

# PSYCHOLOGY INTERNSHIP BROCHURE



**Phoenix VA Health Care System**  
Psychology Internship Training Program  
Psychology Section (116B)  
650 East Indian School Road  
Phoenix, Arizona 85012



Director of Training: Matthew Weyer, Ph.D.  
Chief of Psychology: Kris Kratz, Ph.D., ABPP CL/CN



***Application Due Date: November 1, 2018***  
***Start Date: August 19, 2019***

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

Program Overview	3
APA Accreditation Status	4
Commitment to Diversity	4
Mentorship Program	5
Application and Selection Procedures	5
Phoenix VA Health Care System	6
Training Model and Program Philosophy	7
Program Goals and Competencies	8
Successful Completion of Program/Exit Criteria	9
Administrative and Program Structure	10
Phoenix: A Great Place to Train and Live	11
The Training Experience	12
Intern Sample Schedules	14
Additional Training Experiences	16
Supervision	17
Didactic Trainings	18
Rotation Descriptions	19
Training Committee	30
Internship Admissions, Support, and Initial Placement Data	44
Eligibility Requirements to Work for the Department of Veterans Affairs	46
List of Past Interns	49

## ***PROGRAM OVERVIEW***

Dear Applicant,

Thank you for expressing an interest in the Phoenix VA Health Care System's Psychology Internship Program. We currently offer training to eight doctoral interns. Our goals are multifaceted and are focused on developing well-rounded, effective, ethical, and professional psychologists. Our strengths and emphases are in *Health Psychology, Neuropsychology, Primary Care Mental Health Integration (PC-MHI), and PTSD/General Mental Health*. However, our training and supervision are intended to develop individualized skills relevant to the general practice of psychology. Although the majority of the training occurs at our Main Hospital, additional training opportunities exist at local Vet Centers, Community Based Outpatient Clinics (CBOC) and through Home-Based Primary Care.

You will find that a collegial relationship exists between training supervisors and interns. Psychology interns are expected to be professionally responsible and are encouraged to accept as much responsibility and autonomy as their current levels of knowledge and skill will allow. All clinical work performed by psychology interns is reviewed and supervised by a diverse group of licensed staff psychologists.

The training program places priority on the involvement of psychology interns in direct patient care. As such, interns are expected to spend a minimum of 25% of their time engaged in direct patient care. Clinical responsibilities are assigned by "track" with a minimum of half time commitment during the training year met in Health Psychology, Neuropsychology, Primary Care Mental Health Integration (PC-MHI), and PTSD/General Mental Health. The remaining time is tailored to the interests and/or training needs of the intern.

Additionally, there is a weekly didactic training seminar, which includes topics in psychotherapy, assessment, health psychology, neuropsychology, interprofessional skills, ethics, diversity, health care practices, preparing for licensure, and more. Guest speakers from the community and from other VA disciplines are involved in training.

We are excited about your interest in our psychology internship program and look forward to reviewing your application. Please feel free to contact us with questions as you progress through the application process.

Sincerely,

The Phoenix VAHCS Internship Training Committee

## ***APA ACCREDITATION STATUS***

The doctoral internship at the Phoenix VA Health Care System (VAHCS) has been accredited by the American Psychological Association (APA) since 1999. In 2012, the program was reviewed by the Commission on Accreditation and was awarded the maximum 7 years of full accreditation. The next site visit will be in 2019. For further information on program accreditation, please contact:

American Psychological Association  
Commission on Accreditation  
750 First Street, NE,  
Washington, DC  
20002-4242

Phone: 202-336-5979  
[www.apa.org/ed/accreditation](http://www.apa.org/ed/accreditation)

## ***APPIC MEMBERSHIP***

The Phoenix VAHCS is a member of the Association of Psychology Postdoctoral and Internship Centers (APPIC). This internship site agrees to abide by the APPIC policy that no person at this training facility will solicit, or accept for use any ranking-related information from any applicant. The APPIC Match Policies can be found at their website at: <http://www.appic.org/d08match-policies.html>.

## ***COMMITMENT TO DIVERSITY***

Our internship site maintains a strong commitment to diversity among staff and trainees, as exemplified by our past success in the recruitment and retention of individuals of diverse backgrounds at the intern, postdoctoral, and staff levels. As a federal employer, our facility and department of Psychology strongly adhere to policies on non-discrimination and accommodations to facilitate success in our internship. As an equal opportunity training program, our internship welcomes and strongly encourages applications from all qualified applicants, regardless of racial, ethnic, religion, sexual orientation, disability, or other minority status.

The Phoenix VA Psychology Department believes that diversity presents in multiple facets. As a program, we place high value on diversity recognition and sensitivity and maintain a yearly diversity seminar among interns and postdoctoral residents. This seminar is highly valued by trainees as a place where personal beliefs and feelings can be discussed, explored, and shared. Some of the topics explored over the course of the year include military culture, working with clients of different ethnic and socioeconomic backgrounds, understanding diversity in gender and sexual identity, and recognizing microaggressions in clinical practice.

In addition to the diversity seminar, our department hosts Diversity Action Committee meetings where hospital staff and trainees are invited to join in the promotion of diversity awareness and programming throughout the Phoenix VA Health Care System. We feel we have successfully cultivated an atmosphere of respect in moving towards enhanced diversity knowledge, awareness and skills.

## ***MENTORSHIP PROGRAM***

Our program is excited to offer a mentorship program for our trainees. The mentorship program was created to support our interns' overall professional development in a non-evaluative, collegial environment. The mentorship program is independent of any supervisory relationships to ensure the opportunity for trainees to openly discuss professional issues. Early in the year, interns will have a chance to select a mentor to meet with at various times throughout the year. Topics discussed are varied but include intern's personal and professional development, helping the intern negotiate the internship program, and planning for post-internship goals.

## ***APPLICATION & SELECTION PROCEDURES***

### **REQUIREMENTS**

The *minimum* requirements for entry into the training program are as follows (see page 43 for tables with additional details):

- United States Citizenship
- Verification of Selective Service Registration (Male applicants born after 12-31-1959 must sign a pre-appointment Certification Statement for Selective Service Registration)
- Enrollment in an APA or CPA accredited Doctoral Program of Clinical or Counseling Psychology
- Comprehensive examinations passed prior to beginning internship
- Dissertation proposal approved
- A minimum of 500 total hours of practicum experience
- Clinical experience with adult populations in a variety of clinical settings
- Consent to a background check, which requires fingerprinting
- Consent to complete a pre-employment physical and submit a completed TQCVL form, which is provided after accepted into the program

### **APPLICATION MATERIALS**

Students interested in applying for our internship program must submit the following under APPIC electronic submission guidelines:

- Application Form
- Curriculum Vita

- Official Graduate Transcript(s)
- Three letters of recommendation

## **APPLICATION PROCEDURES**

All APPIC applications must be submitted electronically following APPIC guidelines ([www.appic.org](http://www.appic.org))

- Submit application materials electronically by **11:59PM EST on November 1, 2018**.
- Approximately 50 applicants will be notified of interview offers by **November 30, 2018**. Half of the interviews will occur during the third week of December 2018, and the other half will take place during the first week of January 2019.
- The format of the interviews includes an overview of the program, individual interviews with 7 supervisors, and an opportunity to meet with current interns.
- To assist the interview panel with their review of prospective applicants following interviews, a group photo will be taken at the end of each interview day. Participation is strictly **optional**. If an applicant chooses not to be in the photo, it will not impact any decision making or rankings of applicants.
- Once interviews are completed, the training committee prepares four separate lists for each of the specialty tracks with a corresponding Match Number in bold: Neuropsychology (**167112**), Health Psychology (**167113**), PTSD /General Mental Health (**167114**) and PC-MHI (**167115**).
- Applicants should feel free to e-mail the Training Director for any clarification of procedures or questions about the internship at [Matthew.Weyer@va.gov](mailto:Matthew.Weyer@va.gov).

## ***PHOENIX VA HEALTH CARE SYSTEM***

The Phoenix VAHCS is a tertiary care and training facility with 129 medical/surgical beds, 48 psychiatric beds, and a 102-bed community living center. The hospital has been providing service to veterans in Maricopa County since 1951. In 2018, the medical center had over 800,000 visits with a total veteran enrollment of over 91,000. The hospital has a well-equipped and attractive physical facility located in central Phoenix. There are also several Community Based Outpatient Clinics (CBOC) located throughout the state that offer primary care and mental health services. The hospital has facilities for audio and video recording and its computer system supports e-mail, Internet access, word processing, and fully automated patient records. The VA medical library can provide literature searches for education or patient care. In addition, literature searches through MedLine and PsycINFO can be conducted by psychology interns in their offices. Each psychology intern has a computer which has access to the internet, computerized psychological testing, e-mail and online training opportunities.

## **PSYCHOLOGY DEPARTMENT**

The Psychology Department of the Phoenix VAHCS is committed to excellence in training and service. The training committee is heterogeneous in terms of educational and theoretical backgrounds, which allows a wide range of orientations for instruction, observation, role modeling, and professional development. The Psychology Department contributes to the larger community by donation of personal and professional services to community groups, participation in university activities, and private practice outside the Medical Center. Members of our training committee have held and currently hold elected and appointed leadership positions in local, state and national professional associations and groups.

### **PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION**

***Matthew Weyer, Ph.D.***  
Training Director

***Jennifer Averyt, Ph.D.***  
Assistant Training Director

***Tim S. Ayers, Ph.D.***  
Assistant Training Director

The Training Director and Assistant Training Directors are responsible for the coordination, oversight, and day-to-day operation of the Psychology Training Program. An Executive Training Committee periodically reviews all aspects of the training program and when necessary recommends changes in procedures and policy. Additionally, the Training Committee which is composed of current supervisors meets monthly to monitor the progress of interns on each rotation. This committee attempts to ensure continuity of training among various rotations and training settings. Final decisions regarding the Psychology Training Program are the responsibility of the Chief of Psychology, Kris Kratz, Ph.D., ABPP CL/CN.

### ***TRAINING MODEL AND PROGRAM PHILOSOPHY***

- The philosophy of our program is grounded in the practitioner scholar model, which emphasizes clinical practice and the importance of using theory and research to inform practice. In addition, the practitioner scholar model emphasizes the delivery of psychological services that take into account individual, cultural, and societal considerations.
- The primary focus of the internship year is training. Delivery of patient care is an essential component to training, but is secondary to the educational mission of the internship. Interns are encouraged to plan their internship experiences in a manner that maximizes their individual training goals. One of the strengths of our program is the breadth of experiences available to interns and the flexibility for interns to create a personalized set of rotation experiences.
- Our program maintains a generalist focus, fostering general competence over specialization. This training philosophy is based on the view that a psychologist must be broadly competent before becoming a skillful specialist. The internship year is designed to help interns master the common principles and practices that form the foundation of clinical patient care.
- Clinical training is focused on evidence-based interventions. The Phoenix VAHCS Department of Psychology has a number of staff members who are national trainers and consultants for the VA's evidence-based treatment programs, including Cognitive Processing Therapy (CPT),

Cognitive Behavioral Therapy for Insomnia (CBT-I), CBT for Chronic Pain (CBT-CP), Prolonged Exposure (PE), and Motivational Interviewing (MI). Interns have the opportunity to take part in training initiatives, including ongoing consultation groups, with staff members during the year.

- Our training model is developmental, and we recognize that interns will be entering the training year with different levels of clinical experience, skills, and comfort levels. Interns complete a self-assessment at the beginning of the year to help to develop their individualized training plan. Interns are encouraged to take an active role in choosing rotations that will match both their personal interests and potential areas for growth. The flexibility of our training program also allows interns to adjust their training plan to meet their needs and emerging interests. Over the course of the year, interns progress from receiving close supervision to taking on a more autonomous role.
- Our training philosophy emphasizes a collaborative approach. An important component of all training experiences is the development of skills to work with other psychologists and members of other disciplines. Our interns routinely collaborate with psychiatry, social work, pharmacy, nutrition, and primary care staff.
- There is a focus in our program on creating a safe environment for learning. We value open discussions and processing of challenging experiences that interns might face as they grow into their roles as autonomous practitioners.

### ***PROGRAM GOAL and COMPETENCIES***

The **overall training goal** at the Phoenix VAHCS is for interns to develop the knowledge and skills necessary for postdoctoral or entry-level professional practice in clinical or counseling psychology across the following profession-wide training competencies:

- 1. Research** - Interns will demonstrate the ability to critically evaluate the research literature to inform their clinical practice. Some interns may also have the opportunity to participate in ongoing research projects and disseminate findings at the local, regional, or national level.
- 2. Ethical and Legal Standards** - Interns will demonstrate the ability to respond professionally and ethically in accordance with the APA Code of Ethics and relevant federal and state laws, regulations, rules, policies, and standards and guidelines.
- 3. Individual and Cultural Diversity** - Interns will demonstrate the ability to conduct professional activities with sensitivity to diversity, including the ability to deliver high quality services to diverse populations. Interns will demonstrate knowledge, awareness, and skills when working with diverse individuals who represent a variety of cultural and personal background and characteristics.
- 4. Professional Values and Attitudes** - Interns will demonstrate an increasing awareness of their professional identity as a psychologist. This includes awareness of and receptivity to areas needing further development.
- 5. Communication and Interpersonal Skills** - Interns will demonstrate effective communication skills and the ability to form and maintain successful professional relationships.
- 6. Assessment** - Interns will develop competence in evidence-based psychological assessment with a variety of diagnoses, problems, and needs. Emphasis is placed on developing competence in diagnostic interviewing and the administration and scoring of psychometrically-validated instruments assessing personality.
- 7. Intervention** - Interns will develop competence in the delivery of evidence-based interventions for adults with a variety of diagnoses, problems, and needs. Interns will select and implement these interventions from a range of therapeutic orientations, techniques, and approaches.



**8. Supervision** - Interns will demonstrate knowledge of evidence-based supervision models and practices and apply this knowledge in direct or simulated practice.

**9. Consultation and Interprofessional Skills** - Interns will develop competence in consultation and collaboration skills through working with professionals from a variety of disciplines.

In addition, to the nine profession wide competencies, the Phoenix VAHCS Psychology Internship Program has one additional program-specific competency – Program Evaluation – which is described below.

**10. Program Evaluation** – Interns will develop skills in program evaluation through the completion of a year-long project in an area of their choice.

### **SUCCESSFUL COMPLETION OF PROGRAM/EXIT CRITERIA**

Interns are evaluated at four points during the year on the previously described competencies. Copies of the Internship evaluation tools and associated policies are available for review upon request. In terms of each rotation evaluation, behavioral exemplars for each competency are rated as “Entry Level,” “Intermediate,” “Proficient,” “Advanced,” or “High Advanced.” There is also a rating of “Skill Deficit or Problematic Behavior” that can be used for areas in which significant clinical, professional, or ethical concerns are noted. Below is the descriptions of the different rating levels:

**Skill Deficit/Problematic Behavior:** Intensive level of supervision needed. Lacks ability to benefit from supervision/team feedback. Lacks knowledge of relevant clinical issues and is not demonstrating progress in knowledge/skill development. Evidence of poor decision-making processes. Unethical or illegal behavior. **Triggers a remediation plan.**

**Entry Level (Intern entry level):** Regular and systematic supervision needed on most straightforward cases/projects. Integrates knowledge acquired with guidance from supervisor. Decision-making facilitated by supervisory process.

**Intermediate:** Regular supervision needed, particularly in new skill areas. Developing solid understanding of relevant clinical issues. Independent decision-making for many clinical issues.

**Proficient (Intern exit level/Fellow Entry Level):** Supervision needed mainly for unusual, complex situations or for a new clinical skill area. Solid understanding of relevant clinical issues. Independent decision-making for the majority of clinical issues.

**Advanced (Fellow exit level):** Supervision needed only for unusual, complex situations. Demonstrates more specialized knowledge. Independent decision-making for most clinical issues.

**High Advanced:** Seeks supervision/consultation as needed. Continues to independently expand knowledge and skills in content area. Demonstrates nuanced decision-making skills in complex clinical situations. Knowledge/skills/attitudes commensurate with board certification level.

Consistent with APA accreditation requirements, we have identified minimum levels of achievement and exit criteria for our program:

**For interns to maintain good standing in the program, they must:**

1. Rotation 1 Evaluation – 50% of the behavioral anchors rated\* at the “Intermediate” or higher level, with none being rated below the “Entry” level
2. Rotation 2 Evaluation – 50% of the behavioral anchors rated\* at the “Proficient” or higher level, with none being rated below the “Entry” level
3. Rotation 3 Evaluation – 75% of the behavioral anchors rated\* at the “Proficient” or higher level, with none being rated below the “Intermediate” level.
4. Not be found to have engaged in any significant unethical behavior.

**For interns to successfully complete the program, they must:**

1. Rotation 4 Evaluation (Exit Criteria) - 100% of the behavioral anchors rated\* at the “Proficient” or higher level
2. Not be found to have engaged in any significant unprofessional or unethical behavior.
3. Have spent a minimum of 25% of their time on internship engaged in direct patient care.
4. Completed three professional presentations.

It is noteworthy that the program has successfully graduated all interns and historically all interns have secured either postdoctoral training positions or employment prior to the completion of internship. Please see page 46 for a list of recent post internship positions.

### ***ADMINISTRATIVE AND PROGRAM STRUCTURE***

The Psychology Internship Program at the Phoenix VAHCS currently offers training to eight doctoral interns in Health Service Psychology with emphases in the areas of Health Psychology, Neuropsychology, PC-MHI, and PTSD/General Mental Health. The psychology intern’s training plan is individualized to fit their needs and interests. In our program, we encourage interns to observe and experience a variety of supervisory and clinical models. As interns progress in the program and their professional skills and duties develop and expand, they assume greater responsibility in the clinical setting.

At the end of each clinical rotation, interns are evaluated on the previously described goals and competencies. Copies of evaluation tools and associated policies are available for review during interviews. In evaluating interns' performance and progress, applicable statutes and policies concerning due process and fair treatment are followed.

Upon successful completion of internship, interns will receive a certificate that indicates they have successfully completed an Internship in Health Service Psychology. In addition, a final letter of evaluation will be sent to the intern’s academic program indicating successful completion of the doctoral internship. This letter serves as partial fulfillment of the requirements for a doctoral degree in clinical or counseling psychology. The letter will further detail the intern's training experiences in the program and provide an overall summary evaluation.

### **FUNDING/BENEFITS/LEAVE**

VA-funded psychology interns are paid a full-time stipend of \$27,010, and payments are every two weeks for a full year. Health insurance is available at employee copay rates (see page 43 for tables with additional details). Training stipends are taxable. The Phoenix VAHCS does not offer part-time or unfunded intern training positions.

The official internship year will begin on **August 19, 2019** and end on August 14, 2020. Interns earn four hours of annual leave and four hours of sick leave every two weeks. Additionally, interns are granted authorized absence (i.e., time allowed for attending or presenting at conferences, dissertation defense, postdoctoral interviews) with Training Director approval. Finally, interns receive ten paid federal holidays.

## **FACILITY AND TRAINING RESOURCES**

The Psychology Department has staff at the Main Hospital, Community Based Outpatient Clinics (CBOCs), the West Valley Vet Center and the Midtown Clinic which is located less than 3 miles from the main facility. Interns share a large conference room with computers, phones and a printer. There are dedicated therapy and assessment offices for intern use. Furthermore, many of the minor rotations offer a dedicated office space for interns. Interns have access to a refrigerator and microwave for shared use. The Psychology Department shares a clerk who provides assistance to interns with procurement of supplies and various administrative tasks.

### ***PHOENIX: A GREAT PLACE TO TRAIN AND LIVE***

Phoenix is the fifth largest city in America with a population of more than 1.6 million. Despite its size, it remains affordable compared to other large U.S. cities. Phoenix has striking architecture with Mexican, Spanish and Native American influences. Frank Lloyd Wright and his students designed several local buildings, homes and churches. Phoenix's principal industries are manufacturing of technology products, agriculture, and tourism.

Phoenix has much to offer in terms of culture and arts. Many events are presented by entities such as the Phoenix Symphony Orchestra, the Phoenix Chamber Music Society, Scottsdale Center for Arts, and Ballet Arizona. The Arizona Opera Theater Company presents its season at the Herberger Theater. Phoenix has several specialized theater groups as well. The Heard Museum houses a renowned collection of American Indian art and culture. The Phoenix Art Museum has a fine permanent collection and presents several shows each year.

Phoenix offers over 300 days of sunshine – boom, bang, pow! Thus, many year-round sporting activities are prevalent including hiking, running, and cycling. Several farmer's markets are available year-round in Phoenix, Scottsdale, and other surrounding communities. Near Phoenix there are six man-made lakes where boating, fishing, and water skiing can be enjoyed. There are ski resorts less than two hours away in northern Arizona. Phoenix is home to four professional sports teams: the Phoenix Suns, Arizona Cardinals, Arizona Diamondbacks, and Arizona Coyotes. Several annual sporting events take place in Phoenix, including PGA and LPGA golf tournaments, and NASCAR auto racing.

Arizona State University is in Tempe, approximately 20 minutes from central Phoenix. The university library system is extensive and includes both an academic and a scientific branch. The Phoenix area also has many community colleges. The area has some private colleges as well, such as Grand Canyon University, University of Phoenix, and the Thunderbird American Graduate School of International Management.

Pine forests and the red rocks of Sedona are a two-hour drive from the city. The Grand Canyon is a four-hour drive to the north. The beaches of Mexico are a four-hour drive to the south. Sky Harbor

International Airport provides daily connections to all major international airports. For additional information about the Phoenix metropolitan areas please go to: [www.visitphoenix.com](http://www.visitphoenix.com).

### ***PLANNING THE TRAINING YEAR***

At the beginning of internship, interns go through several days of orientation activities, which provide the opportunity to visit the clinical sites and meet all the prospective supervisors. An individualized training plan is developed for each intern based on the intern's self-assessment, specific interests, and training needs. The goal is to develop a broad-based training experience that includes exposure to multiple clinical settings and patient populations. The training directors and rotation supervisors are available for consultation to help navigate the various training options. Interns are typically able to participate in the training activities that they desire, but the exact structure and timing of various activities must fit with the intern's training needs as well as the overall organizational needs of the program.

The program is organized into two six-month segments with interns typically participating in two rotations at a time. There may be opportunities for supplemental experiences that are outside of the normal rotation activities. Participation in supplemental activities must be clearly specified and approved by the Training Director and the rotation supervisors. Because interns' interests and priorities often change over the course of the training year, modifications in the training plan can be considered.

### ***THE TRAINING EXPERIENCE***

The training program places high priority on the involvement of psychology interns in providing direct patient care. Clinical experiences are obtained through major and minor rotations, and long-term psychotherapy rotations. Additionally, professional skills are developed in the areas of assessment, program evaluation, consultation, and supervision.

#### **Rotation Experiences**

The Phoenix VAHCS has created three types of rotations to provide a comprehensive and generalist training experience for our interns: major, minor, and required. Additionally, interns can complete a supplemental experience to round their training year.

**Major Rotation:** The first type of rotation is based on the specialty track chosen by each intern. This will constitute at least 50% of the training year, e.g., Health Psychology, Neuropsychology, PC-MHI, PTSD/General Mental Health emphasis. Interns have the opportunity to work with a variety of training supervisors in each of these specialty areas.

**Minor Rotation:** Second, in collaboration with the training committee, interns select minor rotations to fulfill their training needs. These minor rotations are six months in duration and are offered in a variety of clinics, including Inpatient and Outpatient Mental Health, Women Veteran's Program, PTSD, Health Psychology, PC-MHI, Home-Based Primary Care, and Neuropsychology.

Required Rotation: Given that our program is a generalist training program, all interns complete a rotation in one of our general mental health settings. Interns can choose from completing this rotation in the Outpatient Mental Health Clinic, Inpatient Mental Health or the Women Veteran's Program. During this required rotation, interns will receive intensive training in evidence based psychotherapy with a variety of patients experiencing mental health concerns. This rotation is 6 months in duration and can be anywhere from 8 to 24 hours per week depending on the interns area of interest and need for psychotherapy training. This rotation can be completed in the first or second half of the internship year.

Supplemental Experience: In consultation with the Training Director, interns can choose a supplemental experience in one of two areas: Disruptive Behavior Committee or Research. Supplemental experiences are typically 4 hours a week and can occur for a 6 month or 12 month period.

**A sample of potential rotation schedules is shown below.** There are several different options for building your training experience during the year depending on personal and professional preferences and training needs as well as rotation/staff availability:

**SAMPLE SCHEDULES**

Major Rotation
Minor Rotation
Required Rotation
Assessment Clinic
Supplemental Experience

**Intern Sample HEALTH PSYCHOLOGY TRACK**

Rotation 1	Rotation 2	Rotation 3	Rotation 4
Health Psychology Burgess (24 hrs)		Health Psychology Okvat (8 hrs)	PC-MHI Saathoff (16 hrs)
		Health Psychology Averyt (8 hrs)	
Outpatient Mental Health Clinic Fierstein (8 hrs)			
Assessment Clinic			

**Intern Sample HEALTH PSYCHOLOGY TRACK**

Rotation 1	Rotation 2	Rotation 3	Rotation 4
Health Psych Averyt (24 hrs)		PC-MHI - SE CBOC Gress Smith (16 hrs)	PTSD Clinic Luedtke (8 hrs)
		Health Psychology M. Weyer (4 hrs)	
Outpatient Mental Health Clinic Isenhart (8 hrs)			
Assessment Clinic			
Supplemental Experience - Chronic Pain Wellness Center (4 hrs)			

**Intern Sample PC-MHI TRACK**

Rotation 1	Rotation 2	Rotation 3	Rotation 4
PC-MHI Saathoff (20 hrs)		Health Psych Burgess (8 hrs)	
		HBPC Edmonds (8 hrs)	
Inpatient Mental Health Tracy (8 hrs)		PTSD Clinic Ayers (12 hrs)	
Assessment Clinic			

**Intern Sample GENERAL NEUROPSYCHOLOGY TRACK**

Rotation 1	Rotation 2	Rotation 3	Rotation 4
General Neuropsych Walters (24 hrs)		Neuropsych – TBI Clinic Bushnell (16 hrs)	
PC-MHI Breedlove (8 hrs)		Outpatient Mental Health Clinic – DBT Emphasis Beck (16 hrs)	
Assessment Clinic			

**Intern Sample TBI CLINIC NEUROPSYCHOLOGY TRACK**

Rotation 1	Rotation 2	Rotation 3	Rotation 4
Neuropsych – TBI Clinic Bushnell (24 hrs)		General Neuropsych Walters (8 hrs)	
		General Neuropsych De La Rosa (8 hrs)	
Women Veteran's Program Doyle (8 hrs)		Outpatient Mental Health Clinic Isenhart (16 hrs)	
Assessment Clinic			

**Intern Sample PTSD/GENERAL MENTAL HEALTH TRACK**

Rotation 1	Rotation 2	Rotation 3	Rotation 4
PTSD Clinic Ayers (16 hrs)		West Valley Vet Center McCray (16 hrs)	
Outpatient Mental Health Clinic Price (12 hrs)		PC-MHI Saathoff (12 hrs)	
Assessment Clinic			
Supplemental Experience - Disruptive Behavior Committee (4 hrs)			

**Intern Sample PTSD/GENERAL MENTAL HEALTH TRACK**

Rotation 1	Rotation 2	Rotation 3	Rotation 4
PTSD Clinic Baker (16 hrs)		West Valley Vet Center McCray (16 hrs)	
Outpatient Mental Health Clinic Sessions (16 hrs)		Women Veteran's Program Doyle (16 hrs)	
Assessment Clinic			

**Intern Sample PTSD/GENERAL MENTAL HEALTH TRACK**

Rotation 1	Rotation 2	Rotation 3	Rotation 4
West Valley Vet Center McCray (16 hrs)		PTSD Clinic Lowrey (16 hrs)	
Women Veteran's Program Doyle (12 hrs)		PC-MHI - Midtown Truong (12 hrs)	
Assessment Clinic			
Supplemental Experience - Research Rotation (4 hours)			

**Additional Training Experiences:**

**Assessment Clinic:** Interns participate in a weekly Assessment Clinic for the first 6 months of the year. Early in the year, interns will attend didactic trainings to become proficient with diagnostic interviewing and a variety of assessment instruments including the MMPI-2-RF, PAI, and MCMI-IV. Throughout the year, Interns field assessment consults from the Outpatient Mental Health clinic and/or the Inpatient Mental Health Unit. The Assessment Clinic will give interns the opportunity to staff the case and receive supervision in test administration, interpretation and report writing, including the integration of diagnostic interview information with test data. In addition, interns will regularly participate in the types of assessment normatively done within their selected rotations. For instance, interns will regularly complete diagnostic intake interviews in their respective clinics. They will also be asked to complete more comprehensive personality assessment batteries when



indicated and will be required to utilize assessment tools to measure treatment progress in their ongoing psychotherapy cases.

**Supervision Clinic** – Interns participate in a 12-week didactic series devoted to building clinical supervision skills. There are two components to this experience. First, interns will receive education about the fundamentals of clinical supervision which include assigned readings, case study. Second, interns will engage in role plays with their classmates and when possible, may have the opportunity to engage in consultation/supervision of social work trainees or practicum students. This training helps prepare interns to provide supervision as professional psychologists. Additionally, interns will be paired with a postdoctoral fellow for adjunctive supervision/consultation experience for a six-month period. The intern will be supervised by a fellow at the direction of a clinical supervisor with mutually identified goals.

**Advanced Psychotherapy Seminar (optional)** - Interns have the option to attend an advanced psychotherapy seminar in which they can learn innovative therapy skills and techniques to adapt evidence-based protocols for their current caseload. This seminar emphasizes the “art” behind effective psychotherapy.

## ***SUPERVISION***

One of the strengths of our internship program is the variety and quality of supervision offered. We have a training committee that consists of seasoned clinicians with diverse theoretical backgrounds and clinical expertise. The majority of our training staff has received formal training, consultation, and certification in one or more of the following evidenced-based treatments: Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBT) for Depression, CBT for Chronic Pain (CBT-CP), CBT for Insomnia (CBT-I), Cognitive Processing Therapy (CPT), Cognitive Behavioral Conjoint Therapy (CBCT), Prolonged Exposure (PE), Eye Movement Desensitization and Reprocessing (EMDR), Motivational Interviewing (MI), Problem-Solving Therapy (PST), Interpersonal Psychotherapy (IPT) for Depression, and Acceptance Commitment Therapy (ACT). Furthermore, we are proud to have staff that have served or currently serve as national trainers and national consultants in PE, CPT, CBT for Depression, CBT for Chronic Pain, and CBT-I.

Interns receive at least 4 hours of supervision per week. Supervision is tailored to the intern’s needs and skill level and is provided in the following formats:

### **ROTATION SUPERVISION**

Psychology interns receive individual supervision by rotation supervisors for a minimum of two hours per week. There is additional time for supervision on a less formal basis as supervisors are readily available for questions and the interns’ need for guidance. Interns are trained in various evidence-based psychotherapies that differ according to the chosen clinic. For example, an intern assigned to the PTSD clinic might be trained in CPT, EMDR, and/or PE protocols. An intern assigned to the Health Psychology rotation would likely receive additional training in CBT-I, MI, ACT and clinical hypnosis.

## **ASSESSMENT SUPERVISION**

Psychology interns participate in weekly group supervision within the Assessment Clinic that focuses on evidence-based assessment. In addition to group supervision, the Assessment Clinic supervisors are also available on an individual basis to provide guidance in the areas of test selection, administration, and report writing.

## ***DIDACTIC TRAININGS***

In order to facilitate the learning process that occurs on internship, rich didactic experiences are offered in the following areas:

1. We provide an Intern Didactic Seminar Series that meets weekly for 4 hours and consists of general topics such as ethics, diversity, interprofessional communication, evidence-based psychotherapy, and assessment. Specialty training is also provided in the areas of Health Psychology, PTSD/General Mental Health, and PC-MHI. Recent research studies and/or literature reviews will be paired with each didactic lecture. Articles are disseminated to interns and discussed within the didactic lectures.
2. In addition to the general didactic series, neuropsychology interns have the opportunity to attend the postdoctoral neuropsychology seminar held three times per month and biweekly case conferences with neuropsychology faculty. This offers a combination of biweekly case conferences. In the second half of the year, interns may have the option to attend a 2-hour weekly Video Teleconference with eight Department of Defense (DoD) and VA Fellowship Training Sites that is based on a 2-year curriculum for postdoctoral fellows. Topics include neurobehavioral syndromes, neuroanatomy, psychometrics, individual and cultural diversity in assessment, and preparation for oral exams for boards.
3. The Psychology Department also offers monthly APA-approved CEU training opportunities covering a variety of topics (e.g., diversity, ethics, MMPI-2RF). Learning opportunities are also available by attending Medical Grand Rounds, periodic offerings in the Department of Mental Health, and satellite training that is transmitted nationwide in the VA System.
4. At the beginning of the year, interns will have the opportunity to participate in up to two evidence-based training experiences. These 3-day trainings are offered in the following areas: Motivational Interviewing (MI), Cognitive Behavioral Therapy – Chronic Pain (CBT-CP), Cognitive Processing Therapy (CPT), and Dialectical Behavior Therapy (DBT). Following the training, interns will participate in weekly consultation to further develop their skills in implementing these evidence-based treatments. Interns who participate in the CPT training are eligible to receive certification through the VA's national training initiative.
5. Interns are also encouraged to attend training opportunities outside the VA that fit well with their internship training goals. As noted earlier, an attractive aspect of our training program is that psychology interns can be granted up to 40 hours of authorized absence to attend conferences and workshops.

## ***ROTATION DESCRIPTIONS***

### **GENERAL MENTAL HEALTH**

All interns complete at least one 6-month rotation in the Outpatient Mental Health Clinic, the Inpatient Mental Health Unit or the Women Veteran's Program. These rotations can be either for 8, 12, 16 or 20 hours a week depending on the intern's area of interest.

In the Outpatient Mental Health Clinic and the Women Veteran's Program rotations, interns will have the opportunity to gain experience in the use of several evidence-based psychotherapies that treat depression, anxiety, and/or post-traumatic stress disorder. Interns will develop the ability to conceptualize and create treatment plans for veterans who often have complex issues and/or may have co-morbid diagnoses. There are opportunities to work with individuals with presenting personality structures that make treatment adherence difficult. These rotations also affords interns the opportunity to conduct group psychotherapy in such areas as DBT, anger management, behavioral activation, women's chronic pain group, and CBT-Depression and Anxiety. Collaboration with mental health staff, including psychiatry, nursing and social work is also an exciting part of these rotations.

In the Inpatient Mental Health rotation, interns have the opportunity to provide short term individual therapy, group therapy, and conduct psychological assessments. Evidence based treatments in this rotation include Social Skills Training and Seeking Safety. Interns also engage in treatment and discharge planning and assist with coordination of care with outpatient mental health.

#### **OUTPATIENT MENTAL HEALTH – SOUTHWEST CBOC (SOUTHWEST PHOENIX) DBT EMPHASIS:** **SUPERVISING PSYCHOLOGIST: SPENCER T. BECK, PSY.D.**

The Southwest CBOC is a newly renovated outpatient clinic located in Southwest Phoenix (on Thomas Rd just off the 101) with a small mental health staff consisting of psychologists, psychiatric prescribers, a nurse, the Local Recovery Coordinator, and a TCM provider. Psychology interns participating in the Dialectical Behavior Therapy rotation will have the opportunity to provide individual psychotherapy targeting Borderline PD or other pervasive personality issues. Psychology interns will co-facilitate a weekly DBT skills group for six months. The interns will also be a part of the DBT consultation team and meet weekly to discuss suicidal cases, therapist burnout, and skills groups. Phone coaching will also be offered on a limited basis by the psychology interns to enhance veteran skill building.

#### **OUTPATIENT MENTAL HEALTH:** **SUPERVISING PSYCHOLOGIST: LEANNE FIERSTEIN, PH.D.**

In this rotation, interns will learn tools to treat anxiety disorders, depressive disorders, non-combat related PTSD, and personality disorders within a diverse, outpatient, mental health population. Interns will have the opportunity to work with Dr. Fierstein to increase their awareness of and confidence in using evidence-based psychotherapies, such as Dialectical Behavior Therapy (DBT), Mindfulness-Based Cognitive Therapy (MBCT), and Cognitive Behavior Therapy (CBT). Interns will have an opportunity to co-facilitate DBT Skills Group, Pathfinder Group, and Mindfulness Group.

Interns will become a part of an interdisciplinary treatment team (with psychiatric providers, nurses, and social workers) to assess and engage in treatment planning with veterans presenting to the walk-in clinic one day per week.

OUTPATIENT MENTAL HEALTH – SOUTHWEST CBOC (SOUTHWEST PHOENIX):  
SUPERVISING PSYCHOLOGIST: MARIA HAMILTON, PSY.D.

Interns participating in this rotation will have the opportunity to expand their individual therapy, group therapy, and assessment skills. Interns will have the chance to work with Dr. Hamilton to increase their awareness of and confidence in using evidence-based psychotherapies such as IPT (Interpersonal Psychotherapy) for depression, CPT (Cognitive Processing Therapy), CBT (Cognitive Behavior Therapy), CBT-I (Cognitive Behavioral Therapy for Insomnia), and DBT (Dialectical Behavior Therapy) skills. In addition, interns will have the opportunity to participate in psychological assessment for personality functioning and clinical diagnostic interviews as well as co-facilitate the Pathfinders Group (which is based on DBT skills) during this rotation.

OUTPATIENT MENTAL HEALTH:  
SUPERVISING PSYCHOLOGIST: CARL ISENHART, PSY.D., ABPP

On this rotation, psychology interns will expand their skills in both group and individual therapy and assessment (specifically MMPI2-RF) skills. Interns will increase their awareness of and confidence in using evidence-based psychotherapies to assess and treat depression, anxiety, PTSD, substance-related disorders, and veterans with personality disorders. Interns will also have the opportunity to co-facilitate two therapy groups: a co-occurring group (for veterans with both substance-related and other mental disorders) and the self-assessment/contemplation group (a group that applies a Motivational Interviewing approach to a group setting and that also integrates principles from the Transtheoretical Model of behavior change for veterans who are ambivalent about their substance use).

OUTPATIENT MENTAL HEALTH - SOUTHEAST CBOC (GILBERT):  
SUPERVISING PSYCHOLOGIST: JOELLE OIZUMI, PH.D.

The Southeast CBOC is a very large, newly renovated, outpatient clinic located in Gilbert Arizona with a mental health staff consisting of 6 psychologists, 6 psychiatrists, 2 social workers, 3 nurses, a nursing assistant a mental health pharmacist and 2 substance-abuse counselors. Interns participating in this rotation will learn evidence-based psychotherapies including CPT (Cognitive Processing Therapy), CBT (Cognitive Behavior Therapy), ACT (Acceptance and Commitment Therapy) for depression, and IPT (Interpersonal Psychotherapy) for depression. There are also psychotherapy training opportunities in EMDR and DBT skills. Psychological assessment for personality functioning is also an option for trainees.

OUTPATIENT MENTAL HEALTH: LGBTQ VETERAN CARE:  
SUPERVISING PSYCHOLOGISTS: DONNA PRICE, PSY.D. AND LEONARDO CARABALLO, PSY.D., ABPP

Interns participating in the LGBTQ Veteran Care rotation will work primarily with lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, and questioning (LGBTQ) Veterans. Interns will engage in direct clinical care (individual and group), program development, outreach/training, and research/program evaluation. The intern will provide services primarily at the General Mental Health Clinic

(Jade Clinic) and the Psychosocial Rehabilitation and Recovery Clinic (PRRC). Through direct provision of clinical services, interns will further the goal of providing competent and LGBTQ-affirmative mental health services to our Veterans. Additionally, through education, outreach, and advocacy, the intern will further the larger goal of changing the culture of the VA to incorporate affirmation of LGBTQ identities. Supervision tailored to those goals will be provided to interns throughout the rotation to allow for clinical growth in providing care to LGBTQ communities.

WOMEN'S MENTAL HEALTH:

SUPERVISING PSYCHOLOGIST: KATHRYN DOYLE, PH.D.

Interns on this rotation will expand their skills in both group and individual therapy with female veterans in our outpatient mental health and primary care populations. Interns also have the opportunity to work with Dr. Doyle to increase their awareness of and confidence in using evidence-based psychotherapies to treat, depression, anxiety, PTSD, and personality disorders. After obtaining a level of competence, interns have the option to co-facilitate a women's chronic pain management class, participate in our full DBT program, and/or co-facilitate the women's wellness seminar. Psychology interns working on this rotation will also learn about the use of program development to address the specific needs of women veterans in our VA.

INPATIENT MENTAL HEALTH:

SUPERVISING PSYCHOLOGIST: LEONARDO CARABALLO, PSY.D., ABPP

Psychology interns participating in the Inpatient Mental Health rotation, offered as a minor rotation, have the opportunity to provide evidence-based psychotherapies and assessments for Veterans with serious mental illnesses. Psychology interns can develop experience in working in an interdisciplinary inpatient mental health setting while providing recovery oriented services. Psychology interns have an opportunity to increase their experience in implementing Illness Management and Recovery (IMR), VA-Social Skills Training for serious mental illnesses (VA-SST), and Seeking Safety. Additionally, psychology interns may have the opportunity to obtain VA *provider status* in VA-Social Skills Training and participate in ongoing research/program evaluation projects.

INPATIENT MENTAL HEALTH:

SUPERVISING PSYCHOLOGIST: LINDSAY M. TRACY, PSY.D.

Psychology trainees on this rotation will provide services to an acute inpatient psychiatric population. The two units serve up to 48 veterans at one time, with an average admission of 7 days. Veterans are admitted with a variety of diagnoses, including Schizophrenia or other psychotic disorders, Bipolar Disorders, mood disorders, substance use disorders, PTSD, and personality disorders. Interns will learn to facilitate groups on the unit (including Seeking Safety, Illness Management & Recovery, and Social Skills Training), provide brief supportive individual services, assist with outpatient treatment planning, and complete psychological assessments. This rotation has a significant interdisciplinary component, and psychology works closely with professionals from psychiatry, medicine, pharmacy, nursing, social work, recreational therapy, and nutrition. Additionally, one of the two units frequently serves veterans who present with issues related to aging. Interns will have an opportunity to expand skills related to assessing and treating mental health issues in older adults, conducting dementia assessments, and implementing behavioral interventions for dementia. Due to the flexible nature of this rotation, there are opportunities for an

intern to tailor their rotation experience to his or her interests and training goals, such as the potential for group development or research/evaluation projects.

### **POST TRAUMATIC STRESS DISORDER (PTSD) CLINIC**

The PTSD Clinical Team (PCT) provides specialized assessment and psychotherapy for veterans suffering from military-related post-traumatic stress disorder including combat, sexual or physical assault, natural disasters, and life-threatening accidents that occur during military service. The PCT is housed within the newly opened Midtown Clinic which is located less than 3 miles from the main hospital. The PCT serves veterans from all warzones and conflicts, including World War II, Korea, Vietnam, the Persian Gulf War, Lebanon, Somalia, Panama, Grenada, Bosnia/Kosovo, Afghanistan, and Iraq. The PCT also offers specialized services to veterans who are struggling with addictive disorders that co-occur with their PTSD. Therapies offered are generally cognitive-behavioral in orientation, and include empirically supported therapies for PTSD (i.e., Cognitive Processing Therapy; CPT, Prolonged Exposure; PE, Eye Movement Desensitization and Reprocessing; EMDR, Seeking Safety, Cognitive Behavioral Therapy for Insomnia; CBT-I, and Cognitive Behavioral Conjoint Therapy for couples with PTSD). In addition, interns can deliver adjunctive treatments for PTSD, such as Acceptance and Commitment Therapy (ACT) for PTSD, Mindfulness-based Stress Reduction (MBSR), and Skills Training in Affect and Interpersonal Regulation (STAIR) to Veterans prior to the Veteran engaging in a trauma-based treatment.

Psychology interns will have the opportunity to conduct intake evaluations with warzone veterans, provide individual psychotherapy for PTSD, co-lead a CPT or couples psychotherapy group, and/or teach coping skills classes that provide education on trauma-related symptoms. There are also some opportunities for interns interested in research and/or program evaluation.

#### **PTSD CLINIC:**

**SUPERVISING PSYCHOLOGIST:** TIM S. AYERS, PH.D.

This rotation provides psychology interns the opportunity to develop skills in assessment, trauma-based treatments and brief psychotherapy for related conditions (e.g., substance abuse, insomnia, and nightmares). Psychology interns work closely with Dr. Ayers to prepare Veterans for trauma based treatments (e.g. CBT-I, ACT for PTSD) and to deliver one of the three evidence based trauma treatments recognized by the VA (i.e., CPT, PE and EMDR) offered within the clinic. Finally, Dr. Ayers's work focuses on sleep based interventions such as Group Based CBT-Insomnia and Imagery Rehearsal Therapy for nightmares.

#### **PTSD CLINIC:**

**SUPERVISING PSYCHOLOGIST:** COURTNEY E. BAKER, PSY.D.

Psychology interns on this rotation will develop skills in assessment, trauma-based treatments and auxiliary treatments for related conditions (e.g., substance abuse and emotional dysregulation). Interns learn to prepare Veterans for trauma- based treatments (e.g. Seeking Safety, Core Classes, Pathfinders, etc.) and/or to administer one of the evidence-based trauma treatments (CPT or PE) offered within the clinic. Interns will also have the opportunity to learn and administer gold-standard diagnostic interviews for PTSD diagnosis including the Clinician Administered PTSD Scale for DSM-5 (CAPS-5) as part of a larger trauma assessment battery.

Finally, interns will participate in weekly multidisciplinary PTSD Clinical Team Meetings and engage in multidisciplinary consultation with the hospital's Seeking Safety providers.

PTSD CLINIC:

SUPERVISING PSYCHOLOGIST: BRANDI LUEDTKE, PSY.D.

Interns will have the opportunity to learn and administer gold-standard diagnostic interviews for PTSD diagnosis including the Clinician Administered PTSD Scale for DSM-5 (CAPS-5) and PTSD Checklist (PCL-5). This rotation offers unique opportunities to learn evidence-based therapies (EBTs) such as Cognitive Processing Therapy (CPT), Cognitive-Behavioral Conjoint Therapy (CBCT), Prolonged Exposure (PE). Interns will progress from observer to co-therapist with Dr. Luedtke in Mindfulness-Based Cognitive-Behavioral Conjoint Therapy for PTSD (MB-CBCT). Interns will have opportunities to educate veterans, staff, and the community about signs, symptoms, and treatment of PTSD. Finally, the intern will have the opportunity to attend and participate in the multidisciplinary PTSD Clinical Team Meetings.

PTSD- SOUTHEAST CBOC (GILBERT):

SUPERVISING PSYCHOLOGIST: DANIELLE HERNANDEZ, PH.D.

This one day a week minor rotation in PTSD at the Southeast CBOC offers training opportunities in evidence-based assessment and psychotherapy in the treatment of PTSD. Dr. Hernandez served as a national consultant for the PE rollout initiative and works with interns to learn either PE or CPT therapy in the treatment of veterans experiencing PTSD.

PTSD CLINIC:

SUPERVISING PSYCHOLOGIST: KYLE LOWREY, PSY.D.

Interns will provide specialized, time-limited, evidence based treatments for PTSD including Cognitive Processing Therapy (CPT) and Prolonged Exposure (PE) for PTSD. Dr. Lowrey is a local trainer for CPT and has co-led an annual training workshop for those interested in obtaining provider status within the VA. Interns will have a chance to gain experience and enhance CPT skills via an integration of individual and group formats. Interns also have the opportunity to co-facilitate other groups with Dr. Lowrey, such as Imagery Rehearsal Therapy for nightmares and Pathfinders (a DBT-based group for the development of emotion regulation and distress tolerance skills). Interns are supervised in incorporating elements of these treatments into their clinical practice to various degrees, depending upon their previous therapy experiences. Diagnostic assessment opportunities are also available on this rotation.

**WEST VALLEY VET CENTER**

The Department of Veterans Affairs' Readjustment Counseling Service consists of 300+ community-based Vet Centers around the nation that offer counseling services to combat veterans, veterans exposed to military sexual trauma, and their families. The West Valley Vet Center in Peoria, AZ provides outpatient individual, group, marital, and family psychotherapy to eligible veterans and their families in a relaxed, comfortable atmosphere located close to the communities where veterans live, work, and play. Given its target population, West Valley Vet Center provides a great deal of treatment of Posttraumatic Stress Disorder as well as general readjustment counseling focused on removing barriers to the effective adaptation to civilian life after military service.

Additionally, the West Valley Vet Center participates in community outreach and education initiatives designed to prevent the onset of mental health problems in the veteran population and to encourage veterans' engagement in VA health care services.

WEST VALLEY VET CENTER:

SUPERVISING PSYCHOLOGIST: ADAM MCCRAY, PH.D.

This rotation provides interns with an opportunity to work with combat veterans, veterans exposed to military sexual trauma (MST), and their family members in an outpatient, community-based setting. Interns will receive training and consultation in Cognitive Processing Therapy for combat/MST-related PTSD and gain a significant amount of clinical training and experience in the treatment of problems related to a variety of stressors associated with readjustment to civilian life after military service. These include managing symptoms of emotional distress, renegotiating family and interpersonal relationships, planning for educational and career pursuits, and working to establish a civilian identity. Based on their clinical interests and level of preparation, interns will have the opportunity to conduct individual, group, marital, and family psychotherapy as well as an opportunity to engage in community education and outreach activities.

**HEALTH PSYCHOLOGY TRACK**

The Health Psychology track provides psychology interns with the opportunity to enhance skills in psychological approaches to problems of health and illness. Consults and referrals are received from Primary Care as well as from specialty medical clinics including: Rheumatology, Gastroenterology, Cardiology, Endocrinology, Oncology, Audiology, and the Spinal Cord Injury Clinic. Interns can also complete a rotation through the interdisciplinary Chronic Pain Wellness Center (CPWC).

HEALTH PSYCHOLOGY:

SUPERVISING PSYCHOLOGIST: JENNIFER AVERYT, PH.D.

Interns will have an opportunity to gain experience in health psychology interventions in both individual and group settings. Dr. Averyt specializes in Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBT) in medical settings and can provide training in enhanced CBT for eating disorders (CBT-E), CBT for weight loss, CBT for irritable bowel syndrome (IBS), CBT for insomnia (CBT-I), behavioral treatments to increase CPAP adherence, and exposure therapy for medical phobias. Interns have the option to participate in a CPAP Adherence group, Eating Disorders Program groups, and/or CBT for Insomnia group.

Interns will gain assessment experience on this rotation by conducting insulin pump and pre-bariatric surgery evaluations. There are also opportunities for assessment of patients referred for medically unexplained symptoms.

HEALTH PSYCHOLOGY:

SUPERVISING PSYCHOLOGIST: LISA BURGESS, PH.D.

Interns will focus primarily on developing skills in consultation and working to support providers in their interactions with patients. Both group and individual therapy modalities are used. Training is also provided in psychological assessment as it relates to pre-surgical evaluations. Dr. Burgess is



the Health Behavior Coordinator for the Phoenix VA Health Care System. She specializes in Cognitive Behavioral Therapy, Interpersonal Therapy, Motivational Interviewing, and Mindfulness-based interventions. Within this role there are opportunities for both a clinical and a programmatic focus, as described below.

Within the therapy area, psychology interns will participate in work with individual Health Psychology patients. They will also participate in group interventions through the MOVE! weight management and Smoking Cessation Programs. Interns will initially co-facilitate and move to independently facilitating these groups. Within the assessment area, psychology interns will also conduct insulin pump, pre-bariatric, and organ transplant evaluations (i.e., heart, stem cell, bone marrow, liver, and kidney). These consist of a structured interview, paired with varying levels of cognitive and psychological assessment. Within the programmatic area, there are opportunities for interns to participate in clinician coaching. In this role, the intern will work with a variety of medical professionals, supporting their use of motivational interviewing skills with patients.

HEALTH PSYCHOLOGY:

SUPERVISING PSYCHOLOGIST: HEATHER A. OKVAT, PH.D.

Dr. Okvat is a health psychologist in the Chronic Pain Wellness Center (CPWC), an innovative interdisciplinary program designed to enhance the quality of life and functioning of Veterans with chronic pain. The CPWC team includes health care professionals from the fields of psychology, medicine, nursing, pharmacy, addiction medicine, physiatry, physical therapy, nutrition, chiropractic care, acupuncture, and recreational therapy. Veterans in the CPWC present with chronic pain and a variety of comorbid medical and mental health issues, such as diabetes, obesity, sleep disorders, substance use disorders, depression, anxiety, PTSD, and personality disorders. Dr. Okvat specializes in cognitive behavioral therapy (CBT) and mindfulness-based interventions.

In this rotation, interns will focus primarily on 1) developing group therapy skills, 2) utilizing evidence-based treatment approaches in both group and individual therapy modalities, and 3) conducting individual intake assessments and formulating collaborative treatment plans with patients referred by members of the CPWC team. With Dr. Okvat, interns will co-facilitate CBT for chronic pain groups and if desired mindfulness-based groups for Women Veterans. Individual assessments might lead to a treatment plan that includes motivational interviewing, CBT for chronic pain or insomnia or anxiety, behavioral management of migraines, or mindfulness-based therapy for depression or chronic pain, including acceptance and commitment therapy for chronic pain. Interns may choose this rotation for 1 day, 2 days, or 2.5 days per week.

HEALTH PSYCHOLOGY:

SUPERVISING PSYCHOLOGIST: MATTHEW WEYER, PH.D.

This rotation provides psychology interns with the opportunity to expand their skills in both group process as well as individual therapy in the area of Health Psychology. Although Dr. Weyer's case load primarily consists of standard behavioral medicine cases (e.g., obesity, insomnia), he typically receives more unusual consults related to such things as medical phobias (e.g., white coat hypertension or needle phobia) or adherence issues. Interns will have the opportunity to learn Cognitive Behavioral Therapy, Motivational Interviewing, EMDR and clinical hypnosis. Because of the strong mind-body connection, interns will explore the role that developmental factors and traumatic experiences have on a patient's ability to cope with health concerns. As part of this

rotation, interns can observe the use of EMDR and clinical hypnosis. Finally, psychology interns can participate in the Coping with Tinnitus, CPAP Adherence, and/or the Cognitive Behavioral Therapy-Insomnia groups. Psychology interns initially observe or co-facilitate the group before eventually leading their own groups.

### **PRIMARY CARE-MENTAL HEALTH INTEGRATION (PC-MHI)**

The Primary Care-Mental Health Integration (PC-MHI) rotation provides psychology interns the opportunity to develop skills in functional assessment, problem-focused case conceptualization and brief psychotherapy in primary care clinics. As a member of the Patient Aligned Clinical Team (PACT), psychology interns work closely with mental health nurses, psychiatrists, primary care providers (PCPs), social workers, clinical pharmacists, and support staff to address mental health issues that present as part of the veteran's primary care visit. These appointments may be in the form of an unscheduled "warm hand-off" from a PCP or nurse, or a scheduled brief psychotherapy appointment. Population-based integrated care provides triage and treatment in a stepped care model for a broad range of medical and psychological issues.

#### **PC-MHI (MAIN):**

**SUPERVISING PSYCHOLOGIST:** JENNIFER AVERYT, PH.D.

Interns will gain exposure to brief assessment and interventions in primary care. There will be opportunities for "warm hand-offs" and same-day visits. Training in short-term evidence-based treatments will be provided, including brief CBT for depression and/or anxiety, brief CBT for Insomnia, Problem-Solving Therapy (PST) in Primary Care, and behavioral treatments to improve adherence to medical recommendations. There are also opportunities for single-session interventions for smoking cessation, weight loss, medication adherence, and other health-related concerns.

#### **PC-MHI (MIDTOWN/MAIN):**

**SUPERVISING PSYCHOLOGIST:** ASHLEY BREEDLOVE, PSY.D.

Interns will gain exposure to brief assessment and interventions in primary care with opportunities for "warm hand-offs" and same-day visits. Training in short-term evidence-based treatments will be provided, including brief CBT for depression and/or anxiety, IPT for depression, and CBT for Insomnia. Interns will have the opportunity to co-lead CBT-I, CBT for anxiety, and Anger Management groups with Dr. Breedlove. There are also additional training opportunities in other brief interventions, including desensitization to increase CPAP adherence, CBT for Chronic Pain (CBT-CP), and behavioral treatments to improve adherence to medical recommendations.

#### **PC-MHI - SOUTHEAST CBOC (GILBERT):**

**SUPERVISING PSYCHOLOGIST:** JENNA GRESS SMITH, PH.D.

The SE CBOC currently houses 20 PACT teams which function with depression care managers, nursing, PC-MHI psychiatry, nutrition, pharmacy, social work, recreation therapy, and specialty mental health. This rotation in PC-MHI offers several training opportunities in behavioral medicine, brief psychotherapy, and group treatment modalities. Interns will develop skills in conducting functional assessments and case conceptualizations that lead to evidence-based treatment plans. Interns will gain experience in consulting with various aspects of the veteran-centered primary care

teams regarding treatment recommendations and same day referrals. Additionally, training in several evidence-based treatments including CBT-I, brief CBT-CP, chronic disease self-management, systematic desensitization to increase CPAP adherence, problem solving, and CBT for depression and anxiety are possible clinical opportunities in this rotation.

PC-MHI (MIDTOWN):

SUPERVISING PSYCHOLOGIST: ANDREA SAATHOFF, PH.D.

Interns will develop skills in conducting functional assessments and case conceptualizations that lead to evidence-based treatment plans. Interns will have the opportunity to deepen their training in short term psychotherapy to adhere to the PC-MHI model of 4-6 therapy sessions in a primary care clinic. In addition to scheduled short term psychotherapy appointments, interns will also conduct same-day “warm hand-off” visits with patients referred by PCPs and other health care staff. Interns will also have the opportunity to co-facilitate the CBT for Chronic Pain class and Mindfulness-Based Cognitive Therapy for Depression classes. In addition to individual and group experiences, the intern will also participate in the weekly Interprofessional Trainee (ITP) Clinic, which is comprised of trainees from psychology, social work, and clinical pharmacy. During this clinic visit the veteran will work with this team and their supervisors to clarify presenting concerns, discuss differential diagnoses, and develop a comprehensive treatment plan that will address the veteran’s mental health needs. The PCMHI psychology intern working with Dr. Saathoff will play an integral role in this clinic.

PC-MHI (MIDTOWN):

SUPERVISING PSYCHOLOGIST: ERIN TRUONG, PH.D.

This rotation provides psychology interns with the opportunity to function within a PC-MHI team including three PC-MHI psychologists, two PC-MHI psychiatrists, and one depression care manager. Interns will have the opportunity to complete functional assessments, receive “warm hand-offs” from primary care providers, and provide brief, evidence-based psychotherapy within a primary care clinic. There also are opportunities to participate in groups including CBT-CP, CBT-I, CBT for Anger Management, and medical psychology classes for the MOVE! program. Psychology interns initially observe or co-facilitate the group and gain increasing independence over time.

HOME BASED PRIMARY CARE:

SUPERVISING PSYCHOLOGIST: NATALI EDMONDS, PSY.D., ABPP

VA Home-Based Primary Care (HBPC) is a program that provides comprehensive longitudinal primary care in the homes of veterans with complex chronic disabling disease. Interns will be an integral part of an interdisciplinary treatment team comprised of nursing, social work, rehabilitation specialists, dietetics, pharmacy, and psychology. Interns will gain the opportunity to provide in-home assessment and treatment to medically complex veterans and/or their families. This is an excellent rotation to gain a solid foundation of common medical conditions in older adults and how those conditions may impact overall mental and cognitive health. Common referrals include: performing dementia assessments, implementing interventions to increase compliance with medical treatment regimens, processing end of life issues, and helping veterans cope with grief, depression, anxiety, and other psychological issues related to the aging process. Opportunities for caregiver intervention focused on improving patient well-being and reducing caregiver stress

are also available . Cognitive-behavioral therapy, motivational interviewing, and supportive therapy modalities are utilized.

### **NEUROPSYCHOLOGY TRACK**

Psychology interns may elect to obtain specialized training in clinical neuropsychology. The great majority of training is with outpatients. Psychology interns have the opportunity to learn a variety of fundamental neuropsychological assessment skills with a diverse Veteran population. There are two rotation types in neuropsychology: General Neuropsychology and TBI Clinic.

#### GENERAL NEUROPSYCHOLOGY:

SUPERVISING PSYCHOLOGISTS: MIA DE LA ROSA, PH.D., JULIE ALBERTY, PH.D., AND GINA WALTERS, PH.D.

This rotation involves working with outpatients referred by primary care, mental health and neurology and specialty clinics (e.g. Endocrinology Clinic, Speech Language Pathology, Psychology). There are a wide variety of patients and referral questions. Interns in this rotation can expect to see Veterans with dementia, CVA, TBI, seizure disorders, multiple sclerosis, bipolar disorder, PTSD, schizophrenia spectrum disorders, and a variety of other medical disorders. The focus of this rotation involves developing skills in record review, clinical interviewing, test administration, scoring, case conceptualization and interpretation, writing reports and communicating results to patients, family and/or other interdisciplinary professional staff.

#### TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY CLINIC:

SUPERVISING PSYCHOLOGIST: MARY LU BUSHNELL, PSY.D., ABPP-CN

The TBI Clinic evaluates Veterans who have deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF), Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF), or Operation New Dawn (OND) for a history of possible deployment-related head injury/concussion. In this clinic the intern works in a primary care setting to provide neuropsychological screening evaluations. Neuropsychological screenings are followed by a joint interview with a primary care provider. At the conclusion of the interview, treatment recommendations and additional referrals are provided when indicated. The intern will also be responsible for presenting findings to an interdisciplinary team, which includes physiatrists, physician assistants, nurse case managers, social workers, speech therapists, and other psychologists or neuropsychologists. The intern will also have the opportunity to present relevant neuropsychological topics to this interdisciplinary team. Psychology interns will learn about the effects of blast injury and the physiological events that follow a traumatic brain injury. Differential diagnosis between the cognitive effects of PTSD and TBI is the primary referral question in this population. Although the great majority of referrals in this rotation involve OEF/OIF/OND veterans, there will be occasional opportunities to work with other Veteran populations. This rotation is offered on a part time and/or full time basis.

The psychology intern will also have an opportunity to co-lead the “Brain Boosters” Cognitive Enhancement Group for Veterans. This 9-week group combines didactic education and experiential exercises in order to help group members learn how to optimize their strengths and enhance their brain functioning. The intern may have the opportunity to be involved in splinter groups, which are 3-5 week groups that cover information presented in the Brain Boosters group in more detail. Examples of prior splinter groups covered topics such as communication skills, memory strategies,

and stress management. Possible opportunities for research with this population may also be available.

### **SUPPLEMENTAL TRAINING EXPERIENCES**

In consultation with the Training Director, interns can choose a supplemental experience in one of two areas: Disruptive Behavior Committee or Research. Supplemental experiences are typically 4 hours a week and can occur for a 6 month or 12 month period.

#### DISRUPTIVE BEHAVIOR COMMITTEE:

SUPERVISING PSYCHOLOGIST: ADRIANA WEYER, PH.D.

Although not offered as a full rotation, interns will have the opportunity to work with Dr. Weyer as part of the Disruptive Behavior Committee (DBC), a multidisciplinary group of staff that address reports of Patient-Generated and Visitor-Generated Disruptive Behavior. The DBC identifies risks associated with reported behaviors and assists the medical center in developing risk mitigation strategies. The DBC provides interns with an opportunity to learn about the violence risk assessment process by participating in DBC meetings and reviewing individual cases to present to the DBC. An intern completing this experience might work with an outpatient or women's health supervisor for 8 to 16 hours a week and complete supplementary DBC training for 4 hours a week.

#### Research:

Supervising Psychologists: JENNA GRESS SMITH, PH.D., Leo Caraballo, PSY.D, BRANDI LUEDTKE, PSY.D, CARL ISENHART PSY.D., AND TIM AYERS PH.D.

Interns will have the opportunity to learn about and be involved with the Institutional Review Board (IRB) process in VHA and to collaborate with other disciplines in planning research projects, data collection and analysis, and manuscript preparation. Interns may learn how to conceptualize and conduct studies based on CPRS data. This rotation may be particularly appealing to interns who wish to maintain involvement with research and continue making scientific contributions while engaged in clinical work while on internship and/or in their future careers. Because of the limited number of faculty, this rotation is considered on a case-by-case basis in conjunction with the training director.

### **OTHER ROTATIONS UNDER CONSIDERATION**

The Phoenix VAHCS has successfully recruited several new Psychology positions. When possible, the executive training committee attempts to secure additional training opportunities that are consistent with the program's philosophy and goals that may round out a training experience for the intern.

**PSYCHOLOGY TRAINING COMMITTEE**

JULIE ALBERTY, Ph.D.  
Loma Linda University, 2012  
Licensed Psychologist in Arizona  
(General Neuropsychology)

Dr. Alberty is a bilingual (Spanish/English) neuropsychologist whose primary interests lie in cultural aspects of neuropsychological assessment and adult outpatient neuropsychological assessments. Dr. Alberty's expertise includes assessment of dementia, seizure disorders, movement disorders, TBI, and stroke. She enjoys the wide variety of patients one can see in an outpatient clinic and currently conducts neuropsychological assessments of veterans from various referral sources including Psychiatry, Neurology, and the Specialty Clinics. Additionally, she is the local coordinator for the National Psychology Diversity V-TEL which is a training program for postdoctoral psychology residents across the country. Dr. Alberty received her doctorate from Loma Linda University in clinical psychology and completed her internship at the Veterans Affairs Ann Arbor Health Care System, Michigan. She completed her post-doctoral fellowship at Barrow Neurological Institute in Phoenix. Prior to joining the Phoenix VA staff in 2017 she was a faculty neuropsychologist at Barrow Neurological Institute. She is a mentor in the Hispanic Neuropsychological Society.

JENNIFER AVERYT, Ph.D.  
Ohio University, 2012  
Licensed Psychologist in Arizona  
(Health Psychology, PC-MHI)

Dr. Averyt is a psychologist in Primary Care Mental Health Integration (PC-MHI) and Health Psychology. After completing her internship at the Phoenix VA, Dr. Averyt completed a two-year fellowship in clinical health psychology at Tripler Army Medical Center. She has also completed a postdoctoral M.S. in Clinical Psychopharmacology at the University of Hawaii College of Pharmacy. Dr. Averyt has training and experience in a variety of evidence-based psychotherapies including CBT for depression and anxiety, CBT for Insomnia, Cognitive Processing Therapy (CPT), Acceptance and Commitment Therapy (ACT), Enhanced CBT (CBT-E) for eating disorders, and Motivational Interviewing. Her interests include self-management of chronic illness, health behavior change, psycho-oncology, sleep disorders, weight management, and eating disorders. Dr. Averyt is a national consultant in the VA CBT-I program and the Program Lead for the newly developed Phoenix VA Eating Disorders Program.

TIM S. AYERS, Ph.D.  
Arizona State University, 1991  
Licensed Psychologist in Arizona  
(PTSD Clinical Team)

Dr. Ayers' theoretical orientation is cognitive-behavioral, with an emphasis on empirically-based treatments. He provides evaluation and individual and group psychotherapy to veterans with warzone-related PTSD. His primary interests are in the anxiety disorders, particularly OCD and PTSD. Dr. Ayers also has a background in prevention programming and clinical child psychology and prior to joining the VA held faculty appointments at Yale University and Arizona State University. He has interests in program evaluation, and the development of family-based

interventions. In the past, he has received federal grants to carry out research on the impact of major stressors on families and the evaluation of prevention programs. Dr. Ayers is currently the Principal Investigator for a NIMH grant on a fourteen year follow up of a preventive intervention program called the Family Bereavement Program.

COURTNEY E. BAKER, Psy.D.  
Midwestern University, 2015  
Licensed Psychologist in Arizona  
(PTSD Clinical Team)

Dr. Baker is a Clinical Psychologist in the Posttraumatic Stress Disorder Clinical Team (PCT Team). Her theoretical orientation is primarily Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBT) with a focus on early childhood attachment. She specializes in using evidence-based practices to treat PTSD in individual and group formats along with providing services via telemental health. Additionally, she specializes in assessment of PTSD using the Clinician Administered PTSD Scale for DSM-5 (CAPS-5). Dr. Baker is currently participating in the Comparative Effectiveness Research in Veterans with Posttraumatic Stress Disorder (CERV-PTSD) study, as a study therapist utilizing Cognitive Processing Therapy (CPT). Dr. Baker is also trained in Strength at Home an evidence-based treatment for Veterans who engage in interpersonally violent behaviors. Her primary interests are in Trauma and Stressor Related Disorders, including associated features such as moral injury and shame. In addition to clinical duties, Dr. Baker is a clinical champion for Mental Health Suite and heads a multidisciplinary team across the hospital that specializes in the development and implementation of patient-centered treatment plans.

SPENCER BECK, Psy.D.  
Arizona School of Professional Psychology, 2010  
Licensed Psychologist in Colorado  
(Outpatient Mental Health – Southwest CBOC)

Dr. Beck currently serves as the Local Recovery Coordinator and stood up the DBT program for the Phoenix VA and has overseen the implementation and training of staff interested in working with veterans with Borderline Personality Disorder. He conducts individual DBT sessions and skills training groups as well as Mindfulness, Social Skills Training (SST), and Cognitive Processing Therapy (CPT) groups in the Outpatient Mental Health clinic. Dr. Beck is interested in suicide prevention and is active on the Suicide Emergency Committee (SEC) and the Suicide Root Cause Analysis (SRCA) committee. He completed his internship at the Colorado Mental Health Institute at Pueblo, Institute for Forensic Psychology where he was trained in DBT, risk evaluations, and competency evaluation.

ASHLEY BREEDLOVE, Psy.D.  
Nova Southeastern University  
Licensed Psychologist in Louisiana  
(PC-MHI/Medical Psychology)

Dr. Breedlove provides services within both primary care and medical psychology at the main Phoenix VA hospital and Midtown Community Based Outpatient Clinic. In her role as a staff psychologist, Dr. Breedlove provides brief evidence-based treatments for a wide array of mental health problems, including anxiety, depression, insomnia, PTSD, and difficulties with adjustment.

She also works with veterans in making health behavior changes related to chronic pain, substance use, and management of chronic illness. Dr. Breedlove's clinical activities also include completion of pre-transplant evaluations and facilitation of multiple groups: Cognitive Behavioral Therapy for Insomnia (CBT-I), Overcoming Anxiety (CBT intervention for anxiety), and Anger Management. Her prior training and experience have enhanced her proficiency in multiple treatment approaches, including Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBT), Motivational Interviewing (MI), Cognitive Behavioral Therapy for Insomnia (CBT-I), Mindfulness Based Stress Reduction (MBSR), Interpersonal Therapy (IPT), and Cognitive Processing Therapy (CPT). Her primary interests include sleep disorders, anxiety disorders, women's health, and trauma treatment.

LISA BURGESS, Ph.D.  
Arizona State University, 2005  
Licensed Psychologist in Arizona  
(Health Behavior Coordinator)

Dr. Burgess is a Health Psychologist whose role is primarily with the Health Promotion and Disease Prevention Team as the Health Behavior Coordinator. The Health Behavior Coordinator develops and evaluates programs to enhance wellness for primarily Veterans, but also for VA employees. Involvement with facility-level policy and decision-making is integral to the role. There is also a clinical component consisting of smoking cessation, fitness and nutrition, and transplant evaluations. Dr. Burgess completed her doctoral internship in Geropsychology at the Palo Alto VA Health Care System and then went on to a postdoctoral fellowship at this facility in Health Psychology. She was previously employed both in a local group practice and at the Southern Arizona VA Health Care System. Dr. Burgess's orientation is primarily cognitive behavior with a focus on empirically supported treatments and common factors. Her interests include: adaptation to illness, healthy aging, stress and coping, grief and loss, motivational interviewing, and mindfulness-based interventions.

ASHLEY BREEDLOVE, Psy.D.  
Nova Southeastern University  
Licensed Psychologist in Louisiana  
(PC-MHI)

Dr. Breedlove provides individual and group psychotherapy in the primary care clinic setting. She was trained in Cognitive Behavioral Therapy and Interpersonal Therapy over the course of her doctoral training at Nova Southeastern University and clinical internship at Dayton VA Medical Center. Her internship and postdoctoral fellowship at the Phoenix VA prepared Dr. Breedlove to provide brief treatment in the context of primary care. She was also involved in the development and evaluation of multiple programs, including a recently initiated shared medical appointment (SMA) for CPAP adherence within the Sleep Medicine clinic. In her role as a staff psychologist in primary care, Dr. Breedlove provides brief evidence-based treatments for a wide array of mental health problems, including anxiety, depression, insomnia, PTSD, and difficulties with adjustment. She also works with veterans in making health behavior changes related to chronic pain, substance use, and management of chronic illness. Her training has enhanced her proficiency in multiple treatment approaches, including Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBT), Motivational Interviewing (MI), Cognitive Behavioral Therapy for Insomnia (CBT-I), Mindfulness Based Stress Reduction (MBSR), Interpersonal Therapy (IPT), Cognitive Processing Therapy (CPT), and Dialectical Behavior



Therapy (DBT). Her primary interests include sleep disorders, anxiety disorders, women's health, and trauma treatment.

MARY LU BUSHNELL, Psy.D., ABPP-CN  
 Argosy University/Phoenix, 2006  
 Licensed Psychologist in Arizona  
 (OEF/OIF/OND Neuropsychology)

Dr. Bushnell's clinical interests include traumatic brain injury and dementia. Duties include neuropsychological evaluation and consultation to the postdeployment clinical team, TBI Clinic, and conducting outpatient neuropsychological evaluations. Dr. Bushnell co-developed and leads the Brain Boosters cognitive enhancement group. Prior to joining the VA in 2007, Dr. Bushnell worked at a community agency where she conducted neuropsychological evaluations, cognitive rehabilitation and psychotherapy with individuals with brain injury. She has provided education regarding traumatic brain injury to organizations such as the Phoenix and Mesa Police departments, National Guard Medical Command, court system, vocational rehabilitation. Dr. Bushnell serves as a member of the Arizona Governor's Council on Spinal and Head Injuries and has served as the treasurer/secretary for APA Division 18, Psychologists in Public Service. Finally, Dr. Bushnell is currently working on a study researching the TBI clinic.

LEONARDO CARABALLO, Psy.D., ABPP  
 La Salle University, 2013  
 Licensed Psychologist in Arizona  
 (Inpatient Mental Health)

Dr. Caraballo works as part of an interdisciplinary team on the inpatient mental health unit. His theoretical orientation is Cognitive-Behavioral with an emphasis in utilizing evidence-based practice focusing on psychosocial rehabilitation and recovery (PSR & R) for serious mental illnesses. He is board certified in Clinical Psychology and serves as a regional trainer/consultant for VA employees seeking provider status in VA-Social Skills Training for serious mental illnesses. He also serves as a LGBT Veteran Care Coordinator and assists in the development of LGBTQ+ inclusive services for Veterans. He is the Secretary for the Phoenix VA Diversity Action Committee and the Chair of the Arizona Psychological Association LGBTQ Committee. Dr. Caraballo completed a one-year post-doctoral VA fellowship in clinical psychology focusing on PSR & R for serious mental illnesses. Dr. Caraballo engages in research and program evaluation projects focusing on PSR & R and serious mental illness.

RHONDA S. CASILLAS, Ph.D.  
 Arizona State University, 2010  
 Licensed Psychologist in Arizona  
 (PC-MHI Thunderbird CBOC – Diversity Lead)

Dr. Casillas is a psychologist in Primary Care Mental Health Integration (PC-MHI). Dr. Casillas completed her internship at Denver Health Medical Center (DHMC) and completed a two-year fellowship in clinical health psychology at the Medical College of Georgia, Georgia Health Sciences University (GHSU). At GHSU Dr. Casillas specialized in behavioral medicine consultation services in HIV/AIDS, multiple sclerosis, eating disorders, bariatric, memory and oncology clinics. Before joining the VA, Dr. Casillas provided psychology and community outreach services at Arizona State University Counseling and Consultation Services and was adjunct faculty for ASU Department of

Behavioral Health. Her primary interests are women's health, self-management of chronic illness, health behavior change, caregiver's stress, geriatrics psychology, cross-cultural assessments, chronic pain, sleep disorders, depression, adjustment and anxiety disorders. Dr. Casillas is currently the lead facilitator of the Diversity Didactic Series for the internship and the lead facilitator for the Mentorship Program for the fellowship.

MIA DE LA ROSA-TRUJILLO, Ph.D.  
Loma Linda University, 2008  
Licensed Psychologist in Arizona and California  
(General Neuropsychology)

Dr. De La Rosa completed her graduate work at Loma Linda University, internship at Ann Arbor VA and postdoctoral fellowship at Barrow Neurological Institute. Before joining the Phoenix staff in 2012, Dr. De La Rosa worked in California in a rehabilitation setting providing neuropsychological testing and treatment. Dr. De La Rosa's primary clinical interest is in neuropsychological conditions in the geriatric population including differential diagnosis of dementia. She also has interests in other conditions including head injury, MS, CVAs, and other conditions affecting cognition. She conducts outpatient neuropsychological assessment with Veterans from various referral sources including Psychiatry, Neurology, and the Specialty Clinics.

KATHRYN W. DOYLE, Ph.D.  
Arizona State University, 2000  
Licensed Psychologist in Arizona  
(Intimate Partner Violence Program/Women's Health Clinic)

Dr. Doyle is the Intimate Partner Violence Coordinator for the medical center. In this role, she develops programming for Veterans experiencing and using intimate partner violence (IPV) behaviors. Her treatment approach is primarily Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBT) and she specializes in using Evidence-Based Practices. She is a therapist in the Strength at Home program for Veteran's who use or are at risk of using aggression in their intimate relationship. She also responds to positive screens and meets individually with Veteran's experiencing IPV. She works administratively to increase awareness of IPV, train medical center providers, and build community relationships with providers who also serve our Veterans who experience/use IPV behaviors. She currently is also acting as the Women Veteran's MH champion within the Phoenix VA Women Veterans Program. Previously, she served as the women Veteran's psychologist, hospital evidence-based psychotherapy coordinator, and as the director of the postdoctoral psychology fellowship. Dr. Doyle completed a two-year post-doctoral research residency in public health and two-years of postdoctoral clinical training in utilizing CBT to treat obsessive-compulsive disorder and other anxiety disorders. She worked for several years as research faculty at Arizona State University's Prevention Research Center prior to starting at the VA. That work focused on program development, evaluation and dissemination. During that time, she also successfully managed a private practice in Scottsdale.

NATALI EDMONDS, PSY.D., ABPP  
 Arizona School of Professional Psychology, 2008  
 Licensed Psychologist in Pennsylvania  
 (Home-Based Primary Care)

Dr. Edmonds provides therapy and assessment to home bound medically complex veterans as part of the Home Based Primary Care (HBPC) program. She is board certified in geropsychology and has interests in dementia and capacity assessment, as well as dementia caregiver intervention. Her primary theoretical orientation is cognitive-behavioral therapy. Prior to joining the Phoenix VA in 2015, she worked at the Pittsburgh VA as part of an interdisciplinary geriatric assessment clinic and co-created a dementia driving safety clinic as well as a tele-dementia assessment clinic providing geriatric assessments via telehealth modalities. She currently serves on a national VA committee tasked with developing guidelines to help guide other VA's who want to form tele-assessment clinics in the future.

LEANNE FIERSTEIN, Ph.D.  
 California School of Professional Psychology, 2006  
 Licensed Psychologist in Arizona  
 (Outpatient Mental Health Clinic)

Dr. Fierstein works in the General Mental Health Clinic (Jade/Opal). Her treatment approach is primarily humanistic, utilizing interventions from Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBT) and Dialectical Behavior Therapy (DBT). She specializes in using Evidence-Based Practice to treat anxiety disorders, depressive disorders, and Borderline Personality Disorder, in both individual and group formats. Dr. Fierstein has previously worked at Arizona State University, in the Counseling Center, and has experience supervising interns and post-doctoral residents. Dr. Fierstein also has extensive experience in treating PTSD with survivors of sexual assault/abuse and domestic violence in a community mental health program.

JENNA GRESS SMITH, Ph.D.  
 Arizona State University, 2014  
 Licensed Psychologist in Arizona  
 (PC-MHI - Southeast CBOC)

Dr. Gress Smith provides evidence based care & consultation with the Primary Care Mental Health Integration team at the SE CBOC in Gilbert. She is primarily trained in Cognitive Behavioral Therapy and has worked in a variety of medical settings (e.g. rehabilitation facilities, inpatient hospitals, oncology units, family medicine departments, and primary care) during her training at Arizona State University and internship at the Phoenix VA Medical Center. Dr. Gress Smith utilizes several cognitive behavioral treatments, especially for chief complaints of insomnia, chronic pain, depression, and anxiety. She also works with patients with chronic medical diseases and utilizes motivational interviewing and behavioral activation to increase self-management and adherence of medical symptoms. Dr. Gress Smith also has strong research interests in women's health, parenting, correlations among physical and mental health factors, and stress.

MARIA HAMILTON, Psy.D.  
 The Forest Institute of Professional Psychology, 2002  
 Licensed Clinical Psychologist in Arkansas  
 (Outpatient Mental Health – Southwest CBOC)

Dr. Hamilton works in the Outpatient Mental Health Clinic at the SW CBOC. Her theoretical orientation is predominantly Humanistic, utilizing a mix of interventions from the Cognitive Behavioral, Interpersonal, and Insight Oriented disciplines based on the needs of the individual being treated. Dr. Hamilton's diverse career as a psychologist includes working in the areas of addiction, child and adolescent treatment, rural mental health care, psychological testing, crisis management, clinical supervision, community mental health, correctional mental health, and inpatient mental health. While at the VA she has worked in the Jade/Opal Outpatient Mental Health Clinic, the Inpatient Mental Health Unit, and now at the SW CBOC. Prior to joining the psychology department at the Phoenix VA she managed the substance abuse treatment programs for the Federal Bureau of Prisons here in Phoenix. She is well versed in the Therapeutic Community model of substance abuse treatment, having developed and implemented the Modified Therapeutic Community Residential Drug Abuse Program at the medium security federal institution in Phoenix. Dr. Hamilton also has extensive treatment experience working with psychopathy using the work of Samenow to identify and treat criminal thinking patterns in male and female offenders. In addition, she participated in the National Health Service Corp (NHSC) program, whose mission is to provide needed health care to underserved populations. During her initial contract with the NHSC Dr. Hamilton provided outpatient treatment and psychological testing services predominantly to children and adolescents in six counties in rural Arkansas. She was a lead therapist and developed therapeutic after school and summer programs during that time. Dr. Hamilton is a recognized clinical supervisor by the Arkansas Board of Psychology and has an interest in the areas of depression, parenting, program development, and clinical supervision.

DANIELLE HERNANDEZ, Ph.D.  
 West Virginia University, 2005  
 Licensed Psychologist in Arizona  
 (PTSD Clinical Team – Southeast CBOC)

Dr. Hernandez provides individual and group psychotherapy as part of the PTSD Clinical Team (PCT) at the Southeast Extension Clinic, located in Gilbert, AZ. Her theoretical orientation is cognitive behavioral, with a focus on empirically validated treatments. In addition to clinical duties, Dr. Hernandez is a consultant for the National Center for PTSD Prolonged Exposure training initiative and provides consultation to clinicians who are participating in the national training program. She also serves as the local Evidence Based Psychotherapy Co-Coordinator for the facility. Before joining the PTSD Clinical Team, Dr. Hernandez was the Home Based Primary Care team (HBPC) psychologist and provided psychotherapy and brief cognitive assessment for home bound veterans who received care from the multidisciplinary HBPC team. Prior to working for the VA, Dr. Hernandez had a breadth of clinical experiences, which included pre-employment psychological assessment, critical stress debriefing, and psychotherapy for local law enforcement agencies as well as inpatient and residential psychological services and behavior planning for individuals with serious mental illness and developmental disabilities. She also previously worked as an adjunct faculty member with Mesa Community College and taught classes in Introduction to Psychology and Abnormal Psychology.

CARL ISENHART Psy.D., ABPP  
 University of Denver, Denver, Colorado, 1984  
 Licensed Psychologist in Minnesota, Wisconsin, and Illinois  
 (Outpatient Mental Health)

Dr. Isenhardt has been at the Phoenix VAMC since October, 2015, and is a psychologist in the Jade/Opal clinic. In addition to a client-centered approach in working with clients, he has specific training in Motivational Interviewing, Rational-Emotive Therapy, Interpersonal Psychotherapy, and Cognitive-Behavior therapy. He also facilitates two therapy groups: a Co-occurring group (for veterans with both substance-related and other mental disorders) and the Self-Assessment (Contemplation) group (a group that applies a Motivational Interviewing approach to a group setting and that also integrates principles from the Transtheoretical Model of behavior change for veterans who are ambivalent about their substance use). He also co-facilitates a Wellness Recovery group. He has held clinical, supervisory, and managerial positions at the VAMCs in Danville, IL, and Minneapolis, MN. He has also conducted and published research in the areas of Motivational Interviewing, substance abuse assessment and treatment, and masculine gender issues. He was a clinical assistant professor in the Departments of Psychology and Psychiatry at the University of Minnesota and an adjunct profession at St. Mary's University of Minnesota. He holds Specialty Board Certification in Clinical Psychology, is a Fellow of the American Academy of Clinical Psychology, has a Certificate of Proficiency in the Treatment of Alcohol and Other Psychoactive Substance Use Disorders, and is a member of the Motivational Interviewing Network of Trainers.

ANDREW C. JONES, Ph.D.  
 Illinois Institute of Technology, 2000  
 Licensed Psychologist in Arizona  
 (Chronic Pain Wellness Center; Health Psychology)

Dr. Jones has committed his career to VA Health Care, working in pain management the entire time. Upon completion of internship in 2000, he was hired into the Pain Clinic at the Louis Stokes Cleveland VA Health Care System and completed his postdoctoral training as a permanent staff member. In 2003, he transferred to the Southern Arizona VA Health Care System in Tucson, Arizona, and was a founding member of the Chronic Pain Management Clinic at that facility. In 2018 he then joined the Chronic Pain Wellness Program team at the Phoenix VA Health Care System.

He strongly believes in the power of providing the best education possible concerning the pain-brain connection and enjoys teaching patients and providers alike. His theoretical orientation is strongly ACT influenced, with an intertwining of CBT and mindfulness principles. Beyond initial evaluation and assessment of motivation and stage of change, he prefers group-based interventions as he finds the interaction between patients to significantly enhance self-efficacy. He has also undergone training in biofeedback interventions; has many years of experience completing spinal cord stimulator evaluations; and also enjoys incorporating his improv comedy training and experience into patient and trainee interactions.

KYLE LOWREY, Psy.D.  
 California School of Professional Psychology, San Diego 2014  
 Licensed Psychologist in Arizona  
 (PTSD Clinical Team)

Dr. Lowrey is a Clinical Psychologist on the Posttraumatic Stress Disorder Clinical Team (PCT Team). He also completed his postdoctoral fellowship at the Phoenix VA in the general mental health and PTSD clinics. Prior to his work as a staff psychologist, Dr. Lowrey completed an internship at the Cleveland VA and worked as a research associate at the San Diego VA's Veterans Medical Research Foundation (VMRF). Research experiences have afforded Dr. Lowrey the opportunity to conduct pre- and post-deployment assessments to OEF/OIF/OND, active-duty Marines on base at MCAGCC Twentynine Palms as well as structured psychodiagnostic interviews (e.g., CAPS, SCID) and neuropsychological assessment batteries to veterans from various service eras. His main interests are in evidence-based treatments of serious mental illness (e.g., PTSD), substance abuse, and other trauma-related issues. His theoretical orientation is cognitive-behavioral, with a focus on empirically supported practices. Dr. Lowrey is a member of the PTSD Telemental Health team, providing mental health treatment via telehealth to veterans located in community-based outpatient clinics (CBOCs) and homes across Arizona. In addition, he has served as a local trainer for Cognitive Processing Therapy (CPT), an evidence-based treatment for PTSD, and has co-lead the annual training workshop at the Phoenix VA.

BRANDI L. LUEDTKE, Psy.D., HSPP  
 University of Indianapolis, 2010  
 Licensed Psychologist in Indiana  
 (PTSD Clinical Team)

Dr. Luedtke is a Clinical Psychologist and the Program Manager in the Posttraumatic Stress Disorder Clinical Team (PCT Team). Her main interests are in complex mental illness, particularly PTSD, and in the integration of third-wave behavior therapies, such as Mindfulness-based interventions, into evidence-based psychotherapies. Following internship at the Cincinnati VA and prior to coming to the Phoenix VA in 2015, she served as Project Director/Co-Investigator of a VA-grant funded study entitled, "Mindfulness-based Cognitive Behavioral Conjoint Therapy for PTSD and Relationship Function" in which she assisted in the development and implementation of a randomized control trial of a mindfulness-based cognitive behavioral couples therapy intervention for OEF/OIF/OND veterans and their intimate partners at the Roudebush VA Medical Center in Indianapolis, IN. She has published in the areas of trauma, neuroscience and metacognition in individuals with schizophrenia. Dr. Luedtke also serves as a National Cognitive Behavioral Conjoint Therapy for PTSD Trainer for the VA Office of Mental Health Family Services and is a consultant for the University of Texas-Austin and Chris Kyle Frog Foundation designing curriculum weekend retreats and programming for military Veterans and spouses.

ADAM MCCRAY, Ph.D.  
 Arizona State University, 2005  
 Licensed Psychologist in Arizona  
 (Director, West Valley Vet Center)

Dr. McCray is the Director of the West Valley Center and maintains oversight of the clinical and administrative operations of that clinic. Dr. McCray was commissioned as a Captain in the US Air Force and completed a predoctoral internship at Andrews Air Force Base, MD where he provided psychotherapy services to active duty military personnel and their families. He was subsequently assigned as the chief of the Mental Health Clinic at Luke Air Force Base, AZ and continued to treat military personnel for Posttraumatic Stress Disorder and other psychopathology. Dr. McCray then served as the Family Advocacy Officer at Luke Air Force Base, overseeing a prevention and intervention program for family maltreatment offenders. Concurrent with this assignment, he developed a Behavioral Health Optimization Program to offer short-term, solution-focused treatment to active duty military personnel in the family practice medical clinics of the Air Force's 56th Medical Group. Upon completion of his active duty service commitment in, Dr. McCray accepted a position with the Department of Veterans' Affairs Readjustment Counseling Service where he currently serves in Peoria, Arizona as the Director of the West Valley Vet Center, an outpatient mental health clinic for combat veterans and veterans who were exposed to military sexual trauma. Dr. McCray is credentialed as a VA trainer and consultant in Cognitive Processing Therapy. Dr. McCray has also taught doctoral-level courses in clinical psychology at Argosy University-Phoenix and Midwestern University.

MICHELLE MELTON, Psy.D.  
 Arizona School of Professional Psychology at Argosy University, 2009  
 Licensed Psychologist in Arizona & Virginia  
 (Outpatient Mental Health – Supervision Clinic Lead)

Dr. Michelle Melton received her Doctor of Psychology degree in Clinical Psychology from the Arizona School of Professional Psychology at Argosy University. Dr. Melton is a psychologist in the Jade/Opal mental health clinic. She serves as the Supervision Clinic Lead working with interns over a 3 month period to learn supervision skills. She has served as the Director of Clinical Training and Associate Professor in the masters and doctoral clinical psychology programs at the Arizona School of Professional Psychology at Argosy University. She has also worked in private practice and inpatient psychiatric hospitals providing individual and group therapy, crisis intervention services, as well as a variety of consultation services including workshops and program development. She is skilled in working within short-term, cognitive-behavioral and solution-focused framework, as well as intensive, insight-oriented approaches in treating a variety of human problems, including persons with substance abuse, adjustment disorders, depression, anxiety, and serious mental illness. Dr. Melton also conducts psychological assessments including intelligence testing, achievement testing, neuropsychological screening, personality assessment, and diagnostic assessment. Her research interests include professional identity development, racial identity, and training and supervision in psychology. Dr. Melton is committed to mentoring students studying psychology and enriching them with knowledge on systemic issues affecting the field, training, and the treatment of clients.

HEATHER A. OKVAT, Ph.D.  
 Arizona State University, 2011  
 Licensed Psychologist in New York  
 (Pain Psychology)

Dr. Okvat is the psychologist with the VA's interdisciplinary Chronic Pain Management Program. Within chronic pain, her clinical, program development, and research interests center on the mind-body relationship, mindfulness, and community gardening for overall health and well-being. Dr. Okvat's theoretical orientation is cognitive-behavioral and mindfulness-based. Following internship at the New Mexico VA, she completed a post-doctoral fellowship in Behavioral Medicine at the Boston VA. Dr. Okvat is an adjunct faculty member at Rutgers University's School of Health-Related Professions. She previously conducted research in complementary and alternative medicine.

JOELLE OIZUMI, Ph.D.  
 University of North Texas, 1996  
 Licensed Psychologist in Arizona  
 (Outpatient Mental Health- Southeast CBOC)

Dr. Oizumi currently functions as the Psychology Program Manager at the Southeast Extension Clinic in Mesa, Arizona. She primarily provides individual psychotherapy for various mental health issues on an outpatient basis. Her theoretical orientation is cognitive-behavioral and interpersonal. She provides psychotherapy to mental health and Health Psychology patients. She conducts psychological evaluations for diagnostic and treatment purposes. Her primary clinical interest is in working with veterans with warzone-related PTSD and depression. Dr. Oizumi is an adjunct faculty member at Rio Salado and Everest Colleges. She has previously conducted disability evaluations at the VA and in the private sector. She has conducted fitness to parent evaluations for Child Protective Services. She worked in correctional psychology prior to coming to the VA in 1997.

DONNA PRICE, Psy.D.  
 Spalding University, 2015  
 Licensed Psychologist in Arizona  
 (Outpatient Mental Health)

Dr. Price works as part of a Behavioral Health Interdisciplinary Program (BHIP) Team in the general outpatient mental health clinic (Jade Clinic). Her doctoral training was in clinical psychology with an emphasis in health psychology. She completed a doctoral internship at the Medical College of Georgia and the Charlie Norwood VA Medical Center with specialty training at the Equality Clinic focusing on the provision of health care for underserved LGBTQ individuals. Her dissertation focused on the effects of perceived bias and health information seeking behaviors among LGB individuals. She then completed a postdoctoral fellowship with the Phoenix VA Health Care System in the general mental health track. She co-facilitates the LGBTQ Veterans Equality Group and the facilitates the Transgender Support Group. She provides mental health consultation to the Endocrinology Department and the Speech-Language Department regarding transgender care. She also completes mental health evaluations for Veterans considering gender confirming surgery. She is also a member of the Arizona Psychological Association LGBTQ Committee. Dr. Price is interested in program evaluation and development regarding LGBTQ issues.



ANDREA SAATHOFF, PH.D.  
 University of Texas at Austin, 2014  
 Licensed Psychologist in Arizona  
 Primary Care Mental Health Integration (PCMHI)

Dr. Saathoff is co-located in the primary care outpatient Midtown Clinic and provides short-term evidenced based psychotherapy to veterans. Her treatment approach is primarily informed by CBT and Mindfulness/Acceptance based interventions. Dr. Saathoff is also trained in using Clinical Hypnosis as adjunctive treatment in short term therapy. She mostly treats veterans presenting to the clinic with symptoms of mild/moderate depression, anxiety, insomnia, chronic pain, as well as issues related to stress, anger, and health-related concerns. Being co-located in the primary care clinic, Dr. Saathoff frequently consults with primary care providers, mental health nurses, and psychiatry. Further, Dr. Saathoff often provides “same-day appointments” to veterans presenting to the primary care clinics with a mental health concern. In addition to individual therapy and consultation with primary care providers, Dr. Saathoff facilitates an 8-week Mindfulness-Based Cognitive Therapy for Depression Class, a 6-week CBT for Chronic Pain Class, and participates in SMA’s for chronic pain. Further, she provides oversight and supervision of the Interprofessional Trainee Program (ITP) clinic. Dr. Saathoff has provider status in Cognitive Processing Therapy, Problem Solving Training, and has an extensive background in Mindfulness. Dr. Saathoff completed training in Clinical Hypnosis with the Milton H. Erickson Foundation located in Phoenix. Dr. Saathoff completed her internship at the Phoenix VA Health Care System and was hired on as a full-time staff member in 2014. She is the PCMHI training lead for the Phoenix VA Health Care System.

ARTI SARMA, Ph.D.  
 Arizona State University, 2014  
 Licensed Psychologist in Arizona  
 (Outpatient Mental Health Clinic - Southeast CBOC)

Dr. Sarma works in the Outpatient Mental Health Clinic in the Southeast CBOC. She received her doctorate in Counseling Psychology from Arizona State University (ASU) in 2014 and completed both her doctoral internship and post-doctoral residency at ASU Counseling Services. Prior to working at the Phoenix VA, Dr. Sarma committed her research, teaching, and clinical work to issues of diversity, utilizing a strengths-based approach to help young adults overcome barriers to academic, personal, and professional success. At the SECBOC, Dr. Sarma has been able to blend her passion for multicultural issues, resilience, trauma, and well-being to serve a culturally rich and diverse population of Veterans using interventions such as Mindfulness, Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBT), and Cognitive Processing Therapy (CPT). As co-chair of the Arizona Psychological Association’s (AzPA) Membership Committee, Dr. Sarma has been committed to increasing the accessibility, inclusivity, and applicability of AzPA’s work to mental health providers, allies, and community members. She has an interest in bolstering support for trainees through community engagement, mentorship, and collaboration.

LINDSAY TRACY, Psy.D.  
 Nova Southeastern University, 2016  
 Licensed Psychologist in Arizona  
 (Inpatient Mental Health)

Dr. Tracy is a psychologist serving the Phoenix VA's inpatient mental health units. She completed her internship and postdoctoral training at the Cleveland VAMC with an emphasis in Geropsychology. Her theoretical orientation is primarily cognitive behavioral. On inpatient mental health, Dr. Tracy provides both individual and group services based in a recovery-oriented model and as part of an interdisciplinary team. She is currently completing evidence-based training in providing Social Skills Training. Dr. Tracy continues to incorporate her interests related to Geropsychology into her work on inpatient mental health, where a significant proportion of veterans admitted to the units are older adults. These interests include dementia assessment, behavior management for dementia, and staff training and education. Beginning in the 2018-2019 training year, Dr. Tracy will be co-leading the assessment lab for the psychology fellowship.

GINA WALTERS, Ph.D.  
 Texas Tech University, 1998  
 Licensed Psychologist in Arizona  
 (General Neuropsychology)

Dr. Walters completed her graduate training at Texas Tech University, her internship at the Memphis VA and postdoctoral training at Semmes Murphy Clinic in Memphis and Samaritan Rehabilitation Institute in Phoenix. Before joining the Phoenix staff in 2001, Dr. Walters worked in a rehabilitation setting providing neuropsychological testing and treatment. Dr. Walters' primary clinical interest is in working with the geriatric population, particularly differential diagnosis of dementia. Duties include outpatient neuropsychological assessment of Veterans from various referral sources including psychiatry, neurology, primary care, and specialty clinics.

ADRIANA TARAZÓN WEYER, Ph.D.  
 Arizona State University, 2003  
 Licensed Psychologist in Arizona  
 (Transition & Care Management Clinic)

Dr. Weyer serves as the Chair for the medical center's Disruptive Behavior Committee (DBC) and Employee Threat Assessment Team (ETAT). She conducts evidence based risk assessments, using a combination of clinical and actuarial methods to identify violence risk and develop risk mitigation strategies. Both the DBC and ETAT consist of multidisciplinary staff throughout the medical center trained in the risk assessment process. Dr. Weyer also provides services in the Transition and Care Management Clinic (TCM), which provides services to Post 911 returning combat veterans. Within the TCM, Dr. Weyer conducts comprehensive mental health evaluations, collaborates with medical providers and specialty clinics to coordinate care, and provide seamless transition services to OEF/OIF/OND veterans.

MATTHEW WEYER, Ph.D.  
Arizona State University, 1997  
Licensed Psychologist in Arizona  
(Health Psychology, PC-MHI)

Dr. Weyer is the Training Director of the Psychology Internship and Fellowship Programs. He has completed evidence based training in Cognitive Behavior Therapy (CBT), Motivational Interviewing (MI) and Eye Movement Desensitization and Reprocessing Therapy (EMDR). His clinical interests include intervention and treatment of medical patients. Clinical responsibilities include assessment, individual psychotherapy, and psycho-educational groups. He is one of the lead therapists in the following Health Psychology Groups: CBT-Insomnia, Progressive Management of Tinnitus, and CPAP Adherence. His theoretical orientation is eclectic with a cognitive-behavioral emphasis. He sub-specializes in clinical hypnosis and EMDR and depending on trainee interest, leads a weekly self-study group for the psychology trainees.

## Internship Admissions, Support, and Initial Placement Data

**Date Program Tables are updated: 7/1/18**

### Internship Program Admissions

Briefly describe in narrative form important information to assist potential applicants in assessing their likely fit with your program. This description must be consistent with the program's policies on intern selection and practicum and academic preparation requirements:

The minimum requirements for entry into the training program include 1) United States citizenship, 2) verification of Selective Service Registration (Male applicants born after 12-31-1959 must sign a pre-appointment Certification Statement for Selective Service Registration), 3) enrollment in an APA or CPA accredited Doctoral Program of Clinical or Counseling Psychology, 4) comprehensive examinations passed prior to beginning internship, and 5) dissertation proposal approved. In addition to these requirements, we also have an expectation of a minimum of 500 total hours of practicum experience, and clinical experiences with adults in a variety of settings is strongly encouraged. The most competitive applicants will have completed a minimum of two practicum experiences prior to internship year.

Does the program required that applicants have received a minimum number of hours of the following at the time of applications? If Yes, indicate how many:

#### 1. Guidelines for Health Psychology, PC-MHI, PTSD/MH Applicants

Type of Hours	N	Y	Amount
Total Direct Contact Intervention Hours		X	250 hours
Total Direct Contact Assessment Hours		X	50 hours

#### 2. Guidelines for Neuropsychology Track Applicants

Type of Hours	N	Y	Amount
Total Direct Contact Intervention Hours		X	100 hours
Total Direct Contact Assessment Hours		X	200 hours

Describe any other required minimum criteria used to screen applicants: N/A

### Financial and Other Benefit Support for Upcoming Training Year

Annual Stipend/Salary for Full-Time Interns: \$27,010

Annual Stipend/Salary for Half-Time Interns: N/A

	Yes	No
Program provides access to medical insurance for intern?	X	
If access to medical insurance is provided:		
Trainee contribution to cost required?	X	
Coverage of family member(s) available?	X	
Coverage of legally married partner available?	X	
Coverage of domestic partner available?		X

		Yes	No
Hours of Annual Paid Personal Time Off (PTO and/or Vacation)	4 hours per pay period/ 13 days per year	X	
Hours of Annual Paid Sick Leave	4 hours per pay period/ 13 days per year	X	
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?		X	
Other Benefits	Administrative leave for dissertation defense, post-doctoral interviews, and conferences (approved by training director)	X	

### Initial Post-Internship Positions

	2014-2017	
Total # of interns who were in the 3 cohorts	21	
Total # of interns who did not seek employment because they returned to their doctoral programs/are completing doctoral degree.	0	
	PD	EP
Community mental health center	0	0
Federally qualified health center	0	0
Independent primary care facility/clinic	0	0
University counseling center	0	0
Veterans Affairs medical center	13	1
Military health center	0	0
Academic health center	4	0
Other medical center or hospital	2	0
Psychiatric hospital	0	0
Academic university/department	0	0
Community college or other teaching setting	0	0
Independent research institution	0	0
Correctional facility	0	0
School district/system	0	0
Independent practice setting	0	1
Not currently employed	0	0
Changed to another field	0	0
Other	0	0
Unknown	0	0

Note: "PD" = Post-doctoral residency position; "EP" = Employed Position.

## ***ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS TO WORK FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS***

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, 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. Trainees who are not VA paid (without compensation-WOC) who are not U.S. citizens may be appointed and must provide current immigrant, non-immigrant or exchange visitor documents.
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). Post-degree programs typically will not have an affiliation agreement, as the HPT is no longer enrolled in an academic program and the program is VA sponsored.
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. For post-graduate

programs where an affiliate is not the program sponsor, this process must be completed by the VA Training Director. 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. *Declinations are EXTREMELY rare.* If you decline the flu vaccine you will be required to wear a mask while in patient care areas of the VA.
  - 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 psychology HPT can be found at the end of this brochure.

#### **Additional information regarding eligibility requirements (with hyperlinks)**

- Trainees receive term employee appointments and must meet eligibility requirements for appointment as outlined in VA Handbook 5005 Staffing, Part II, Section B. Appointment Requirements and Determinations.  
[https://www.va.gov/vapubs/viewPublication.asp?Pub\\_ID=646&FType=2](https://www.va.gov/vapubs/viewPublication.asp?Pub_ID=646&FType=2)
- Selective Service website where the requirements, benefits and penalties of registering vs. not registering are outlined: <https://www.sss.gov/Registration/Why-Register/Benefits-and-Penalties>

**Additional information specific suitability information from Title 5 (referenced in VHA Handbook 5005 – hyperlinks included):** *Specific factors.* In determining whether a person is suitable for Federal employment, only the following factors will be considered a basis for finding a person unsuitable and taking a suitability action:

1. Misconduct or negligence in employment;
2. Criminal or dishonest conduct;
3. **Material**, intentional false statement, or deception or fraud in examination or appointment;
4. Refusal to furnish testimony as required by § 5.4 of this chapter;
5. Alcohol abuse, without evidence of substantial rehabilitation, of a nature and duration that suggests that the applicant or appointee would be prevented from performing the duties of the position in question, or would constitute a direct threat to the property or safety of the applicant or appointee or others;
6. Illegal use of narcotics, drugs, or other controlled substances without evidence of substantial rehabilitation;
7. Knowing and willful engagement in acts or activities designed to overthrow the U.S. Government by force; and
8. Any statutory or regulatory bar which prevents the lawful employment of the person involved in the position in question.

*Additional considerations.* OPM and agencies must consider any of the following additional considerations to the extent OPM or the relevant agency, in its sole discretion, deems any of them pertinent to the individual case:

1. The nature of the position for which the person is applying or in which the person is employed;
2. The nature and seriousness of the conduct;
3. The circumstances surrounding the conduct;
4. The recency of the conduct;
5. The age of the person involved at the time of the conduct;
6. Contributing societal conditions; and
7. The absence or presence of rehabilitation or efforts toward rehabilitation.

Additional information on VA eligibility: <https://www.psychologytraining.va.gov/eligibility.asp>



## List of Past Interns

### 2017-2018 Psychology Interns - Post-Internship Settings

SPENSER HUGHES, Ph.D.

The Ohio State University

Health Psychology

Private Practice, Phoenix, Arizona

CHARLENE KIM, Ph.D.

Arizona State University

PC-MHI

Postdoctoral Position in Clinical Psychology: Phoenix VA Health Care System

LINDSEY LILES, Ph.D.

Santa Barbara University

PTSD/Mental Health

Postdoctoral Position in Clinical Psychology: Phoenix VA Health Care System

RYAN MANGUM, Ph.D.

Fuller Theological Seminary

Neuropsychology

Postdoctoral Neuropsychology Position: Ann Arbor VA Health Care System

SHANNON O'NEILL, Ph.D.

Fordham University

Health Psychology

Postdoctoral Position in General Mental Health: Kansas VA Health Care System

MATTHEW SEMLA, Psy.D.

Adler University

Neuropsychology

Postdoctoral Neuropsychology Position: Connecticut VA Health Care System

JON RUGG, Ph.D.

Biola University

PTSD/Mental Health

Postdoctoral Position in Clinical Psychology: Phoenix VA Health Care System

ROBERT TEEL, Ph.D.

Alliant School of Professional Psychology – San Diego

PTSD/Mental Health

Private Practice, San Diego California

## **2016-2017 Psychology Interns - Post-Internship Settings**

JESSICA BAUM, Psy.D.

PGSP- Stanford Psy.D. Consortium Program

PC-MHI

Postdoctoral Position in PC-MHI: San Francisco VA Health Care System

DOMINIKA BOROWA, Ph.D.

Texas Tech University

Health Psychology

Postdoctoral Position in Health Psychology: Denver VA Health Care System

TSLIL FEINBERG, Psy.D.

CSPP – Alliant San Diego

PTSD/Mental Health

Postdoctoral Position in PTSD: UCSD/VA San Diego – Mission Valley

MATTHEW HALL, Ph.D.

CSPP – Alliant San Diego

Neuropsychology

Postdoctoral Neuropsychology Position: University of Toledo Medical Center

ASHLEY LOY, Psy.D.

Roosevelt University

Neuropsychology

Employed: Phoenix VA Health Care System

SHANNON PATTERSON, Ph.D.

Lehigh University

Health Psychology

Postdoctoral Position in PC-MHI: Phoenix VA Health Care System

MEREDITH VAN TINE, Psy.D.

PGSP- Stanford Psy.D. Consortium Program

PTSD/Mental Health

Postdoctoral Position in PTSD/Women's Health: Phoenix VA Health Care System

## **2015-2016 Psychology Interns - Post-Internship Settings**

DAN CHAREK, Ph.D.

University of Toledo

Neuropsychology

Postdoctoral Neuropsychology Position: University of Pittsburgh Sports Medicine Concussion Program

STEPHANIE CROCKETT, Psy.D.

PGSP- Stanford Psy.D. Consortium Program

PTSD/Mental Health

Postdoctoral Position in PTSD/SUD: San Francisco VA Health Care System

JESSICA GROSSMANN, Ph.D.

George Mason University

PTSD/Mental Health

Postdoctoral Position in PTSD/DBT: Durham VA Health Care System

SHEREEN HAJ-HASSAN, Ph.D.

Tennessee State University

Neuropsychology

Postdoctoral Neuropsychology Position: Rehabilitation Institute of Michigan

MAUREEN KEAVENY, Ph.D.

Arizona State University

Health Psychology

Independent Private Practice – Tempe, Arizona

ALEXANDRA KOENIG, Ph.D.

Seattle Pacific University

PC-MHI

Postdoctoral Position in PC-MHI: Dallas VA Health Care System

PALAK KOTHARI, Ph.D.

Loma Linda University

Health Psychology

Postdoctoral Fellowship in Holistic Mental Health and PC-MHI: Loma Linda VA Health Care System

## **2014-2015 Psychology Interns – Post-Internship Settings**

JUSTIN BOLAND, Ph.D.

New Mexico State University

Primary Care Mental Health Integration (PC-MHI)

Postdoctoral Fellowship in PC-MHI: New Mexico State University

AMANDA GORLICK, Ph.D.

Loma Linda University

Health Psychology

Postdoctoral Position: San Diego VA Health Care System

EMILY HENNRICH, Ph.D.

California School of Professional Psychology – San Diego

PTSD/Mental Health

Postdoctoral Position: UCSD Eating Disorders Center for Treatment and Research

COURTNEY KELSCH, Ph.D.

University of Miami

Health Psychology

Postdoctoral Position: Boston VA Health Care System

TOM KIELY, Ph.D.

Palo Alto University

Neuropsychology

Postdoctoral Neuropsychology Position: Mind and Brain Laboratory: Ray Dolby Brain Health Center at the CPMC Neurosciences Institute

EARL THORNDYKE III, Ph.D.

Loma Linda University

Neuropsychology

Postdoctoral Neuropsychology Position: UCLA Semel Institute

CHANIGA VORASARUN, Psy.D.

PGSP- Stanford Psy.D. Consortium Program

PTSD/Mental Health

Postdoctoral Position: Palo Alto VA Health Care System