

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

## Welcome to Dr. Karin Daniels

We would like introduce everyone to [Karin Daniels, PhD](#), the new Co-Director of the National Coordinating Center of the Interprofessional Advanced Fellowship in Addiction Treatment. With Dr. Lauren Broyles departure in July, Dr. Daniels has stepped in to fill the role of Co-Director both for the National Coordinating Center and also for the local Pittsburgh site (VIPER). Please find Dr. Daniels' bio below to learn a little bit more about her background and experience. Dr. Daniels can be reached at [Karin.Daniels@va.gov](mailto:Karin.Daniels@va.gov).

*Dr. Karin Daniels is Co-Director for both the National Coordinating Center and the Pittsburgh site of the VA Advanced Interprofessional Fellowship in Addictions Treatment. As a Health Science Specialist with the Center for Health Equity Research and Promotion (CHERP), she provides support to several additional fellowships and supports new investigators as they navigate the VA research process. Dr. Daniels also serves as an external facilitator for the quality improvement project 'Evaluation of Peer Specialists on VA PACTs' which offers her the opportunity to support the integration of Peer Specialists into VA Primary Care settings across the nation.*



*Dr. Daniels earned her PhD in Clinical Psychology from the University at Buffalo where she received training in addictions treatment at the Canandaigua and Buffalo VAMCs. In her previous roles at VAPHS, she served as the Independent Evaluator for a randomized control trial of treatment resistant depression. In this role she conducted extensive psychological screens, including assessment of alcohol and non-alcohol substance dependence and abuse. Dr. Daniels also served as the Project Coordinator during the initial development stage of a qualitative evaluation of the Stratification Tool for Opioid Risk Management (STORM).*

## Welcome to Ms. Ashley Snyder

On behalf of the National Coordinating Center, we would also like to extend a warm welcome to **Ashley Snyder, MSW** from the Madison site. Ms. Snyder is filling the vacancy left with Randall Chipman, MSW's retirement from the VA. Please see Ms. Snyder's bio below and join us in welcoming her to our team.

*Mrs. Snyder is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker and a Clinical Substance Abuse Counselor. She has worked for the VA for 3 years as a Substance Use Disorder Counselor, providing dual diagnosis treatment to Veterans while focusing on utilizing a continuum of care approach. Prior to working at the VA, Ms. Snyder was a treatment provider and case manager for the Wisconsin Department of Corrections and primarily worked with the high risk/high need population as they re-enter into a community setting from an institution. Mrs. Snyder currently works at the Addictive Disorders Treatment Program (ADTP) located in Madison, WI. While at ADTP, Mrs. Snyder has facilitated and trained numerous students and staff members on ASAM Levels of Care, Evidenced Based Practice Interventions for Substance Use Disorders, SBIRT Interventions and National Drug Court Treatment Standards. Mrs. Snyder is currently involved in facilitating and setting up evidenced based interventions/protocols with the local Veteran's Treatment Court Program, as well as working with an integrated DBT Team to assist in meeting the complex needs of some of the Veterans whom present for services.*



### 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:** [vaww.mentalhealth.va.gov/omhs-natconcalls.asp](http://vaww.mentalhealth.va.gov/omhs-natconcalls.asp)

**National ATCC Sharepoint Site:** [goo.gl/662Ttb](http://goo.gl/662Ttb)

**Fellowship Website:** [www.pittsburgh.va.gov/Trainee/ATF](http://www.pittsburgh.va.gov/Trainee/ATF)

## Goodbye to our Graduating Fellows

We had a few of our recent graduates of the fellowship share some words about their experiences.

Dr. Ajay Manhapra

### 1. Who were some influential people that you worked with during your fellowship?

Robert Rosenheck helped me learn to ask and answer a scientific question better. He also gave me the greatest advice; most theories in medicine eventually come face to face with the reality of data, and gets sabotaged.

Ismene Petrakis showed me how to be excellent at multiple things, scientist, physician, leader, mentor.....

William C Becker helped me narrow my interest in pain and opioids.

David Fiellin taught me the art of subtly challenging your own ideas in addiction medicine

### 2. What were the most valuable aspects of the fellowship for you?

Addiction is a complex field with multiple disciplines working in the same arena. I got to learn the scientific and clinical perspectives of these different disciplines.

### 3. What new skills did you learn?

Being a good addiction physician is different from being a good internist. I learned how to be a good addiction medicine clinician and scientist.

In a person dependent on addictive substances, the substance acquires a primacy in their lives. One of the tricks to be a good addiction clinician and scientist is the ability to look at other problems like medical and psychiatric problems perched primarily in the space of addiction. I learned this delicate dance in two years.

### 4. What are your future plans?

I am starting a pain and opioid dependence clinic in VA Hospital, Hampton Roads, Virginia. I will also be helping them implement the system wide opioid policy and overdose prevention strategy.

### 5. Do you have any advice for future fellows?

Some of you are going to be lucky in knowing what you exactly want to do, but most of us are perplexed with the field of addiction, which is intimidatingly huge. So stay curious and get a great mentor who will help you wade through the thickets. Understand the strengths and limitations of the environment around you, and use it to the maximal effect.



## Goodbye to our Graduating Fellows (con't)

Dr. Maria Niculete:

### 1. Who were some influential people that you worked with during your fellowship?

Elizabeth Oliva – National OEND Coordinator – she has been very open to collaborate with fellows and staff across the country.

Elissa McCarthy – she was one of my supervisors for CBT-I and mentor as I've been transitioning from post-doc to staff at the VA.

David Pilkey – my primary supervisor, he has been very supportive of my research and clinical interests and has been instrumental in helping me figure out job options post-doc.



### 2. What were the most valuable aspects of the fellowship for you?

The most valuable aspects of the fellowship have been being able to participate in EBP trainings either formally or informally (through supervision) and being able to collaborate with other providers at other VAs for the OEND initiative.

### 3. What new skills did you learn?

Clinically, I am very happy that I was able to participate in the CBT-I training as it became one of the most rewarding treatments I do. Overall, the fellowship and local faculty here helped facilitate an interprofessional atmosphere that made it very easy to engage in a lot of new activities and build a lot of new skills. I've been involved in various new activities including helping write policies and developing trainings and programming; and all of these taught me how to navigate within the different layers at the VA.

### 4. What are your future plans?

I will be staying at VA Connecticut as a Staff Psychologist in the PTSD –RRTP program and as the Local Evidence-Based Treatment Coordinator

### 5. Do you have any advice for future fellows?

I think fellowship is a great time to pursue training in areas that you are interested in than may be outside of your training so far.

## Goodbye to our Graduating Fellows (con't)

Dr. Jeffrey Haibach:

### 1. Who were some influential people that you worked with during your fellowship?

I had the incredible opportunity over the past two years to work with so many people accomplishing great work for our Veterans and Service-members. My Primary Mentors in Pittsburgh were Adam Gordon, MD, MPH and Gretchen Haas, PhD. They are well known and accomplished throughout VA and broader addiction medicine, mental health, and other areas. I have also had the opportunity to work our VA leaders from our National Center for Health Promotion and Disease Prevention (e.g., Michael Goldstein, MD and Margaret [Peg] Dundon, PhD), our VA QUERI Director (Amy Kilbourne, PhD, MPH), Sara Knight, PhD (former HSR&D Deputy Director), and brief discussions toward collaboration with VA's Acting Chief for Research and Development Officer (David Atkins, MD, MPH). Beyond VA I have had the opportunity to meet and work with many leaders in support of Service-member health across DoD and academic affiliates including DoD's Program Manager for Behavioral Health in Primary Care (Christ Hunter, PhD) and Gerald [Wayne] Talcott, PhD (retired Air Force Colonel and current researcher based in San Antonio, TX and the University of Tennessee).



### 2. What were the most valuable aspects of the fellowship for you?

The most valuable aspect of the fellowship for me was that I was provided solid advisement, consultation, and guidance, while given the freedom to do good work locally and nationally.

### 3. What new skills did you learn?

I have learned quite a bit during the fellowship, but in a fluid process from past experiences of service in the Army and at the University at Buffalo. The most beneficial skill enhancement in the fellowship was the extensive formal training, experience, and focus on interdisciplinary work. Especially helpful was the encouragement and freedom to get out from behind the research desk, both literally and figuratively, to work closely with operational partners next door in the hospital (VA Pittsburgh's University Drive facility and up the road at our H.J. Heinz facility) and nationally such as work with VA's National Center for Health Promotion and Disease Prevention. It has been nice to see and learn more about the factors involved in supporting our Veterans from patient safety to the daily tasks of our host of clinicians and administrative staff. Our VA team cares very much about supporting our Veterans, and there is much work to also support our staff in health and well-being to better support our Veterans and their own families.

## Goodbye to our Graduating Fellows (con't)

Dr. Jeffrey Haibach: (con't)

### 4. What are your future plans?

I plan to continue my reasonable best effort to support the health of Servicemembers, Veterans, and their Families while also supporting others and my own family. I am currently scheduled to start in my next assignment at VA's Health Services Research and Development Service in Central Office, Washington, DC. I will be on the Health Science Officer team as a Scientific Program Manager. I will do my best while serving at HSR&D and beyond that, it will be a balance of where leadership and I think it is best for me to serve.

### 5. Do you have any advice for future fellows?

Throw yourself into your work. Do your best while also taking the time to maintain your own health and wellness. It's not so much about the next task to be done, the next grant, or another rule to follow, but about supporting one another as an efficient team in a learning organization focused on continuous improvement for everyone. Be productive and accomplish those tasks as team members in your respective yet interdisciplinary lanes. Learn the system, respect others, and do good work to support our Veterans and fellow staff; they've earned it on the good days, not so good days, and so have you. Be well!

{Note: Shortly after responding to the Q&A in July, Jeff transferred to his new assignment at VA Central Office in Washington D.C.}

## Addiction Medicine Fellowship Update

Addiction Medicine is emerging as a recognized ABMS (American Board of Medical Specialties) subspecialty. As you may know, ACGME (Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education) recognition of training and accreditation for Addiction Medicine fellowships is underway. Physicians in training will be eligible for the "Practice Pathway". The Practice Pathway is a standard 5 year period after the first ABMS level exam is given in a new subspecialty, during which ABMS Member Board diplomates are eligible for certification without completing a new fellowship. This pathway will end in 2022 or later, depending on the timing of the initial administration of the ABMS level ADM exam by ABPM. For more information about Addiction Medicine Fellowships, visit [www.abamfoundation.org](http://www.abamfoundation.org)