



Psychology Postdoctoral Fellowship

VA Pittsburgh Healthcare System
Director of Clinical Training
Behavioral Health Service Line (116A-U)
University Drive C
Pittsburgh PA 15240-1001
(412) 360-1290

Application Due Date: Friday, January 6, 2017

Accreditation Status

The VA Pittsburgh Healthcare System proudly offers two postdoctoral fellowship programs. The postdoctoral fellowship in **Clinical Psychology** is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of the American Psychological Association. Our next site visit will be scheduled for 2021. Our **Professional Geropsychology** specialty fellowship program is also accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of the American Psychological Association. Our next site visit will be scheduled for 2021.

We are extremely proud of our training programs and their accreditation by the American Psychological Association. Should you have any questions about fellowship accreditation standards or policies that cannot be answered to your satisfaction by this website or by the psychology staff, please contact:

Office of Program Consultation and Accreditation
American Psychological Association
750 1st Street, NE, Washington, DC 20002
Phone: (202) 336-5979 / E-mail: apaaccred@apa.org
Web: www.apa.org/ed/accreditation

Application & Selection Procedures for Clinical Psychology and Professional Geropsychology Programs

Prior to the start of the fellowship, a candidate must have completed the following requirements:

1. Have received a doctorate from an APA or CPA accredited graduate program in Clinical, Counseling, or Combined Psychology or PCSAS accredited Clinical Science program. Persons with a doctorate in another area of psychology who meet the APA or CPA criteria for respecialization training in Clinical, Counseling, or Combined Psychology are also eligible.
2. Have completed an internship program accredited by APA or CPA or have completed a VA-sponsored internship.

In addition, VA Eligibility Criteria also require:

1. U.S. citizenship. VA is unable to consider applications from anyone who is not currently a U.S. citizen. Verification of citizenship is required following selection. All fellows must complete a Certification of Citizenship in the United States prior to beginning VA training.
2. A male applicant born after 12/31/1959 must have registered for the draft by age 26 to be eligible for any US government employment, including selection as a paid VA trainee. Male applicants must sign a pre-appointment Certification Statement for Selective Service Registration before they can be processed into a training program. Exceptions can be granted only by the US Office of Personnel Management; exceptions are very rarely granted.

3. Fellows are subject to fingerprinting and background checks prior to start of fellowship. A selected fellow must pass these checks in order to begin employment with the VA.
4. VA conducts drug screening exams on randomly selected personnel as well as new employees. Fellows are not required to be tested prior to beginning work, but once on staff they are subject to random selection for testing as are other employees.

Applicants who have completed VA internships and who have an interest in a VA career are strongly encouraged to apply. Appropriate candidates will be familiar with general psychological assessment instruments and will have intervention skills commensurate with having completed an internship. Applicants with both clinical and research experience in the area of focus are highly desirable. We value applicants with the ability to engage in scholarly inquiry and critical analysis of the scholarly literature. Given our focus on providing evidence based treatment to our veterans, we value applicants who have training in evidence based treatment approaches. Further, given the diversity of the veterans receiving treatment through the VA Pittsburgh Healthcare System, we encourage applicants from graduate and internship programs with a multicultural focus and experience with ethnic, cultural, and social minority groups. Our fellowship program values cultural and individual diversity and strongly encourages qualified applicants from all backgrounds to apply. We adhere to all EEO guidelines. The United States government is a non-discriminatory, affirmative action employer. Federal law prohibits discrimination based on age, sex, race, creed, color, religion, handicap or national origin.

Applicants may apply to more than one program or focus area. The application process formally begins when an applicant submits the following materials:

1. Cover letter indicating to which program (i.e., Clinical psychology or Professional Geropsychology) the applicant is applying, status on internship with expected completion date, and status of dissertation/doctoral project with anticipated completion date. If applying to the clinical psychology program, the applicant should also indicate to which focus area the applicant is applying (i.e., interprofessional care, PTSD, SUD).
2. Official transcripts of all graduate work in psychology.
3. Current curriculum vitae.
4. Three letters of recommendation with at least one from a primary clinical supervisor who can describe clinical work and skills in the emphasis area of interest.
5. Letter from the applicant's dissertation chairperson verifying the applicant's current status on his/her dissertation research. If an applicant's dissertation is not completed at the time of application, this letter should also include the chairperson's estimate of when the applicant's dissertation will be completed. Note: if the applicant's dissertation chairperson submits one of the 3 required letters of recommendation, the dissertation chairperson must also submit a brief additional letter addressing dissertation status. This must be completed separately in order for the applicant's application to be complete in the APPA CAS [APPIC Psychology Postdoctoral Application] online centralized application system.
6. Letter from the applicant's internship director of clinical training verifying the applicant's internship status and expected completion date.
7. A personal statement describing: history of applicant's interest in Geropsychology or Clinical psychology focus area, self-assessment of training needs with goals for fellowship, and statement of career goals (one-page limit).

All applications must be submitted via the APPA CAS [APPIC Psychology Postdoctoral Application] online centralized application system. No paper applications will be accepted or reviewed. The APPA CAS can be accessed via the following link: <https://appicpostdoc.liaisoncas.com>

The deadline for all completed application materials is January 6, 2017. Only applications completed by this deadline will be considered.

Applications will be reviewed by three independent reviewers of the Clinical Training Committee and rated on a 10-point scale. Applicants are then ranked by total score (0-30 total) and selected applicants will be

invited for interviews with two psychology staff members involved in the training of fellows and one of the current fellows. Although on-site interviews are preferable, VTEL (from other VA medical centers) or telephone interviews are acceptable with no adverse rating or rating bias. Points obtained during the interview process are added to the application score and offers are rendered per a rank order list created by total point score. Our program will abide by the APPIC postdoctoral selection guidelines. As such, we will extend offers on February 27, 2017 and candidates will be granted 24 hours to respond to the offer before the offer is extended to the next candidate. If a candidate receives an offer from another program earlier than 2/27/17, we may extend an earlier offer if appropriate.

Questions regarding the application process can be directed to Dr. Bernadette Pasquale (Bernadette.Pasquale@va.gov)

VA Pittsburgh Healthcare System and Psychology Staff

The VAPHS is a 582-operating bed, joint commission accredited facility comprised of two divisions. The VAPHS has recently completed large construction projects at both divisions, resulting in new state-of-the-art, "green" buildings. The University Drive division, near the University of Pittsburgh, is the medical-surgical facility and includes numerous outpatient primary care and specialty medical clinics. The University Drive division is home to the new Consolidation Building, where the majority of the outpatient behavioral health clinics, three inpatient psychiatry units, and the Center for the Treatment of Addictive Disorders are located. The majority of the intern rotations are located at the University Drive division. The H. J. Heinz division, located near Aspinwall and Fox Chapel, includes the Community Living Center, Veteran Recovery Center (domiciliary), and Neurobehavioral Program. The new Ambulatory Care Building houses a primary care clinic, post-deployment clinic, and other clinical services to include dental and rehabilitation medicine. There are 5 rotation options offered at the Heinz division. These two divisions are within 10 miles of each other and a shuttle operates between the divisions. In addition to these two sites, the VAPHS also includes five community-based outpatient clinics (CBOC's) in our catchment area. There are currently no intern rotations offered at the CBOC's, although we currently have psychologists working in all of the CBOC's. The VAPHS also includes a telemental health hub, in which behavioral health staff provide telemental health services to veterans enrolled in VA medical centers within our VISN and other VISN's.

In FY2015, the VAPHS provided care to 70,462 veterans and conducted 706,270 outpatient visits. We provided behavioral health services to 13,000 unique veterans. The VAPHS is increasing services via telehealth technology and conducted 7,664 telemental health visits in FY2015. Veterans span the cohorts from OEF/OIF/OND to WWII with the vast majority of veterans in the Vietnam era. The VAPHS provided care to 4,231 female veterans in FY2015. Given the large catchment area of the VAPHS to include western Pennsylvania, eastern Ohio, and parts of West Virginia, our veteran population includes a mix of urban and rural veterans. As part of the VAPHS commitment to diversity, we were identified as a LGBT healthcare leader for the past 3 years in the Human Rights Campaign's Healthcare Equality Index. In FY2015, the VAPHS employed 3,670 employees.

All staff and services at the VAPHS are organized into "service lines." The fellowship program is located within the Behavioral Health Service Line. Within the Behavioral Health Service Line, veterans are assigned to a Behavioral Health Interdisciplinary Program (BHIP) (identified by Greek letters). Staff members are assigned to specific teams/BHIP's for continuity of care for veterans.

The VA Pittsburgh Healthcare System currently employs 46 full-time staff psychologists, many of whom are involved in the training program. Our psychology staff has been increasing over the past few years to meet the growing demand for behavioral health services in our increasing VA population. Our staff psychologists' backgrounds, interests, and current activities are diverse. We have supervisors from a variety of graduate programs with varying lengths of tenure at the VAPHS. In addition to their clinical

work, our staff psychologists hold many important leadership positions, such as team leaders and medical center committee chairpersons. Our staff members are committed to providing evidence-based treatment approaches to our veterans. Most supervisors have completed VA certification and have provider status in at least one evidence-based psychotherapy and some are VA trainers for evidence-based psychotherapies (refer to list of training staff for specific information). Fellows will have the opportunity to learn evidence-based approaches appropriate for their specific emphasis area. Our psychology training programs (practicum, doctoral internship, and postdoctoral fellowship) are part of our VA's educational mission which includes many other training programs, such as medicine, social work, physical therapy, occupational therapy, chaplaincy, speech language pathology, and nursing. Our educational affiliation with the University of Pittsburgh allows trainees from many disciplines to participate in interdisciplinary training at our medical center. In addition to our VA psychology staff, the program also includes community psychologists who serve as seminar presenters and case conference participants to increase fellows' exposure to psychology in the Pittsburgh area.

Program Philosophy, Training Model, Program Goals, & Objectives

The mission of the VA Pittsburgh Healthcare System in training **clinical psychology** postdoctoral fellows is to provide supervised clinical and scholarly opportunities to selected postdoctoral students wishing to develop advanced skills in clinical psychology with a focus in Interdisciplinary Care, PTSD, and Substance Use Disorders. The aim of our training program is to produce psychologists with advanced training in the science and practice of clinical psychology for careers in VA or other health service settings. Thus, the focus of training is on developing advanced competence rather than remediation and it is expected that fellows will possess good generalist skills in psychology at the start of the training year. During the postdoctoral year, fellows will gain increased knowledge through their supervised clinical and scholarly activities. Individual supervision sessions at minimum of two hours per week with staff psychologists will promote an integration of case conceptualization, clinical findings, testing results, and psychological interventions. The fellowship program will be truly interdisciplinary in that a portion of clinical activities will occur when working not only with psychologists, but also a variety of other healthcare professionals. Our training philosophy reflects the **scholar-practitioner model** in that fellows are expected to develop proficiency in both clinical work and scholarly thinking. Consistent with this model, fellows will become familiar with state-of-the art, evidence-based practice and will integrate scholarly research into clinical practice. It is expected that, by the conclusion of the fellowship year, fellows will develop skills within the following core competency areas: Integration of science and practice; Individual and cultural diversity; Assessment; Intervention; Consultation and interprofessional/interdisciplinary skills; Professional values, attitudes and behaviors: Supervision skills.

The mission of the **Professional Geropsychology** fellowship program is to provide advanced training in the science and practice of geropsychology. Consistent with the Pikes Peak Model and the Training Guidelines for Postdoctoral Training in Professional Geropsychology Education, the aim of our fellowship is to prepare geropsychologists for independent clinical practice with older adults in a range of professional roles and health service settings using evidence-based practices. Thus, the focus of training is on developing advanced competence in geropsychology and it is expected that incoming fellows will possess at least intermediate level in knowledge of and foundational skills in professional geropsychology. During the postdoctoral year, fellows will gain increased knowledge through their supervised clinical and scholarly activities. Individual supervision sessions at minimum of two hours per week with staff geropsychologists will promote an integration of case conceptualization, clinical findings, testing results, and psychological interventions. The fellowship program will be truly interdisciplinary in that a portion of clinical activities will occur when working not only with psychologists, but also a variety of other healthcare professionals. Our training philosophy reflects the **scholar-practitioner model** in that fellows are expected to develop proficiency in both clinical work and scholarly thinking. Consistent with this model, fellows will become familiar with state-of-the art, evidence-based practice in geropsychology and will integrate scholarly research into clinical practice. It is expected that, by the conclusion of the fellowship year, fellows will develop skills within the following core competency areas: Integration of science and practice; Individual and cultural diversity; Assessment; Intervention; Consultation and interprofessional/interdisciplinary skills; Professional values, attitudes and behaviors: Supervision skills.

Program Structure

Rotation Structure: Our **clinical psychology** fellowship program consists of three focus areas: Interprofessional Care (1 slot), Posttraumatic Stress Disorder (1 slot), and Substance Use Disorders (1 slot). The structure of the program varies depending on the focus area. For the interprofessional care focus, the fellow functions as an active member of the interdisciplinary primary care team as well as has the opportunity to participate in one or more six-to-twelve month elective training rotations. For the PTSD focus, the fellow functions as an active member of the interdisciplinary outpatient PTSD clinical team (PCT) within the Combat Stress Recovery Clinic (CSRC) for the entire year. In addition, this fellow has the opportunity to participate in one or more six-to-twelve month elective training rotations. For the SUD focus, the fellow will function as an active member of the interdisciplinary treatment team in the Center for Treatment of Addictive Disorders (CTAD) for the entire year. The fellow will provide core clinical services across each of the three clinical components within the CTAD, which include the Residential Rehabilitation Program, the Outpatient Recovery and Aftercare Clinic, and the Opioid Substitution Therapy Program.

Our **Professional Geropsychology** program consists of 2 slots. Fellows complete two 6-month rotations in the Neurobehavioral Program/Community Living Center (CLC) and the GRECC.

Didactics: In addition to clinical experiences, all fellows will participate in at least two hours of didactic training per week. All fellows will participate in a one-hour combined fellowship seminar and in at least one additional hour of a didactic related to the fellow's focus area. All didactics will be described in the next section.

Supervision and Evaluation: The psychology postdoctoral fellowship supervisors are dedicated to providing quality supervision to fellows. All supervisory sessions are intended to offer meaningful feedback to the fellow in order to increase understanding of his/her clinical strengths and weaknesses and to facilitate professional growth. As aids in the supervisory process, digital recording, direct observation, and co-therapy may be used. While the primary focus of supervisory sessions is on the development of clinical skills, other issues such as administrative dynamics, professional ethics, and cultural issues are often addressed. Fellows receive a minimum of two hours of formal individual supervision weekly. Supervisors are also available on an as needed basis beyond the regularly scheduled times of supervision.

Progress towards the attainment of the training goals is determined by means of regularly scheduled evaluations. Feedback between fellows and supervisors is on going. Monthly evaluations are discussed informally with the fellow and at a monthly supervisors' meeting chaired by the Director of Clinical Training. A mid-rotation evaluation occurs at the 3-month and 9-month time points with the supervisor reviewing the fellow's progress thus far in terms of the specific skills defined within each core competency area. At the conclusion of each six-month rotation, a formal evaluation of the fellow's progress is made. This evaluation is discussed with the fellow prior to submission to the Director of Clinical Training for inclusion in the fellow's training record. In conjunction with the supervisor's evaluation of the fellow, each fellow is asked to evaluate the supervisor. Fellows are encouraged to evaluate their own performance and that of the fellowship critically so that the evaluation process is not merely unidirectional.

Training Experiences (Rotations, Seminars)

Training Rotations:

I. Professional Geropsychology Program: Fellows are required to complete two six-month rotations during the training year. A description of each rotation follows:

A. GRECC Rotation: This rotation is comprised of primarily two clinical opportunities that are part of the GRECC program. The fellow on this rotation will have the opportunity to work with various interdisciplinary teams in providing psychological treatment to older veterans in both settings:

1. **GEM Clinic/Outpatient Behavioral Health Clinic:** The Geriatric Evaluation and Management (GEM) outpatient clinic at the University Drive division provides an integrated evaluation and coordination of care for older veterans with a variety of medical conditions. The GEM team consists of professionals from many disciplines under the direction of a staff geriatrician. Fellow responsibilities include psychological evaluations, cognitive evaluations, and participation in patient management conferences. As part of the GEM clinic, fellows also conduct driving safety evaluations for the Geriatric Driving Safety Clinic.
2. **Home Based Primary Care Program:** The HBPC program is an interdisciplinary team which provides home care to frail older adults, many of whom would not otherwise be able to receive care because of their inability to travel. This program is unique in that fellows will provide psychological services in the veteran's home. Fellow responsibilities include psychological evaluation, cognitive evaluation, individual/family psychotherapy including caregiver stress interventions, and participation in treatment team meetings. Fellows also have the opportunity to carry an outpatient psychotherapy caseload, providing individual psychotherapy and couples therapy to older veterans. Fellows also provide one hour of supervision per week to the predoctoral psychology intern assigned to the GRECC rotation.

The primary clinical supervisor for this rotation is Dr. Bernadette Pasquale.

B. Neurobehavioral Program (NBP) – Community Living Center (CLC) Rotation:

This rotation is designed to focus on issues related to aging with a strong emphasis on neuropsychology. Fellows will work with the staff of the Neurobehavioral Program at the Heinz Division where they will conduct comprehensive neuropsychological assessments with older adult veterans including clinical interview; test selection, administration, and scoring; interpretation of assessment data from multiple sources; and report writing. Fellows will also provide feedback of results with recommendations to veterans and their families. Follow-up and brief psychotherapy to address depression, neuropsychiatric disorders, adjustment to cognitive change, caregiver issues, or family/couples issues will also be provided when appropriate. Consultation with other NBP staff, such as the NBP neurologist, will also be initiated when appropriate.

On the CLC half of the rotation, fellows work closely with a wide range of disciplines and with medically compromised veterans in the Community Living Center at the Heinz Division. Consultation in the CLC includes psychological assessment, brief psychotherapy, brief cognitive assessment, evaluation of decision-making capacity, development of behavior management plans, and/or staff education. Fellows are actively involved in the Intensive Rehab Program (IRP), attending weekly interdisciplinary team meetings. The IRP is a subacute, CARF-accredited medical inpatient rehab program designed for veterans with recent orthopedic surgeries, stroke, or acquired brain injury. Fellows also provide clinical supervision to a psychology intern on assessment cases, individual psychotherapy, and/or the development and implementation of an outpatient memory enhancement group through NBP.

The primary clinical supervisors for this rotation are Dr. Kimberly Christensen (CLC) and Dr. Edward Kendjelic (NBP).

II. Clinical Psychology Program:

- A. **Interprofessional Care Focus:** During the 12-month training year, the fellow will function as an active member of the interdisciplinary treatment team in Primary Care at the H.J. Heinz division. The focus of the fellowship is on learning to deliver psychological services in a primary care

medical setting and specifically within a Patient Aligned Care Team (PACT). Fellows will have an opportunity to work with veterans presenting from the Primary Care Clinic with a wide spectrum of psychological problems. The most frequent referrals are for mood and anxiety disorders, stress management, adjustment disorder (often related to medical conditions or chronic pain), and insomnia. Fellows will have ample opportunity to conduct initial diagnostic evaluations and to learn how to adapt traditional clinical and health psychology services to the primary care setting. Typical clinical activities include assessment and short-term individual therapy for clinical and health psychology problems; consultation and collaboration with other professionals within primary care, and triaging patients to appropriate specialty clinics. An emphasis will be placed on a collaborative approach with the fellow participating in joint consultative visits and serving as a consultant-liaison to PACT teams. The primary therapeutic approach for this rotation is cognitive-behavioral therapy (CBT). Training in motivational interviewing (MI) for health behavior change and in Acceptance and Commitment Therapy (ACT) is also available. The dominant mode of service delivery is individual therapy. The fellow will be required to co-develop treatment groups with other disciplines and trainees focusing on health promotion and self-management of disease.

In addition to the primary clinical assignment within PACT, the fellow will have the opportunity to select two 6-month electives for 1 day per week. Electives emphasize interprofessional collaboration and include: Home Based Primary Care, Community Living Center, Geriatric Evaluation and Management Clinic, Community Based Outpatient Clinics, OEF/OIF/OND clinic, Healthy Women's Clinic, Telemental Health, and health psychology including pain rehabilitation program and organ transplant evaluations.

The primary supervisors for this emphasis area are: Drs. Jebediah Northern and Jody Tomko.

- B. PTSD Focus:** The PTSD Fellow functions as an active member of the Combat Stress Recovery Clinic (CSRC). The CSRC is a specialized outpatient interdisciplinary team comprised of psychologists, psychiatrists, social workers, nurse practitioners, chaplains and support personnel. The primary function of the CSRC is to evaluate and treat veterans with combat-related distress, including PTSD, from all combat eras (WWII, Korea, Vietnam, Operation Desert Storm, Operation Iraqi Freedom/Enduring Freedom/Operation New Dawn). The Fellow is fully involved in providing a wide range of outpatient services which include initial diagnostic evaluations, treatment planning, individual and group psychotherapy. Fellows will refine skills in empirically supported treatments for PTSD such as Prolonged Exposure (PE) and Cognitive Processing Therapy (CPT). Fellows will have the opportunity to become a VA recognized CPT provider following completion of the CPT regional training and 6 months of CPT consultation calls. In addition to EBPs for PTSD, Fellows will deliver a wide range of evidenced-based interventions for complex presentations including dual diagnosis, substance use disorders, and comorbid personality disorders. The Fellow may also have the opportunity to provide evidence-based psychotherapy for PTSD using Clinical Video Telehealth (CVT) technology, after receiving training in the CVT equipment and procedures. Fellows will facilitate the clinic's Seeking Safety group, an inpatient coping skills group on a rotating basis, and have the opportunity to develop or facilitate other group offerings in the clinic. Additionally, the Fellow will provide clinical supervision of a psychology intern. Fellow supervision of CSRC intern would include evidence-based therapy for PTSD (PE or CPT) and Seeking Safety. The Fellow will regularly present in CSRC didactics including weekly PTSD Case Conference/PTSD Journal Club and CSRC interdisciplinary treatment meeting. The Fellow will have one primary supervisor for six months and will shift supervision to another primary supervisor for the remaining six months. Supervisors: Drs. Shannon Coleman, Kathleen DeNardi, and Kristen Hosey.

In addition to the above training experiences, the Fellow can choose to participate in one or more elective areas of specialized training for a minimum of 6 months, which can be extended up to a maximum of 12 months, during the course of the training year. These include **Military Sexual Trauma (MST) and Substance Use Disorders (SUD)**. The Fellow can participate in one area of specialized training at a time. With the MST elective specialty area, the Fellow will have the

opportunity to evaluate and treat veterans who have experienced sexual trauma during their military service. Treatment for PTSD secondary to MST will primarily utilize Cognitive Processing Therapy (CPT). The primary supervisor for the MST training is Dr. Korchynsky. With the SUD elective specialty area, the Fellow will have the opportunity to work with the Center for Treatment of Addictive Disorders (CTAD) evaluating and treating veterans with substance use disorders. Activities may include initial evaluations, treatment planning, case management, individual psychotherapy, and group psychotherapy. The primary supervisor for the SUD training is one of the psychologists in CTAD.

- C. Substance Use Disorders Focus:** During the 12-month training year, the fellow will function as an active member of the interdisciplinary treatment team in the Center for Treatment of Addictive Disorders (CTAD). Mastery of evidence-based practices in Substance Use Disorders treatment is emphasized as a core skill, particularly motivational interviewing and MET, a cornerstone in the structure and philosophical approach in the CTAD. The fellow will have the opportunity to train in multiple evidence-based practices including cognitive processing therapy, acceptance and commitment therapy, seeking safety, and contingency management. The fellow will provide core clinical services across each of the three clinical components within the CTAD, which include the Residential Rehabilitation Program, the Outpatient Recovery and Aftercare Clinic, and the Opioid Substitution Therapy Program. The fellow will complete diagnostic interviews, perform psychological testing, formulate treatment plans, conduct individual and group psychotherapy, and provide consultative and adjunct services to other Behavioral Health Teams and Medical Specialty Outpatient Clinics. Fellows may also provide case management services to veterans participating in the residential rehabilitation program. Fellows will develop skills needed to lead cognitive behavioral groups independently and will be asked to develop at least one therapy group that conforms to best-practice principles and evidence-based techniques. The fellow will work with at least two primary clinical supervisors in CTAD during the training year in the above settings. Fellows will have 1 primary supervisor for 6 months and then switch to another primary supervisor for the final 6 months.

Supervisors include Drs. Leigh Gemmell, Ryan Hosey, Melissa Johnson, David Menges, and Anya Moon.

Supervision Responsibilities: As part of their professional development as psychologists, all fellows will have the opportunity to provide supervision to psychology doctoral interns, under the supervision of a staff psychologist. Development of supervisory skills is often overlooked in clinical training, resulting in psychologists providing supervision without any formal training in or supervision of supervisory skills. Fellows will be required to provide one hour of supervision per week to an intern. In addition, fellows will be expected to attend the Supervisor Development Series, a program designed for the staff psychologists to discuss supervisory issues and refine supervisory skills. Furthermore, fellows will attend the monthly supervisor meetings and will serve on the Clinical Training Committee by attending quarterly meetings and assisting with the selection of interns and fellows.

Didactics: All fellows will participate in the 1-hour weekly Fellowship Seminar Series. This seminar series provides the opportunity for fellows to meet during the week and share experiences and knowledge of clinical psychology. The seminar series includes:

1. **Monthly Journal Club:** During this journal club also attended by the doctoral interns, two recent articles in psychology are reviewed each month with discussion emphasizing a critique of the science of the articles and integration of research into clinical practice (1st Wednesday of the month).
2. **Professional Development Seminar:** Dr. Pasquale facilitate this seminar which incorporates lecture, discussion, and reading on supervisory development, ethical issues, and professional growth (2nd Friday of the month).

3. **Fellowship Case Conference:** During this case conference, fellows rotate presenting a case with staff psychologists rotating as facilitators (3rd Friday of the month).
4. **Fellowship Seminar:** Psychology staff present lectures/discussions on a professional topic in clinical psychology (4th Friday of the month).

In addition to the above fellowship seminar series, all fellows also attend the following:

1. **Supervisor Development Series:** This bimonthly seminar is attended by fellows and staff psychologists. A scholarly article regarding supervision of psychology trainees is chosen for discussion during each meeting.
2. **Evidence-Based Psychology Seminar Series:** The VA Healthcare System is committed to providing training to providers in evidence-based psychotherapies for various disorders. The content from several of these national training seminars has been released and modified for use by VA training programs. Our program offers a series of 6 monthly seminars at the beginning of the training year to provide an overview of theory and specific interventions for the following evidence-based psychotherapies: Cognitive Behavior Therapy for Depression, Cognitive Processing Therapy for PTSD, Prolonged Exposure for PTSD, Acceptance and Commitment Therapy, Social Skills Training, and Integrative Behavioral Couple Therapy. Fellows are required to attend at least one of these seminars of their choice.
3. **Diversity Seminars:** Fellows will attend various fellow-directed diversity seminars. Each fellow will select a diversity topic and present either a case example and/or scholarly literature to facilitate discussion.

In addition to the above seminars designed for all fellows, fellows will attend at least one additional hour of didactics within their emphasis area, as described:

Professional Geropsychology Program:

1. **GRECC Didactic Series:** Three weekly GRECC didactics are held on Fridays for trainees in all disciplines funded by the GRECC. These didactics include a case conference, core lecture on geriatric issues/syndromes, and a professional lecture open to all staff in the medical center. The fellow assigned to the GRECC rotation is required to attend all three didactics each week.
2. **Neuropsychology Case Conference:** During this biweekly case conference (1st and 3rd Wednesday), a case is presented by staff psychologists, psychology consultants, psychology fellows, and neuropsychology interns. The fellow assigned to the NBP rotation is required to attend this didactic.
3. **Neuroanatomy Seminar Series:** The focus of this biweekly series (2nd and 4th Wednesday) is initially on brain structure and pathways, brain function, understanding cerebral vascular supply, the basics of a neurological exam, reading neuroradiology, the cognitive effects of psychotropic medications, and understanding lab values and the effects of metabolic disorders on brain function. Additional related topics are discussed later in the year, such as assessment of malingering and discussion of new assessment instruments. The primary resource for this series is the text *Neuroanatomy through Clinical Cases* by Hal Blumenfeld, MD, Ph.D. (2002), Sinauer Associates, Inc., Sunderland, MA. The fellow assigned to the NBP rotation is required to attend this didactic.
4. **Geropsychology Journal Club:** During this monthly journal club, fellows, interns, and staff psychologists rotate selecting current articles in the field of geropsychology for review and discussion. Both geropsychology fellows attend this didactic for the entire year.
5. **Fellow Diversity Seminar:** The Fellow Diversity Seminar is a series of five seminars designed for geropsychology fellows that are held during the year. These seminars focus on diversity issues in the

assessment and treatment of older adults, such as assessment considerations with African-American older adults, diversity in long-term care, and considerations in psychotherapy with GLB older adults. The fellowship staff supervisors serve as the presenters for these seminars. Both geropsychology fellows are required to attend this didactic.

Clinical Psychology Program:

Interprofessional Care Focus:

1. **Primary Care/Behavioral Medicine Journal Club & Case Conference:** During this monthly journal club and case conference, fellows, interns, and staff psychologists rotate presenting an article and case presentation in the field of primary care psychology / behavioral medicine for review and discussion.
2. **PC-MHI Consultation Call:** The Primary Care – Mental Health Integration (PC-MHI) consultation call is a monthly discussion call led by VISN 4. This interprofessional call focuses upon discussion of primary care – mental health integration issues and related resources for clinicians. The fellow contacts Mr. William Cress to enroll in the PC-MHI consultation call.
3. **Interdisciplinary Team (IDT) Case Conference:** This case conference, held weekly on Friday mornings, is attended by members of the interdisciplinary primary care PACT and provides the fellow the opportunity to present and discuss cases with an interprofessional focus.

In addition to these required didactics, the fellow is also welcome to attend any of the didactics described above or below.

PTSD Focus:

1. **PTSD Case Conference:** Weekly case conference attended by PTSD staff psychologists and interns focusing on differential diagnosis and assessment of combat-related PTSD.
2. **PTSD Journal Club:** Monthly journal club during which two scholarly articles related to PTSD are discussed with an emphasis on clinical application of the research.
3. **CPT and PE Consultation Conference:** Led by our local evidence-based psychotherapy coordinator, this conference meets monthly and is attended by interested staff and psychology trainees and provides group consultation on CPT and PE therapy cases.
4. **CPT Training:** Led by Drs. K. Hosey and Korchynsky, regional VA trainers and consultants in CPT, a 3-day VA CPT training will be held in in the fall at VAPHS. Following the training, the fellow will participate in a weekly consultation call for 6 months and will complete 2 cases using CPT to fulfill requirements to become a VA-recognized CPT provider.

In addition to these required didactics, the fellow is also welcome to attend any of the didactics described above or below.

Substance Use Disorders Focus:

1. **Substance Use Disorder Seminar:** Monthly seminar series facilitated by the CTAD staff which may include presentations of recent SUD research, best practices in SUD treatment, case presentation, or journal club.
2. **SUD Case Conference:** This conference meets monthly and focuses on assessment and intervention of substance use disorders. The case conference is attended by psychology interns, psychology fellows, and psychology staff. Other members (psychiatry, nurses, social workers, etc.) from the CTAD team may also attend this case conference.

In addition to these required didactics, the fellow is also welcome to attend any of the didactics described above.

APA-Approved Sponsorship of Continuing Education: In 1985, Highland Drive was awarded approval from the American Psychological Association to offer Continuing Education programs in Psychology. Each year, several intern seminars are offered for continuing education hours and fellows are encouraged to attend these seminars as interested. In addition, an annual conference focusing on ethical issues in psychology is sponsored for continuing education hours and fellows are required to attend this conference.

Requirements for Completion for Both Programs

For fellows to remain in good standing in the program, fellows must achieve at least a majority of ratings of "3" in each competency area on the rotation evaluation form at mid-year, indicating that competency for each skill item is at the level beyond the start of the postdoctoral training year, but below that expected at the conclusion of the postdoctoral training year. In addition, fellows must not engage in any ethical violations to maintain good standing in the program.

To successfully complete the fellowship program, fellows must achieve the following requirements:

1. A fellow must complete the entire year of training (i.e., 2080 hours).
2. A fellow must be in "good standing" and removed from any probationary status.
3. By the conclusion of the training year, a fellow must achieve a rating of "4" for every competency skill in each competency domain on the final Evaluation of Fellow Performance, indicating that a fellow has demonstrated competency for this skill at the level expected at the conclusion of the postdoctoral training year.

Facility and Training Resources

All fellows are assigned an individual office with most offices located in the clinic where the fellow works. Offices are generally in close proximity to supervisors to promote informal supervision and consultation. Fellows are assigned a hospital pager and given keys to access psychology offices, nursing stations, and hospital units. All fellows have a personal computer in their office with access to the computerized patient record system, e-mail, Internet, and Microsoft software. Fellows also have access to our computer lab for additional computer availability and full-time computer support technician. The fellows are also given access to the VA voice mail system. Psychological and neuropsychological testing equipment is available to fellows through our psychology technicians as well as part of the psychology package on the hospital computer system. To assist with development of psychotherapy and supervision skills, fellows have access to digital recorders. Medical libraries are located at both divisions and fellows have access to journals, interlibrary loans, and computer-based literature searches. Our medical librarians are extremely helpful in assisting staff and fellows to retrieve selected journal articles and books from other sources.

Fellows may park at either division without cost. The VA medical center also operates a shuttle system that fellows may utilize to travel between divisions.

The stipend for the training year is \$43,172. Fellows can elect to participate in federal health insurance plans. Fellows earn annual leave (personal time off) and sick leave at the rate of 4 hours every two weeks. In addition to the annual leave and sick leave,, we grant authorized absence to fellows for approved training activities and conferences, including sitting for the psychology licensure examination.

Although there is no limit to the amount of authorized absence that a fellow may use, permission to take authorized absence will only be granted when a fellow is making satisfactory progress in meeting the requirements of his/her rotation.

Administrative Policies and Procedures

During orientation to the VA Pittsburgh Healthcare System, fellows are provided a training manual that contains important policies and information for the fellowship program as well as for the medical center. Included in the training manual is our grievance policy concerning identification and resolution of problems arising during the internship year. Copies of all evaluation forms are also included in the training manual. Copies of our evaluation forms and grievance policy are available to interested applicants upon request. Our privacy policy is clear. We will not collect any personal information about you when you visit our website. Our program does not require self-disclosure.

Trainees

Since the inception of our postdoctoral program in 2000, we have accepted fellows from clinical Ph.D. and Psy.D. programs and counseling Ph.D. programs. Fellows have completed internships in various VA medical centers, including our own, as well as other programs, such as state hospitals and psychiatry departments within university medical centers. The majority of our fellows have accepted staff psychologist positions at VA Medical Centers (including our own). Two former fellows established private practices in geropsychology. Many of our fellows have enjoyed the transition to Pittsburgh and have remained in the Pittsburgh area, suggesting that Pittsburgh is a desirable city in which to reside!

During exit interviews with fellows over the past several years, fellows have consistently identified two strengths of our fellowship program. First, fellows have commented that both the breadth and depth of training experiences are a significant strength of our program. Although fellows focus their training in a specific emphasis area, fellows have commented that the breadth of training experiences in each emphasis area over the course of the year is significant. Fellows have also commented that the training has broadened their skills in clinical psychology beyond the emphasis area. Furthermore, fellows have stated the depth of training within each emphasis area allows for more focused training and development of specific skills. Second, fellows have consistently described both the quality and quantity of supervision as strengths. Fellows have remarked that supervisors are always available for scheduled supervision in addition to informal consultation and emergency supervision. Our supervisors have been described as enthusiastic, dedicated, and invested in training and the professional growth of fellows.

Local Information



Pittsburgh is located in southwestern Pennsylvania, where the Monongahela and Allegheny Rivers meet to form the Ohio River. Contrary to popular belief, Pittsburgh is no longer the industrial steel town of the 50's and 60's. In fact, Pittsburgh was rated the "Most Livable City" in the 2007 edition of the Places Rated Almanac and again in 2010 by Forbes.com! The downtown area and riverfront have undergone massive renovation, and several vibrant sub-communities have emerged over the past decade. An exciting blend of old and new, Pittsburgh is a city of history, business, culture, research, medicine, sports, and recreation that pleasantly surprises newcomers!

The largest metropolitan area in the Ohio Valley and Appalachia, Pittsburgh is a growing city. "The Steel City" has 446 bridges, creating a unique urban terrain within a beautiful natural valley. The city is home to numerous diverse cultural groups, and offers a variety of authentic world cuisines within our various districts. For lovers of the culinary arts, you will find a variety of coffee shops, bakeries, and restaurants. Rich in American history, Pittsburgh also has a growing art and cultural scene. It is the home of the Andy Warhol Museum, the Carnegie library system, and has numerous universities and colleges such as University of Pittsburgh, Carnegie Mellon, Duquesne, and Chatham, creating a constant influx of energy, creative thought, and activity. There are also a wide variety of entertainment opportunities, including events at the CONSOL Energy Center, local music venues, as well as Broadway shows in the downtown theatre district. The city is ideal for families, with a local zoo, aquarium, the Phipps Conservatory and Botanical Gardens, and the National Aviary. Sports enthusiasts will be welcomed into the loyal hometown community, supporting the Pirates, Steelers, and Penguins. With its unique location, Pittsburgh also offers easy accessibility to a variety of city and state parks, water sports, caving systems, and wildlife preserves, creating a multitude of activities for naturalists.

For more information about our exciting city and the diversity of "the 'Burgh", view these websites:

www.visitpittsburgh.com

www.pump.org

www.coolpgh.pitt.edu

www.vibrantpittsburgh.org



Many of our interns have enjoyed their experience in Pittsburgh and have offered the following testimonials:

"I was surprised with how much I fell in love with PGH during my internship year...I loved how different neighborhoods had their own unique identity, I loved the easy access to large parks within the city, and loved how beautiful PGH is with all its hills, bridges, and public art. What a gem of a city!"

"PGH has a 'small city' feel and it's easy to find your niche here. At the same time, it's a vibrant place to live, with lots going on. There is something for everyone—whether you love hiking and spending time outside or watching sports, or going to museums."

"The great dining and food scene, and the very reasonable cost of living compared to other regions."

“The city had a lot more diversity and cultural activities than I expected. Lots of great places to eat and things to do. I like the ethnic diversity of my neighborhoods. Easy access to natural areas inside and outside the city.”

“I found lots of social groups/clubs outside of work and made many friends that I still stay in touch with after leaving the area.”

Psychologist Training Supervisors

VA Pittsburgh Healthcare System Staff

Kimberly A. Christensen, Ph.D., is a Supervisory Psychologist at the VA Pittsburgh Healthcare System, HJ Heinz Division. She earned her doctorate in clinical psychology from Kent State University in 2000. Dr. Christensen completed an internship at the Buffalo VA Medical Center in 2000 focusing on Geropsychology as well as a post-doctoral fellowship in clinical psychology with an emphasis in Geropsychology at the VA Pittsburgh Healthcare System in 2001. She is the primary supervisor for the fellow on the CLC portion of the NBP/CLC rotation. She maintains clinical responsibilities in the Community Living Center at the Heinz Division and is team leader for the CLC Behavioral Health Team. Dr. Christensen's primary clinical interests include provision of psychological services in long-term care (including consultation, psychological and cognitive assessment, individual and group psychotherapy, and staff training/education, interdisciplinary team work), family caregiving, and clinical supervision. Dr. Christensen has also completed VA training and consultation in Cognitive Behavioral Therapy for Depression and has provider status.

Shannon L. Coleman, Ph.D. is a clinical psychologist at the VA Pittsburgh Healthcare System in the Combat Stress Recovery Clinic (CSRC). She earned her doctorate in clinical psychology at Binghamton University (SUNY) after completion of her internship at the Pittsburgh VA Healthcare System. Dr. Coleman supervises psychology interns and fellows on the PTSD rotation and is the Evidence-Based Psychotherapy Coordinator for the PTSD Clinical Team. She is a VA recognized Prolonged Exposure provider and is a consultant for the National Center for PTSD Prolonged Exposure Therapy Initiative. Her clinical and research interests have focused on the use of evidence-based psychotherapies for PTSD, the cognitive processes associated with the development of anxiety disorders, and understanding and addressing barriers to treatment. Dr. Coleman has completed VA training and consultation in Prolonged Exposure (PE) and Cognitive Processing Therapy (CPT) and has provider status. Dr. Coleman is also a national consultant for the National Center for PTSD Prolonged Exposure Therapy Initiative.

Kathleen A. DeNardi, Ph.D. is a clinical psychologist at the VA Pittsburgh Healthcare System in the Combat Stress Recovery Clinic. She earned her doctorate in clinical psychology at Miami University in 2008 after completing her clinical internship at the VA Western New York Healthcare System. Dr. DeNardi specializes in the assessment and treatment of veterans diagnosed with both PTSD and comorbid substance use disorders and serves as a supervisor for the fellow in the PTSD emphasis. Her clinical and research interests have focused on PTSD, Substance Use Disorders, combat stress, sexual trauma and interpersonal violence. Dr. DeNardi has completed VA training and consultation in Prolonged Exposure and Cognitive Processing Therapy and has provider status. She is also a national consultant for the National Center for PTSD Prolonged Exposure Therapy Initiative.

Leigh Gemmell, PhD is a clinical psychologist in the Center for Treatment of Addictive Disorders (CTAD). She earned her doctorate in clinical psychology at the University of Maryland, Baltimore County in 2007 after completing her internship at VA Pittsburgh Healthcare System (VAPHS). She participated in a fellowship program in health services research at VAPHS's Center for Health Equity Research and Promotion (CHERP), and a fellowship program in psycho-oncology and transplant medicine at the Starzl Transplantation Institute at the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center. Dr. Gemmell's clinical and research interests include health psychology, Motivational Interviewing, substance use disorders, self-management of chronic conditions, and pain management. Dr. Gemmell is a supervisor for the fellow in

the Substance Use Disorder emphasis. Dr. Gemmell has completed VA training and consultation in the Evidence-Based Practice of Cognitive Behavioral Therapy for Depression, and she has provider status.

Kristen Hosey, Ph.D. is a staff psychologist in the Combat Stress Recovery Clinic. Dr. Hosey earned her doctorate in clinical psychology from the University of Louisville in 2012. She completed her clinical internship at the Salem VAMC and her postdoctoral fellowship training in PTSD at VAPHS. Dr. Hosey is one of the primary supervisors for the psychology postdoctoral fellowship (PTSD focus), as well as for the Cognitive Processing Therapy elective. Primary clinical and research interests include: comorbidity of PTSD and substance use disorders, non-combat trauma, Motivational Interviewing, Cognitive Processing Therapy, Prolonged Exposure, and Dialectical Behavior Therapy. Dr. Hosey has completed VA training in Cognitive Processing Therapy and is also a CPT regional trainer.

Ryan Hosey, Ph.D. is a staff psychologist at the Center for Treatment of Addictive Disorders. Dr. Hosey earned his doctorate in clinical psychology from the University of Louisville in 2012. He completed his clinical internship and postdoctoral fellowship training in substance use disorders treatment at VAPHS. Dr. Hosey is one of the primary supervisors for the psychology postdoctoral fellowship (substance use disorders emphasis). Primary clinical and research interests include: Substance use disorders and comorbid anxiety disorders, Motivational Interviewing, Motivational Enhancement Therapy (MET), Acceptance and Commitment Therapy (ACT), mindfulness-based psychotherapies, Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBT), anger management, and interpersonal process factors. Dr. Hosey has completed VA training in MET and is currently receiving consultation.

Melissa Johnson, Ph.D. is a staff psychologist at the Center for Treatment of Addictive Disorders. Dr. Johnson earned her doctorate in clinical psychology from the University of Minnesota in 2011. She completed her internship at VA Maryland Healthcare System in Baltimore and continued her training as a post-doctoral fellow at the Baltimore MIRECC. Dr. Johnson is one of the primary supervisors for the fellow on the Substance Use Disorders rotation. Her clinical interests are serious mental illness and substance use, Acceptance and Commitment Therapy, Cognitive Behavioral Therapy and Motivational Interviewing.

Edward M. Kendjelic, Ph.D. is a staff neuropsychologist at the VA Pittsburgh Healthcare System and the team leader the Neurobehavioral Program. He completed his doctorate in clinical psychology at the University of Louisville in 1998. He completed his internship in clinical psychology at the Houston VA Medical Center in 1998 and postdoctoral fellowship training in geropsychology at the Houston VA Medical Center in 1999. Dr. Kendjelic is one of the primary supervisors for the fellow on the Neurobehavioral Program rotation and one of the supervisors for the neuropsychology internship rotation. He also serves as Vice-Chairperson for the VAPHS Research and Development Committee. Clinical and research interests include: cognitive assessment of dementia, stroke, traumatic brain injury, and neurodegenerative disorders.

Roksana Korchynsky, Ph.D. is a staff psychologist and Military Sexual Trauma program coordinator at VA Pittsburgh Healthcare System. She is also the MST point of contact for VISN 4, which encompasses 10 VA medical centers. Additionally, Dr. Korchynsky is the Evidence-Based Psychotherapies Coordinator for VAPHS and is a VA-recognized Cognitive Processing Therapy provider. Dr. Korchynsky earned her doctorate in clinical psychology from Bowling Green State University in 2000. She completed her internship at VA Pittsburgh Healthcare System in 2000. Dr. Korchynsky specializes in the assessment and treatment of post-traumatic stress disorder secondary to sexual trauma in both male and female veterans and is the supervisor for the MST elective for the fellow in the PTSD emphasis. Her clinical and research interests have focused on stress-related health issues in women and trauma. She is a VA-recognized provider for: Cognitive Processing Therapy (CPT), Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBT), Acceptance and Commitment Therapy (ACT). Regional CPT Trainer & Consultant

David Menges, Ph.D. is a staff psychologist at the Center for Treatment of Addictive Disorders. Dr. Menges earned his doctorate in clinical psychology from Rutgers University in 2010. He completed his internship at VAPHS as well as a post-doctoral fellowship in substance use disorders at this facility. Dr. Menges is one of the primary supervisors for the fellow on the Substance Use Disorders rotation. Primary

clinical and research interests include: Motivational Interviewing, CBT for SUDs, couples therapy, and 12-Step Facilitation. Dr. Menges has completed VA training and consultation in Motivational Enhancement Therapy (MET), has provider status in MET, and serves as a consultant for the MI/MET VA Initiative. Dr. Menges has also completed VA training for Behavioral Couples Therapy for SUDs (BCT-SUD) and is currently receiving consultation.

Anya Moon, Ph.D., is a staff psychologist at the VA Pittsburgh Healthcare System Center for Treatment of Addictive Disorders. Dr. Moon earned her doctorate in counseling psychology in 2008 from Virginia Commonwealth University. She completed her internship at the Bureau of Prisons Federal Medical Center, Devens in 2008, and she completed a health psychology fellowship with the VA Connecticut Healthcare System in 2009. Her primary clinical and research interests include mindfulness-based therapies, Acceptance and Commitment Therapy, and sexual addictions. She is a primary supervisor for the fellow in the Substance Use Disorder emphasis. Dr. Moon has completed VA training and consultation in Cognitive Processing Therapy for PTSD and has provider status.

Jebediah Northern, Ph.D., is a staff psychologist in the Primary Care clinic at H.J. Heinz Division of VA Pittsburgh Healthcare System. He earned his doctorate in clinical psychology from Bowling Green State University in 2010, completing the Health Psychology Track. Dr. Northern completed his clinical internship as well as his fellowship in clinical psychology with an emphasis in geropsychology at the VA Pittsburgh Healthcare System in 2010 and 2011, respectively. Dr. Northern's primary clinical and research interests are in health psychology, ACT, CBT, insomnia, Motivational Interviewing, and geropsychology. He is also trained in the delivery of services via Clinical Video Telehealth (CVT). Dr. Northern is one of the primary supervisors for the interprofessional care emphasis.

Bernadette M. Pasquale, Ph.D. is a staff geropsychologist at the VA Pittsburgh Healthcare System and is the Director of Clinical Training for the internship and fellowship programs. Dr. Pasquale earned her doctorate in clinical psychology from Ohio University in 1995. She completed her internship at the Miami VA Medical Center in 1994 and completed a geropsychology fellowship at the Cleveland VA Medical Center in 1996. Dr. Pasquale has clinical responsibilities in the Ex-Prisoner of War Program and GEM/GDSC clinics. She is one of the primary supervisors for the fellow on the GRECC rotation. Her primary clinical and research interests include: neuropsychological assessment of older adults and supervision/training. Dr. Pasquale has also completed VA training and consultation in Cognitive Behavioral Therapy for Depression and has provider status.

Jody Tomko, Ph.D., is a staff psychologist in the Primary Care clinic at H.J. Heinz Division of VA Pittsburgh Healthcare System. She earned her doctorate in clinical psychology from Western Michigan University in 2008. Dr. Tomko completed her clinical internship at VA Western New York Healthcare System in 2008. Dr. Tomko's primary clinical and research interests are in cognitive-behavioral therapy, Motivational Interviewing, geropsychology, health behavior change, and cultural diversity. She is also trained in the delivery of Clinical Video Telehealth (CVT). Dr. Tomko is one of the primary supervisors for the interprofessional care emphasis.

Other Contributors to Programs

VA Pittsburgh Healthcare System Staff

Sara E. Anderson, Psy.D. is a staff neuropsychologist at the VA Pittsburgh Healthcare System. Dr. Anderson earned her doctorate in clinical psychology from the Virginia Consortium Program in Clinical Psychology in 2010. She completed her internship at the Coatesville VA Medical Center in 2010 and completed a two-year neuropsychology fellowship at the VA Connecticut Healthcare System in 2012. Dr. Anderson is a contributor to the Professional Geropsychology fellowship program facilitating didactics including providing seminars for the Neuroanatomy Series (e.g., Neuroimaging and Neuropsychology,

Neuropsychology of Epilepsy) and participating in the Neuropsychology Case Conference. She has outpatient and inpatient clinical responsibilities within the Neurobehavioral Program and provides training/supervision for interns and practicum students. Her primary clinical interests include: neuropsychology, symptom validity testing, traumatic brain injury, dementias, and cognitive rehabilitation.

Lauren Jost, Psy.D. is a geropsychologist at the VA Pittsburgh Healthcare System. Dr. Jost earned her doctorate in clinical psychology from Xavier University in 2014. She completed her internship in clinical psychology at VAPHS in 2014, and completed her postdoctoral fellowship in professional geropsychology at VAPHS in 2015. Dr. Jost serves as the clinical psychologist for the Teledementia Clinic, performing clinical video telehealth evaluations of older adults who have dementia. The Teledementia clinic is a part of the Geriatric Evaluation and Management (GEM) Clinic on the GRECC rotation. Her clinical and research interests include: dementia, cognitive assessment of older adults, caregiving, end-of-life decisions, and diversity.

Jennifer M. Keller, Psy.D., ABPP is a staff neuropsychologist at the VA Pittsburgh Healthcare System and is a primary supervisor for practicum students and the internship program. Dr. Keller earned her doctorate in clinical psychology with a concentration in neuropsychology from Argosy University/Washington, DC in 2007. She completed her internship in the Neuropsychology Track at the VA Pittsburgh Healthcare System in 2007 and completed an APPCN fellowship in clinical neuropsychology at the Henry Ford Health System in 2009. She is board certified in neuropsychology. Dr. Keller has outpatient and inpatient clinical and supervisory responsibilities in the Neurobehavioral Program, which includes the Polytrauma Team. Dr. Keller is a contributor to the Professional Geropsychology fellowship program facilitating didactics including providing seminars for the Neuroanatomy Series and participating in the Neuropsychology Case Conference. Her primary clinical and research interests include symptom and performance validity testing, movement disorders, dementias, and caregiving.

Laura Smith-Seemiller, Ph.D., ABPP is a staff neuropsychologist in the Neurobehavioral Program at the VA Pittsburgh Healthcare System and board certified in neuropsychology. Dr. Smith-Seemiller earned her doctorate in clinical psychology from Ohio State University in 1989. She completed her internship at Pittsburgh VA Medical Center in 1989 and finished her post-doctoral supervision in neuropsychology while working in the Traumatic Brain Injury rehabilitation program at Greater Pittsburgh Rehabilitation Hospital in 1992. From 1992 to 1998 she was on staff at Allegheny General Hospital, during which clinical duties included neuropsychological assessment and psychotherapy (primarily with survivors of brain injury or stroke), supervision of psychology interns for an APA approved clinical psychology internship, and research. From 1998 to 2007 she was on staff at HealthSouth Rehabilitation Hospital, where her clinical duties primarily involved evaluation and treatment of inpatients who suffered stroke or TBI. Since 2007 she has been a staff neuropsychologist at VAPHS and is a contributor to the Professional Geropsychology fellowship program facilitating didactics including providing seminars for the Neuroanatomy Series (e.g., Neuroimaging and Neuropsychology, Neuropsychology of Epilepsy) and participating in the Neuropsychology Case Conference. Her primary clinical and research interests are neuropsychological assessment of adults and traumatic brain injury.

Trent T. Thatcher, Psy.D., is a staff geropsychologist at the VA Pittsburgh Healthcare System (VAPHS). He earned his doctorate in clinical psychology from Wright State University in 2003. Dr. Thatcher completed his predoctoral internship at the VAPHS in 2003, as well as a post-doctoral fellowship in clinical psychology with an emphasis in geropsychology at the VAPHS in 2004. He maintains clinical responsibilities at the H. J. Heinz Community Living Center and presents a diversity seminar to the fellows in the Professional Geropsychology program. Dr. Thatcher's primary clinical interests include provision of capacity evaluation and neuropsychological assessment of older adults, individual therapy in long-term care, ethics, and consultation and direct intervention with older adults receiving palliative and hospice care. Dr. Thatcher is a didactic seminar presenter for the Professional Geropsychology Fellowship. Dr. Thatcher has completed didactic VA training and consultation in Motivational Interviewing (MI) and has provider status.