

VA Interprofessional Advanced Fellowship in Addiction Treatment

Office of Academic Affiliations

The Coordinating Center for the Office of Academic Affiliations (OAA) Interprofessional Advanced Fellowship in Addiction Treatment

In August 2015, VA Pittsburgh Healthcare System was selected as the national coordinating center for OAA's Interprofessional Advanced Fellowship in Addiction Treatment. As the Addiction Treatment Coordinating Center (ATCC), we are the education, coordination, and dissemination resource for all 7 fellowship sites.

With the guidance and advisement from the Directors and Co-Directors of each site, we have developed a national monthly curriculum for fellows that focuses on Professional Development and Interdisciplinary Research and Scholarship. We launched our national curriculum on **Wednesday, September 2, 2015**; each session will take place on the first Wednesday of the month from 2:00-3:30pm EST via VANTS.

We are so excited to train and promote the next generation of VA leaders and change agents in addiction research, clinical care, and education!



Lauren Broyles, Adam Gordon, and Andrea Confer
VA Pittsburgh Healthcare System

How can I communicate with the Addiction Treatment Coordinating Center (ATCC), other fellows, and other Fellowship sites?

Modality	Members	Name of List Serve or Link
Co-Directors' Email List Serve	Fellowship Directors & selected staff from the Office of Academic Affiliations and Office of Mental Health Services	VA Addiction Treatment Advanced Fellowship Program Directors
Fellows' Email List Serve	All Advanced Addiction Fellows (7 sites)	VA Addiction Treatment Advanced Fellowship Fellows
National ATCC Share Point	Co-Directors and Fellows can access national fellowship curriculum, archived seminars, and relevant resources on addiction	http://goo.gl/662Ttb
Directors' Shared Drive	Directors can share information pertaining to fellowship applicants, resources, and curriculum	Map drive: \\vhaphm16\ATCC



Alumni Spotlight

Name: Michael Mitchell, MA

Fellowship Term: 2013-2015

Location: VA Pittsburgh Healthcare System–VA Interdisciplinary Addiction Program for Education and Research (VIPER)

Specialty: Qualitative Psychology, Behavioral Health Sciences Research

Fellowship Focus and Research Interests:

Mike is focused on developing a career translating patients' perspectives with patient-centered care and health service utilization into actionable insights for implementation. His primary interests include utilizing diverse qualitative methods to explore attitudes, preferences, and past experiences with behavioral healthcare utilization, particularly among patients with co-occurring psychiatric and substance use disorders.

During his fellowship, Mike secured \$25,000 in funding from the VISN4 Mental Illness Research, Education, and Clinical Center (MIRECC) to study perceptions of health, wellness, and integrated primary care among Veterans who are homeless or at risk for homelessness. In this study focused on capturing Veterans' voices and lived experiences, Veterans were given cameras and asked to take photographs which then supplemented their interviews about how they think about and manage their health and VA health care against the backdrop of housing instability.

To acquire skills in different types of qualitative data collection and analysis, Mike also served on several quality improvement projects at VA Pittsburgh Healthcare System related to addiction-related hospital performance measures, employee satisfaction, and systems redesign of work order processes. These experiences allowed him to meet clinical, administrative, and operational stakeholders across the medical center while acquiring hands-on experience in rapid qualitative data collection and analysis, and immediate translation of data into real-life systems change initiatives.

Mike is now an Analyst with the Allegheny County Office of Data Analysis Research and Evaluation and the Great Lakes Behavioral Research Institute.

"The fellowship truly offered a foundation for me to grow both personally and professionally. The mentorship was extremely helpful talking through career pathways while making sure I continue pursuing my passion with eliciting the patient's perspective to inform quality of care. It was really a great opportunity to learn about both the opportunities, as well as challenges, of pursuing interdisciplinary research in a large-scale health system. During my time as a fellow, I had opportunities to apply my new skills by working on a variety of quality improvement and research endeavors. Overall, I am confident the fellowship put me on the right track to make a difference by utilizing insights from the patient's perspective to inform product and/or service (re)design."

Reminders:

Monthly Directors' Calls: 1st Monday of each month from 1:00PM-2:00PM EST

Monthly Fellows' Curriculum Calls: 1st Wednesdays of each month at 2:00pm-3:30pm

Please remember to send us your good news!!!

We are interested in hearing about your publications, presentations, awards, and committee appointments. Nothing is too small! Let's celebrate everyone's achievements!

Fellowship Sites, Co-Directors, and Fellows

VA Boston Healthcare System

Co-Directors	John Renner, MD	Fellows	Amy Schreiner, PhD
	Deborah Brief, PhD		Marianne Pugatch, LCSW
			Gina Poole Laposta, PhD

VA Connecticut Healthcare System

Co-Directors	Ismene Petrakis, MD	Fellows	Maria Niculete, PhD
	Steve Martino, PhD		Ajay Manhapra, MD
	Ellen Edens, MD		Amy Loree, PhD
	David Pilkey, PhD		Mona Thapa, MD

VA North Texas Health Care System (Dallas)

Co-Directors	Bryon Adinoff, MD	Fellows	Sean Robinson, PhD
	Jamylah Jackson, PhD		

VA Pittsburgh Healthcare System

Co-Directors	Adam Gordon, MD, MPH	Fellows	Jeffrey Haibach, PhD
	Lauren Broyles, PhD, RN		Shaddy Saba, MA

South Texas Veterans Health Care System (San Antonio)

Co-Directors	Michael Dawes, MD	Fellows	Shuang Ouyang, PharmD
	Troy Moore, PharmD, MS		Kangwon Song, PharmD
			Ramona Shayegani, PharmD

VA San Diego Healthcare System

Co-Directors	Scott Matthews, MD	Fellows	Moira Haller, PhD
	Tamara Wall, PhD		Melodie Isgro, MD
			Ty Brumback, PhD

William S. Middleton Memorial Veterans Hospital (Madison)

Co-Directors	Randall Brown, MD, PhD	Fellows	Shalu Gugnani, MD
	Valerie Ahl, PhD		Angela Busch, PhD

VA Interprofessional Advanced Fellowship in Addiction Treatment

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Directors' Message

The VA's Rich History of Addiction Training and Scholarship

The VA has long recognized that the need for professionals trained to lead clinical, educational, and research, and system transformation initiatives and few training pathways to develop such professionals. VA has been proactive in assuring an appropriate addiction treatment workforce that is developed to meet the present and future needs of the VA and the nation for those who suffer from addiction and the use of alcohol and/or other substances.



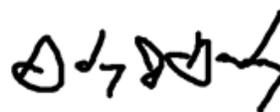
The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), through its Office of Academic Affiliations (OAA), has a long history of training physicians and other allied health care professionals to address addiction among Veteran and other populations. In 1994, the VA began offering, post-residency fellowship training to qualified physicians through the **Advanced Fellowship in Substance Abuse Treatment**. The aim of this program was to improve clinical and research training in addictions. These training programs helped to establish the **Addiction Psychiatry Fellowship Programs** that were recognized by the American Board of Medical Specialties (ABMS) and the American Council of Graduate Medical Education (ACGME). These newly ACGME accredited fellowships were only available to residents graduating from psychiatry training programs. Currently, the ACGME has recognized 43 residency programs in Addiction Psychiatry and the VA has continued to provide substantial financial support (supporting 50 positions) and training environments with their academic affiliates at 35 participating VA facilities. Through these activities, the VA is not just a Graduate Medical Education payer (second largest after the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services), but also provides the clinical and educational environments and clinical faculty that provide trainees with immersion in state of the art integrated treatment programs. In addition to supporting accredited Addiction Psychiatry fellowship programs, VA has continued to support the unaccredited **Advanced Fellowship in Substance Abuse Treatment** to provide psychiatrists and other physician specialists the opportunity to receive clinical training in addiction treatment as well as training in education, research, and administrative leadership. From 1995 - 2012, 76 physicians at 15 VA facilities were trained in this two year fellowship program.

VA has also recognized that there has been a shift in the understanding of substance abuse, addiction, and treatment strategies and that many types of healthcare professionals—not just physicians—engage in addiction identification and treatment, often as part of interdisciplinary teams. Thus, in 2013, the VA re-invigorated and re-competed their non-accredited addiction fellowship program and solicited proposals from VA facilities to serve as fellowship sites as ***Interprofessional Fellowships in Addiction Treatment***. The purpose of these ***Interprofessional Fellowship in Addiction Treatment*** was to develop leaders with vision, knowledge, and commitment to develop, implement, teach, and evaluate addiction treatments to improve healthcare for Veterans and the nation and for the first time offered these fellowship to qualified post-graduate physicians and other associated health care professionals (post-masters nurse, pharmacist, social worker, or psychologist). Seven VA healthcare systems consisting of two co-Directors (one physician and the other an associated healthcare professional) were selected as sites and authorized to annually recruit one physician and associated health care professional for this two-year education experience. A National Coordinating Center delivers a national interdisciplinary addiction curriculum, coordinates activities between the sites, assists in recruitment of fellows, and disseminates products of the fellows, fellowship sites, and the overall fellowship program. Many of these Fellows have been academically productive, receiving independent grant support for research projects, presenting their scholarly work at international conferences, and publishing book chapters and other peer reviewed scholarship. Since inception, 20 Interdisciplinary Fellows have been or are currently being trained.

In summary, the VA provides monetary support and support through its unique clinical environments, faculty, and training curriculum for both accredited and non-accredited training programs to train expert clinical, research, education, and administrative leaders in addressing addiction within the VA and the nation. VA looks forward to supporting future accredited training for physicians and other professionals to advance expertise in addiction treatment.



Lauren Broyles, PhD, RN



Adam J. Gordon, MD

VA



U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

Veterans Health Administration
Office of Academic Affiliations

Advanced Addiction Fellow Spotlights



Name: Maria Niculete, PhD

Fellowship Term: 9/1/2014—8/31/2016 (anticipated completion date)

Location: VA Connecticut Healthcare System (West Haven Campus)

Specialty: PhD Clinical Psychology

Fellowship Focus and Research Interests:

An overarching focus during fellowship has been expanding programs available in the substance abuse clinic. I completed the CBT-Insomnia roll-out in order to be able to provide CBTI treatment in the clinic and also started a smoking cessation group. We're currently getting ready to expand on our smoking cessation program to include a contingency management component (reinforcing decreasing smoking/abstinence) for the first 3 weeks when veterans enter our IOP program. I'm also very interested in harm reduction approaches and have been working closely with one of the pharmacists in psychiatry to help roll out the Overdose Education and Naloxone Distribution (OEND) initiative here at VACT. I started two overdose education groups (outpatient and residential unit) and we are starting a research project looking at provider and veterans' knowledge/attitudes towards overdose prevention and naloxone administration. I am also currently working on a paper on how state level policy on naloxone availability impacts the implementation of OEND programs at VA hospitals.

"I completed my clinical psychology internship at this VA prior to applying for this fellowship and I was very impressed with how easy it was to collaborate with staff across different disciplines. Additionally, my supervisors here have been very supportive of my clinical and research interests and supported my involvement in projects that are in line with my training goals."



Name: Ajay Manhapra, MD

Fellowship Term: July 2014—June 2016

Location: VA Connecticut Healthcare System (West Haven Campus)

Specialty: Internal Medicine Physician and specialty certification with the American Board of Addiction Medicine

Fellowship Focus and Research Interests:

A decade of clinical career as an internist/hospitalist that closely intersected with the growing challenge of prescription opioid use convinced me of the need of trained physicians and leaders to help manage the burden of addiction in communities. This prompted a mid career change to treatment and research in Addiction Medicine. My clinical work and research is largely focused on complex dependence to prescribed opioids in chronic pain patients with comorbid addictions and chronic diseases. I am also interested in how other substance use disorders interact with other chronic diseases among aging population of veterans. I am involved in developing a Buprenorphine clinic for homeless veterans locally, and an in-hospital substance abuses consult team focused initially on improving care for patients frequently hospitalized due to alcohol use disorder.

My manuscript titled "Treatment outcomes for veterans with PTSD and substance use: Impact of specific substances and achievement of abstinence" was accepted for publication by Drug and alcohol Dependence. I am leading a workshop at AMERSA annual meeting in November 2015 at Washington DC titled "Reassessment of long term opioid therapy for chronic pain in patients with adverse events."

"This fellowship allows me the opportunity to explore and learn the wide array of treatment options in Addiction treatment from the leaders in the field, and its implementation in a system wide manner."

Good News!!

Congratulations to **Ajay Manhapra, MD** on the acceptance for publication of his manuscript titled "Treatment outcomes for veterans with PTSD and substance use: Impact of specific substances and achievement of abstinence" by Drug and Alcohol Dependence. He is also leading a workshop at AMERSA annual meeting in November 2015 in Washington DC titled "Reassessment of long term opioid therapy for chronic pain in patients with adverse events." Dr. Manhapra also has two abstracts accepted for AMERSA and AAAP.

Christina (Kangwon Song, PharmD) attended her first international conference, INEBRIA (International Network on Brief Interventions for Alcohol & Other Drugs) through a Junior Investigator Travel Award funded by NIAAA and NIDA in September 2015. She has become a member of INEBRIA which is an international network of researchers, policy makers, public health scientists, providers (MD, RN, SW, LPC), and other stakeholders (CDC, NIAAA, NIDA, SAMHSA) interested in the potential of brief interventions to reduce the harms produced by alcohol/ drug use. INEBRIA aims to provide global leadership in the development, evaluation and implementation of evidence-based practice in the area of early identification and brief intervention for hazardous and harmful substance use. She plans to continue SBIRT research in the chronic pain and substance use disorder population and hopes to present a clinical decision support model at next year's conference in Switzerland!

Ms. Marianne Pugatch, MSW has local invited training/presentations and peer reviewed abstracts/posters.

Local Invited Training/Presentations:

2015 **Pugatch, M.** *Engagement of OEF-OIF Veterans with Unhealthy Alcohol Use: SBIRT*, Boston Veterans Health Care Administration: Social Work Student Training, Jamaica Plan, MA

2015 **Pugatch, M.**, Cook, Travis. *Engagement of Veterans with Substance Use Problems: SBIRT and MI*. Boston Veterans Health Care Administration: Professional Training, Brockton, MA.

Peer Reviewed Abstracts/Posters

2015 **Pugatch, M.**, Putney, J, O'Brien, KH, Rabinow, L, Qian, H, Weitzman, E, Levy, S. *Integrating adolescent SBIRT curriculum in to a foundations course in social work education: evaluation of acceptability. SBIRT for alcohol and other drug use: An Inter-professional Conference, IRETA, Pittsburgh, PA.* Digital poster.

Reminders:

Monthly Directors' Calls: 1st Monday of each month from 1:00PM-2:00PM EST

Monthly Fellows' Curriculum Calls: 1st Wednesday of each month from 2:00pm-3:30pm EST

National Calls: <http://vaww.mentalhealth.va.gov/omhs-natconcalls.asp>

National ATCC Sharepoint Site: <http://goo.gl/662Ttb>

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VA Interprofessional Advanced Fellowship in Addiction Treatment Newsletter Title

Office of Academic Affiliations

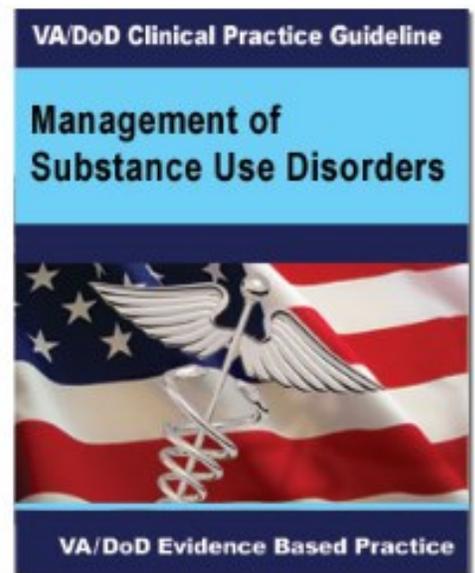
The Coordinating Center for the Office of Academic Affiliations (OAA) Interprofessional Advanced Fellowship in Addiction Treatment

Directors' Message

Unhealthy alcohol and other substance use disorders (SUD) are common among Veterans served by the Veterans Health Administration. In 2009, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and Department of Defense (DoD) published a set of Clinical Practice Guidelines (CPGs) for the management of SUD. At that time, it was one of the few guidelines which incorporated medication assisted treatment as an evidence-based treatment approach for patients with addiction disorders, in both addiction specialty and non-specialty clinical environments.

Since the release of the 2009 CPGs, a growing body of research and clinical experience has expanded the general knowledge and understanding of the treatment of SUD and unhealthy use of alcohol and other drugs. In particular, there has been growing recognition of the (a) complex nature of addiction, (b) development, study, and implementation of new pharmacologic and non-pharmacologic interventions to treat patients with addiction, and (c) new environments (e.g., primary care, non-addiction specialty care, inpatient settings) where addiction treatment can occur. Thus, an update to the guideline was necessary.

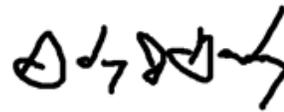
The process of revising the VA/DoD Guidelines for SUD was initiated in 2014. The process included six steps, including (1) topic selection (SUD with a special emphasis toward non-addiction specialty providers), (2) selection of the CPG development group (a mix of multidisciplinary clinicians from the VA and the DoD), (3) formulation of evidence questions to guide the recommendations (key “vexing” clinical issues that required guideline attention or guideline revision from the 2009 CPG), (4) an intensive literature search to address the evidence questions, (5) evidence appraisal including assessing the quality of the available evidence, and (6) evidence synthesis with final recommendations. Through stakeholder engagement and input, a one week in-person retreat, regular (sometimes weekly phone calls), input from external stakeholders, and final critical reviews, the updated guidelines were published in December 2015.



The “VA/DoD Clinical Practice Guidelines: Management of Substance Use Disorders” (www.healthequity.va.gov/guidelines/MH/sud) is intended to provide primary care clinicians and other healthcare providers with a framework by which to evaluate, treat, and manage the individual needs and preferences of patients with substance use disorders (SUD), leading to improved clinical outcomes. It provides comprehensive evidence-based recommendations and critical decision points in the management of addictive disorders. Over the next few months, the dissemination of the guidelines will occur with the intent to not only promote access to addiction treatment to promote the highest quality of treatment for patients with addiction.



Lauren Broyles, PhD, RN



Adam J. Gordon, MD



Reminders:

Monthly Directors' Calls: 3rd Wednesday of each month from 2:00PM-3:00PM EST

Monthly Fellows' Curriculum Calls: 1st Wednesday of each month from 2:00pm-3:30pm EST

National Calls: <http://vaww.mentalhealth.va.gov/omhs-natconcalls.asp>

National ATCC Sharepoint Site: <http://goo.gl/662Ttb>

Fellowship Website: www.pittsburgh.va.gov/Trainee/ATF

Advanced Addiction Fellow Spotlights

Second Year Fellows



Angela Busch, Ph.D.

Dr. Busch works full time as a 25% clinical and 75% research fellow through the Madison VAMC Interprofessional Fellowship and she holds a clinical adjunct assistant professor appointment at the University of Wisconsin-Madison School of Medicine and Public Health. Her specific interests include research that encourages adherence to the VA/DoD clinical practice guidelines for management of SUD/PTSD by encouraging adherence to addiction focused pharmacotherapy recommendations. Her clinical and research participation involves improving treatment for addiction, PTSD, chronic pain, aging and neurocognitive disorders, improving the health related quality of life of veteran's, enhancing inpatient care and developing efficient post-discharge follow-up care plans. Dr. Busch provides assessment and evidence based treatment services for the Madison VA Addictive Disorders Treatment Program, the Substance Abuse Residential Rehabilitation Treatment Program, and the Mental Health Intensive Case Management Program for Veterans with persistent and serious mental illness. Dr. Busch provides supervision to students in team-based inpatient, residential and outpatient care.



Jeffrey P. Haibach, Ph.D., MPH

Dr. Haibach recently returned to federal service as an Associated Health Fellow in the VA's Interprofessional Advanced Fellowship Program in Addiction Treatment after completing a Ph.D. in Community Health and Health Behavior at the University at Buffalo. His primary research interests are in multiple health behavior change and the potential of dietary improvement and physical activity as adjuncts to addiction treatment, recovery, and prevention. He has conducted collaborative research in diverse settings including clinical, community, and public health venues with associates from governmental, academic, faith-based, corporate for-profit, and other non-profit organizations.

In prior federal positions, he served in research with the USDA after completing his BS at The Pennsylvania State University. He subsequently served on active duty in the Army as a senior noncommissioned officer (NCO), concurrently earning his MPH at the American Military University. As an NCO, his two primary responsibilities were, "accomplishment of mission and the welfare of my soldiers" (Army NCO Creed). With the VA, Dr. Haibach is now empowering his fellow Veterans "to improve their well-being" (VA Strategic Plan, Goal 1).

**Moira Haller, Ph.D.**

Moira Haller, Ph.D. is a second year fellow in the Interprofessional Advanced Fellowship in Addiction Treatment at VASDHS. She received her doctorate in clinical psychology from Arizona State University, and completed an APA-accredited internship through the UCSD/VA San Diego Healthcare System Psychology Training Program. As a graduate student, she applied for and was awarded an NIAAA-funded NRSA fellowship to examine the risk mechanisms among traumatic stress, PTSD symptoms, and substance use problems. Dr. Haller's current research interests continue to center on better understanding and treating individuals with substance use disorders and co-occurring PTSD or other psychopathology. Dr. Haller's clinical work also focuses on the intersection between substance use disorders and PTSD. She has experience treating dual-diagnosis populations in both residential and outpatient settings, as well as in individual and group formats.

**Melodie Isgro, M.D.**

Melodie Isgro, M.D. is a second year fellow in the Interprofessional Advanced Fellowship in Addiction Treatment at VASDHS. She received her B.S. degree in Biological and Medical Sciences from the University of Florida. She then attended UF's College of Medicine to obtain her M.D. degree, followed by an Emergency Medicine residency at Wake Forest NC Baptist Hospital in North Carolina. After becoming Board Certified in Emergency Medicine, she practiced Emergency and Urgent Care medicine for 15 years before completing a clinical Fellowship in Addiction Medicine at the Addiction Institute of New York. Dr. Isgro's research is focused on treatments for patients who have comorbid mental illness and addiction and how an individual's response to different types of stressors may affect craving.

**Ajay Manhapra, M.D.**

Dr. Ajay Manhapra is an internist focusing on a career in Addiction Medicine practice, research, and leadership. Prior to this, he has over a decade of experience at various clinical and leadership levels as a hospitalist. His hospitalist career intersected with the growth of prescription opioid use and subsequently developed a keen interest in this area. In his clinical training he focuses on management of complex persistent dependence to long term prescribed opioids as the assigned fellow in the Opioid Reassessment Clinic at VA in West Haven, CT. In addition, he is also a key driver of the development of Buprenorphine clinic for veterans at various degrees of homelessness in the local VASH program. He plans to develop a health service research career related to opioid dependence, particularly focused on the intersection of chronic pain, prescribed opioid dependence, and chronic disease. He is currently involved in analyses looking at varied adverse impact of long term prescribed opioids and its management. He is also involved in projects looking at the impact of substance use in veterans with PTSD. In addition, he collaborates with Center for Outcomes Research and Evaluation (CORE) at Yale investigating the role of advanced computing techniques (machine learning) in predictive modeling.

Maria Niculete, Ph.D.

Dr. Maria Niculete's is a clinical psychologist. Her clinical interests are in the area of smoking cessation, substance abuse group interventions, and harm reduction approaches. As a fellow, Dr. Niculete has been working at the Outpatient Substance Abuse Clinic providing group and individual therapy, including several VA EBPs (CBT-Chronic Pain and CBT-Insomnia). Additionally, she has been involved in VA Connecticut's implementation of the Overdose Education and Naloxone Distribution (OEND) initiative and has been providing education to staff and veterans. Dr. Niculete's research interests are in the area of intoxicated decision making and co-use of alcohol with other substances. Dr. Niculete is also interested in program evaluation and quality improvement of substance abuse services with a particular interest in harm reduction programs (e.g., OEND). She is currently working on a project evaluating the effect of state policies regarding naloxone access on the implementation of OEND at VAs across the country.

Shuang Ouyang, Pharm.D., BCPS

Shuang Ouyang, Pharm.D., BCPS is a second-year Advanced Addiction Treatment Fellow at the South Texas Veterans Affairs Healthcare System. He holds appointments as an Adjoint Assistant Professor at the University of Texas Health Sciences Center San Antonio and an Adjoint Assistant Professor at the University of Texas at Austin College of Pharmacy. Dr. Ouyang received his Doctor of Pharmacy degree from the University of Georgia in 2012. He completed a PGY-1 Pharmacy Practice Residency at Salem VA Medical Center in Salem, Virginia, and a PGY-2 Psychiatric Pharmacy Residency at VA Western New York Health Care System in Buffalo, New York. He has research interests in dually diagnosed Veterans with substance use disorder(s) and post-traumatic stress disorder, practice facilitation/implementation science, and healthcare cultural competency. Away from the office, he enjoys trying foods from different cultures, humoring his cats, and dreaming about his first big wall climb.

Marianne Pugatch, MSW

Marianne Pugatch is a second year Interprofessional Advanced Addiction Fellow at the VA Boston Healthcare System. She is a doctoral candidate at the Heller School for Social Policy and Management, Brandeis University. Ms. Pugatch's research focuses on predictors of follow up for OEF/OIF veterans who have a positive alcohol screen. She received a BA from Barnard College, Columbia University and an MSW from Boston College. Ms. Pugatch worked as clinical director at the Adolescent Substance Abuse Program, Boston Children's Hospital for eight years. She has presented and trained clinicians on topics related to addiction, opioid use, and SBIRT for an adolescent population. She has held leadership roles on two SAMHSA SBIRT training grants; Ms. Pugatch is as an Associate Editor for Substance Abuse. Since 2010 she served as co-chair of the AMERSA Social Work Special Interest Group; from 2011-2013 she was an elected member of the AMERSA Executive Board. She was a pre doctoral NIAAA trainee at Brandeis University from 2011-2014. She is a teaching associate at Harvard Medical School.

Amy Schreiner, Ph.D.

Dr. Amy Schreiner received her B.A. in 2006 from Binghamton University – SUNY and her Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology in 2014 from the University of Central Florida. She completed her internship at the Boston Consortium in Clinical Psychology in 2014 and is a second-year fellow with the Interprofessional Advanced Addiction Fellowship Program at the VA Boston Healthcare System. As a fellow she has continued specialized clinical training in substance use and co-occurring disorders with particular interest in residential care and management. Her research interests include development and evaluation of technology-based interventions for substance use and co-occurring disorders.

Kangwon Song, Pharm.D.

Kangwon "Christina" Song, Pharm.D. is a 2nd year Advanced Addiction Treatment Fellow at the South Texas Veterans Healthcare System (75% research + 25% clinical) and an Assistant Professor for the University of Texas Health Science Center San Antonio and University of Texas Austin College of Pharmacy. Her primary research interest is clinical epidemiology/risk research [mentor: Mary Jo Pugh, Ph.D., RN] in the co-occurring substance use disorder and pain population [mentors: Jennifer S. Potter, Ph.D., MPH and Donald D. Mcgeary, Ph.D., ABPP]. Her long-term career objective is to become an independent VA HSR&D investigator with expertise in the field of preventative medicine.

First Year Fellows**Ty Brumback, Ph.D.**

Ty Brumback, Ph.D. is a first year fellow in the Interprofessional Advanced Fellowship in Addiction Treatment at VASDHS. He earned his Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology at the University of South Florida, and completed his clinical internship at the VA Boston Healthcare System – Jamaica Plain. His graduate and postdoctoral research training focused on brain imaging and psychophysiology methods in substance using populations. Dr. Brumback's research interests include identifying biomarkers related to substance use problems and integrating such biomarkers into prevention and intervention strategies for substance use disorders. He has collaborated on several NIH-funded longitudinal research studies including a large multi-site consortium study examining predictors of substance use disorders in young adults. He is also currently collaborating on a VA-funded research study examining the role of brain regions associated with interoception on decision-making and risk for relapse in Veterans with substance use disorders and PTSD.

**Amy Loree, Ph.D.**

Dr. Amy Loree is a clinical psychologist. Her research interests have primarily focused on interventions to prevent child maltreatment among high-risk families, including those affected by substance use and trauma. She is particularly interested in the use of brief, motivational interventions and complementary and alternative medicine techniques (such as yoga and mindfulness), as well as community-based participatory research efforts. Dr. Loree's has worked clinically with a diverse range of clients, including special populations such as substance using pregnant women. As a fellow, she will be providing individual therapy at the Outpatient Substance Abuse Clinic and group therapy at the Substance Abuse Day Program.

**Gina Poole LaPosta, Ph.D.**

Dr. Gina Poole LaPosta received her Ph.D. in clinical psychology from the University of Maryland, Baltimore County. Her dissertation research examined fatherhood status as a motivator for successful treatment engagement and response in partner abusive men. She completed her APA accredited internship in clinical psychology at the Boston Consortium at the VA Boston Healthcare System, where she received training in evidenced based treatments for Substance Use Disorders and Posttraumatic Stress Disorder. On internship she worked in residential and outpatient substance abuse treatment programs and had a specific interest in Behavioral Couples Therapy (BCT) for Substance Use Disorders. Dr. Poole LaPosta is a first year postdoctoral fellow in the Interprofessional Advanced Addiction Fellowship Program at VA Boston. Her primary clinical and research interests are in the intersecting areas of addictions, trauma, and intimate partner violence. She is also interested in conducting program evaluation and treatment outcome research.

**Sean Robinson, Ph.D.**

Sean Robinson, PhD received his doctorate in Clinical Psychology from Nova Southeastern University. Dr. Robinson completed his psychology internship at the VA Central/Western Massachusetts. In 2011, he was the recipient of the A. Gordon Rose Memorial Scholarship (awarded to individuals committee to research and professional work advancing the self and community-acceptance of LGBT individuals), APA NIDA/NIAA Early Career Poster Award, and APA Student Travel Award. He has published articles and book chapters related to identification and assessment of alcohol and drug use and abuse; reliability of timeline feedback for cocaine, cannabis, and cigarette use, and a methodological review of alcohol and drug treatment outcome studies. Dr. Robinson began the DALT fellowship in August 2015.

**Shaddy Saba, MSW**

Shaddy Saba is a first-year Associated Health Fellow in the Interprofessional Advanced Fellowship Program in Addiction Treatment at the VA Pittsburgh Healthcare System. He received his Master of Arts degree in social work from the University of Chicago's School of Social Service Administration in 2015. He is interested both in providing high quality clinical care for veterans with AOD use issues, and in improving systems of care through quality improvement and implementation projects. As a fellow, he will focus especially on vulnerable populations such as homeless veterans and those with co-occurring disorders. Mr. Saba has had professional experiences in both general medical and specialty AOD settings. He has been trained in a range of evidence-based treatment modalities, and he has been involved in quantitative and qualitative program evaluation projects. He believes strongly in the importance of intervening at multiple levels of practice.

**Ramona Shayegani, Pharm.D.**

Ramona Shayegani, Pharm.D. is an Advanced Addiction Treatment Fellow at the South Texas Veterans Healthcare System since July 2015. She also serves as an Adjoint Assistant Professor at the University of Texas Health Science Center San Antonio and an Adjoint Assistant Professor at the University of Texas at Austin College of Pharmacy. Dr. Shayegani received her Doctor of Pharmacy degree from the Oregon State University in June 2014. Following graduation, she completed a PGY-1 Pharmacy Practice Residency at VA Texas Valley Coastal Bend Healthcare System where she established the first pharmacist-run Mental Health Clinic at the McAllen Outpatient Clinic. Her major project involves investigation of concurrent use of benzodiazepine and opioids. Outside of fellowship, she enjoys reading, cooking, and participating in outdoor activities.

**Mona Thapa, M.D.**

Dr. Mona Thapa is joining the VA Connecticut's Interprofessional Advanced Fellowship in Addiction Treatment in November 2015. Originally from Nepal, Dr. Thapa received her medical degree from Nepal Medical College Teaching Hospital. She has received significant clinical experience working as a physician in her hometown of Kathmandu as well as rural areas of Nepal. Due to this work, she has a strong interest in Global Mental Health, human trafficking, and in improving the mental health system in Nepal. In 2010, she moved to the United States to complete her psychiatric residency training at Howard University Hospital in Washington DC. In 2015, she graduated from the Yale School of Medicine's Addiction Psychiatry fellowship program. Dr. Thapa's goal for participating in the VA interprofessional fellowship is to increase research skills, to understand how to work in an interprofessional system, and gain more experience in quality improvement.

**Matthew Thomas, M.D.**

Matthew Thomas, M.D. began his fellowship in October 2015. He earned a bachelor's degree in biology from Loyola University Chicago, and completed his medical degree and family medicine residency at the University of Illinois College of Medicine at Rockford. Having seen the effects of the opiate epidemic and the poor access to treatment many addicts face, Dr. Thomas's interest in addiction medicine began early in his education. During medical school, he worked with underserved populations as part of the Underserved Pathway Program. He looks forward to completing the addiction medicine fellowship and becoming board certified so that he can help improve access to treatment for suffering addicts and their families.

National Conference Schedule

Conference	Conference Dates	Abstracts Due	Location	Website
AMERSA (Association for Medical Education and Research in Substance Abuse)	November 3-5, 2016	Not yet announced	Not yet announced	http://www.samhsa.gov/capt/new-s-announcements/conferences-trainings/amersa-39th-annual-national-conference
ASAM (American Society for Addiction Medicine)	April 14-17, 2016	August 7-October 2, 2015	Baltimore, MD	http://www.asam.org/education/live-and-online-cme/the-asam-annual-conference
RSA (Research Society on Alcoholism)	June 25-29, 2016	By January 4, 2016	New Orleans, LA	http://www.rsoa.org/
CPDD (The College on Problems of Drug Dependence)	June 11-16, 2016	November 2-December 7, 2015	Palm Springs, CA	http://www.cpdd.org/
SGIM (Society of General Internal Medicine)	May 11-14, 2016	November 16, 2015-January 13, 2016	Hollywood, FL	http://connect.sгим.org/sgim16/home
APHA (American Public Health Association)	October 29-November 2, 2016	February 22-26, 2016	Denver, CO	https://www.apha.org/events-and-meetings/annual/past-and-future-annual-meetings
AATOD (American Association for the Treatment of Opioid Dependence)	October 29-November 2, 2016	Call for presentations deadline January 22, 2016	Baltimore, MD	http://www.aatod.org/national-conference/2016-aatod-conference-baltimore/
AHSR (Addiction Health Science Research)	Not yet announced	Not yet announced	Seattle, WA	http://www.uclaisap.org/ahsr/
INTNSA (International Nurses Society on Addictions)	October 5-8, 2016	Not yet announced	Las Vegas, NV	http://www.intnsa.org/conference
SSWR (Society for Social Work and Research)	January 13-17, 2016	Closed	Washington, DC	http://secure.sswr.org/2016-conference-home/

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