rehabilitation program that employs evidence-based strategies for veterans with SMI, including illness management and recovery skills training, with an empirically supported integrated dual disorders treatment (IDDT) component for those veterans with SMI and co-occurring addiction.

The resident will develop skills in:

- Comprehensive initial and ongoing biopsychosocial assessments.

- Psychological assessment, including substance use assessment and differential diagnosis of a broad spectrum of co-occurring disorders using traditional psychological techniques.
- Integration of recovery skills in both addictive disorders and serious mental illness.
- Relapse prevention interventions in group, family and individual formats.
- Psychosocial skills training, relapse prevention planning, motivational enhancement and psychoeducational interventions in group and individual formats.
- Program development and evaluation.

#### ***D. Optional Supplemental Training Experiences***

The following professional development, training and educational activities and opportunities are available as part of options A, B and C above:

- **Smoking Cessation Program.** Smoking cessation is offered in a variety of settings at this facility. The resident may elect to participate in a primary smoking cessation intervention program, as an adjunct to training during one primary rotation.
- **Ohio Council on Problem Gambling.** The Ohio Council on Problem Gambling is a state advocacy organization. The resident may elect to attend one or more community advocacy activities or training events, and may be afforded the opportunity to co-present at state or national conferences.
- **Criminal Justice Outreach.** Community outreach for veterans with forensic issues through the Cuyahoga County Justice Center.
- **Homeless Shelter Veteran Outreach.** Community outreach for homeless veterans.
- **Organ Transplant.** Participate in the recovery skills group for veterans referred to the organ transplant list due to substance use concerns.

#### ***E. Scholarly Research Project***

The research requirement is described [here](#).

### **IV. FAMILY AND COUPLES COUNSELING SERVICES**

**Due to upcoming staffing changes, we are not recruiting for the Family and Couples Counseling Services (FCCS) residency position for the 2024-25 training year.** There may be options for residents in other focus area to request a minor rotation in this area. Please contact us if you would like more information about available training experiences in this area.





**CLINICAL RESIDENCY ADMISSIONS, SUPPORT, AND INITIAL PLACEMENT DATA**

***Program Tables – Admissions, Support, and Placement Data***

As required by the APA Commission on Accreditation, below is the current Postdoctoral Residency Admissions, Support, and Initial Placement Data for the Clinical Psychology Residency Program.

**Postdoctoral Residency Admissions, Support, and Initial Placement Data**  
**Date Program Tables are updated: 10/27/23**

<b>Program Disclosures</b>	
Does the program or institution require students, trainees, and/or staff (faculty) to comply with specific policies or practices related to the institution’s affiliation or purpose? Such policies or practices may include, but are not limited to, admissions, hiring, retention policies, and/or requirements for completion that express mission and values?	No
If yes, provide website link (or content from brochure) where this specific information is presented:	NA
<b>Postdoctoral Program Admissions</b>	
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:	
Our selection process is a rational one in which the residency preceptors rate applications on a standard set of criteria that relates to success in our VA residencies. We look for applicants who have well-rounded experience in assessment, intervention, integrated psychological reports, a diverse array of clients, and settings pertinent to specialty and focus area to which they are applying.	
<b>Describe any other required minimum criteria used to screen applicants:</b>	
<p><b>Applicants must meet the following prerequisites to be considered for our postdoctoral training program:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Completion of doctoral degree, including defense of dissertation, from a clinical or counseling psychology doctoral programs accredited by the American Psychological Association (APA) or the Canadian Psychological Association (CPA) before the start date of the residency.</li> <li>2. Completion of an APA-accredited psychology internship program.</li> <li>3. U.S. citizenship.</li> <li>4. Matched postdoctoral residents are subject to fingerprinting, background checks, and a urine drug screen.</li> </ol>	

<p>5. Individuals assigned male gender at birth and born after 12/31/1959 must have registered with the Selective Service System by age 26 to be eligible for U.S. government employment.                      *** Failure to meet these qualifications could nullify an offer to an applicant.</p>	
<b>Financial and Other Benefit Support for Upcoming Training Year*</b>	
Annual Stipend/Salary for Full-time Residents	54,265
Annual Stipend/Salary for Half-time Residents	NA
Program provides access to medical insurance for Residents?	Yes
<b>If access to medical insurance is provided:</b>	
Trainee contribution to cost required?	Yes
Coverage of family member(s) available?	Yes
Coverage of legally married partner available?	Yes
Coverage of domestic partner available?	No
Hours of Annual Paid Personal Time Off (PTO and/or Vacation)	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
Other Benefits (please describe):	NA
*Note. Programs are not required by the Commission on Accreditation to provide all benefits listed in this table	
<b>Initial Post-Residency Positions</b>	2019-2022
(Provide an Aggregated Tally for the Preceding 3 Cohorts)	
Total # of Residents who were in the 3 cohorts	8
Total # of Residents who remain in training in the residency program	0
Academic teaching	PD=0, EP=0
Community mental health center	PD=0, EP=0
Consortium	PD=0, EP=0
University Counseling Center	PD=0, EP=0
Hospital/Medical Center	PD=0, EP=1
Veterans Affairs Health Care System	PD=0, EP=7
Psychiatric facility	PD=0, EP=0
Correctional facility	PD=0, EP=0
Health maintenance organization	PD=0, EP=0
School district/system	PD=0, EP=0
Independent practice setting	PD=0, EP=0
Other	PD=0, EP=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.	

<b>CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGY STAFF</b>
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**ARIAS, Matthew, Ph.D.** West Virginia University, 2021. Assignments: Veterans Affairs Recovery Center (VARC) Staff Psychologist, Intensive Outpatient Treatment team, Mentorship Program Coordinator. Theoretical orientation: Cognitive Behavioral Therapy. Clinical specializations: Group and Individual Psychotherapy; Addictions Treatment; Motivational Interviewing; Cognitive-Behavioral Therapy; Acceptance and Commitment Therapy. Research Interests: Integration of technology into existing psychotherapy treatment; Examining ways to extend reach of treatment to underserved populations. Teaching and supervision interests: Individual and group psychotherapy focused on treatment of addiction utilizing cognitive-behavioral, mindfulness, and motivational approaches; Early career professional issues; psychometrics and statistics, integration of research into clinical practice.

**ARONOFF, Julie Harmon, Ph.D.**, Wayne State University, 1992. Assignments: Chief, Psychology Service. Theoretical orientation: Cognitive-Behavioral. Clinical specializations: severe mental illness; psychosocial rehabilitation and recovery; psychological assessment for differential diagnosis, including projectives. Publications and research interests: program evaluation and outcomes monitoring. Professional organizations: Past President, State Board of Psychology of Ohio. Teaching and supervision interests: Psychological assessment; mental health recovery; professional ethics.

**BREGLIA, Daniel, Psy.D.**, Widener University, 2005. Assignment: Couples and Family Services Program at Wade Park. Theoretical Orientation: eclectic, cognitive-behavioral, experiential, and systems theory. Clinical Specialization: PTSD Treatment; CPT & PE certified therapist; Sexual trauma & compulsivity; family & couples therapy; forensic psychology; general biofeedback. Research interests: emotion theory; redefining clinical outcomes. Supervision interests: psychotherapy, case conceptualization, and therapeutic alliance.

**CHAPMAN, Heather A.**, Ph.D., Kent State University, 1997. Assignment: Deputy Director, Veterans Addiction Recovery Center; Director Gambling Treatment Program. Theoretical Orientation: Eclectic: biopsychosocialspiritual model, utilizing cognitive-behavioral, motivational interviewing, mindfulness interventions. Clinical specialization: Gambling Disorder, process and substance addictions, dual-diagnosis, group and individual psychotherapy, and motivational interviewing, clinical training and clinical research. Publications: Addictions, Dual-Diagnosis, Depression, and Schizophrenia. Current research interests: Gambling disorder, treatment retention, integrated treatment, suicidality. Professional Organizations: International Certified Gambling Counselor and Board Certified Clinical Consultant with the National Council on Problem Gambling, Member/Trainer Motivational Interviewing Network of Trainers. Other professional activities outside VA: independent practice, national leader in professional training, consultation and supervision (gambling disorder, motivational interviewing and evidenced based addictions treatments, military and veteran culture). Teaching and supervision interests: Gambling disorder/Addictions, motivational interviewing, group dynamics, individual and group psychotherapy.

**DENDY, Anna, Ph.D.** Penn State University, 2010. Assignment: Specialty Mental Health Outpatient Clinic, serves on the clinical team of the GIVE Clinic at Wade Park to serve transgender veterans, is Team Lead of the Wade Park-Parma DBT Team, and serves on the Cleveland Wade Park VA Diversity Committee. Clinical specializations: DBT, EMDR, and IPT-D. Clinical, research, and training interests include working with individuals with complex trauma integrating DBT and psychodynamic approaches, group therapy, and multicultural, feminist, and LGBTQ affirmative therapy. Professional organizations: APA, OPA, the Cleveland Psychoanalytic Center, AGPA, and EMDRIA.

**DIAZ, Rosalie C., Psy.D.**, Adler School of Professional Psychology, 2004. Assignments: Wellness Coordinator; Primary Care-Mental Health Integration in Women’s Veterans Health Clinic, G.I.V.E. (Gender Identity Veteran's Experience) Clinic, and Mental Health Ambulatory Care Center; individual and group therapies (Chronic Pain SMA, iRest Yoga Nidra, LGBTQI Veterans Group, GIVE Support Group, Taking Charge of My Life!). Theoretical orientation: Integrative, Adlerian, Cognitive-Behavioral. Clinical specializations: Primary Care/Health Psychology; Chronic Pain; iRest Yoga Nidra and Mindfulness. Publications and research interests: Psychological factors in the assessment and treatment of chronic pain, use of Yoga, Meditation and QiGong interventions, and Women’s mental health issues. Professional organizations: American Psychological Association. Teaching and supervision interests: Individual and group psychotherapy, somatic experiencing and mind-body interventions. Dr. Diaz also serves as the Whole Health POC and as Member/Co-Editor for the Psychology Service Diversity Committee.

**FACEMIRE, Vanessa, Ph.D.**, The University of Akron, 2018. Assignments: Major Preceptor, Psychology Residency in Trauma/PTSD; PTSD Clinical Team; PTSD/SUD Coordinator; PTSD/SUD Residential Treatment Program; PTSD Intensive Treatment Program. Theoretical orientation: Integrative, evidence-based. Clinical specializations: the assessment and treatment of trauma-related psychological issues, combat-related guilt and moral injury, treatment of comorbid PTSD/SUD. Publication/research interests: PTSD, evidence-based treatments, massed delivery of evidence-based therapies for treating PTSD, concurrent and integrated care for PTSD/SUD, PTSD in ethnic and racial minorities, PTSD and oppression. Professional Membership: International Society for Traumatic Stress Studies, American Psychological Association. Teaching and supervision interests: Assessment and treatment of PTSD and co-occurring disorders, combat-related guilt, moral injury, individual and group psychotherapy.

**FEDYNICH, Ashley, Psy.D.**, Wright State University, 2020. Assignments: PTSD Clinical Team: PTSD/SUD Residential Treatment Program; PTSD Intensive Treatment Program. Theoretical orientation: Cognitive-behavioral. Clinical specializations: the assessment and evidence-based treatment of PTSD/trauma, substance use disorders, treatment of trauma-related nightmares. Publication/research interests: PTSD, evidence-based treatments, co-morbidity of PTSD and sexual functioning, massed delivery of evidence-based therapies for treating PTSD. Professional Organizations: International Society for Traumatic Stress Studies, Association for Behavioral and Cognitive Therapies. Teaching and supervision interests: Assessment and treatment of PTSD and co-occurring disorders, evidence-based therapies (CPT, PE, WET, CBCT for PTSD, and CBT-N), individual and group psychotherapy.

**FLORES, Heather, Psy.D.**, La Salle University, 2007. Assignment: Assistant Chief of Psychology for the PTSD and Trauma-Related Care Section; PCT Program Manager; Consultant for National Center for PTSD, Executive Division; Postvention team. Theoretical orientation: Cognitive behavioral. Clinical specialization: Assessment and treatment of PTSD/trauma, combat-related guilt and moral injury, substance use disorders, and violence risk assessment. Publication/research interests: PTSD, evidence-based treatments, massed delivery of EBPs for treating PTSD, healthcare utilization, implementation facilitation, suicidology, resiliency, clinical program development, and program evaluation. External VA interests: Independent practice. Professional membership: International Society for Traumatic Stress Studies. Training/supervision interests: Individual and group psychotherapy, treatment of PTSD and co-occurring disorders, professional development issues, umbrella supervision.

**GOLDEN, Catherine, Ph.D.**, Ohio University, 2009. Program Manager: Peer Support Services; Local Recovery Coordinator. Theoretical Orientation: Cognitive Behavioral. Clinical Specializations: Severe mental illness and cooccurring substance disorders (Dual-disorder treatment); Psychosocial

rehabilitation and recovery. Publications and research interests: Self-perception in people with mental illness; stigma and self-stigma regarding mental illness; Program evaluation. Professional organizations: American Psychological Association; Ohio Psychological Association; Division 31 (State, Provincial and Territorial Psychological Association Affairs). Teaching and supervision interests: Differential diagnosis and treatment of severe mental illness and dual-disorders; Recovery oriented systems based treatment; Mental health advocacy.

**HERNANDEZ, Silvia, Ph.D.** Case Western Reserve University, 2022. Assignments: Acute Psychiatric Inpatient unit (CT6), Acute Inpatient Medicine, Consultation/Liaison. Theoretical Orientation: Cognitive Behavioral, Integrative. Clinical Specializations: Suicide risk assessment and suicide-specific interventions, recovery-oriented approach to assessment and intervention for patients with SMI, assessment and evaluations for a broad range of presenting issues including diagnostic differentials for patients with SMI, group and individual therapy, integrative approach to treatment. Teaching, Mentoring, and Supervision Interests: Therapeutic use of suicide risk assessment, suicide-specific interventions, assessment and evaluations with SMI population, recovery-oriented care; development of professional skills to facilitate effective interdisciplinary team membership; program development and system process improvement.

**HOAG, Megan, Psy.D., MSCP**, Indiana University of Pennsylvania, 2012. Assignments: VARC Women's Treatment Program, Team Leader; Preceptor, Clinical Psychology Postdoctoral Residency Special Emphasis in Substance and Process Addictions. Theoretical Orientation: Cognitive behavioral. Clinical Specializations: Addictions treatment, women's specific mental health treatment, health psychology, clinical psychopharmacology. Publications and Research Interests: Body image and disordered eating, women's addictions treatment considerations, law enforcement selection. Professional organizations: American Psychological Association, Division 35 (Psychology of Women), Ohio Psychological Association. Teaching and supervision interests: Group dynamics and psychotherapy, motivation, addictions treatment for women, psychopharmacology, professional identity and development.

**KEANE, Jennifer, Psy.D.** Indiana State University, 2021. Assignments: Psychiatry Day Hospital. Theoretical Orientation: Interpersonal, Cognitive Behavioral, and Humanistic. Clinical Specializations: Assessment including psychodiagnostic clarification for individuals with SMI, objective personality testing, projective/performance-based measures, cognitive testing, C&P examinations, and capacity evaluations. Individual and group therapeutic interventions for individuals with SMI. Research and Clinical Interests: Assessment and diagnosis of schizophrenia spectrum disorders, the utility of personality assessment in practice, identifying endophenotypic factors of psychosis (schizotypy), and the impact of diversity factors on psychiatric care. Teaching and Supervision Interests: Assessment with SMI population using multimethod evaluations, therapeutic interventions with those with SMI, recovery-oriented care, and diversity considerations related to mental health treatment and assessment.

**KERN, Sara, Ph.D.**, University of Missouri-St. Louis, 2019. Assignment: Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) Coordinator; PTSD and Trauma Specialty Team. Theoretical orientation: Cognitive behavioral. Clinical specializations: group and individual psychotherapy, Cognitive Processing Therapy for PTSD (CPT), Prolonged Exposure Therapy for PTSD (PE), assessment of intimate partner violence (IPV), PTSD/trauma-related disorders, and military sexual trauma (MST), women's mental health, interpersonal trauma. Publications and research interests: spectrum of coerced sexual experiences and differential outcomes. Training/supervision interests: assessment of and evidence-based treatment for users and experiencers of IPV, evidence-based treatment for PTSD, group psychotherapy, transdiagnostic treatment for MST, early career professional development.

**KOZLOWSKI, Neal, Ph.D.**, Loyola University Chicago, 2003. Assignments: Director of the Psychosocial Rehabilitation and Recovery Center (PRRC); National Training Consultant for the VA's Cognitive Behavioral Therapy for Depression Evidence Based Practice Training Program. Theoretical orientation: Cognitive-behavioral, experiential. Clinical specialization: Assessment and psychosocial treatments for Schizophrenia and other serious mental illnesses, treatment of co-occurring substance use disorders/addiction. Publication and research interests: Management of confidentiality and HIV serostatus in psychotherapy, ethical issues in the training of psychology graduate students. Teaching and supervision interests: CBT case conceptualization, dual diagnosis treatment, social-cognitive rehabilitation of schizophrenia, criminal justice involvement of people with serious mental illness.

**LAMOUREUX, Brittain, Ph.D.**, Kent State University, 2011. Assignments: PTSD Clinical Team. Theoretical orientation: Integrative, evidence-based. Clinical specializations: the assessment and treatment of trauma-related psychological issues. Publications and research interests: developing and evaluating evidence-based interventions for addressing trauma-related issues, concurrent and integrated care for PTSD/SUD; the impact of childhood trauma on functioning in adulthood, resilience, assessment of depression/suicide in primary care settings. Professional organizations: International Society for Traumatic Stress Studies, American Psychological Association. Teaching and supervision interests: Assessment and treatment of PTSD and co-occurring disorders, individual and group psychotherapy.

**MIDY, Tarah, Ph.D.**, State University of New York – Binghamton, 2018. Assignments: Family Services; Local Recovery Coordinator. Theoretical Orientation: Cognitive-Behavioral/Integrative. Clinical Specializations: assessment and treatment of couples/relationship issues, Integrative Behavioral Couple Therapy (IBCT), recovery-oriented care, diversity and multicultural issues. Publication/research interests: interracial couples, changes in marriage and family functioning, treatment engagement. Training/supervision interests: couples therapy, assessment, professional development issues, diversity and multicultural issues.

**PEREZ, Sara, Ph.D.** Kent State University, 2008. Assignment: Military Sexual Trauma Coordinator; PTSD Clinical Team. Theoretical orientation: Cognitive Behavioral. Clinical Specializations: Sexual Trauma; PTSD; Complex Trauma; Dialectical Behavioral Therapy; Cognitive Processing Therapy; Prolonged Exposure Therapy; Cognitive Behavioral Conjoint Therapy for PTSD. Publications and Research Interests: Intimate Partner Violence and PTSD. Teaching and Supervision Interests: EBTs for PTSD.

**RENNER, Kerry, Ph.D.** Northern Illinois University, 2008. Assignments: Homeless & Mental Health Residential Rehabilitation Treatment Center (HMHRRTC) – Clinical Program Coordinator; Evidence-Based Psychotherapy (EBP) Coordinator; Co-Lead – VISN 10 EBP Community of Practice for VISN10 MH ICC; Regional Cognitive Processing Therapy (CPT) Trainer/Consultant; PTSD Clinical Team (Adjunct). Theoretical orientation: Cognitive-Behavioral and Interpersonal. Clinical Specialization: Assessment and treatment of PTSD/Trauma, Prolonged Grief Disorder, and Anxiety disorders; Evidence-based practice and shared decision-making including utilization of structured empirically supported treatments such as CPT, PE, DBT, Prolonged Grief Therapy, PST, and PCT; Trauma-informed approaches for homeless Veteran recovery and community reintegration. Publication/Research Interests: Effective treatments for PTSD, integrated treatments for PTSD/SUD, patient satisfaction & program development, trauma informed care for homeless veterans, persistent guilt and moral injury. Professional Membership: American Psychological Association, International Society for Traumatic Stress Studies. Training/Supervision Interests: Individual and group psychotherapy, evidence-based treatments for PTSD (CPT/PE), diagnostic and psychosocial assessment, trauma informed approaches to non-trauma

interventions, program redesign and evaluation, implementation of measurement-based care, professional development and growth in multidisciplinary settings.

**RIDLEY, Josephine, Ph.D.**, Clinical Psychology, West Virginia University, 1997. Assignments: Assistant Chief of Psychology Service/Supervisory Psychologist and Program Manager for the Residential and WP Intensive Outpatient Psychology Section; Associate Professor, Dept. of Psychological Sciences, Case Western Reserve University; Co-Chair VANEOS IRB; Co-Chair Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Advisory Board for the Executive Leadership Team (ELT); Founding Past Chair, Psychology Service Diversity Committee; Program Director, Clinical Psychology Postdoctoral Residency; Preceptor, Psychosocial Rehabilitation for the Seriously Mentally Ill Residency; Measurement Based Care Champion; Suicide Risk ID Co-Champion, Mental Health Suite Champion. Theoretical Orientation: Cognitive-Behavioral; Behavioral; Integrative. Clinical Specialization: Cultural Competence, individual and group therapy with seriously mentally ill; CBT for Psychosis. External Professional Roles: Co-Editor for the British Journal of Guidance & Counselling; Consulting Editor for Psychological Sciences; Master Trainer for the Zero Suicide Institute's Assessment and Management of Suicide Risk (AMSR) Workshop. Publications and Research Interest: Depression, Suicide, Anxiety Disorders, PTSD. Professional Organizations: Association of Black Psychologists (ABPsi); American Psychological Association (APA); Ohio Psychological Association (OPA); Association of VA Psychologist Leaders (AVAPL). Teaching & Supervision Interests: Diversity and Inclusion; Differential Diagnosis/Psychological Assessment; Assessment & Management of Suicide Risk; Cognitive-Behavioral Therapy (CBT); CBT for Psychosis; Individual and Group Psychotherapy.

**ROSS, Amanda, Psy.D.**, American School of Professional Psychology, Southern California, 2017. Assignments: Program Manager, Mental Health Residential Rehabilitation Treatment Program (MHR RTP), Clinical Coordinator for Severe Mental Illness Specialty and POC for the VA Northeast Ohio Early Psychosis Intervention Coordination (EPIC) Team. Previous assignment in Veterans Addiction Recovery Center (VARC) and Psychosocial Residential Rehabilitation Treatment Program (PR RTP). Theoretical orientation: Integrative, with foundations in Humanistic and Psychodynamic theory. Clinical specializations: Severe mental illnesses, LGBT+, substance use disorders and process addictions, including gambling and sexual behaviors, and HIV+ populations. Psychological assessment, including testing for diagnostic differential decisions, projective personality assessment, learning disability assessment for ADA accommodations, and violence and sexual recidivism risk assessments. Publications and research interests: The utility of addressing unmet core emotional needs for substance use disorders; mediating factors of gambling disorder and suicidality; Ohio Psychological Association's strategic plan for psychologists' practice in the opioid epidemic. Professional organizations: American Psychological Association Division 12 and Section 10, the Ohio Psychological Association, OPA Leadership Development Academy, Federal and State advocacy efforts through OPA. Teaching, supervision, and mentoring interests: Women in psychology; early career psychologists; the importance of psychological assessment and evaluation; patient-centered, relationship-based treatment; Yalom group therapy; advocacy and involvement in community organizations; program leadership skills.

**ROSS, Samantha Psy.D.**, Spalding University, 2016. Assignment: PTSD Clinical Team; Theoretical orientation: Cognitive-behavioral, integrative. Clinical specialization: Assessment and treatment of PTSD/trauma and substance use disorders, individual and group psychotherapy, Prolonged Exposure Therapy (PE), Cognitive Processing Therapy (CPT), Written Exposure Therapy (WET), and Acceptance and Commitment Therapy (ACT). Teaching and supervision interests: Evidence-based treatments for PTSD and co-occurring disorders, ACT, work life balance, professional development.



**RUSSIN, Sarah, Ph.D.** Bowling Green State University, 2022. Assignments: Post Traumatic Stress Disorder Clinical Team (PCT) and PTSD Intensive Treatment Program (ITP). Theoretical orientation: Cognitive Behavioral Therapy. Clinical specializations: The assessment and evidence-based treatment of PTSD/trauma. Research Interests: Massed delivery of evidence-based therapies for treating PTSD, comorbidity of PTSD with eating disorders and chronic pain, & the impact of PTSD on relationships. Teaching and supervision interests: Assessment and treatment of PTSD, evidence-based therapies (CPT, PE), individual and group therapy, early career professional issues and development.

**SCHAECHER-PECEK, Megan, Psy.D.** Argosy University, 2015. Post-Doctoral training at OhioGuidestone and Psychology Consultants, Inc. Assignments: MHACC Staff Psychologist VISN-10; Theoretical orientation: Cognitive Behavioral Therapy. Clinical Specializations: PTSD; Complex Trauma; Dialectical Behavioral Therapy; Acceptance Commitment Therapy; Group Psychotherapy. Publications and Research Interests: Psychotherapy; Complex Trauma. Professional Organization: American Psychological Association, Teaching and Supervision Interests: CBT, DBT, ACT-D.

**WALKER, Kevin, Ph.D.** Bowling Green State University, 2022. Assignments: Veterans Affairs Recovery Center (VARC) Staff Psychologist, Residential team. Theoretical orientation: Cognitive Behavioral; Person-Centered. Clinical Specializations/Populations: Group and Individual Psychotherapy; Assessment; Serious Mental Illness; Addictions and Dual Disorders; Posttraumatic Stress Disorder; Second and third wave cognitive behavioral interventions. Research Interests: Social stigma; Recovery-oriented care; Serious mental illnesses; Community integration and inclusion. Supervision Interests: Developing intervention, assessment, and case conceptualization skills with Veterans experiencing substance use disorders, serious mental illnesses, trauma-related disorders, and dual disorders. Fostering a person-centered and recovery-oriented approach to care of Veterans with serious mental illnesses and complex diagnostic and psychosocial presentations. Discussion and professional development regarding cultural humility and relevance of diverse identities in clinical and professional relationships. Early career professional issues.

**WHITE, Joshua, Psy.D.** Indiana State University, 2009. Assignments: Team Leader - Veterans Addictions Recovery Center (VARC) - Men's Residential Treatment Program. Theoretical orientation: Cognitive-Behavioral/Integrative. Clinical specializations: Psychological Assessment; Group and Individual Psychotherapy; Addictions Treatment; VA certified provider of Motivational Enhancement Therapy (MET), consultant for local Motivational Interviewing/Enhancement Training. Publications and research interests: Addiction assessment/treatment, forensic psychology, motivational interviewing, Transtheoretical Model of Change. Teaching and supervision interests: Individual and group psychotherapy focused on treatment of addiction utilizing cognitive-behavioral, mindfulness, and motivational approaches; Early career professional issues; Screening, Brief Intervention, and Referral to Treatment (SBIRT).

**YAHNEY, Eric Ph.D.,** University of Akron, 1999. Assignment: Parma Veterans Addiction Recovery Center. Theoretical Orientation: Cognitive Behavioral Theory, Existentialism, Strategic & Social Learning Theory. Clinical specialization: individual and group therapy, assessment, general addictions treatment and suicide prevention. External to the VA interests: vocational counseling, professional consultation and community outreach programming. Research and Publications: Instructional models of teaching and communication, suicide prevention for individuals with substance use disorders and initiating organizational change. Teaching and special interests: individual psychotherapy, brief & solution-focused therapy, addiction treatment.

## CLINICAL HEALTH PSYCHOLOGY PROGRAM

Reaccredited for 10 years in 2019

Psychologists have been embedded within medical care delivery units at the Cleveland VA Medical Center since 1974, and served as internship supervisors for over 30 years. Health Psychologists assigned to these areas are available for resident supervision.

The philosophy of our program is to foster the ongoing development of a well-versed generalist psychologist and acquire advanced skills in assessment and treatment of a variety of psychological problems that present in the context of the medical clinic. The resident works as a member of an interprofessional health care team with emphasis on the biopsychosocial model of evidence-based clinical care along with quality scholarship and empiricism.

The goals of the program are multifaceted. They are to educate the resident in the many roles played by a health psychologist specialist working in an interdisciplinary team; acknowledge the importance of and utilize the developmental, biopsychosocial, and systemic approaches to patient care in various specialty clinics; appreciate and learn the practice of acute to chronic care of patients with both life-threatening and life-long disease processes; foster clinical and empirical collaboration; learn how to intervene in practitioner-patient-family dynamics; and learn how to import expertise as a behavioral health specialist to the health care team.

The resident participates in a year-long clinical training program in clinical focus areas detailed below. All rotations include teaching, scholarly and intern supervisory activities in addition to clinical experiential training. In addition to the seminars required of all residents, residents in the health psychology focus areas are also required to attend:

**Clinical Health Psychology Residents Seminar:** residents in Primary Care, Specialty Medical Clinics, Headaches/Polytrauma Psychology, Geropsychology, and Rehabilitation Psychology attend an additional monthly Health Psychology Seminar, emphasizing didactics, practical applications, and case discussions relevant to core competency areas of clinical health psychology practice.

In addition to the foundational competencies specified for all residencies, the following competencies are common to all Clinical Health Psychology specialty and focus areas.

### CLINICAL HEALTH PSYCHOLOGY SPECIALTY COMPETENCY COMPONENTS

**I. Professional values appropriate to health psychology settings.** Understanding professional values and behaviors relevant to competent practice within interdisciplinary treatment teams.

**II. Advanced science and knowledge in health psychology.** Acquiring foundational knowledge bases covering the biological, psychological, and social aspects of health conditions and behaviors across the lifespan.

**III. Advanced Health Psychology Assessment.** Acquiring foundational knowledge bases and clinical skills relevant to empirically supported biopsychosocial assessment strategies,

diagnoses, case conceptualizations, and communication of findings.

**IV. Advanced Health Psychology Interventions.** Acquiring foundational knowledge bases and clinical skills for behavioral interventions relevant to disease management, health promotion, and prevention of health-related issues.

**V. Advanced health psychology consultation.** Acquiring foundational knowledge bases and skills in psychological consultation within the context of a health care setting.

**VI. Advanced Health Psychology Research/Program Evaluation.** Understanding the role of health psychology in the development and communication of health-related research and program evaluation in interdisciplinary treatment settings.

**VII. Reflective Practice/Self-Assessment/Self-Care.** Understanding and utilization of information gained from self-reflection on clinical skills used, boundaries of competence, and impact of one's own well-being.

## I. SPECIALTY MEDICINE CLINICS

The resident participates in a year-long clinical training program within specialty medical clinical areas. The resident has two options for training, both of which include both inpatient and outpatient treatment settings, assessment, intervention, and participation in interdisciplinary specialty teams. The resident engages in interdisciplinary didactics, umbrella supervisory activities, complex clinical training, and creation of a scholarly research project.

## SPECIALTY MEDICINE CLINICAL TRAINING EXPERIENCES

The resident chooses ONE of the following two options for his/her core clinical training experiences for the year.

### ***Option 1: Cardiology and Solid Organ Transplant***

#### ***A. Cardiology***

The resident is part of an interdisciplinary team caring for patients with a range of cardiac problems. The treatment environment includes inpatient settings (cardiology step-down and critical care units), as well as outpatient heart failure clinics. The resident will assess and treat patients individually, during interdisciplinary rounds, and in group formats (e.g., Heart Failure Group, Heart Failure Boot Camp).

The resident will have opportunities to:

- Attend rounds with cardiology staff and provide brief psychosocial interventions (e.g. smoking cessation, mood assessment, capacity screening) for hospitalized patients.
- Function as a member of an interdisciplinary health care team that includes cardiologists, fellows, residents, nurse practitioners, social workers, and rehabilitation professionals.
- Gain exposure to the psychosocial problems of hospitalized, critically ill patients and their families. Assess and treat a variety of problems including acute depression/anxiety, delirium, pain, and bereavement.
- Complete brief mood assessments and cognitive screens for inpatients and outpatients.

- Facilitate goals of care discussions with individuals and families for inpatients and outpatients.
- Participate in shared medical clinics and gain detailed knowledge in both psychological and medical aspects of cardiac illness.
- Function as moderator in a group Heart Failure clinic with a focus on the promotion of self-management skills.
- Follow a small caseload of patients for short-term psychotherapy and address a variety of psychosocial issues including risk factor reduction, treatment of adherence problems, development of coping strategies, as well as associated depression/anxiety.

***B. Solid Organ Transplant and Advanced Heart Failure Therapies***

The resident will work as part of an interdisciplinary care team providing treatment of patients through the process of solid organ transplant or advanced heart failure therapies.

The resident will have opportunities to:

- Complete psychosocial assessments for patients in need of solid organ (heart, lung, liver) transplantation or advanced heart failure therapies, such as LVAD or home inotropes.
- Assess patient risk factors, coping resources, social support, and adherence to treatment regimens.
- Develop an understanding of the Stanford Integrated Psychological Assessment for Transplant and its use in evaluating transplant candidacy.
- Evaluation may include administration and interpretation of objective assessment measures including the MMPI-2, BDI-2, and CHIP as clinically indicated.
- Participate in a pre-transplant clinic for patients referred for liver transplant.
- Provide short-term individual psychotherapy that focuses on managing the demands of transplant.
- Participate with other members of the transplant team, including physicians, fellows, residents, nurse practitioners, and other healthcare professionals, in determining transplant candidacy and providing pre and post-transplant care.
- Attend interdisciplinary transplant selection committee meetings.
- Co-moderate a substance abuse group for patients across the transplant spectrum (pre-transplant, listed, and post-transplant).

***Option 2: Hematology-Oncology, Palliative Care, and Hospice Clinics***

Within this option, the resident will provide assessment and tailored treatment interventions to veterans within three medical areas of the Medical Center, and in the process will become well integrated into three interdisciplinary teams. In addition, the resident likely will conduct capacity evaluations within any of the settings. The resident will provide services primarily in-person, although additional care delivery options will include video to home and video to clinic, as well as telephone encounters as needed.

***A. Hematology-Oncology***

The resident will function as an integral member of the interdisciplinary Hematology-Oncology team to provide psycho-oncology services to veterans with a cancer diagnosis in inpatient and/or outpatient settings. The resident will conduct assessments and deliver psychotherapeutic interventions within individual, family, and couple modalities, and when clinically indicated, will follow veterans throughout the continuum of their cancer care. Additionally, the resident may conduct a Psychological Evaluation of

Bone Marrow Transplant Candidacy. As a team member, the resident will participate in weekly interdisciplinary tumor boards and have opportunities to attend additional meetings involving cancer programming, distress screening, and cancer survivorship services.

***B. Palliative Care***

The resident will conduct comprehensive psychological assessments of veterans in response to inpatient and outpatient Palliative Care consults. For continuity of care, the resident will have the opportunity to follow veterans and extend care delivery, when appropriate, across inpatient and outpatient settings.

***C. Hospice***

The resident will work with veterans who reside on Heroes Harbor Hospice for end of life care. During this aspect of the rotation, the resident will evaluate the needs of the veterans and provide individual, couples and family interventions. Additionally, residents may have the opportunity to deliver hospice psychology services via telehealth to veterans receiving hospice at home or in nursing home settings.

***D. Scholarly Research Project***

With either of the above options, the resident will spend one day a week on a research project. The research requirement is described [here](#).

**II. CENTER OF OUTPATIENT EDUCATION (COE) - PRIMARY CARE - MENTAL HEALTH INTEGRATION**

Seven Centers of Excellence in Primary Care Education (CoEPCE), established by the Veterans Affairs' Office of Academic Affiliations, were created as part of a national initiative to implement and test innovative approaches for interdisciplinary, collaborative, patient-centered practices that provide coordinated longitudinal care. As a foundational CoEPCE site, the Cleveland VA developed an interdisciplinary training program, which has since been adopted by the medical center and is now known as The Center of Outpatient Education (COE). Within this program, psychology fellows train as part of an interdisciplinary cohort working from the core assumption that psychology is an integral participant in the primary care team. This focus area includes both clinical training and supervision, as well as participation in an interprofessional, interactive, weekly didactic series shaped by six pre-defined educational competencies: 1) Shared Decision Making, 2) Interprofessional Collaboration, 3) Continuous Quality Improvement and 4) Leadership 5) Professional Satisfaction and 6) Social Determinants of Health. This curriculum is designed for learners to develop the skill set and content knowledge needed to participate in interprofessional workplace learning.

The resident participates in a year-long core clinical training in the Wade Park Outpatient Primary Care Clinic and a 6 month rotation in Primary Care Geriatrics. Optional rotations can include the Women's Primary Care Clinic, Eating Disorders treatment, Infectious Disease Primary Care, and Parma Outpatient Primary Care Clinic. Scholar activity includes eight hours per week in research. Core clinical training and optional rotations also include teaching, scholarly and supervisory activities.

## PRIMARY CARE CLINICAL CORE TRAINING EXPERIENCES

### ***A. Primary Center of Outpatient Education***

The Center for Outpatient Education (COE) interdisciplinary primary care medicine clinic is staffed by attending physicians, health psychologists, GIM Residents, nurse practitioners, PharmDs, dietitians, nurses, and social workers. The resident is involved in the following activities in the primary care clinic:

- Accepting warm hand-offs in the Primary Care Clinic to complete an initial Primary Care Mental Health Integration (PC-MHI) functional assessment that focuses on the referral problem; This may include health psychology focused assessments (smoking cessation, obesity, adherence, barriers to diabetes self-management), as well as general psychology focused assessments, or brief assessment of mental status, evaluation of suicide risk and risk stratification, substance use, functional status, health and well-being, and mental health. Residents will follow a PC-MHI Consultation model for initial and follow-up consultations (5As, functional assessment, consultation vs psychotherapy, brief time-limited sessions).
- Facilitation of interdisciplinary shared medical appointments as well as MOVE groups.
- Interdisciplinary team meetings and teaching rounds with COE faculty and fellow learners.
- Supportive and time limited psychological consultation/treatment (problem solving therapy, behavior activation, CBT, mindfulness, and other health psychology interventions such as cognitive behavioral interventions for sleep, pain, diabetes, and stress-related issues).
- Consultation with nursing and medical staff.
- Performing cognitive evaluations and capacity evaluations.
- Completing psychological evaluations for appropriateness of bariatric surgery.
- Participation in the Preventive Medicine Clinic for smoking cessation, obesity and nonadherence.
- Facilitation of tobacco cessation groups.
- Participation in COE Team Huddles.
- Completion of Yellow Belt Training (Quality improvement methodology) and the completion of an interdisciplinary Quality Improvement Project over the course of the residency.
- Participation in four hours weekly interprofessional COE didactic sessions.

### ***B. Geriatric Outpatient Clinic***

Within the COE, residents will participate in a minor rotation in the Geriatric Outpatient Clinic to gain basic foundational skills in working with older patients. Geriatrics functions as an outpatient consultation service and is also a PACT primary care setting. The resident will participate in the evaluation of medical, cognitive, psychological, and physical functioning of older adults, many of whom are medically compromised and with complex psychosocial histories. The resident will learn how to quickly assess cognitive and mood issues, develop interventions, and integrate findings into an interdisciplinary care plan. There are also opportunities to engage the caregiving network in treatment as well as to provide caregiver support directly to family. The resident manages their own clinic two days a week with supervision and is involved in the following activities:

- Psychological evaluation of new patients including clinical interview; cognitive and psychological screening; history; and interview with the partner, family, caregiver, or other collateral.
- Interdisciplinary staffing of patients to develop a treatment plan.
- Ongoing psychological interventions including individual therapy, couple's and family therapy, management of behavioral problems, cognitive testing, and personality assessment as indicated.
- Capacity evaluations and completion of Statement of Expert Evaluation forms for competency hearings.
- Consultation and treatment of patients who develop emotional or cognitive difficulties once established in the clinic.
- Warm hand-offs of patients with acute psychological concerns.

### ***C. Scholarly Research Project***

The research requirement is described [here](#).

## **OPTIONAL SPECIALIZED PRIMARY CARE CLINICAL TRAINING EXPERIENCES**

Multiple clinics throughout the medical center serve as both a specialty care clinic as well as the primary care clinic for their patients. Training in these settings provides options for a resident to individualize their training plan and experience the role of PC-MHI across different patient populations and interdisciplinary teams.

### ***A. HIV Primary Care Clinic***

In this clinic, the psychology resident will collaborate with our interdisciplinary primary care team in assessing and treating behavioral health, mental health, and substance use concerns and disorders in patients with HIV. Common therapeutic concerns include adjustment to HIV, medical adherence, smoking cessation and other substance use disorders, mood issues, stress, partner and family issues, as well as cognitive changes related to HIV. The resident may also participate in regular interdisciplinary treatment team meetings regarding advancements in HIV management.

Within the HIV clinic, the resident will gain supervised experience in these specific modalities:

- Comprehensive biopsychosocial assessment
- Safety (suicide/homicide risk) assessment
- Motivational Interviewing for SUD or medication adherence
- HIV psychoeducational/support group and individual psychotherapy
- Cognitive and other neuropsychological screening assessments
- Psychological evaluations of capacity for medical decision making and independent living
- Weekly interdisciplinary team meetings
- Other aspects of Primary Care Mental Health Integration (PC-MHI) and Patient Aligned Care Team (PACT) interventions and collaborations
- Interprofessional education
- Chronic disease self-management

**B. Women's Health Primary Care Clinic**

The resident will gain supervised experience in these specific modalities within the training milieu:

- Same day biopsychosocial assessment, consultation, and triage
- Brief psychotherapy for mild to moderate mood and SUD related concerns
- Evaluation and treatment of disordered eating and binge eating patterns
- Binge Eating Disorder (CBT-based) group, cofacilitated by psychology and dietetics
- Possible Diabetes Shared Medical Appointment (SMA)
- Evaluation of psychological factors affecting adjustment to medical conditions and adherence
- Risk (suicide-homicide) assessment
- Motivational interviewing for medication and medical recommendation adherence
- Psychological evaluation for medical decision-making and independent living
- Cognitive assessments
- Interprofessional collaboration and education
- Chronic disease self-management
- Monthly interdisciplinary team meetings
- Tobacco cessation

**C. G.I.V.E. (Gender Identity Veteran's Experience) Clinic**

This clinic is a specialty primary care setting serving transgender veterans. The resident will gain supervised experience in these specific modalities within the training milieu:

- Comprehensive biopsychosocial assessment
- Evaluation and treatment of veterans exploring Gender Identity and presenting with Gender Dysphoria
- Group work for LGBTQI Veterans Group and G.I.V.E. (Gender Identity Veteran's Experience) Support Groups
- Same day biopsychosocial assessment, consultation, and triage
- Risk (suicide-homicide) assessment, with attention to special risk factors of transgender veterans
- Brief psychotherapy for issues including gender concerns, mild to moderate mood issues, and SUD related concerns
- Possible long term therapy patient for longer-term gender identity exploration and/or more severe, chronic MH/SUD concerns
- Evaluation of psychosocial factors affecting adjustment to medical conditions and adherence
- Motivational interviewing for medication and medical recommendation adherence
- Cognitive and psychological assessments
- Interprofessional collaboration and education
- Chronic disease self-management
- Weekly interdisciplinary team meetings

**III. GEROPSYCHOLOGY**

Geropsychology focus provides curriculum consistent with the Pikes Peak Model (Karel, Knight, Duffy, Hinrichsen, & Zeiss, 2010) standards of practice in geropsychology. Residents are afforded year-long experiences working in multiple geriatric training locations that allow intensive assessment,



intervention, and care planning opportunities. They are encouraged to fully embrace taking a developmentally appropriate and advanced professional role in interdisciplinary consultation, education, team meetings, in-service education for nursing staff, and umbrella supervision for interns and practicum students. Residents manage their own outpatient clinics, participate in patient/caregiver programming, and administratively manage the outpatient driver evaluation clinic. They also work as an integral part of the geropsychiatry consultation team in the CLC. The resident functions like a beginning staff member by being engaged with curb-side consultation, risk assessment, and patient care coordination scenarios at a more advanced level of service delivery than is required of internship trainees.

Patient issues provide opportunity for the resident to participate in coordination and outreach with non-VA agencies involved in geriatric care such as the Alzheimer’s Association, Adult Protective Services, and County Probate Courts.

The resident participates in core clinical training in the Geriatric Primary Care Outpatient Clinic (6 months), the Community Living Center (6 months), and the Driving Evaluation Clinic (12 months). The resident may also select one 12-month, or two 6-month optional rotations for one day per week. In addition, there is an eight-hour weekly, year-long scholarly research/program development component spent developing a project with a definable and quality work product. Core clinical training and optional rotations include peer-to-peer teaching and interdisciplinary team consultations, scholarly work, program development, and supervisory activities.

Over the course of the training year the resident develops increasing autonomy in their ability to develop professionally and practice independently, with patient care provided via in-person and telehealth modalities such as phone or video.

**GEROPSYCHOLOGY FOCUS AREA COMPETENCY COMPONENTS**

- **Knowledge Base:** Demonstrates knowledge of biopsychosocial development as a life-long process, including both gains and losses over the lifespan using different theories of late-life development and adaptation based on relevant research on adult development and aging. Ability to understand the unique experience of individuals based upon demographic, sociocultural, and life experiences, including historical influences affecting a cohort. Demonstrate knowledge of normal versus pathological aging processes using the biopsychosocial model.
- **Assessment:** Demonstrates ability to conduct efficient, comprehensive, geropsychology assessment methods using both semi-structured and standardized assessment tools.
  - Demonstrates ability to complete a variety of cognitive screens (e.g., RBANS, DRS, MoCA) as clinically indicated. Assessment is specific to older adults using a multi-modal approach considering biopsychosocial factors. Demonstrates the ability to effectively conduct assessment and clarifies differential diagnosis. Demonstrates the ability to communicate (verbally and written) cognitive testing results into practical conclusions and recommendations for patients, families, and other care providers.
  - Demonstrates skill of differential presentation, associated features, age of onset, and course of common psychological and functional disorders and syndromes in older adults (e.g., anxiety, depression, dementia, etc.).

- Demonstrates ability to conduct evaluation and appropriate treatment of cognitive wellness and mental health as well as safety and risk factors in the geriatric population, including self-neglect (capacity for self-care including ADLs/IADLs and medical decision making), elder abuse (emotional, physical, sexual, financial, and neglect), as well as suicide and homicide risk and the unique presentation and base rates among the geriatric population.
- **Intervention:** Develops and implements evidence-based individual, couples, and family interventions appropriate to client need relevant to the aging population including interventions to promote cognitive wellness, treat dementia, cope with transitions that may be a part of later life. Demonstrates the ability to prioritize treatment goals and integrate relevant treatment modalities and modify evidence-based and clinically informed intervention strategies to accommodate patient needs.
- **Consultation:** Demonstrates the ability to process a referral question and demonstrate effective translation and communication of relevant findings as they pertain to the consultation/liaison referral question from a geropsychology perspective. Demonstrates the ability to incorporate environmental/milieu and interdisciplinary factors. Demonstrates the ability to work collaboratively with an interdisciplinary team.
- **Research/Evaluation:** Demonstrates research and program development skills including methodological consideration in cross-sectional and longitudinal research and demonstrates effective presentation of geropsychology research in professional settings.

## GEROPSYCHOLOGY CLINICAL TRAINING EXPERIENCES

### ***A. Geriatric Outpatient Clinic/Memory Care Clinic (6 months)***

The Geriatric Outpatient Clinic provides interdisciplinary assessment and primary care for an ethnically and culturally diverse population of veterans 65 years of age and older. The resident will participate in evaluation of medical, cognitive, psychological, and physical functioning of older adults, many of whom are medically compromised and have complex social histories. This rotation will provide an opportunity to experience a real-world primary care setting. The resident will learn how to quickly assess cognitive and mood issues, develop interventions, and integrate findings into an interdisciplinary care plan. There will be opportunities to participate in and even to develop prevention-based programming and to assist caregivers in providing positive support for their family's changing needs. The resident manages their own clinic three to four days a week with supervision and is involved in the following activities:

- Psychological evaluation of new patients including clinical interview, cognitive and psychological screening, history, and interview with the partner, family, or caregiver
- Interdisciplinary staffing of new patients to develop a treatment plan
- Ongoing psychological interventions including individual therapy, couple's and family therapy, management of behavior problems, cognitive testing, and personality assessment
- Capacity evaluations and completion of statement of expert evaluation forms for competency hearings
- Consultation and treatment of patients who develop emotional or cognitive difficulties once in the clinic

- Warm hand-offs of veterans with acute psychological concerns
- Participation in weekly PACT and interdisciplinary team meetings
- Umbrella supervision with intern on Geropsychology rotation

The Memory Care Clinic is an interdisciplinary consultation service that is comprised of a geriatrician, social worker, and geropsychologist. Patients are often referred for comprehensive evaluation of cognitive impairment, functional decline, and/or dementia-related behavioral issues with opportunities for capacity evaluations. Referrals are frequently for assessment of patients in rural areas through their local VA Clinics, thus encounters are often conducted via telehealth. The resident will work within an interdisciplinary team to conduct a biopsychosocial interview and cognitive assessment, and to communicate findings and individualized recommendations to patients, their care partners, and their care team. The resident will also be involved in follow-up visits to address patients' cognitive, functional, and behavioral changes with more in-depth assessment, education about the dementia process, and behavioral interventions for both patients and their care partners. In addition to direct patient care, the resident will also participate in weekly Memory Care interdisciplinary team meetings and other care coordination activities, including consultation with geropsychiatry, neurology, neuropsychology, or bioethics. May also collaborate with APS and other community agencies regarding patients care needs and safety. If interested, the resident may also have opportunities to engage in research or program improvement projects.

#### ***B. Drivers Evaluation Clinic (12 months)***

The resident is responsible for receiving referrals, coordinating the clinic, conducting the initial clinical evaluation, and making recommendations to the patient, family, and medical team. Drivers evaluations begin with the resident assessing driving behaviors, walking speed, and cognition. When clinically indicated, the patient is then referred to Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation Service for the second phase of the driving evaluation which includes an on-the-road evaluation or a driving simulator assessment. Over the course of the year the resident will gain competency in this assessment and experience with ethical aspects associated with driving and the older adult.

#### ***C. Community Living Center (CLC) (6 months)***

The CLC provides care to patients needing short-term rehabilitation designed to maintain, restore, or prevent decline in optimal functioning as well as for patients requiring respite care. The geropsychology resident functions as part of the geropsychiatry consultation service, which is the team of psychologists and psychiatry providers responsible for providing comprehensive mental health services for veterans in CLC. Referrals are for a variety of issues and range in age and complexity of problems. Presenting issues include complex biopsychosocial histories, multiple comorbidities, and dual psychiatric diagnoses (e.g., serious mental illness, substance use, and dementia). Common medical conditions include Parkinson's disease, stroke, cancer, chronic physically debilitating conditions, failure to thrive, and complications/continued rehab following amputation. The geropsychology resident completes new patient assessments involving initial clinical interview and cognitive or personality testing if indicated. Typical interventions are long-term (i.e., over entirety of rotation) or brief individual psychotherapy, caregiver support, and family therapy to address coping with chronic illness. Residents participate in hospice and palliative care interventions, consultation with staff regarding behavior management and environmental issues, interdisciplinary treatment and discharge planning meetings, behavior management groups, and staff education.

- New patient assessment including biopsychosocial history, mental status, substance use, functional status, cognitive screening and testing as needed, mood symptom screens, personality evaluation, and assessment for psychiatric illness.
- Ongoing direct patient care including evidence-based psychotherapy with patients, caregivers, and families.
- Consultation with nursing and medical staff to educate and develop interventions around behavioral and patient management issues. Includes facilitating a weekly behavior management group on dementia care unit utilizing STAR-VA.
- Capacity evaluations and completion of Statement of Expert Evaluation forms for competency hearings as needed.
- Attend interdisciplinary family meetings to facilitate family understanding of patient care needs, provide feedback regarding interventions and level of care, and support the patients and their families to enhance wellness and optimal physical, psychological, and cognitive health.
- Attend weekly geropsychiatry team meeting to discuss cases.
- Develop and facilitate treatment and discharge plans as a member of the interdisciplinary team.
- Provide umbrella supervision to intern on CLC rotation.

#### ***D. Scholarly Research Project***

The research requirement is described [here](#).

#### ***E. Optional Rotations (pending supervisor availability) (one 12-month or two 6-month enrichments)***

- **Consultation/Liaison Psychiatry:** The resident will see veterans hospitalized for acute medical conditions on acute care medical wards as part of the C/L Psychiatry team. They will learn skills in assessment, diagnosis, and treatment planning to address mental health issues in an acute medical setting, with an emphasis on brief cognitive screening and decision-making capacity evaluations. They will learn brief psychological techniques effective in the treatment of mood and adjustment disorders related to the diagnosis of an acute, chronic, or life-limiting illness.
- **Resiliency and Empowerment Coalition for At-risk Patients (RECAP):** RECAP is an Interdisciplinary clinical advisory team designed to improve the care of veterans with complex mental health, neurocognitive, psychosocial, behavioral, and medical care needs by helping care teams optimize veteran access and navigate VHA and community resources that support veteran independent living to the fullest extent possible as well as coordinate and unify care planning between care partners across treatment settings. The resident will gain a broader systems-level understanding of care management and engage in creative problem solving to provide support to each veteran as well as their care team and families.
- **Neuropsychological Evaluation:** The resident may elect to train with the neuropsychology team to enhance skill in complex evaluation of elderly patients with compromised brain function. The resident will provide neuropsychological consultation for patients, testing as needed for

competency evaluations, report writing, and patient, family, and clinical provider feedback. There is also small-group didactic supervision/discussion of clinical cases.

- **Hospice/Palliative Care Team:** The Hospice/Palliative Care Team is comprised of a nurse practitioner, psychologist, social worker, geriatrician, and chaplain. Patients are in the end stages of cancer, dementia, cardiopulmonary, liver, or renal diseases. Common referral issues include anxiety, depression, coping with chronic disease, pain management, existential distress, and end of life anticipatory grief. The resident is involved in consultation regarding evaluation of competency with concomitant questions of healthcare-related decisional capacity, surrogacy, and advance directives. The resident also provides bereavement intervention for patients' families/loved ones. There are opportunities to provide in-service education to nursing staff and members of the interdisciplinary teams.

#### IV. HEADACHES/POLYTRAUMA PSYCHOLOGY

Chronic headache conditions are prevalent and can be a source of significant distress and functional impairments for patients. Chronic headaches are one potential residual symptom after a traumatic brain injury (TBI), and health psychology has long been a part of the Cleveland VA Medical Center's interdisciplinary polytrauma treatment team to help veteran with chronic headaches and other residuals of TBI. We are both a Network Site for polytrauma care and one of the VA's Headache Centers of Excellence (HCoE). This headache/polytrauma residency focus area incorporates development of core skills and competencies relevant to working with patients with chronic headache conditions. There are several clinics in which this training may occur, with an individualized training plan developed based on resident goals, experience, and supervisor availability. Training environments will include Neurology and Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation. In each setting, the resident would work with an interdisciplinary team to provide care within the context of a biopsychosocial model of headache management. In addition, there will be opportunities for quality improvement projects and umbrella supervision of a predoctoral intern.

#### HEADACHES/POLYTRAUMA PSYCHOLOGY CLINICAL TRAINING EXPERIENCES

##### ***A. Headache Center of Excellence***

- Working with the Headache Center of Excellence, one of the national VA sites providing interdisciplinary headache care; this includes ongoing virtual education sessions from HCoE providers across the nation.
- Individual biopsychosocial assessments of new patients with chronic headache conditions.
- Training in Cognitive Behavioral Therapy for Headaches (CBT-HA), an evidence-based treatment protocol for patients with chronic headaches rolled out nationally in 2022, with opportunities to lead group CBT-HA sessions. Cleveland is currently the only site using and studying this group format. Residents will have the opportunity to lead these groups and participate in ongoing program expansion and evaluation.
- Co-leading a monthly headache informational group session.
- Device management, patient education on those devices, and utilization of empirically supported devices for headache and migraine (i.e., Thermazone, Cefaly).

##### ***B. Polytrauma Treatment Team***

- Working on an interdisciplinary polytrauma treatment team, including weekly team meetings which include Neurologists, Nurse Practitioners, Speech Therapy, Recreational Therapy, Vocational Therapy, Case Managers, Psychiatry, Psychology, and sometimes Physical or Occupational Therapy. The focus is on providing care for OIF/OEF veterans with a history of traumatic brain injury (TBI) who may present with a variety of concerns including mood issues, headaches, problematic sleep, pain, and/or cognitive issues.
- Consultation with the medical team to offer recommendations for care. This may include warm handoffs from the medical team.
- Screening for mental health conditions such as anxiety, PTSD, or depression, and helping bridge patients to mental health care for those concerns.
- Screening for safety issues, including suicidal and homicidal risk assessments.
- Telehealth sessions to provide better access to care to patients in rural settings.
- Individual and group treatment for headaches.

### ***C. Biofeedback***

- Training in biofeedback for chronic headache conditions. Education, training, and clinical practice using a Nexus-10 biofeedback unit.
- Opportunities to observe sessions and provide supervised biofeedback sessions.
- Opportunities for respiration, heart rate variability, sEMG muscle tension, and/or thermal biofeedback.
- Relaxation training and behavioral modification.

### ***D. Other Experiences***

- Treatment of patients from Neurology with other neurological diagnoses or concerns (e.g., essential tremor).
- Screening for co-morbid mental health conditions including somatoform disorders, provision of basic interventions, and/or referral for additional mental health services.
- Potential opportunities for program development and/or evaluation related to treatment of headaches.
- Potential opportunities for professional presentations.

### ***Scholarly Research Project***

The research requirement is described [here](#).

**CLINICAL HEALTH RESIDENCY ADMISSIONS, SUPPORT, AND INITIAL PLACEMENT DATA**

***Program Tables – Admissions, Support, and Placement Data***

As required by the APA Commission on Accreditation, below is the current Postdoctoral Residency Admissions, Support, and Initial Placement Data for the Clinical Health Psychology Residency Program.

**Postdoctoral Residency Admissions, Support, and Initial Placement Data**  
**Date Program Tables are updated: 10/27/23**

<b>Program Disclosures</b>	
Does the program or institution require students, trainees, and/or staff (faculty) to comply with specific policies or practices related to the institution’s affiliation or purpose? Such policies or practices may include, but are not limited to, admissions, hiring, retention policies, and/or requirements for completion that express mission and values?	No
If yes, provide website link (or content from brochure) where this specific information is presented:	NA
<b>Postdoctoral Program Admissions</b>	
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:	
Our selection process is a rational one in which the residency preceptors rate applications on a standard set of criteria that relates to success in our VA residencies. We look for applicants who have well-rounded experience in assessment, intervention, integrated psychological reports, a diverse array of clients, and settings pertinent to specialty and focus area to which they are applying.	
<b>Describe any other required minimum criteria used to screen applicants:</b>	
<b>Applicants must meet the following prerequisites to be considered for our postdoctoral training program:</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>6. Completion of doctoral degree, including defense of dissertation, from a clinical or counseling psychology doctoral programs accredited by the American Psychological Association (APA) or the Canadian Psychological Association (CPA) before the start date of the residency.</li> <li>7. Completion of an APA-accredited psychology internship program.</li> <li>8. U.S. citizenship.</li> <li>9. Matched postdoctoral residents are subject to fingerprinting, background checks, and a urine drug screen.</li> </ol>	

<p>10. Individuals assigned male gender at birth and born after 12/31/1959 must have registered with the Selective Service System by age 26 to be eligible for U.S. government employment.                      *** Failure to meet these qualifications could nullify an offer to an applicant.</p>	
<b>Financial and Other Benefit Support for Upcoming Training Year*</b>	
Annual Stipend/Salary for Full-time Residents	54,265
Annual Stipend/Salary for Half-time Residents	NA
Program provides access to medical insurance for Residents?	Yes
<b>If access to medical insurance is provided:</b>	
Trainee contribution to cost required?	Yes
Coverage of family member(s) available?	Yes
Coverage of legally married partner available?	Yes
Coverage of domestic partner available?	No
Hours of Annual Paid Personal Time Off (PTO and/or Vacation)	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
Other Benefits (please describe):	NA
*Note. Programs are not required by the Commission on Accreditation to provide all benefits listed in this table	
<b>Initial Post-Residency Positions</b>	2019-2022
(Provide an Aggregated Tally for the Preceding 3 Cohorts)	
Total # of Residents who were in the 3 cohorts	11
Total # of Residents who remain in training in the residency program	0
Academic teaching	PD=0, EP=0
Community mental health center	PD=0, EP=0
Consortium	PD=0, EP=0
University Counseling Center	PD=0, EP=0
Hospital/Medical Center	PD=0, EP=2
Veterans Affairs Health Care System	PD=0, EP=9
Psychiatric facility	PD=0, EP=0
Correctional facility	PD=0, EP=0
Health maintenance organization	PD=0, EP=0
School district/system	PD=0, EP=0
Independent practice setting	PD=0, EP=0
Other	PD=0, EP=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.	



<b>CLINICAL HEALTH PSYCHOLOGY STAFF</b>
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**AVERY, Lauren M., Ph.D.** Northwestern University, 1998. Assignment: Community Living Center (CLC). Theoretical Orientation: Cognitive Behavioral. Clinical specialization: Brief therapies utilizing CBT, DBT, and mindfulness; positive behavior support; capacity and expert evaluation. Publications and Research interests: educational research. Professional organizations: American Psychological Association. Teaching and supervision interests: Professional career development, work-life balance, psychological assessment across the lifespan, generalist professional development. Licensed as a psychologist in MA and OH; E.Passport/APIT (Authority to Practice Interjurisdictional Telepsychology).

**BLOCH, Jacob, Ph.D.,** The University of Montana, 2021. Assignments: Primary Care-Mental Health Integration (PC-MHI) - Parma. Theoretical orientation: Integrative, Cognitive Behavioral, Motivational Interviewing, Acceptance and Commitment. Clinical specializations: Health psychology, primary care mental health. Publications and research interests: Treatment nonadherence, quality improvement to enhance same day access to PC-MHI services, mindfulness and self-compassion. Teaching and supervision interests: educating and training healthcare professionals on integrated care and PC-MHI services. Supervising trainees in PC-MHI; fostering their abilities to function effectively in a primary care setting and provide brief behavioral health services. Work-life balance. Professional development.

**DAY-SUBA, Ellen, Ph.D.,** University of Detroit Mercy, 2021. Assignments: Geriatric Outpatient Clinic. Theoretical orientation: Psychodynamic, Cognitive-Behavioral, Integrative. Clinical specializations: health psychology, geropsychology, evaluation of decision-making capacity, neurocognitive disorder assessment and management, dementia education, caregiver support and interventions, grief/bereavement. Publications and research interests: telehealth usage in older adult patients, non-pharmacological interventions for dementia-related behaviors, caregiver burden, successful aging, end-of-life issues, interdisciplinary team collaboration. Professional organizations: American Psychological Association; Ohio Psychological Association. Teaching and supervision interests: diversity considerations in older adult population, cognitive assessment, grief/bereavement work, professional development, communication on interdisciplinary teams.

**DENDY, Anna, Ph.D.** Penn State University, 2010. Assignment: Specialty Mental Health Outpatient Clinic, serves on the clinical team of the GIVE Clinic at Wade Park to serve transgender veterans, is Team Lead of the Wade Park-Parma DBT Team, and serves on the Cleveland Wade Park VA Diversity Committee. Clinical specializations: DBT, EMDR, and IPT-D. Clinical, research, and training interests include working with individuals with complex trauma integrating DBT and psychodynamic approaches, group therapy, and multicultural, feminist, and LGBTQ affirmative therapy. Professional organizations: APA, OPA, the Cleveland Psychoanalytic Center, AGPA, and EMDRIA.

**DIAZ, Rosalie C., Psy.D.,** Adler School of Professional Psychology, 2004. Assignments: Wellness Coordinator; Primary Care-Mental Health Integration in Women's Veterans Health Clinic, G.I.V.E. (Gender Identity Veteran's Experience) Clinic, and Mental Health Ambulatory Care Center; individual and group therapies (Chronic Pain SMA, iRest Yoga Nidra, LGBTQI Veterans Group, GIVE Support Group, Taking Charge of My Life!). Theoretical orientation: Integrative, Adlerian, Cognitive-Behavioral. Clinical specializations: Primary Care/Health Psychology; Chronic Pain; iRest Yoga Nidra and Mindfulness. Publications and research interests: Psychological factors in the assessment and treatment of chronic pain, use of Yoga, Meditation and QiGong interventions, and Women's mental health issues. Professional organizations: American Psychological Association. Teaching and supervision interests: Individual and group psychotherapy, somatic experiencing and mind-body interventions. Dr. Diaz also

serves as the Whole Health POC and as Member/Co-Editor for the Psychology Service Diversity Committee.

**DIXON, Beth Gardini, Psy.D.**, The Chicago School of Professional Psychology, 1994. Assignments: Hematology-Oncology, Palliative Care, and Hospice, Major Preceptor, Specialty Medicine Clinics residency focus area. Theoretical orientation: Cognitive-behavioral; Integrative; Existential. Clinical specializations: Health psychology; psycho-oncology; assessment and treatment of cancer-related conditions ranging from distress to major disorders; evidence-based interventions; coping with chronic disease and treatment effects; developmental life stage challenges; cancer survivorship; end-of-life care. Publication and research interests: Identifying predictors of healthy adaptation in cancer survivorship; measuring outcomes of psychosocial oncology services; clinical burn-out and resiliency. Professional Activities and Service: American Psychosocial Oncology Society Board Member; American Psychosocial Oncology Society Co-Chair of Special Interest Group, Sexual and Reproductive Health in Cancer. Professional Memberships: American Psychosocial Oncology Society; American Psychological Association, Division 12 Clinical Psychology, Division 38 Health Psychology. Teaching and supervision interests: Health Psychology; Psychotherapy; Interdisciplinary collaboration; Professional Development; Work-life balance.

**EDE, David, Ph.D.**, Kent State University, 2021. Assignments: Headache Center of Excellence, Polytrauma, Neurology. Theoretical orientation: Integrative; cognitive-behavioral. Clinical specializations: behavioral medicine with emphasis in headaches, mTBI, pain management, health behavior modification, coping with chronic conditions, stress management, telehealth, individual and group therapy. Publications and research interests: non-pharmacological headache treatments, interdisciplinary care, cardiovascular behavioral medicine. Professional organizations: American Psychological Association. Teaching and supervision interests: behavioral medicine, chronic pain and headache management, working with an interdisciplinary team, postdoc and job opportunities within VA.

**GIDEON, Clare, Ph.D.**, Case Western Reserve University, 2007. Assignments: Chief of Psychology Service; Health Psychologist on Consult-Liaison Psychiatry Team. Theoretical orientation: Cognitive Behavioral. Clinical specializations: Assessment and treatment of psychological conditions in older adults; behavioral medicine; clinical supervision; capacity evaluations. Publications and research interests: Geriatric driving evaluations, dementia and sleep apnea, pharmacological intervention for dementia. Professional organizations: American Psychological Association; National Register of Health Service Psychologists. Teaching and supervision interests: Capacity evaluation, group/umbrella supervision.

**GRABER, Joseph Ph.D.**, Fairleigh Dickinson University, 2016. Assignments: Primary Care Mental Health Integration (PCMH); Cleveland VA SCAN-ECHO Diabetes team; member, Diabetes Advisory Board. Theoretical orientation: ACT, CBT, motivational interviewing, evidence-based psychotherapy. Clinical specializations: Primary care mental health, health psychology with emphasis on chronic disease management, sleep, smoking cessation, brief individual and group therapy, bariatric surgery evaluations. Publications and research interests: Effectiveness of brief interventions in PC-MHI, psychological factors relevant to diabetes self-management, focused acceptance and commitment therapy, and quality improvement within PCMH. Professional organizations: Ohio Psychological Association, American Psychological Association, Cleveland Psychological Association. Teaching and supervision interests: focused assessment and solution focused therapy, professional development, motivational interviewing.

**GRAF, Lauren F. Psy.D.**, Xavier University, 2021. Assignments: Primary Care Mental Health Integration (PCMHI). Theoretical Orientation: Humanistic, ACT, interpersonal. Clinical specializations: primary care mental health, psychotherapy with older adults, cognitive assessment. Professional organizations: Ohio Psychological Association, Cleveland Psychological Association, Gerontological Society of America, American Psychological Association. Research and clinical interests: impact of burnout on healthcare workers; interventions for healthcare worker burnout; impact of memory stereotype threat on cognitive performance in older adults. Teaching and supervision interests: professional development, PCMHI, psychotherapy and assessment of older adults.

**HABERMAN, Jessica, Ph.D.**, Cleveland State University, 2013. Assignments: Geriatrics Outpatient Clinic, Consultation-Liaison Psychiatry. Theoretical orientation: Primarily Cognitive-Behavioral and Humanistic. Clinical specializations: Health psychology, assessment and treatment of psychological and neurocognitive disorders in older adults, capacity evaluations, caregiver support, grief and bereavement. Publications and research interests: Non-pharmacologic interventions for dementia, effective management of chronic illness, resiliency in late life, religiosity and successful aging, positive psychology. Professional organizations: American Psychological Association, Divisions 17, 20, 38; Ohio Psychological Association. Teaching and supervision interests: Geropsychology, grief and bereavement work, behavioral medicine.

**MARTINCIN, Kelly, Ph.D.**, Cleveland State University, 2016. Assignment: Primary Care Mental Health Integration, Parma Clinic. Theoretical Orientation: Cognitive-behavioral, Integrative. Clinical Specializations: Chronic pain management, neurocognitive disorders assessment and management including capacity evaluations, older adults and aging related concerns, health promotion and disease prevention, tobacco cessation, sleep related concerns, brief therapy, and chronic disease management. Professional Organizations: Ohio Psychological Association, American Psychological Association, Association of VA Psychologist Leaders. Research Interests/recent professional presentations: Chronic pain management, identification and treatment of therapeutic opioid addiction, older adult interests, and promotion of public sector psychology.

**McPEAK, Ryan, Psy.D.** Spalding University, 2022. Assignments: Primary Care Mental Health Integration (PCMHI). Theoretical orientation: ACT, CBT, DBT, motivational interviewing. Clinical specializations: Primary care mental health, health psychology with emphasis on chronic disease management, chronic pain management, sleep, health-related behavioral intervention, brief individual and group therapy, virtual provision of primary care mental health interventions. Publications and research interests: help-seeking behaviors in chronic pain patients, psychological treatments of chronic pain, quality improvement within PCMHI. Professional organizations: American Psychological Association, Kentucky Psychological Association, Association for Contextual Behavioral Science, Collaborative Family Healthcare Association. Teaching and supervision interests: Integrated mental health in primary care, professional development, group psychotherapy.

**PAINTER, Elizabeth, Psy.D., MSCP**, Xavier University, 2011. Assignments: Health psychologist, Polytrauma, Neurology, Headache Center of Excellence. Theoretical orientation: Integrative; cognitive-behavioral. Clinical specializations: Health psychology with an emphasis on the role of psychological factors in medical conditions, interdisciplinary approaches to treatment, as well as the impact of psychosocial issues on patient outcomes and care utilization. Publications and research interests: Non-pharmacologic headache management, developing curriculum for interdisciplinary trainees, primary care-mental health integration, adherence, and quality improvement in processes of medical care. Professional organizations: American Psychological Association, Ohio Psychological Association, Society

of Behavioral Medicine. Teaching and supervision interests: Behavioral medicine education and supervision, chronic care model, adherence, and interdisciplinary training.

**PIERCE, Jenna, Psy.D**, University of Indianapolis, 2014. Assignments: Primary Care Mental Health Integration (PCMHI), Eating Disorder Consultation Team. Theoretical orientations: ACT, interpersonal, behavioral. Clinical specializations: primary care mental health, health psychology with emphasis on chronic disease management, sleep, eating disorder evaluations, and CBT for binge eating disorder. Professional organizations: American Psychological Association; American Board of Professional Psychology in Health Psychology. Research and clinical interests: PCMHI quality improvement & implementation; focused assessment and focused ACT based psychotherapy; harm reduction interventions in PCMHI; psychological factors in non-adherence concerns and collaborative care. Teaching and supervision interests: professional development, PCMHI, motivational interviewing.

**PURDUM, Michael, Ph.D., ABPP**, University of North Texas, 2010. Assignments: Assistant Chief, Psychology Service; Section Chief, Primary Care Mental Health Integration (PCMHI); VISN 10 PC-MHI Competency Trainer; Major Preceptor, Clinical Health Psychology Residency CoE-Primary Care Focus Area. Theoretical orientation: CBT, brief problem-focused psychotherapy, health behavior change. Clinical specializations: Health psychology, primary care mental health, chronic disease management & health promotion, motivational interviewing, smoking cessation. Publications and research interests: Psychological factors that complicate chronic disease management, psychological factors that promote chronic disease self-management, PCMHI quality improvement & implementation, smoking cessation outcomes. Professional organizations: American Psychological Association; American Board of Professional Psychology in Health Psychology. Teaching and supervision interests: Motivational interviewing, behavioral therapies for chronic disease, supervising trainees on developing the fundamental competencies (collaboration & MH integration) to succeed as a health care provider in primary care.

**ROUSH, Laura E., Ph.D., ABPP**, University of Cincinnati, 2008. Board Certified in Clinical Health Psychology. Assignments: Psychology Residencies Director of Training; Program Coordinator, Clinical Health Psychology Postdoctoral Residency Program; health psychologist, Polytrauma, Neurology, Headache Center of Excellence. Theoretical Orientation: Cognitive-behavioral. Clinical specializations: Health psychology with emphasis in headaches, mTBI, pain management, stress management, relaxation training, promotion of healthy behaviors, coping with chronic medical conditions, individual therapy, treatment of psychological factors affecting physical health, and biofeedback. Publications and research interests: Psychological factors in the assessment and treatment of chronic pain, non-pharmacologic headache treatments, interdisciplinary treatment or training delivery formats including shared medical appointments and SCAN-ECHO. Professional organizations: American Psychological Association, APA Division 38. Teaching and supervision interests: Health psychology, individual psychotherapy, biofeedback, working with a multidisciplinary team, work-life balance.

**SAMSON, Kristal, Psy.D.**, The Chicago School of Professional Psychology, 2019. Assignments: Dementia Care Coordination Team, Geriatrics Outpatient Clinic. Theoretical Orientation: Psychodynamic, Cognitive Behavioral, Motivational Interviewing. Clinical specializations: Health Psychology, Geropsychology, assessment and treatment of psychological and neurocognitive disorders in geriatric population, capacity evaluations, dementia education, behavioral interventions for management of dementia-related behaviors, caregiver support. Publications and research interests: tele-dementia care, non-pharmacologic interventions for dementia-related behaviors, frailty and cognitive decline in patients undergoing androgen deprivation therapy for prostate cancer, caregiver education. Professional

organizations: American Psychological Association, APA divisions 38 and 20; Asian American Psychological Association. Teaching and supervision interests: behavioral medicine, professional development, work-life balance, geropsychology, dementia.

**SCHAUB, Kimberley K., Ph.D.**, Indiana State University, 2003. Assignments: Inpatient and outpatient Cardiology, Advanced Heart Failure, and Solid Organ Transplant Teams. Theoretical orientation: Interpersonal Process Approach and Solution-Focused Brief Therapy. Clinical Specialization: Integrated Health psychology with an emphasis on assessment and treatment of psychological factors associated with cardiac disease and organ transplantation. Publications and research interests: Integrative interdisciplinary care, the role of shared medical clinics in health-related outcomes, skill-based education to improve chronic disease self-management. Professional Activities: VA based quality improvement research focused on clinical innovation and program development. Professional organizations: American Psychological Association, Ohio Psychological Association. Teaching and supervision interests: Integrative inpatient and outpatient care, impact of psychological factors in the clinical management of heart disease, and quality improvement.

**SILVER, Kristin E., Ph.D., H.S.P**, University of Akron, 2020. Assignments: lead psychologist, Behavioral Sleep Medicine; core member, Renal Transplant team. Theoretical orientations: systems, cognitive-behavioral, and intersectional feminist approaches. Clinical specializations: behavioral sleep medicine; pre-surgical psychological assessments; women's health, particularly sexual and perinatal health; trauma/PTSD. Publications and research interests: Dr. Silver is a dedicated scientist, as evidenced by 50 peer-reviewed publications and conference presentations. She has been awarded two nationally competitive, federally funded research fellowships (e.g., Fulbright, Department of Justice). Training background: She completed her residency and fellowship training at Durham VA Medical Center, affiliated with Duke University's Departments of Neurology and Psychiatry. Teaching and supervision interests: education of interdisciplinary learners on the integration of mental health into primary care settings, clinical health psychology, behavioral treatments, pre-surgical psychological assessments, and patient advocacy. Dr. Silver is committed to facilitating the culturally responsive, compassionate training of healthcare professionals. Professional organizations: Ohio Psychological Association; American Psychological Association; The National Register of Health Service Psychologists.

## CLINICAL NEUROPSYCHOLOGY PROGRAM

Reaccredited 10 years in 2019

**The Clinical Neuropsychology residency program is a TWO-YEAR PROGRAM. We will be recruiting a new resident in the 2024 APPCN match for the 2024-2026 training years.**

The mission of the Clinical Neuropsychology residency Program is to provide depth of training for advanced competence in the Specialty of Clinical Neuropsychology. The resident is accepted for a two-year program, with reappointment for the second year contingent upon satisfactory performance during the first year.

The Clinical Neuropsychology residency is accredited by APA and operates in accordance with the INS-Division 40 guidelines (The Clinical Neuropsychologist, 1987, 1, 29-34) and the goals espoused by the Houston conference (Archives of Clinical Neuropsychology, 1998, 2, 203-240). Our program is designed to provide residents with the didactic and experiential opportunities necessary to develop evidence-based clinical interpretative and consultation skills at a professional level, while under the supervision of experienced neuropsychologists. This is accomplished through an extensive reading of the research literature that is relevant to each of the cases evaluated by the resident. In addition, specific training goals include active involvement in clinical research and relevant educational opportunities within the context of a nationally known medical center.

### NEUROPSYCHOLOGY SPECIALTY COMPETENCY COMPONENTS

- **Scholarly Base:** Demonstrates knowledge of the history of Clinical Neuropsychology as well as the recent scientific and scholarly developments in the field and applies that knowledge to clinical practice.
- **Professional Base:** Demonstrates awareness of current issues facing the profession and considers how they identify with and contribute to the profession, (i.e., membership in professional organizations, teaching and supervision, advocacy, continuing education in the field, etc.).
- **Knowledge Base:** Demonstrates awareness of the common neurological and non-neurological disorders affecting brain functioning and behavior (including etiology and pathology) as well as the relevant neurodiagnostic and biomarker findings associated with those disorders.
- **Neuropsychological Testing:** Understands and chooses the best appropriate assessment battery based upon knowledge of presenting issues/concerns, normative group, and statistical appropriateness of the assessment tools.
- **Neuropsychological Diagnosis:** Effectively integrates neuropsychological findings with the neurological/medical data as well as behavioral data, psychosocial history, and diversity issues, ethical/legal issues, and knowledge of neurosciences in order to clarify differential diagnoses of psychiatric disorders and medical/neurologic disorders (e.g., such as dementia and the various subtypes of dementia as well as the neurocognitive effects of stroke and other neurological conditions).

- **Forensic Neuropsychological Applications:** Applies the knowledge and skills of a neuropsychologist to the forensic arena, (e.g., civil competency of person and estate, veterans' disability determination, police safety evaluation). Understands the differences in approach between clinical and forensically oriented evaluations, opinions, and recommendations.
- **Treatment & Intervention:** Applies neuropsychological skills and knowledge to address the cognitive and behavioral problems revealed on assessment in order to make the most appropriate treatment recommendations for intervention, disposition and placement.
- **Patient Communication:** Helps patients and families understand the meaning and implications of neurological conditions and/or assessment results in a clear and understandable manner.
- **Interdisciplinary Consultation:** Demonstrates the ability to communicate and apply Clinical Neuropsychological knowledge in consultation with other health care professionals across multiple disciplines.
- **Research:** Develop research skills with a focus on neuropsychological topics. Understands and applies relevant research to clinical practice/assessment.

Neuropsychologists employ specialized testing procedures and a nomothetic, disease-impact framework. They strive to integrate medical, neurological, and behavioral data with neuropsychological test findings, based upon the literature, in order to answer complex referral questions. Referrals for services typically consist of, but are not limited to, questions concerning:

- Differential diagnoses (e.g., depression versus dementia (Dementia of the Alzheimer's type, Cerebrovascular Dementia, Frontotemporal Dementia, Lewy-Body Dementia, Huntington's Dementia, etc.).
- Delineation of spared and impaired cognitive functions secondary to known central nervous system dysfunction related to traumatic brain injury (TBI) or stroke, etc.
- Establishment of a neuropsychological baseline against which to monitor recovery or progression of central nervous system dysfunction.
- Assessment of cognitive/behavioral functions to assist with rehabilitation, management strategies, and placement recommendations (i.e., nursing home, group home, etc.).
- Evaluation of cognitive status for the purpose of Compensation & Pension and/or Competency of Person and Estate evaluations.

Neuropsychologists provide inpatient and outpatient consultation and evaluation services for multidisciplinary staff at the Wade Park campus, and consultation services for the Parma Outpatient Clinic and Community Based Outpatient Clinics (CBOC) located throughout the northeast Ohio. The rich clinical referral base and an innovative service delivery model allow them to evaluate more than 600 patients annually, many with complex conditions. Aging Vietnam-era veterans make up the largest VA cohort, and clinicians have increased neuropsychological service requests due to the accompanying higher incidence of dementia. Requests for evaluation come from outpatient providers as well as the inpatient treatment teams on the Community Living Center. Dementia evaluations often include assessment of capacity of the veteran's ability to live independently and/or make independent financial and medical decisions. Referrals are also received for evaluation of TBI in younger veterans. The LSCVAMC has been designated as a Polytrauma Network Site, designed to provide long-term

rehabilitative care to veterans and service members who experienced multiple injuries to more than one organ system. Neuropsychologists have a role in conjunction with outpatient PTSD treatment and the Polytrauma initiative to assess veterans with mild TBI and Posttraumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD). Neuropsychology also has a critical role in the evaluation of patients diagnosed with Parkinson's disease and other movement disorders who are undergoing the evaluation process to determine their fitness for the Deep Brain Stimulation surgery to improve some their symptoms.

The program employs a flexible battery approach based upon a disease-impact model (e.g. the differential impact of CVD versus DAT on neurocognitive functioning in early or Mild Cognitive Impairment stages), as well as a syndrome-based approach. The application of this model requires an extensive knowledge of the Neuropsychology and Neurology/Neuropsychiatry literature. The training program stresses extensive reading of relevant research, resulting in clinical reports that are integrative and conceptual in nature. Assessments are framed within a forensic format with an emphasis on evidence-based conclusions derived from scientific principles. We also emphasize a cognitive neuropsychological model which conceptualizes neurocognitive functioning from a neural network perspective.

On average, a minimum of 70% of the resident's time will be devoted to direct clinical service, which fulfills ABPP's Clinical Neuropsychology requirements as well as state licensure requirements. This will include general clinical cases as well as cases suited to the specialized interests of the resident. During the first year of the residency, the resident will carry out all aspects of evaluation, including record review, interviews of patients and collateral informants, test selection, test administration, and report writing. Reports are framed within a forensic format with an emphasis on evidence-based conclusions based upon scientific principles.

During the second year, the resident will further develop sophisticated case conceptualization and report writing skills. The resident will also take an increased role in supervising other trainees. Throughout the program, direct patient contact is emphasized in order to develop a strong clinical understanding of process variables and patient behaviors that underlie test performance. In all Neuropsychology activities (e.g., testing, report writing, case conceptualization, etc.), the resident will receive training in how best to provide education and feedback about diagnostics and functional strengths and restrictions to veterans and their families.

With respect to workload, the residency embraces the goals of teaching/training rather than high volume service-delivery. The number of patients seen on a weekly basis depends upon multiple factors including patient endurance and case complexity. It is expected that the number of patients seen during the second year will double compared to the first year. As a frame of reference, because of case complexity and the intensity of supervision on each case, our neuropsychology track predoctoral interns complete an average of 20 neuropsychological evaluation reports per 4-month rotation.

There is a substantial emphasis on required background readings in neuroscience and related fields as well as readings conceptually targeted to particular cases and their relevant differential diagnostic issues. Considerable time is spent delineating cognitive mechanisms underlying impaired performance and how this relates to neuroimaging, radiological, neurological and neuropsychiatric data.

Consultation with other health-care professionals constitutes another important aspect of this postdoctoral experience. The resident will have multiple opportunities to interact with a broad range of disciplines that utilize the services of the Neuropsychology section, including Neurology, Rehabilitation,



Psychiatry, Geropsychiatry, Geriatric Medicine, Primary Care, etc. Some rotation experiences and/or enrichments will provide the resident with the opportunity to work on interdisciplinary treatment teams throughout the two-year residency.

During placement within each of the Core Training Areas, the resident will meet weekly for supervision with the Preceptor, in addition to supervision with the psychologist supervisor for that site of training (described below). Regular meetings will also transpire with a designated research supervisor throughout the residency. The resident will be located at the Parma site while receiving their initial training/supervision in the areas of Geriatric Neuropsychology, Forensics/Compensation & Pension, and TBI. Training in these areas will continue along with increased training/supervision in consultation to Neurology and in the area of Behavioral Medicine area while the resident is located at the Wade Park campus. The resident will spend at least 6 months each in Neurology/Behavioral Medicine, Neuropsychiatric Neuropsychology, and Geriatric Neuropsychology, with the final rotations in Rehabilitation Neuropsychology, TBI, and Compensation & Pension.

The Neuropsychology residency utilizes a vertical supervision model, wherein staff neuropsychologist supervisors, Neuropsychology resident and Intern, and occasionally the Rehabilitation and Geropsychology resident and/or Intern are all present during the supervision of cases.

### **CLINICAL TRAINING EXPERIENCES**

The resident in Clinical Neuropsychology will be active in core clinical training, receiving cases from each of the Core Training Areas below, in sequence. If the resident elects, Optional Clinical Training choices are also available for one day per week for 6-month or 12-month rotations, as described below. In addition, Research activities for one day per week are part of the curriculum across the first and second year.

## **NEUROPSYCHOLOGY CORE TRAINING FIRST YEAR**

### **A. Geriatric Neuropsychology**

Geriatric Neuropsychology training provides experience in the evaluation of elderly patients with possible compromised brain functioning referred from one of the inpatient long-term care units or one of the outpatient geriatric primary care services. The resident will gain competency in the complex differential diagnosis of the common conditions in this populations (i.e. Alzheimer's Dementia, Cerebrovascular Dementia, Lewy Body Dementia [LBD], Frontotemporal Dementia [FTD], etc.). The resident will also become proficient in competency/capacity evaluations in terms of decision-making related to healthcare and financial management. The resident will also develop skills in offering placement recommendations, such as independent living *versus* nursing home placement, etc.

### **B. Neurology**

The Neurology Service is a tertiary referral center for VISN-10 and portions of western Pennsylvania and West Virginia, serving veterans with a full spectrum of neurological disorders. Neuropsychology primarily sees veterans on an outpatient basis, including those with any of the variety of dementias, stroke, head injuries, epilepsy, multiple sclerosis, etc. Inpatients from general medicine, psychiatry, rehabilitation and spinal cord services are also seen. We are focused on providing diagnostic and prognostic information, and rehabilitation recommendations. Results may be interpreted and

management strategies demonstrated with veterans and their families. VA medical records provide access to a full selection of radiological data (CT, MRI, PET, and angiography) and EEGs.

### ***C. Scholarly Research Project***

The research requirement is described [here](#). In addition to the research requirements for all residents, neuropsychology residents must present a research project in both years. The resident may complete one project and present preliminary results during the first year, or present two separate projects. Continuing the project through the second year allows for the resident to develop a more complex project, with consideration for presentation at one of the major neuropsychological professional meetings (AACN, INS, NAN) or publication in a peer-reviewed journal.

## **NEUROPSYCHOLOGY CORE TRAINING SECOND YEAR**

### ***A. Neuropsychiatric Neuropsychology***

Neuropsychiatric Neuropsychology training provides evaluation experience with veterans referred from one of the four acute/subacute psychiatric units, and from the outpatient psychiatric programs, such as the Day Hospital Program for severely mentally ill veterans. The resident will gain experience with the neuropsychological evaluation of psychopathology as well as the complex process of understanding the neurocognitive aspects of psychiatric disorders.

### ***B. Rehabilitation Neuropsychology/Spinal Cord Injury and Disorders Unit***

This is a newly designated Center of Excellence for comprehensive medical care and rehabilitation of veterans with spinal cord injuries (SCI). This rotation offers experience in providing psychological services to people with disabilities, including neuropsychological assessment of patients with TBI and spinal cord injury (SCI). Residents will become familiar with the medical aspects of SCI as well as the acute and long-term psychological problems associated with this disability, such as depression, anxiety, and substance abuse. The rotation emphasizes working within an interdisciplinary team in order to promote positive treatment outcomes and program development.

### ***C. TBI Evaluation***

Traumatic brain injury (TBI) is an acquired condition that can occur via any of a number of mechanisms and result in a broad spectrum of cognitive, psychological, and behavioral symptoms and disabilities. The resident will gain proficiency in understanding the various mechanisms that can result in TBI of different levels of severity, the expected neurocognitive/behavioral consequences, and the typical course of recovery of these injuries. Since psychiatric comorbidities (e.g., PTSD, Depression, Somatic symptoms) are a common condition in individuals with Mild-Moderate TBI, the resident will gain competency in the recognizing the convergent and divergent factors in TBI and psychological assessment.

### ***D. Scholarly Research Project***

The research requirement is described [here](#). Research activities described above may continue from the first year through conclusion of the program.

### NEUROPSYCHOLOGY OPTIONAL CLINICAL TRAINING EXPERIENCES

Comprehensive exposure to the Core Training Areas described above is a requirement. However, the resident may also choose to expand their experience by electing one 12-month, or two 6-month rotations in the following areas:

- Polytrauma Team:** The Polytrauma System of Care specializes in the treatment for veterans and returning service members with injuries to more than one physical or organ system, which result in medical, cognitive, psychological, and/or psychosocial impairments and functional disability. The LSCVAMC has been designated as a Polytrauma Network Site, designed for the assessment, treatment, and rehabilitation of service members and veterans with subacute injuries. Cognitive assessment is critical for those veterans who have, or are suspected to have, received a traumatic brain injury (TBI) due to blast concussions. The resident will gain competency in cognitive and psychological assessment population, as well take an active role on the Polytrauma Treatment Team of interdisciplinary specialists charged with the assessment, treatment and rehabilitation of these injured service members and veterans.
- Compensation & Pension (C&P):** Training provides experience evaluating veterans requesting compensation for disability believed to be related to military duty. A significant proportion of these requests involve disabilities related to neurocognitive impairment, such as TBI or dementia from a variety of causes. The assessments are used as evidence in the medico-legal process of determining monetary awards for problems considered to be directly related to military duty, and general disability for those who are unable to work due to non-military problems. They are also used to determine the need for aid and attendance in elderly veterans with dementia. The Neuropsychologist provides an opinion about existence and severity of claimed disability, and the relationship to military service. The emphasis is on the more pragmatic aspects of providing a comprehensive assessment within a limited time frame required of C&P assessments.
- Police Evaluation Committee:** The resident will gain competency in conducting pre-employment, periodic, and other requested psychological evaluations for VA Police Officers.

### TEACHING ACTIVITIES

- Colloquium/Staff Education (Required):** Each resident prepares a Continuing Education-level presentation based on an appropriate topic area. This will be presented at the Psychiatry Grand Rounds, toward the end of the resident's two-year residency.
- Intern Training Seminar (Required):** The resident presents a neuropsychology-related lecture to the predoctoral psychology interns at one or more of the weekly intern seminars.
- Umbrella Training Supervision of Predoctoral Interns (Required):** The resident can provide formal supplementary "umbrella" training supervision to predoctoral psychology interns. This umbrella supervision training experience will occur under the direct supervision of a rotation supervisor, with feedback both from the supervisor and supervisee.

- **Psychiatry Resident Seminar (Optional):** The resident has the option to prepare and present a Neuropsychology-related lecture to advance psychiatry residents in the CWRU School of Medicine.

### Additional Didactic Opportunities

- **Case Western Reserve University - University Hospitals Neurology Grand Rounds.** Weekly Grand Rounds within the Neurology Department at the world-renowned University Hospitals. Presentations focus primarily on neurological topics conducted by world-class researchers and practitioners, as well as case presentations. Past topics have included the role of basal temporal areas in language functions, efficacy of varied medication regimens for the treatment of cerebrovascular disease, and malingering of neurologic disorders.
- **Case Western Reserve University – University Hospitals Psychiatry Grand Rounds.** This series provides a variety of content relevant to mental health. It is approved for continuing education credit by the Ohio Psychological Association (OPA) and the American Psychological Association (APA) as well as for most healthcare professions within the state. Presenters include local and national VA staff, affiliated university educators, and outside consultants. In these grand rounds there is a considerable emphasis on issues related to Biological Psychiatry.
- **Neuropsychology Didactic Seminar.** Required for neuropsychology track interns and residents. This seminar is a collaboration between several VAMC neuropsychology training programs in the Midwest and is conducted via video conference biweekly.
- **Psychology Intern Seminars.** Interns attend a weekly two-hour seminar that provides in-depth treatment of a range of topics across all specialties. The seminars are primarily by psychologist expert staff, with occasional speakers from other medical disciplines.
- **Neuroanatomical Dissection Course.** The resident may participate in a three-day intensive course in the anatomical dissection of the brain and spinal cord conducted at the Marquette University Medical College of Wisconsin. The course also includes a review of recent advances in functional neuroscience. Course faculty consists of neuroscientists and clinicians qualified and experienced in the teaching of Neuroanatomy.
- **Neuropathology Laboratory.** The resident has the opportunity to observe (via live video-conference) a neuropathology laboratory at the Western Michigan University School of Medicine. The resident will observe brain dissections performed by an attending forensic physician alongside other residents in Clinical Neuropsychology, encompassing a range of medical and neurologic disorders from pediatric and adult cases.
- **National Academy of Neuropsychology Online Neuroanatomy Course.** The goal of this course is to provide students with a working knowledge of the basic neuroanatomic structures of the central nervous system as well as the consequences of damage to that system.
- **Civil-Forensic (Tort) Didactic Experience.** The resident will have the opportunity to gain exposure to Civil Tort evaluations in an independent practice setting in the greater Cleveland area. The resident will not directly assess and/or test clients, but will be exposed to Neuropsychology in practice in civil tort cases via attendance at pre-deposition and pre-trial conferences and review of deposition transcripts. The supervision will be provided by a board certified (ABPP) neuropsychologist and a neuropsychologist who have extensive experience in conducting Civil Tort neuropsychological evaluations. This didactic experience will allow the

resident exposure to an area in which neuropsychology has been in increasing demand over the years. This didactic experience is intermittently available on weekends or weekday evenings.

**NEUROPSYCHOLOGY RESIDENCY ADMISSIONS, SUPPORT, AND INITIAL PLACEMENT DATA**

***Program Tables – Admissions, Support, and Placement Data***

As required by the APA Commission on Accreditation, below is the current Postdoctoral Residency Admissions, Support, and Initial Placement Data for the Neuropsychology Residency Program.

**Postdoctoral Residency Admissions, Support, and Initial Placement Data**  
**Date Program Tables are updated: 10/27/23**

<b>Program Disclosures</b>	
Does the program or institution require students, trainees, and/or staff (faculty) to comply with specific policies or practices related to the institution’s affiliation or purpose? Such policies or practices may include, but are not limited to, admissions, hiring, retention policies, and/or requirements for completion that express mission and values?	No
If yes, provide website link (or content from brochure) where this specific information is presented:	NA
<b>Postdoctoral Program Admissions</b>	
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:	
Our selection process is a rational one in which the residency preceptors rate applications on a standard set of criteria that relates to success in our VA residencies. We look for applicants who have well-rounded experience in assessment, intervention, integrated psychological reports, a diverse array of clients, and settings pertinent to specialty and focus area to which they are applying.	
<b>Describe any other required minimum criteria used to screen applicants:</b>	
<p><b>Applicants must meet the following prerequisites to be considered for our postdoctoral training program:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>11. Completion of doctoral degree, including defense of dissertation, from a clinical or counseling psychology doctoral programs accredited by the American Psychological Association (APA) or the Canadian Psychological Association (CPA) before the start date of the residency.</li> <li>12. Completion of an APA-accredited psychology internship program.</li> <li>13. U.S. citizenship.</li> <li>14. Matched postdoctoral residents are subject to fingerprinting, background checks, and a urine drug screen.</li> </ol>	

<p>15. Individuals assigned male gender at birth and born after 12/31/1959 must have registered with the Selective Service System by age 26 to be eligible for U.S. government employment.                  *** Failure to meet these qualifications could nullify an offer to an applicant.</p>	
<b>Financial and Other Benefit Support for Upcoming Training Year*</b>	
Annual Stipend/Salary for Full-time Residents	54,265
Annual Stipend/Salary for Half-time Residents	NA
Program provides access to medical insurance for Residents?	Yes
<b>If access to medical insurance is provided:</b>	
Trainee contribution to cost required?	Yes
Coverage of family member(s) available?	Yes
Coverage of legally married partner available?	Yes
Coverage of domestic partner available?	No
Hours of Annual Paid Personal Time Off (PTO and/or Vacation)	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
Other Benefits (please describe):	NA
<small>*Note. Programs are not required by the Commission on Accreditation to provide all benefits listed in this table</small>	
<b>Initial Post-Residency Positions</b>	2019-2022
(Provide an Aggregated Tally for the Preceding 3 Cohorts)	
Total # of Residents who were in the 3 cohorts	2
Total # of Residents who remain in training in the residency program	0
Academic teaching	PD=0, EP=0
Community mental health center	PD=0, EP=0
Consortium	PD=0, EP=0
University Counseling Center	PD=0, EP=0
Hospital/Medical Center	PD=0, EP=0
Veterans Affairs Health Care System	PD=0, EP=1
Psychiatric facility	PD=0, EP=0
Correctional facility	PD=0, EP=0
Health maintenance organization	PD=0, EP=0
School district/system	PD=0, EP=0
Independent practice setting	PD=0, EP=1
Other	PD=0, EP=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.	

<b>NEUROPSYCHOLOGY STAFF</b>
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**COMNICK, Ian, Psy.D.** Indiana University of Pennsylvania (IUP), 2021. Assignment: Rehabilitation Psychology, serving the CARF-accredited acute rehab inpatient unit, polytrauma team, and neurology stroke team. Clinical specializations: neuropsychology and rehabilitation. Clinical and research interests include neurorehabilitation and assessing recovery following stroke and TBI. Training interests include effective communication with patients and their families, maximizing psychology's role during the acute stages of recovery, and applying aspects of cognitive assessment to patient recovery. Member of Ohio Psychological Association.

**DIXON, Thomas, Ph.D., ABPP.** Case Western Reserve University, 1989. Board certification: Rehabilitation Psychology. Assignment: SCI Unit. Rehabilitation Psychology Residency Program Coordinator. Theoretical orientation: Eclectic. Clinical specialization: Rehabilitation Psychology. Publications: spinal cord injury, traumatic brain injury. Research interests: community integration following disability. Professional organizations: Academy of Spinal Cord Injury Professionals, APA Division 22 (Rehabilitation Psychology), Teaching and supervision interests: adaptation to disability, working on interdisciplinary teams, co-occurring SCI/TBI, and vocational rehabilitation.

**GIDEON, Clare, Ph.D.,** Case Western Reserve University, 2007. Assignments: Section Chief of Behavioral Medicine; Health Psychologist on Consult-Liaison Psychiatry Team. Theoretical orientation: Cognitive Behavioral. Clinical specializations: Assessment and treatment of psychological conditions in older adults; behavioral medicine; clinical supervision; capacity evaluations. Publications and research interests: Geriatric driving evaluations, dementia and sleep apnea, pharmacological intervention for dementia. Professional organizations: American Psychological Association; National Register of Health Service Psychologists. Teaching and supervision interests: Capacity evaluation, group/umbrella supervision.

**HARVEY, Daniel J., Ph.D., ABPP-CN.** Nova Southeastern University, 2007. Assignments: Neuropsychology Section; Neuropsychology Representative to the Internship/Pre-Doctoral Training Subcommittee. Theoretical orientation: Disease impact/syndrome-oriented approach employing fixed/flexible assessment strategies. Clinical specialization: Neuropsychological assessment of neurological disorders, geriatric/capacity assessment, polytrauma assessment. Research interests: Neuropsychology of mild traumatic brain injury and sports concussion, neurodegenerative disorders, HIV-related neurocognitive impairment, and normal aging; neurobehavioral basis of PTSD; performance validity testing. Professional Organizations: American Academy of Clinical Neuropsychology – Full Member. Teaching and supervision interests: Neuropsychological assessment, research supervision, neuropathology and functional neuroanatomy, statistical issues in assessment, cognitive screening in the hospital setting, psychological assessment.

**SERNA, George S., Ph.D.,** University of Akron, 2004. Assignment: Neuropsychology. Program Director of the Neuropsychology Post-Doctoral Residency Program. Neuropsychological orientation: Disease Impact/Syndrome Oriented approach. Clinical Specialization: Neuropsychological assessment, geriatric/competency assessment, and Assessment of TBI. Research interests: Biological versus socially-influenced structure of personality, TBI and PTSD in OEF/OIF veterans exposed to blast wave injuries. Professional Organizations: American Psychological Association (Division 6 – Behavior Neuroscience and Comparative Psychology & Division 40 - Clinical Neuropsychology), International Neuropsychological Society, National Academy of Neuropsychology. Academic Appointment: Clinical Instructor in Psychiatry, Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine. Teaching and supervision interests:



Cognitive/neuropsychological assessment with geriatric patients with comorbid psychiatric illness and/or dementia.

## REHABILITATION PSYCHOLOGY PROGRAM

Reaccredited for 10 years in 2019

**The Rehabilitation Psychology residency program is a TWO-YEAR PROGRAM. We will NOT be recruiting a new resident in the 2024-25 training year as our current resident will be in his second year for that training year.**

The mission of the Rehabilitation Psychology residency is to implement a biopsychosocial model aimed at improving the health, independence, quality of life, and productivity of people with disabilities, from acute care throughout the lifespan. The program is based on competencies defined by the American Board of Rehabilitation Psychology. Consistent with 2012 APA training guidelines, program duration is two years and provides depth and breadth of experience at a specialist level. Residents will attain competencies to engage in specialty practice focused on core rehabilitation diagnoses, including spinal cord injury, traumatic brain injury (TBI), amputation, stroke, multiple sclerosis, and orthopedic disorders. The resident advances to an independent practice level through a program of supervision and didactics that affords increasing autonomy in decision-making and provision of services.

### REHABILITATION SPECIALTY COMPETENCY COMPONENTS

- **Conduct rehabilitation-oriented assessments**, focusing on extent of disability and preserved ability, cognitive functioning, social and behavioral functioning, capacity, personality and emotional functioning, substance use, sexuality, pain, educational/vocational assessment, and veteran and family's adjustment to disability.
- **Gain working knowledge about the medical aspects of various disabilities including**; associated complications, impact on functional status, typical course, prognosis, and treatment.
- **Provide treatment that incorporates disability-specific knowledge** to provide intervention focused on patient and family's adjustment to disability, enhancing behavioral functioning, and addressing concerns related to chronic pain, cognition, vocational considerations, and sexuality.
- **Develop skills to consult with interdisciplinary team on behavioral functioning**, cognitive functioning, vocational and educational considerations, personality/emotional factors, substance use management, and sexuality.
- **Participate in the rehabilitation psychology professional community** including organizational involvement or conference participation. Service on the Psychology Service Diversity Committee as a reside representative is encouraged.
- **Acquire an appreciation for ethical dilemmas in rehabilitation** (e.g., conflicts between beneficence and respect for individual autonomy).
- **Seek current scientific knowledge and applies it to clinical assessments** and intervention.
- **Develops a plan for research/scholarly inquiry**. Keeps on schedule and appraises all supervisors of progress regularly.

## PROGRAM STRUCTURE

The program is divided into four six-month blocks over years one and two. Year one centers on the acquisition of required competencies for serving acute inpatient rehabilitation programs, specifically the Spinal Cord Injury (SCI) Unit and the Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation (PM&R) Service. During both years there are options for eight hours per week enrichments in pain management or neuropsychological assessment or advance experience in pain assessment and rehabilitation. By the end of the first year the resident will have proficiency in providing rehabilitation psychology services in an inpatient context.

Year two offers experience in outpatient and long-term care settings. The first six months develops skills in working with persons who have brain impairment, with clinical time divided between the Polytrauma Rehabilitation program and the Neuropsychology Service. The final six months takes place in the SCI Clinic and Long-Term Care settings. By the end of Year Two, the resident will have experience over the entire continuum of care in rehabilitation and exposure to a wide range of disability diagnoses and clinical situations.

For the entire two years, the resident will have eight hours per week of protected time for research. Presentation of a scholarly project in a Grand Rounds format is required, and at least one poster presentation at a professional meeting during the two years is highly encouraged. Additional activities include postdoctoral seminars on general practice issues, supervision skills, and rehabilitation psychology.

**Rehabilitation Psychology Seminar:** Rehabilitation Psychology residents and Program Faculty rotate in making presentations on rehabilitation competency areas, such as the history of Rehabilitation Psychology specialty, adjustment to disability, assessment, and case conceptualization.

## CLINICAL TRAINING EXPERIENCES

### *A. Spinal Cord Injury Unit*

Cleveland's Spinal Cord Injury Center is one of 24 specialty care hubs within the VA Spinal Cord System of Care. The Center has a lengthy history of service, founded in the early 1970s to treat injured veterans returning from Vietnam, and psychology has been an integral part of the unit since its inception.

The Center consists of an outpatient clinic for primary care of SCI veterans, a 32-bed inpatient unit devoted to a CARF-accredited acute rehabilitation program and sustaining care of long-term secondary complications of SCI, and a 26-bed long term care unit. The unit is served by three full-time psychologists. All patients are evaluated at least annually by psychology, with services ranging from brief screening to intensive inpatient treatment in conjunction with the interdisciplinary team. The resident will provide a mixture of services: annual preventive health screenings; individual psychotherapy; group psychotherapy; and inpatient consultation and treatment, including neuropsychological assessment of co-occurring traumatic brain injury.

The Spinal Cord Center has active research programs on management of pressure ulcers, telehealth, and vocational rehabilitation. The Transitional Care Unit is a post-critical care rehabilitation program serving individuals who are transitioning from the intensive care unit to a more permanent living situation.

***B. Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation Service***

The Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation Service operates a 10-bed, CARF-accredited general rehabilitation program serving veterans with amputation, TBI, stroke, orthopedic problems, neuromuscular disorders, and debility. The resident will function as an integral team member, assessing every person admitted to the program, addressing psychological barriers such as depression, anxiety, substance use, adherence issues, etc, and attending interdisciplinary rounds. The unit provides an ideal context for broad exposure to typical disability populations in short-term inpatient rehabilitation. In addition, the resident may facilitate a psychotherapy group for veterans with amputation.

***C. Pain Management Center***

A significant percentage of people with disabilities experience chronic pain, and pain assessment is a competency mandated by the American Board of Rehabilitation Psychology. The resident will receive advanced training in pain evaluation and management. The Pain Management Center is a clinic within the Anesthesia Department. The resident will assess and treat patients with various chronic pain disorders both individually and as part of an interdisciplinary team in a CARF-accredited outpatient program. Treatment modalities include learning to utilize various biofeedback interventions; using evidence-based cognitive behavioral techniques for managing pain; teaching self-regulatory techniques such as self-hypnosis, autogenic training, and progressive muscle relaxation. The resident may participate in a weekly interdisciplinary journal club. Topics include biofeedback, assessment, pain literature updates, treatment approaches, and discussion of challenging cases.

***D. Neuropsychology Service***

The experience will focus neuropsychological assessment of traumatic brain injury as well as advanced practice in capacity evaluation. The resident will gain expertise in the differential diagnosis of PTSD and cognitive impairments arising from TBI. In addition, residents will develop skill in generating recommendations to guide the rehabilitation process.

***E. Blind Rehabilitation Center***

Cleveland VA has a residential blind rehabilitation center (BRC) that offers experience in working with veterans who have low vision. Operations of the BRC have been suspended in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. However, training within the context of this program will be offered if they become available in 2021-2023.

***F. Scholarly Research Project***

The research requirement is described [here](#).

**REHABILITATION RESIDENCY ADMISSIONS, SUPPORT, AND INITIAL PLACEMENT DATA**

***Program Tables – Admissions, Support, and Placement Data***

As required by the APA Commission on Accreditation, below is the current Postdoctoral Residency Admissions, Support, and Initial Placement Data for the Rehabilitation Psychology Residency Program.

**Postdoctoral Residency Admissions, Support, and Initial Placement Data**  
**Date Program Tables are updated: 10/27/23**

<b>Program Disclosures</b>	
Does the program or institution require students, trainees, and/or staff (faculty) to comply with specific policies or practices related to the institution’s affiliation or purpose? Such policies or practices may include, but are not limited to, admissions, hiring, retention policies, and/or requirements for completion that express mission and values?	No
If yes, provide website link (or content from brochure) where this specific information is presented:	NA
<b>Postdoctoral Program Admissions</b>	
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:	
Our selection process is a rational one in which the residency preceptors rate applications on a standard set of criteria that relates to success in our VA residencies. We look for applicants who have well-rounded experience in assessment, intervention, integrated psychological reports, a diverse array of clients, and settings pertinent to specialty and focus area to which they are applying.	
<b>Describe any other required minimum criteria used to screen applicants:</b>	
<p><b>Applicants must meet the following prerequisites to be considered for our postdoctoral training program:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Completion of doctoral degree, including defense of dissertation, from a clinical or counseling psychology doctoral programs accredited by the American Psychological Association (APA) or the Canadian Psychological Association (CPA) before the start date of the residency.</li> <li>2. Completion of an APA-accredited psychology internship program.</li> <li>3. U.S. citizenship.</li> <li>4. Matched postdoctoral residents are subject to fingerprinting, background checks, and a urine drug screen.</li> </ol>	

<p>5. Individuals assigned male gender at birth and born after 12/31/1959 must have registered with the Selective Service System by age 26 to be eligible for U.S. government employment.                      *** Failure to meet these qualifications could nullify an offer to an applicant.</p>	
<b>Financial and Other Benefit Support for Upcoming Training Year*</b>	
Annual Stipend/Salary for Full-time Residents	54,265
Annual Stipend/Salary for Half-time Residents	NA
Program provides access to medical insurance for Residents?	Yes
<b>If access to medical insurance is provided:</b>	
Trainee contribution to cost required?	Yes
Coverage of family member(s) available?	Yes
Coverage of legally married partner available?	Yes
Coverage of domestic partner available?	No
Hours of Annual Paid Personal Time Off (PTO and/or Vacation)	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
Other Benefits (please describe):	NA
*Note. Programs are not required by the Commission on Accreditation to provide all benefits listed in this table	
<b>Initial Post-Residency Positions</b>	2019-2022
(Provide an Aggregated Tally for the Preceding 3 Cohorts)	
Total # of Residents who were in the 3 cohorts	2
Total # of Residents who remain in training in the residency program	0
Academic teaching	PD=0, EP=0
Community mental health center	PD=0, EP=0
Consortium	PD=0, EP=0
University Counseling Center	PD=0, EP=0
Hospital/Medical Center	PD=0, EP=0
Veterans Affairs Health Care System	PD=0, EP=2
Psychiatric facility	PD=0, EP=0
Correctional facility	PD=0, EP=0
Health maintenance organization	PD=0, EP=0
School district/system	PD=0, EP=0
Independent practice setting	PD=0, EP=0
Other	PD=0, EP=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.	

<b>REHABILITATION PSYCHOLOGY STAFF</b>
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**BALOLONG PUBLICO, Sheena, Ph.D.**, California School of Professional Psychology (CSPP-LA) at Alliant International University, 2021. Assignment: SCI/D Unit and Outpatient Polytrauma/Stroke Team. Clinical specializations: Rehabilitation Psychology. Publications: Supervision and training of trainees with disabilities, and mental health help-seeking behaviors among Filipinx Americans. Research Interests: Intersecting identities and multicultural consideration for mental health services, adjustment to disability, supervision of trainees with disability, SCI/D and disability, co-occurring SCI/D and TBI, and cognitive/neuropsychological assessment. Professional organizations: APA Divisions 19 (Military Psychology), 22 (Rehabilitation Psychology), and 40 (Clinical Neuropsychology). Teaching and supervision interests: Diversity, equity, and inclusion, supervision of trainees with disabilities, cognitive assessment and neurorehabilitation after TBI, professional development, work-life balance, and working with an interdisciplinary team.

**COMNICK, Ian, Psy.D.** Indiana University of Pennsylvania (IUP), 2021. Assignment: Rehabilitation Psychology, serving the CARF-accredited acute rehab inpatient unit, polytrauma team, and neurology stroke team. Clinical specializations: neuropsychology and rehabilitation. Clinical and research interests include neurorehabilitation and assessing recovery following stroke and TBI. Training interests include effective communication with patients and their families, maximizing psychology's role during the acute stages of recovery, and applying aspects of cognitive assessment to patient recovery. Member of Ohio Psychological Association.

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**KUEMMEL, Angela, Ph.D., ABPP**, Nova Southeastern University, 2009. Diplomate – Rehabilitation Psychology (ABPP). Assignment: SCI Unit; Assistant Director of Psychology Training and Education, Program Director of Rehabilitation Psychology Internship Track, Diversity Committee Member. Theoretical orientation: Eclectic. Clinical specialization: Rehabilitation Psychology. Publications: Training and supervision, international accessibility, and abuse of people with disabilities. Research interests: Supervision of students with disabilities, disability and sexuality, adjustment to disability, and chronic pain management in patients with SCI. Professional Organization Leadership Roles: American Psychological Association, Policy and Planning Board member; Division 22 (Rehabilitation Psychology), Past Awards Committee Chair, Past Co-Chair and Public Interest Representative on APA's Committee for Early Career Psychologists. Teaching and supervision interests: Supervision of students with disabilities, post-doctoral training guidelines for rehabilitation psychology.

**PAINTER, Elizabeth, Psy.D., MSCP**, Xavier University, 2011. Assignments: Pain IOP. Theoretical orientation: Integrative; cognitive-behavioral. Clinical specializations: Health psychology with an emphasis on the role of psychological factors in inpatient cardiac care, interdisciplinary approaches to treatment, as well as the impact of psychosocial issues on organ transplant outcomes. Publications and research interests: Developing curriculum for interdisciplinary primary care trainees, primary care-mental health integration, adherence, and quality improvement in processes of medical care.

Professional organizations: American Psychological Association, Ohio Psychological Association, Society of Behavioral Medicine. Teaching and supervision interests: Behavioral medicine education and supervision, chronic care model, adherence, and interdisciplinary training.

**SERNA, George S., Ph.D.**, University of Akron, 2004. Assignment: Neuropsychology. Program Coordinator of the Neuropsychology Post-Doctoral Residency Program. Neuropsychological orientation: Disease Impact/Syndrome Oriented approach. Clinical Specialization: Neuropsychological assessment, geriatric/competency assessment, and Assessment of TBI. Research interests: Biological versus socially-influenced structure of personality, TBI and PTSD in OEF/OIF veterans exposed to blast wave injuries. Professional Organizations: American Psychological Association (Division 6 – Behavior Neuroscience and Comparative Psychology & Division 40 - Clinical Neuropsychology), International Neuropsychological Society, National Academy of Neuropsychology. Academic Appointment: Clinical Instructor in Psychiatry, Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine. Teaching and supervision interests: Cognitive/neuropsychological assessment with geriatric patients with comorbid psychiatric illness and/or dementia.





## RESIDENCY CURRICULUM

Curriculum is designed to best accomplish the development of professional competences. Residents are expected to be independent with foundational profession-wide competencies. For residency, the focus is the development of advanced competencies in a specialty practice area.

### Required Common Seminars

All residents are required to attend the monthly Supervision seminar, Professional Issues seminar, and Diversity Grand Rounds. There is also a monthly meeting as a group with the Residencies DoT. Your rotation supervisors and major preceptors do not have the authority to exempt you from attendance, nor should they schedule conflicting clinical activities during seminar times.

- **Professional Issues Seminar** - This seminar is moderated by staff psychologists and incorporates didactics and discussion of preselected topics on professional development and issues relevant to early career psychology practice. The seminar is also open to supervisors and staff.
- **Supervision Seminar** - This seminar encompasses both didactic and experiential components of supervision. There is a blend of staff presentations of didactic material and moderation of a discussion of the issues raised. For the remainder of the year, residents rotate responsibility for presenting a case example of trainee supervision and facilitating a discussion of relevant supervision issues. The seminar is open to supervisors and staff.
- **Diversity Grand Rounds** - Diversity Grand Rounds occurs once per month and all interns are required to attend. This Grand Rounds is organized by Psychology Service's Diversity Committee and is open to anyone in the hospital. Presentations cover a variety of topics that vary each year and are relevant for culturally competent care.
- **Meetings with the Director of Psychology Training** - The DoT schedules a monthly meeting with the residents as a group. The purpose is to communicate any collective issues or concerns, provide informational updates, and share reflections on the residency experiences. This monthly meeting will also serve as a time to check-in on the year-long research/program development projects and provide guidance or support. Residents are always welcome to talk to the DoT individually by dropping into the office, calling, sending an e-mail, or requesting a meeting in-person.

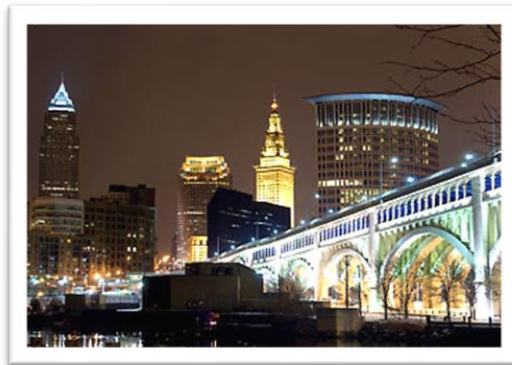
### Specialty and Focus Area Seminars

The following seminars are required for the specialty program or focus area in which you are enrolled. These seminars are not required for other residents, although residents are welcome at many of them. For seminars outside your specialty area, check with the preceptor organizing the seminar for those you may attend.

- **Clinical Psychology Seminar** - Residents from the Clinical Psychology Specialty (SMI, PTSD, and Addictions) are required to attend this monthly seminar. It includes staff presentations on general and clinical special emphasis area topics, resident case presentations entailing group supervision, and resident presentations on self-generated clinical or professional topics.
- **Clinical Health Psychology Seminar** - Residents from the Clinical Health Psychology Specialty (Primary Care COE, Headache/Polytrauma, Specialty Medical Clinics, and Geropsychology) are required to attend this seminar moderated by the Program Coordinator of the CHP residency. The Rehabilitation Psychology resident also typically attends this seminar series. It includes didactic and practice-oriented content specific to clinical health psychology, as well as resident

case presentations and related articles for discussion. The seminar is open to preceptors, residents, and staff.

- **Geropsychology Seminar** – Geropsychology and COE residents attend this seminar moderated by the geropsychology major preceptor.
- **Rehabilitation Psychology Seminar** – The Rehabilitation Psychology resident is required to attend this seminar, but it is open for other residents and staff to attend. The resident and program faculty rotate in making presentations on rehabilitation-specific competency areas, such as the history of the Rehabilitation Psychology specialty, adjustment to disability, assessment, and case conceptualization.
- **Neuropsychology Seminar** - Required for neuropsychology track interns and residents. This seminar is a collaboration between several VAMC neuropsychology training programs in the Midwest and is conducted via video conference biweekly.



## SELECTION PROCEDURES

### Application

- Residency applications are submitted to APPA-CAS.
- Application deadline is December 11, 2023.

### Interviews

- Two training staff rate materials using the applicant rating form.
- Program leads determine who to invite for an interview.
- Interviews may be in-person, by video, or telephone, but video interviews are strongly preferred.
- Applicants are given at least two weeks' notice for interviews.
- Staff conducts a performance-based interview, using a standard interview ratings form.

### Ranking

- Program leads coordinate with DoT to create a final plan for order of offers across all programs, since applicants may be considered for more than one residency and focus area.

### Offers

- We honor the APPIC Common Hold Date (CHD) for Residencies. See APPIC's [Postdoctoral Selection Standards \(appic.org\)](https://www.appic.org/postdoctoral-selection-standards) for details of the CHD guidelines for programs and applicants.
- After we have completed all interviews and ranked applicants for a given position, program leads will begin extending offers to our top-ranked applicants for each position in the weeks leading up to the CHD on Monday, February 26, 2024.
- Staff will coordinate any concurrent competing offers to the same applicant.
- Applicants may hold ONE offer made prior to the CHD until the CHD, and offers made on the CHD can be held for up to 2 hours.
- We notify non-selected candidates of filled positions as soon as feasible.