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: Karen Kattar, Psy.D.

Application Due Date: November 1, 2017
Start Date: August 20, 2018
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**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 pre-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 engage in a minimum of 500 total hours of direct patient care while on internship. 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 predoctoral 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 during the academic year 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

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 celebrated 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 all 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. 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 40 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

**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)

- Submit application materials electronically by **11:59PM on November 1, 2017**.

- Approximately 50 applicants will be notified of interview offers by **November 30, 2017**. Half of the interviews will occur during the third week of December 2017, and the other half will take place during the first week of January 2018.

- 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**) and PTSD/MH – Vet Center (**167116**).

- The intern selected for the PTSD/MH – Vet Center track (**167116**) will be required to work at the West Valley Vet Center (located in Peoria, AZ) no more than 50% of the time in the first 6 months of the training year. While this intern is welcome to continue at the Vet Center in the second half of the year, this is not a requirement.

- 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.

**PHOENIX VA HEALTH CARE SYSTEM**

The Phoenix VAHCS is a tertiary care and training facility with 150 medical/surgical beds, 48 psychiatric beds, and a 110-bed community living center. The hospital has been providing service to veterans in Maricopa County since 1951. In 2017, the medical center had over 800,000 visits with a total veteran enrollment of over 80,000. 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, Karen Kattar, Psy.D.

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.

**SUCCESSFUL COMPLETION OF PROGRAM/EXIT CRITERIA**

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. Achieve a minimum rating of “2=Somewhat” or above on all the competencies found on the Intern Rating Form in Rotations 1-2. If interns receive a rating below 2 (i.e., “1=Not at all/Slightly”) in any competency, a remediation plan will be initiated.
2. Achieve a minimum rating of a “3 = Moderately” or higher on at least 80% of the competencies found on the Intern Rating Form in Rotation 3. If interns receive a rating below 3 (i.e., “2=Somewhat”), a remediation plan will be initiated.
3. Not be found to have engaged in any significant unethical behavior.

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

1. Achieve a rating of a “4 = Mainly” or higher on at least 80% of the competencies found on the Intern Rating Form in Rotation 4. In addition, interns may not complete the year with any individual competencies rated below a 2 (i.e., 1= “Not at all/Slightly”).
2. Not be found to have engaged in any significant unprofessional or unethical behavior.
3. Complete a minimum of 500 total hours of direct patient care.
4. Complete 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 40 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 predoctoral 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 predoctoral 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 $24,595, and payments are every two weeks for a full year. Health insurance is available at employee copay rates (see page 40 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 20, 2018** and end on August 16, 2019. 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 (CBOC), and the recently opened 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, some 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.

**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 three to six months in duration and are offered in a variety of clinics, including Mental Health, PTSD, Health Psychology, PC-MHI, 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 either the Outpatient Mental Health Clinic, or the Women’s Health Clinic. 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 three areas: Chronic Pain Wellness Center, 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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Major Rotation</th>
<th>Minor Rotation</th>
<th>Required Rotation</th>
<th>Assessment Clinic</th>
<th>Supplemental Experience</th>
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</thead>
</table>

### Intern #1 HEALTH PSYCHOLOGY TRACK

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rotation 1</th>
<th>Rotation 2</th>
<th>Rotation 3</th>
<th>Rotation 4</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Health Psychology</td>
<td>Health Psychology</td>
<td>Health Psychology</td>
<td>PC-MHI</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Burgess (20 hrs)</td>
<td>M. Weyer (8 hrs)</td>
<td>Averyt (8 hrs)</td>
<td>Saathoff (12 hrs)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>General Mental Health Clinic</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Fierstein (8 hrs)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Assessment Clinic</td>
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### Intern #2 HEALTH PSYCHOLOGY TRACK

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rotation 1</th>
<th>Rotation 2</th>
<th>Rotation 3</th>
<th>Rotation 4</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Health Psych</td>
<td>Health Psychology</td>
<td>PTSD Clinic</td>
<td>Supplemental Experience – Chronic Pain Wellness Center (4 hrs)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M. Weyer (20 hrs)</td>
<td>Averyt (8 hrs)</td>
<td>Luedtke (8 hrs)</td>
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<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td>General Mental Health Clinic</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Isenhart (8 hrs)</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>Assessment Clinic</td>
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### Intern #5 PC-MHI TRACK

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<th>Rotation 1</th>
<th>Rotation 2</th>
<th>Rotation 3</th>
<th>Rotation 4</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PC-MHI Averyt (20 hrs)</td>
<td>Health Psych Burgess (8 hrs)</td>
<td>HBPC Edmonds (8 hrs)</td>
<td>PTSD Clinic Ayers (12 hrs)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PRRC Caraballo (8 hrs)</td>
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<td>Assessment Clinic</td>
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### Intern #3 GENERAL NEUROPSYCHOLOGY TRACK

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<th>Rotation 1</th>
<th>Rotation 2</th>
<th>Rotation 3</th>
<th>Rotation 4</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>General Neuropsych Walters (20 hrs)</td>
<td>OEF/OIF/OND Neuropsych Bushnell (20 hrs)</td>
<td>General Mental Health Clinic – DBT Emphasis Beck (8 hrs)</td>
<td>Assessment Clinic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PC-MHI Saathoff (8hrs)</td>
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### Intern #4 OEF/OIF/OND NEUROPSYCHOLOGY TRACK

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<tr>
<th>Rotation 1</th>
<th>Rotation 2</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>OEF/OIF/OND Neuropsych Bushnell (20 hrs)</td>
<td>General Neuropsych Walters (8 hrs)</td>
<td>General Neuropsych De La Rosa (8 hrs)</td>
<td>General Mental Health Clinic Isenhart (12 hrs)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Women's Health Clinic Doyle (8hrs)</td>
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<td>Assessment Clinic</td>
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### Intern #6/7 PTSD/GENERAL MENTAL HEALTH TRACK

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<tr>
<th>Rotation 1</th>
<th>Rotation 2</th>
<th>Rotation 3</th>
<th>Rotation 4</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PTSD CLINIC Ayers (20 hrs)</td>
<td></td>
<td>PTSD Clinic Lowrey (20 hrs)</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>General Mental Health Clinic Beck (8 hrs)</td>
<td></td>
<td>PC-MHI Saathoff (8 hrs)</td>
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| Assessment Clinic | |
|-------------------| |
| Supplemental Experience - Disruptive Behavior Committee (4 hrs) | |

### Intern #8 WEST VALLEY VET CENTER ROTATION

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<tr>
<th>Rotation 1</th>
<th>Rotation 2</th>
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<td>WEST VALLEY VET CENTER McCray (16hrs)</td>
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<td>General Mental Health Clinic Beck (12hrs)</td>
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| Assessment Clinic | |
|-------------------| |
| Supplemental Experience - Research Rotation (4 hours) | |

**Additional Training Experiences:**

**Assessment Clinic:** We are excited to offer our interns the opportunity to participate in a weekly Assessment Clinic. 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. As the year progresses, interns will field assessment consults from the Outpatient Mental Health clinic and/or the Inpatient 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 two-month long 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.

**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. 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 3-4 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, the neuropsychology interns have the opportunity to attend the Neuropsychology Didactics series. This offers a combination of biweekly case conferences and 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 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.

6. Depending on trainee interest level, a clinical hypnosis training seminar has been offered in the past. In this seminar, psychology interns learn the basic components of clinical hypnosis including inductions, deepening techniques and therapeutic interventions.
**ROTATION DESCRIPTIONS**

**GENERAL MENTAL HEALTH**

All interns complete at least one 6-month rotation in either the Outpatient Mental Health clinic or in the Women’s Health Clinic. 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’s Health Clinic 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. This rotation 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 this rotation.

**OUTPATIENT MENTAL HEALTH – SOUTHWEST CBOC (SOUTHWEST PHOENIX): 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.
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 - Outpatient Mental Health - South East 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.

LGBTQ Veteran Care:

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.

**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, Prolonged Exposure, Eye Movement Desensitization and Reprocessing, Seeking Safety, Cognitive Behavioral Therapy for Insomnia, and Cognitive Behavioral Conjoint Therapy for couples with PTSD). In addition, veterans have the opportunity to participate in general coping skills training and anger management.

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, lead anger management groups, and 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. Seeking Safety, CBT-I, and Coping Interventions) and/or to administer one of the evidence based trauma treatments (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 - South East 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.

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 Behaviors Coping Skills group, and/or a CBT for Insomnia group.
Interna 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:** 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:**  
**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 in psychology, social work, and clinical pharmacy. During this clinic visit the veteran will work with this team and their supervisors to develop a comprehensive treatment plan that will address their mental health needs.

**PC-MHI:**  
**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:**  
**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, brief CBT for Insomnia. Interns will have the opportunity to co-lead CBT-I groups with Dr. Breedlove.

**PC-MHI - SOUTH EAST 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.

**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. Training in neuropsychology can be obtained in both outpatient and inpatient settings, although 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 OEF/OIF/OND Neuropsychology.

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

This rotation involves working primarily with outpatients referred by mental health and neurology. There is also a subset of referrals from the specialty clinics (e.g. Endocrinology Clinic) and the primary care clinics. 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. Examples of referral questions include differential diagnosis of dementia, capacity to make decisions, and ruling out a cognitive disorder in veterans who have a history of substance abuse or remote head injury.

Neurology referrals typically include cases involving dementia, stroke, traumatic brain injury, anoxia, and tumors. There are also opportunities to perform evaluations from referral sources such as psychiatry and vocational rehabilitation which often involve multi-axial diagnoses and differential rule outs. The focus of this rotation involves developing skills in administration, scoring,
and interpretation, writing reports and communicating results of evaluative data to patients, family and/or other interdisciplinary professional staff.

Outpatient referral sources include the mental health clinic, primary care and specialty medical clinics, PTSD clinic. Specialty medical clinic referral sources include the Substance Abuse Clinic (SAC), Endocrinology, the Speech and Language Pathology Clinic, and others.

Psychology interns typically work with a variety of outpatients, but there are opportunities for evaluating inpatients from medical and psychiatric floors as well as from the Community Living Center. There are opportunities to be involved in conducting evaluations for determination of capacity during this rotation. Outpatient referral sources include the mental health clinic, primary care and specialty medical clinics, PTSD clinic. Specialty medical clinic referral sources include the Substance Abuse Clinic (SAC), Endocrinology, the Speech and Language Pathology Clinic, and others.

Interns in the neuropsychology track will be expected to independently administer and score neuropsychological tests, conduct effective interviews with patients and family members, write reports, and provide testing feedback by the end of the rotation.

**OEF/OIF/OND NEUROPSYCHOLOGY:**
**SUPERVISING PSYCHOLOGIST: MARY LU BUSHNELL, PSY.D.**

Dr. Bushnell primarily provides supervision on this rotation. The rotation has an emphasis on working with OEF/OIF/OND veterans who have exposure to combat blasts and/or other types of traumatic brain injury. Veterans who have been exposed to blasts, motor vehicle accidents or other potential neurological insult are evaluated to rule out or identify cognitive deficits. 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. This rotation is offered on a part time and/or full time basis.

The psychology intern will have an opportunity to be involved with the “Brain Boosters” Cognitive Enhancement Group for veterans with mild TBI and/or PTSD. This 10-week group combines didactic presentations and experiential cognitive rehabilitation exercises in order to help group members learn how to optimize their strengths and enhance their brain functioning. The intern will also 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. Current splinter groups cover topics such as insomnia/nightmare imagery, communication skills, memory strategies, and stress management. Possible opportunities for research with this population may also be available.

The psychology intern will also have an opportunity to be involved in the TBI Clinic. The TBI Clinic is a screening clinic for OEF/OIF/OND veterans who have sustained head injuries during deployment. The clinical interview is conducted jointly with a physician. Next, the veteran undergoes a neuropsychological screening evaluation by the neuropsychologist or neuropsychology intern. Finally, the veteran completes a medical evaluation with the physician. Interns will have the opportunity to present the cases during the weekly interdisciplinary staffing meeting.
Although the great majority of referrals in this rotation involve OEF/OIF/OND veterans, there will be occasional opportunities to work with elder populations to determine decision making capacity, etiology of memory loss, appropriate placement options, etc. There will be occasional referrals from Vocational Rehabilitation and from Inpatient Medical and Psychiatric floors.

**SUPPLEMENTAL TRAINING EXPERIENCES**

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

**Chronic Pain Management Groups:**

*Supervising Psychologist: Heather A. Okvat, Ph.D.*

Interns will have the opportunity to work with Dr. Okvat in the Chronic Pain Wellness Center. Interns can co-facilitate group therapy focused on living well despite pain. Interns will be guided in the use of cognitive behavioral therapy and mindfulness-based approaches to chronic pain, offering important adjuncts and alternatives to chronic opioid medication therapy. This supplementary experience can be combined with other Health Psychology/PC-MHI rotations. For example, an intern could work with Dr. Burgess for 16 hours a week and complete a supplementary chronic pain group experience with Dr. Okvat for 4 hours a week.

**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:**


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. Dr. Alberty received her doctorate from Loma Linda University in clinical psychology and completed her internship at the Veterans Affairs Ann Arbor Healthcare 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, chronic pain, sleep disorders, weight management, and eating disorders.

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. Due to the efficacy of this program in long term follow up studies, Dr. Ayers has been contacted by the US Army Medical Research and Material Command expressing their interest in the redesign and delivery of this program to military families where there has been the death of a serviceperson.

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). 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.

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 predoctoral 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.
Argosy University/Phoenix, 2006
Licensed Psychologist in Arizona
(OEF/OIF/OND Neuropsychology)

Dr. Bushnell’s clinical interests include Neuropsychology and cognitive rehabilitation. Duties include neuropsychological evaluation and consultation to the OEF/OIF/OND clinical team, TBI Clinic, medical inpatient units, and outpatient primary care clinics. Dr. Bushnell co-developed and co-leads the Brain Boosters cognitive enhancement group with Dr. Goren. Prior to joining the VA, Dr. Bushnell worked at a community agency where she conducted Neuropsychological evaluations, cognitive rehabilitation and psychotherapy with individuals with brain injury. She provides 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. Finally, Dr. Bushnell is currently working on a study researching the efficacy of the facility’s Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) Clinic and a study to disentangle the relation between affective (emotional) and cognitive impairments in OEF/OIF veterans with TBI.
RHONDA S. CASILLAS, Ph.D.  
Arizona State University, 2010  
Licensed Psychologist in Arizona  
(PC-MHI Thunderbird CBOC – Mentorship 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 Mentorship Program.

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

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 neurological conditions affecting cognition. She is currently working in outpatient and inpatient settings conducting neuropsychological assessment of veterans from various referral sources including Psychiatry, Neurology, and the Specialty Clinics. Before joining the Phoenix staff in 2012, Dr. De La Rosa worked in California in a rehabilitation setting providing neuropsychological testing and treatment.

KATHRYN W. DOYLE, Ph.D.  
Arizona State University, 2000  
Licensed Psychologist in Arizona  
(Women’s Health Clinic)

Dr. Doyle works in the Women’s Health clinic. Her treatment approach is primarily Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBT) and she specializes in using Evidence-Based Practices to treat a myriad of disorders, including anxiety disorders, depression/mood disorders, and PTSD in both individual and group formats. She currently is acting as the MH champion within the Phoenix VA Women Veterans Program. Prior to this new role, she served the hospital as the 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. 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, Psy.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.
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.

Dr. Hernandez provides individual and group psychotherapy as part of the PTSD Clinical Team and treats patients at both the main hospital and the Southeast Extension Clinic, located in Mesa, AZ. Her theoretical orientation is cognitive behavioral, with a focus on empirically validated treatments. In addition to clinical duties, Dr. Hernandez is a Prolonged Exposure consultant for the National Center for PTSD Prolonged Exposure Initiative and provides consultation to clinicians who are in the process of being certified to use Prolonged Exposure therapy to treat PTSD. 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 variety of experiences, which included pre-employment psychological assessment for local law enforcement agencies as well as in home psychological services and behavior planning for individuals with serious mental illness and developmental disabilities.
CARL ISENHART Psy.D., ABPP
University of Denver, Denver, Colorado, 1984
Licensed Psychologist in Minnesota, Wisconsin, and Illinois
(Outpatient Mental Health)

Dr. Isenhart 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.

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 is a local trainer for Cognitive Processing Therapy (CPT), an evidence-based treatment for PTSD, and has served as co-lead for the annual training workshop at the Phoenix VA.
Dr. Luedtke is a Clinical Psychologist 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 PTSD and schizophrenia disorders. Dr. Luedtke also serves as a National Cognitive Behavioral Conjoint Therapy for PTSD Trainer for the Veterans Affairs Office of Mental Health and travels nationwide conducting workshops for the dissemination of CBCT throughout the VA system, as well as the Department of Defense.

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 psychologist 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 pre-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
(PC-MHI)

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. She mostly treats veterans presenting to the clinic with 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. Dr. Saathoff also works with veterans referred to Health Psychology service for longer term therapy to treat issues of adjustment/mood related to a veteran’s medical condition. 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, participates in SMA’s for chronic pain, and facilitates a 4-week Problem Solving Training Class. 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 her internship at the Phoenix VA Health Care System and was hired on as a full-time staff member in 2014.
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 pre-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 a particular interest in bolstering support for trainees through community engagement, mentorship, and collaboration.

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

Dr. Walters’ primary clinical interest is in Neuropsychology. She is particularly interested in differential diagnosis of dementia, head injury, and psychiatric disorders. Duties include outpatient and inpatient neuropsychological assessment of veterans from various referral sources including Psychiatry, Neurology, and the Specialty Clinics. Before joining the Phoenix staff in 2001, Dr. Walters worked in a rehabilitation setting providing neuropsychological testing and treatment.

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.
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: 7/1/17

Internship Program Admissions

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 and PTSD/MH Applicants

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of Hours</th>
<th>N</th>
<th>Y</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total Direct Contact Intervention Hours</td>
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<td>X</td>
<td>250 hours</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total Direct Contact Assessment Hours</td>
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<td>50 hours</td>
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2. Guidelines for Neuropsychology Track Applicants

<table>
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<th>Type of Hours</th>
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<th>Y</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total Direct Contact Intervention Hours</td>
<td></td>
<td>X</td>
<td>100 hours</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Direct Contact Assessment Hours</td>
<td></td>
<td>X</td>
<td>200 hours</td>
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</table>

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: $24,595
Annual Stipend/Salary for Half-Time Interns: N/A

<table>
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<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Yes</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Program provides access to medical insurance for intern?</td>
<td>X</td>
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<tr>
<td>If access to medical insurance is provided:</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trainee contribution to cost required?</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coverage of family member(s) available?</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coverage of legally married partner available?</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coverage of domestic partner available?</td>
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<td>X</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Hours of Annual Paid Personal Time Off (PTO and/or Vacation)</strong></td>
<td>4 hours per pay period/13 days per year</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>---------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>----------------------------------------</td>
<td>----</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Hours of Annual Paid Sick Leave</strong></td>
<td>4 hours per pay period/13 days per year</td>
<td>Yes</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>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?</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>Yes</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Other Benefits</strong></td>
<td>Administrative leave for dissertation defense, post-doctoral interviews, and conferences (approved by training director)</td>
<td>Yes</td>
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### Initial Post-Internship Positions

<table>
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<tr>
<th><strong>2014-2017</strong></th>
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<th>EP</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total # of interns who were in the 3 cohorts</strong></td>
<td>21</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total # of interns who did not seek employment because they returned to their doctoral programs/are completing doctoral degree.</strong></td>
<td>0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Community mental health center
- Federally qualified health center
- Independent primary care facility/clinic
- University counseling center
- Veterans Affairs medical center
- Military health center
- Academic health center
- Other medical center or hospital
- Psychiatric hospital
- Academic university/department
- Community college or other teaching setting
- Independent research institution
- Correctional facility
- School district/system
- Independent practice setting
- Not currently employed
- Changed to another field
- Other
- Unknown

List of Past Interns

2016-2017 Psychology Interns - Post-Internship Settings

JESSICA BAUM, Psy.D.
PGSP- Stanford Psy.D. Consortium Program
Interprofessional Mental Health Psychology
Postdoctoral Position in PC-MHI: San Francisco VA Healthcare System

DOMINIKA BOROWA, Ph.D.
Texas Tech University
Health Psychology
Postdoctoral Position in Health Psychology: Denver VA Healthcare 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 (Year 1): University of Toledo Medical Center

ASHLEY LOY, Psy.D.
Roosevelt University
Neuropsychology
Postdoctoral Neuropsychology Position (Year 1): North Shore Pediatric Therapy

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 (Year 1): 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 (Year 1): Rehabilitation Institute of Michigan

MAUREEN KEAVENY, Ph.D.
Arizona State University
Health Psychology
Private Practice – Tempe, Arizona

ALEXANDRA KOENIG, Ph.D.
Seattle Pacific University
Interprofessional Mental Health Psychology
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
Interprofessional Mental Health
Postdoctoral Fellowship: New Mexico State University

AMANDA GORLICK, Ph.D.
Loma Linda University
Health Psychology
Postdoctoral Position: San Diego VA Health Care System

EMILY HENNICH, 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 (Year 2): 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 (Year 2): UCLA Semel Institute

CHANIGA VORASARUN, Psy.D.
PGSP- Stanford Psy.D. Consortium Program
PTSD/Mental Health
Postdoctoral Position: Palo Alto VA Health Care System
2013-2014 Psychology Interns – Current Employment

KIMBERLY BAERRESEN, Ph.D.
Loma Linda University
Neuropsychology
Neuropsychologist at Fullerton Neuropsychological Services – St. Jude Medical Center’s Outpatient Rehabilitation Team

KRISTEN CARAHER, Psy.D.
Illinois School of Professional Psychology, Chicago
Neuropsychology
Neuropsychologist - University of Iowa - Faculty

JENNA GRESS SMITH, Ph.D.
Arizona State University
Health Psychology
Staff Psychologist in Primary Care-Mental Health Integration at Phoenix VAHCS

NATASHA MROCZEK, Psy.D.
Florida Institute of Technology
Health Psychology
Staff Psychologist in Primary Care-Mental Health Integration: Memphis VA Health Care System

ANDREA SAATHOFF, Ph.D.
University of Texas – Austin
Interprofessional Mental Health
Staff Psychologist in Primary Care-Mental Health Integration at Phoenix VAHCS

BRITTANY SHOEMAKER, Psy.D.
Loma Linda University
PTSD/Mental Health
Staff Psychologist Position in the PTSD clinic at Phoenix VAHCS

BIBI STANG, Ph.D.
Palo Alto University
Neuropsychology
Neuropsychologist at Barrow Neurological Institute – Center for Transitional Neuro-Rehabilitation