

VA



U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

Veterans Health Administration
VA Long Beach Healthcare System

Neuropsychology Practicum Program



VA Long Beach Healthcare System
Tibor Rubin Medical Center
5901 East 7th Street (06/116B)
Long Beach, CA 90822
(562) 826-5604

<http://www.longbeach.va.gov/>
<https://www.va.gov/long-beach-health-care/work-with-us/internships-and-fellowships/psychology-training/>

Application and Selection Procedures

Application Requirements and Process

Application Deadline: **January 19, 2024**
Interview Notification Date: January 29, 2024
Offer Notification Day: by February 9, 2024

Please email the Associate Director, Neuropsychology Training, Christine Kim, Ph.D. at christine.kim@va.gov, the following application materials:

Letter of Intent
CV
Graduate School Academic Transcript
2 Letters of Recommendation

Candidate Interviews

All application materials will be reviewed by the neuropsychology supervisors. Candidates will be informed via e-mail by January 29, 2024 as to whether or not they have been invited for a personal interview. Exact interview dates TBA, but will occur in February of 2024. Interviews will all be virtual this year. They will be 1 hour and involve the neuropsychology supervisors and postdoctoral fellows.

The Neuropsychology Practicum Program at VA Long Beach Healthcare System accepts applications from psychology doctoral students from the following programs: Fuller Theological Seminary School of Psychology, Loma Linda University, Pepperdine University, Rosemead School of Psychology/Biola University, University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA), and University of Southern California (USC). We will offer 2-4 neuropsychology practicum positions for the 2024-2025 training year.

Please contact the Associate Director, Neuropsychology Training and/or the Director, Psychology Training if you have any questions.

Christine Kim, Ph.D.
Associate Director, Neuropsychology Training
VA Long Beach Healthcare System
Tibor Rubin Medical Center
5901 East 7th Street (06/116B)
Long Beach, CA 90822
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VA Long Beach Healthcare System
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INTRODUCTION

Our VA Long Beach Healthcare System includes the main medical center complex in Long Beach, as well as seven community-based healthcare clinics (CBOCs) located in West Long Beach (Villages at Cabrillo), Placentia, Laguna Hills, Santa Ana, and Santa Fe Springs. VA Long Beach is a part of the Veteran's Integrated Service Network (VISN) 22, which also includes the New Mexico VA Healthcare System, Northern Arizona VA Healthcare System, Phoenix VA Healthcare System, Southern Arizona VA Healthcare System, San Diego VA Healthcare System, Loma Linda VA Healthcare System, and the Greater Los Angeles Healthcare System consisting of the West Los Angeles VA Medical Center, the Sepulveda VA Ambulatory Care and Nursing Home, the Los Angeles Ambulatory Care Center, and outlying clinics. Our medical center has been undergoing extensive renovation with two large new buildings, and it is located adjacent to California State University Long Beach. Residents from the University of California at Irvine (UCI) Medical School rotate through Long Beach Memorial Medical Center, VA Long Beach, and UCI Medical Center, which is 13 miles east of us. Our medical center has been undergoing extensive renovation with two large new building that are slated to open in 2024.

Established in 1947, the Psychology Training Program is a significant component of mental health services and is fully integrated into the VA Long Beach Healthcare System. The neuropsychology practicum was developed in 2010 and over 30 doctoral students have completed their neuropsychology practicum at our site. Also, for many years we have been training general/therapy practicum students, typically from local universities. Since 1980, we have trained over 300 doctoral interns, representing over 100 graduate programs from around the country. The internship program was initially granted accreditation by the American Psychological Association in February 1980. This year we will also have our fourteenth class of postdoctoral fellows in six specialty areas, including Clinical Neuropsychology which received its Specialty Accreditation from APA in October 2018.

Most staff psychologists are members of the Mental Health Care Group and our Chief of Mental Health is psychiatrist, Lawrence Albers, M.D. Our Chief Psychologist is Vanessa Hurwitz, Ph.D. Our Acting Director of Psychology Training is Leela Farina, Ph.D. Spring Flores Johnson, Ph.D. is the Director of Psychology Postdoctoral Fellowship Program, first funded in 2008. Christine Kim, Ph.D. and Grace Kim, Ph.D. are Associate Directors, coordinating the Neuropsychology training and the General Practicum training programs respectively. The Directors of Training are advised by the Executive Training Committee. Over half of the total number of our training psychologists has been hired in the past 10 years. Also, we have one psychology technician who manages our psychological testing lab.

Like all VA training programs we serve primarily adult veterans and some active military service members, the majority of whom are male, although an increasing percentage of younger veterans and active duty service members are women. Because we are also a general medical and surgical facility as well as a broad provider of psychological and psychiatric services, several of the training opportunities that we provide have a health psychology focus.

TRAINING MODEL AND PROGRAM PHILOSOPHY

Our Psychology Training Program at the VA Long Beach Healthcare System is committed to close supervision and competency-based training in a highly collegial setting. We endorse the scientist-practitioner model of psychology, and the training experience is organized accordingly. We are guided by both the original Boulder Model (Raimy, 1950) and the update of the scientist-practitioner model as

articulated at the 1991 Gainesville conference (Belar & Perry, 1992). The Neuropsychology Practicum also follows the Houston Conference Guidelines.

Neuropsychology practicum trainees are expected to be developing a solid grounding in the science of psychology. We can teach the foundations of clinical neuropsychological assessment and tailor our program to meet the individual training needs of each neuropsychology practicum trainee, but we have to assume that our trainees come with the underlying scientific rigor that can only be provided by their undergraduate and graduate programs. Although the overall psychology training program believes training at the doctoral level should be broadly based so that trainees can immerse themselves in new areas of clinical endeavor to prepare them for internship and beyond, the practicum is focused on clinical neuropsychology training.

The program follows a traditional one-to-one apprenticeship model in which the trainee works closely with and often literally alongside their assigned supervisor. Primary areas of skills are in clinical assessment and intervention, consultation, research and other scholarly inquiry, and awareness of and sensitivity to professional, ethical, legal, and diversity issues.

Commitment to Diversity

The psychology service seeks to champion diversity by reflecting the hospital mission of emphasizing care and respect for the physical, psychological, and spiritual health of all. We seek to develop an inspiring environment that fosters authenticity, belonging, and creativity. As a federal employer and an equal opportunity training program, our facility and department of Psychology strongly adhere to policies on non-discrimination and accommodations to facilitate success in our training programs. We encourage applications to our postdoctoral residency from diverse applicants. The VA Long Beach Psychology Department believes that diversity presents in multiple facets. We consider diversity as including various cultures, values, and experiences of trainees and faculty, as well as different theoretical models, research paradigms, and ways of professional practice. Our training program and service regularly work towards creating a culture of humility with respect to diversity knowledge, awareness, and skills.

Our psychology training program, staff, and leadership value multicultural competence as a major objective of training. We benefit from the rich diversity of our staff, trainees, Veterans, and our local Long Beach community, and we infuse diversity discussions and training into every aspect of our program, including individual and group supervision, research and trainee projects, didactics, grand rounds, hiring, and seminars. We are committed as a staff to examining ways in which we fail to meet the needs of our diverse patients and trainees, and to engaging with our limitations, assumptions, and biases, to make sincere efforts towards growth. We expect that trainees will be committed to increasing their own multicultural competence through a variety of means, including tailoring treatment interventions and assessment approaches through an intersectional lens, genuine self-reflection in supervision and seminars, engaging in local and national VA diversity, equity, and inclusion training opportunities, and consultation with our diverse interprofessional staff. This work has always been critical, though often overlooked; we are committed to not looking away now.

Accreditation Status

The psychology internship and postdoctoral fellowship programs at the VA Long Beach Healthcare System are accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of the American Psychological Association. Questions related to the program's accredited status should be directed to the Commission on Accreditation:

Office of Program Consultation and Accreditation
American Psychological Association
750 1st Street, NE, Washington, DC 2002
Phone: (202) 336-5979 e-mail: apaaccred@apa.org
Internet: <http://www.apa.org/ed/accreditation>

Accreditation does not have bearing on neuropsychology or other practicum trainees, although it does reflect the high quality of training our program will provide.

PROGRAM STRUCTURE AND SUPERVISION

The Neuropsychology Practicum **starts on July 29, 2024 and ends on July 25, 2025**. Neuropsychology practicum trainees are expected to be available for 20-24 hours per week under the clinical supervision of their primary supervisor. This includes Tuesdays from 1:00-4:00 p.m. that are required for Functional Neuroanatomy Didactics, Neuropsychology Seminar, and Case Conference. Neuropsychology practicum trainees will complete a full 52 weeks of training in the Neuropsychology Clinic. We currently follow a hybrid model with most patient appointments onsite and all other activities may be conducted from home with a VA-issued laptop. Accommodations can be made for neuropsychology practicum trainees who need to travel for internship interviews, complete practicum early to leave for internship, or dissertation defense.

Each neuropsychology practicum trainee will have one primary supervisor throughout the year who is responsible for the training experiences. Trainees can expect at least 1 hour of individual supervision per week. Also, there are opportunities to receive supervised supervision by a fellow or intern and group supervision during case conferences. The degree of responsibility given the neuropsychology practicum trainee and the amount of structure provided depends on their level of prior experience and grasp of clinical neuropsychology. The program also includes educational opportunities such as lectures, seminars, and case conferences.

*For information on the adjustments we have made to training during COVID-19 pandemic restrictions, please see the addendum on at the end of this brochure). We have no way of knowing whether or how the pandemic will impact training during the 2024-2025 training year, but please know we prioritize trainee and veteran health and safety, and have been flexible in adapting to changes as they are needed while maintaining a high quality training program that addresses trainee goals and needs. We plan to continue to be flexible as the situation evolves and appreciate the flexibility of our potential applicants, interviewees, and trainees as we navigate this together.

TRAINING EXPERIENCES

Supervisors: Spring Flores Johnson, Ph.D., Christine Kim, Ph.D., & Erin Moniz, Ph.D.

Program: The overarching goal is for trainees to obtain entry-level skills with specialization training in Clinical Neuropsychology that prepares them for applying to psychology internship training in medical and/or academic settings. This is accomplished through selecting neuropsychology practicum trainees with specialized interest and an academic foundation in neuropsychology, providing clinical services under an apprenticeship model, and holding year-long didactic seminars.

Gaining experience evaluating a wide variety of Veterans with neurological, psychiatric and/or concomitant disorders and exposure to multiple diagnostic tools are the core strengths offered at this program. The Neuropsychology Clinic provides outpatient neuropsychological assessment for Veterans across the adult lifespan. A bimodal distribution of referrals for both younger, OEF/OIF/OND Veterans and older, Vietnam Era and Korean War Veterans is received. Veterans have a broad range of injuries, disabilities, and chronic health conditions. These may include mild cognitive impairment, Alzheimer's disease, vascular cognitive impairment, Parkinson's disease, Lewy body disease, other causes of dementia, encephalopathy, stroke, epilepsy, traumatic brain injury (TBI), polytrauma, motor disorders, neuromuscular and autoimmune disorders, other CNS neurological disorders, and related disorders. Veterans often also have comorbid mental health, substance abuse, and/or other medical conditions. Primary sources of referrals are, primary care, neurology, psychiatry, and TBI rehabilitation.

Neuropsychology practicum trainees will gain experience on the ways identity variables, such as race, religion, sexual orientation, education level, SES, military experiences, and cognitive status may intersect with aging and disability. The trainee will also gain experience in understanding how diversity factors can affect neuropsychological test selection, administration, and interpretation and how such factors influence impressions and treatment recommendations. Further, there will be opportunities to discuss the intersectionality of diversity factors of the trainee, the supervisor, and the Veteran to better understand how these factors contribute to the overall level of care provided.

Functional Neuroanatomy Didactics: This didactic is optional but strongly encouraged for neuropsychology practicum trainees. It is held weekly on Tuesdays from 1:00 – 2:00 p.m. This didactic involves reviewing structural and functional neuroanatomy, and neuroimaging techniques.

Clinical Neuropsychology Seminar: This seminar is required for neuropsychology practicum trainees. It is held weekly on Tuesdays from 2:00 – 3:00 p.m.. The formal didactics mainly focus on clinical, academic, professional and research that is relevant in the field of Clinical Neuropsychology. This forum encompasses topics such as behavioral neurology; neuroanatomy (brain-behavior relationships), diagnostic syndrome analysis (e.g., aphasia, dementia etc.), cultural consideration for test selection and interpretation, and ABPP board certification. Journal article review will also be conducted during the seminar.

Clinical Neuropsychology Case Conference: This case conference is required for neuropsychology practicum trainees. It is held weekly on Tuesdays from 3:00 – 4:00 p.m. The case conference/group supervision involves case presentation from each neuropsychology trainee and may involve fact-finding format.

Psychology Training Provided: Each neuropsychology practicum trainee will typically have one neuropsychological evaluation case per week. The neuropsychology practicum trainee can expect to be exposed to the entire continuum of a neuropsychological evaluation from chart review to feedback sessions. They can expect to be exposed to a wide variety of test batteries for neuropsychological assessment using a fixed-flexible approach. By the time the trainee has completed the rotation, they can also expect to understand the processing behind selecting an appropriate testing battery based on the referral question and patient's likely neuropathology and history. Information obtained from the assessment is used to answer diverse referral requests, e.g., identifying the presence, localization, and nature of brain lesions or dysfunction; establishing baseline functioning; and identifying the pattern of neuropsychological and personality strengths and weaknesses. This information is used to aid in establishing diagnosis, treatment, rehabilitation planning, and prognosis.

Neuropsychological Assessment Protocol Offered:

The Long Beach VA has access to a significant number of tests. Below are a few examples of tests/batteries and/or questionnaires available. By no means is this list exhaustive.

- Performance Validity Measures (ACS Word Choice, Dot Counting, TOMM, VSVT)
- Premorbid Intelligence Estimates (TOPF, OPIE-IV)
- Intelligence Testing (WAIS-IV)
- Aphasia/Dementia Screening Batteries (BDAE, MoCA, NAB, RBANS, DRS-2)
- Memory Testing (BVM-T-R, CVLT-3, HVLT-R, WMS-IV)
- Executive Functioning (D-KEFS, WCST)
- Social Reasoning/ Behavioral Questionnaires (Brief-A, FrSBE, ILS, Iowa Gambling Task, TOP-J)
- Psychological Functioning (BAI-II, BDI-II, BSI, CES, GDS, PCL-5)
- Psychological and Personality Testing for select complex cases (MMPI-3, PAI)

Research Opportunities: Involvement with research in existing projects is available, but not mandatory in this clinic. Current projects include studying neuropsychological and neuroanatomical correlates of diabetes and kidney disease, and evaluating the efficacy of a new group intervention for patients with co-occurring mTBI and PTSD. Students may work on posters and/or papers for publication as an extracurricular activity.

REQUIREMENTS FOR COMPLETION OF NEUROPSYCHOLOGY PRACTICUM

Before neuropsychology practicum trainees start the program, their prior training experiences are carefully reviewed to identify areas of strength and needed growth. This process facilitates the development of an individualized training program to meet the specific training needs of each neuropsychology practicum trainee. Trainees are encouraged to expand their areas of clinical competence by using new assessment instruments and perhaps working with new patient populations within the neuropsychology clinic.

Neuropsychology practicum trainees will complete a full 52 weeks of training in the Neuropsychology Clinic. We currently follow a hybrid model with most patient appointments onsite and all other activities may be conducted from home with a VA-issued laptop. Accommodations can be made for neuropsychology practicum trainees for internship interviews, complete practicum early to leave for internship, or dissertation defense.

It is expected that upon completion of the program, all neuropsychology practicum trainees will demonstrate competence as defined by the APA Commission on Accreditation. Trainees are evaluated by primary supervisors at two points throughout the year at 6-month and 12-month intervals. The supervisors will use the doctoral program's specified evaluation form.

Neuropsychology practicum trainees should let their supervisors know at the beginning of the training year if additional forms are required by their doctoral program (e.g., Time2Track verification of hours, training agreements, etc.).

FACILITY AND TRAINING RESOURCES

Trainees are provided with office space and secure networked computers necessary for patient care and administrative responsibilities. They have access to the VA Medical Library services such as entire text databases like Ovid and PubMed, as well as VA Intranet and Internet resources for clinical work and research. Within the Psychology Department there is a comprehensive Psychology Assessment Lab, which includes a wide variety of psychological assessment instruments and test scoring programs. Each neuropsychology practicum student will also be given a VA-issued laptop to work from home when possible.

ADMINISTRATIVE POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

Nondiscrimination Policy and Respect for Diversity: VA Long Beach Healthcare System highly values cultural and individual diversity. We are an equal opportunity employer, and prohibit discrimination based on race, religion, gender, gender identity, national origin, age, disability, sexual orientation, or status as a parent. We avoid any actions that would restrict program completion on grounds that are not relevant to success in training. In addition, we aim to foster a training environment that supports trainees in gaining greater competence in issues of diversity as they relate to patient care.

Reasonable Accommodations: It is the policy of VA to provide reasonable accommodations to qualified applicants and employees with disabilities in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

Liability Protection for Trainees: When providing professional services at a VA healthcare facility, VA-sponsored trainees acting within the scope of their educational programs are protected from personal liability under the Federal Employees Liability Reform and Tort Compensation Act 28, U.S.C.2679 (b)-(d).

Due Process: All trainees are afforded the right to due process in matters of insufficient competence and/or problematic behavior as well as grievances. Our due process document is distributed to every trainee during orientation and reviewed with them subsequently. A copy of our due process policy is available on request.

Privacy policy: We collect no personal information from you when you visit our web site.

Self-Disclosure: We do not require trainees to disclose personal information to their clinical supervisors except in cases where personal issues may be adversely affecting a trainee's performance and such information is necessary to address these difficulties.

VA Eligibility Requirements:

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) adheres to all Equal Employment Opportunity and Affirmative Action policies. As a Veterans Health Administration (VHA) Health Professions Trainee (HPT), you will receive a Federal appointment following the selection process, and the following requirements will apply prior to that appointment.

1. **U.S. Citizenship.** HPTs who receive a direct stipend (pay) must be U.S. citizens.
2. **U.S. Social Security Number.** All VA appointees must have a U.S. social security number (SSN) prior to beginning the pre-employment, on-boarding process at the VA.
3. **Selective Service Registration.** Male applicants born after 12/31/1959 must have registered for the Selective Service by age 26 to be eligible for U.S. government employment, including selection as a paid or WOC VA trainee. For additional information about the Selective Service System, and to register or to check your registration status visit <https://www.sss.gov/>. Anyone who was required to register but did not register before the age of 26 will need to apply for a Status Information Letter (SIL) and request a waiver. Waivers are rare and requests will be reviewed on a case by case basis by the VA Office of Human Resources Management. This process can take up to six months for a verdict.
4. **Fingerprint Screening and Background Investigation.** All HPTs will be fingerprinted and undergo screenings and background investigations. Additional details about the required background checks can be found at the following website: <http://www.archives.gov/federal-register/codification/executive-order/10450.html>.
5. **Drug Testing.** Per Executive Order 12564, the VA strives to be a Drug-Free Workplace. HPTs are not drug-tested prior to appointment, however are subject to random drug testing throughout the entire VA appointment period. You will be asked to sign an acknowledgement form stating you are aware of this practice. See item 8 below.
6. **Affiliation Agreement.** To ensure shared responsibility between an academic program and the VA there must be a current and fully executed Academic Affiliation Agreement on file with the VHA Office of Academic Affiliations (OAA). The affiliation agreement delineates the duties of VA and the affiliated institution. Most APA-accredited doctoral programs have an agreement on file. More information about this document can be found at <https://www.va.gov/oaa/agreements.asp> (see section on psychology internships).
7. **TQCVL.** To streamline on-boarding of HPTs, VHA Office of Academic Affiliations requires completion of a Trainee Qualifications and Credentials Verification Letter (TQCVL). An Educational Official at the Affiliate must complete and sign this letter. Your VA appointment cannot happen until the TQCVL is submitted and signed by senior leadership from the VA facility. For more information about this document, please visit <https://www.va.gov/OAA/TQCVL.asp>
 - a. **Health Requirements.** Among other things, the TQCVL confirms that you, the trainee, are fit to perform the essential functions (physical and mental) of the training program and immunized following current Center for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines and VHA policy. This protects you, other employees and patients while working in a healthcare

facility. Required are annual tuberculosis screening, Hepatitis B vaccine as well as annual influenza vaccine and the COVID-19 vaccine. The flu vaccine and COVID-19 vaccine are mandatory for all VA trainees and staff, except in the rare case of a documented medical exemption or deeply held religious beliefs that precludes being vaccinated.

- b. Primary source verification of all prior education and training** is certified via the TQCVL. Training and Program Directors will be contacting the appropriate institutions to ensure you have the appropriate qualifications and credentials as required by the admission criteria of the training program in which you are enrolled.
- 8. Additional On-boarding Forms.** Additional pre-employment forms include the Application for Health Professions Trainees (VA 10-2850D) and the Declaration for Federal Employment (OF 306). These documents and others are available online for review at <https://www.va.gov/oaa/app-forms.asp>. Falsifying any answer on these required Federal documents will result in the inability to appoint or immediate dismissal from the training program.
- 9. Proof of Identity per VA.** VA on-boarding requires presentation of two source documents (IDs). Documents must be unexpired and names on both documents must match. For more information visit: https://www.oit.va.gov/programs/piv/_media/docs/IDMatrix.pdf

Additional information regarding eligibility requirements for appointment as a VA psychology HPT can be found at the following links:

- <https://www.psychologytraining.va.gov/eligibility.asp>
- <https://www.psychologytraining.va.gov/docs/Trainee-Eligibility.pdf>

NEUROPSYCHOLOGY TRAINING STAFF

JOHNSON, Spring Flores

Current VA Position: Postdoctoral Training Director; Neuropsychologist

Area of Specialization: Neuropsychology and Neurorehabilitation

Degree: Ph.D., Loma Linda University, 2019

VA hire: 2022

E-mail address: spring.johnson@va.gov

Licensure: California (2023)

Theoretical Orientation: Biopsychosocial, Integrative (CBT, DBT, solution-focused, Interpersonal, Disability Affirmative)

Areas of clinical specialization: Geriatric neuropsychology, acquired brain injury, movement disorders, other brain injury/illness

Publications: Acquired brain injury, neuroplasticity, underserved communities

Professional Organizations: NAN, INS, APA, QNS, Division 22

Teaching/Training interests: Neuropsychology, functional neuroanatomy, diversity, neurorehabilitation, professional development

KIM, Christine H.

Current VA Position: Neuropsychologist; Associate Director, Neuropsychology Training; Member, Executive Training Committee; Member, Psychology Diversity Equity Inclusion Committee

Area of Specialization: Clinical Neuropsychology
Degree: Ph.D., Fuller Graduate School of Psychology 2008
VA hire: 2010 (Long Beach VA: 2017)
E-mail address: christine.kim@va.gov
Licensure: California (2010)
Theoretical Orientation: Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBT), Biopsychosocial
Areas of clinical specialization: Gero-Neuropsychology
Publications: Normative data on Stroop Test, cognition and aging
Professional Organizations: INS, DIV 22, SBN, ANA
Teaching/Training interests: Neuropsychology, professional development, diversity

MONIZ, Erin

Current VA Position: Neuropsychologist
Area of Specialization: Clinical Neuropsychology
Degree: Ph.D., Pacific Graduate School of Psychology, 2016
VA hire: 2023
E-mail address: erin.moniz@va.gov
Licensure: California (2018)
Theoretical Orientation: CBT
Areas of Clinical Focus: Neuropsychology, neurorehabilitation, behavioral intervention (s/p brain injury), health psychology
Professional Organizations: APA
Teaching/Training Interests: Psychological and neuropsychological assessment in medical settings, post-stroke/brain injury recovery, behavior management in acute rehab, brief bedside psychotherapy

FORMER NEUROPSYCHOLOGY PRACTICUM TRAINEES

Class of 2022-2023

M. Allyson Ayson	Pepperdine University
Paige Parker	Pepperdine University

Class of 2021-2022

Brianna Hardt	Loma Linda University
Savannah Wiersig	Rosemead School of Psychology

Class of 2020-2021

Bianca Kdeiss	Loma Linda University
Kathryn Mukai	Fuller School of Psychology

Class of 2019-2020

Sara Forster	Pepperdine University
Ann Nguyen	Loma Linda University
King Tung (Ryan) She	Rosemead School of Psychology

Class of 2018-2019

Robert (Bobby) Jakucs	Pepperdine University
Katya Naman	Pepperdine University

Brooke Ruf	Rosemead School of Psychology
Shannon Thomas	Fuller School of Psychology

Class of 2017-2018

Maria (Miko) Mechure	Fuller School of Psychology
Amanda Ortiz	Rosemead School of Psychology
Wilhelmina (Emma) Stamps	Pepperdine University
Bryant Steury	Pepperdine University
Emily Werst	Rosemead School of Psychology

Class of 2016-2017

Heidi Arredondo	Pepperdine University
Joe Mannion	Pepperdine University
Michelle McDonnell	Loma Linda University
Ashley Vaillancourt	Fuller School of Psychology

Class of 2015-2016

Joelle Broffman	Pepperdine University
Xiao (Shirley) Chen	Pepperdine University
Melissa Duguay	Pepperdine University
Ariel Reid	Fuller School of Psychology
Ramona Rostami	Fuller School of Psychology

Class of 2014-2015

Renee Alas	Pepperdine University
Ross Lisman	Fuller School of Psychology
Bruna Martins	University of Southern California

Class of 2013-2014

Eric An	Fuller School of Psychology
James Creely	Fuller School of Psychology
Joshua Lapin	Pepperdine University
Kyle Nixon	Fuller School of Psychology
Sandra Vargas-Diaz	Pepperdine University

Class of 2012-2013

Courtney Bancroft	Pepperdine University
Ashley Wilkins	Fuller School of Psychology

Class of 2011-2012

Benjamin Coleman	Fuller School of Psychology
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Class of 2010-2011

LaShelle Zellner	Fuller School of Psychology
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LOCAL INFORMATION AND DIRECTIONS

The VA Long Beach/Tibor Rubin VA Medical Center is located on the corner of Bellflower Boulevard and Seventh Street in Long Beach. It is adjacent to California State University at Long Beach, and is just northeast of where Pacific Coast Highway intersects with Bellflower Blvd. and Seventh Street. For more information on orienting yourself to VA Long Beach, please check the VA Long Beach Website.

www.longbeach.va.gov. The Neuropsychology clinic and neuropsychology practicum office is located in Building 128, Room A122C and the Psychology main office is located in Room A200.

To find out more about events/attractions in the greater Los Angeles area, go to:

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



ADDENDUM: COVID-19 Pandemic-Related Changes to Psychology Training

COVID-19-related restrictions and practices at VA Long Beach are evolving to address the evolving situation. We cannot yet know how or whether COVID-19 pandemic restrictions will impact the 2024-2025 training year, but these are the current adjustments to training at VA Long Beach.

Hospital Safety Precautions:

VA Long Beach has taken facility-wide steps to reduce the risk of spreading the coronavirus.

Facility Maintenance staff across the hospital are engaging in enhanced sterilization protocols, and communal spaces (e.g., the cafeteria) are set up for social distancing. Hand sanitizer is readily available throughout the hospital.

VA Long Beach provides appropriate PPE to all trainees who come onto campus and interact with patients, including scrubs, masks, face shields, gowns, and gloves as needed. For testing, plexiglass barriers are also provided. Hospital-grade disinfecting wipes are available to clean materials and surfaces on campus.

The requirements for entrance to the hospital and any inpatient area may change according to safety protocols as the situation evolves. Trainees are updated about relevant changes as they occur via hospital-wide email and communication from TD and supervisors. VA Long Beach has a COVID-19 SharePoint with constantly updated information and resources, which trainees can access from their VA computers.

COVID-19 testing and COVID-19 vaccines are readily available to all staff and trainees on site at no cost through VA occupational health, including testing for active COVID-19 via nasal swab and antibody testing through bloodwork.

Changes to Training Starting 2020:

Beginning in mid-March, 2020, training activities that could happen virtually became virtual. This included seminars, didactics, individual and group supervision (in accordance with OAA, APPIC, and CA Board of Psychology allowances), interdisciplinary team meetings, and most individual and group care (apart from those clinical activities that cannot be provided virtually, mentioned above).

Orientation week 2020 was conducted virtually, with the exception of coming on to campus one half day to complete orientation items that necessitated being at the VA in person (e.g., picking up ID badges and equipment, getting photos taken).

Since March, 2020, psychology trainees (and most staff psychologists) have had the ability to work from home on VA-issued laptops. Webcams and headsets are also available from the VA. Today, trainees and staff work a variety of schedules including fully on-site work, fully remote work, or a hybrid schedule of both remote work and on-site work. Trainee schedules typically mirror that of their supervisor's schedules and is collaboratively determined. The plan is to continue these modalities for the duration of the pandemic as hospital policy and licensure/accreditation bodies permit. It is important to note that trainees working in certain clinical areas are required to spend some amount of time on campus/in person due to the nature of the clinical work. These clinical areas include Spinal Cord Injury/Disorders, Blind Rehabilitation Center, Community Living Center, and Neuropsychology.

Please note that the flu vaccine and COVID-19 vaccine are mandatory for all VA trainees and staff, except in the rare case of a documented medical exemption or deeply held religious belief that precludes being vaccinated.

If you have any questions about how we are addressing any aspect of training during COVID-19 restrictions, please reach out to Dr. Kim at christine.kim@va.gov or (562) 826-8000 x16774 for more information.