

**Orlando VA Healthcare System
PSYCHOLOGY INTERNSHIP PROGRAM
(2021-2022)**



Department of Veterans Affairs
Orlando VA Healthcare System

Dear potential applicants,

We are delighted that you are considering the Orlando VA Healthcare System for your internship! Making an informed decision on which internship would be a good fit for your interests and training needs is a difficult task. We have strived to include all of the relevant information you might need to help you make that decision. I do want to note that our internship, like many others in the country, has been impacted by COVID-19. In light of that impact, we have had to make several adjustments to our current Interns' training experience. Additionally, several of our regular clinical rotation sites have restricted trainee participation due to safety concerns for the Veterans we treat and the trainees. Given the uncertainty of when this pandemic may end, we have not listed those specific rotations in this year's brochure. We do not expect any further impact on the remaining clinical rotations and training experiences. However, it may be possible that additional adjustments may be required in the future if conditions related to COVID-19 change. Please know we are committed to providing a quality and fulfilling internship and will do whatever we can to ensure you have a great experience. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions regarding our program.

Sincerely,

Bryan Batien, Ph.D., ABPP
Acting Psychology Training Director

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THE SETTING

ORLANDO, FLORIDA

Orlando and the Central Florida region are known as vacation hotspots, attracting around 60 million visitors every year. Orlando is home to world-famous theme parks and attractions such as Disney World, Universal Studios, and SeaWorld among many others.



Central Florida is also home to NASA's Kennedy Space Center, where rocket launches can regularly be seen throughout the entire region including from the windows of the Orlando VA Medical Center. Orlando is the home to professional sports teams including NBA's Orlando Magic and the Orlando City Soccer Club. Orlando offers an abundance of performing arts through venues such as the Dr. Phillips Center for Performing Arts as well as a number of museums.

Access to world-class entertainment is only a part of what living in Central Florida has to offer. Nicknamed "The City Beautiful," Orlando is the third-largest metropolitan area in Florida with a population of roughly 2.5 million in the greater Central Florida region. Orlando is an ethnically diverse city with population consisting of 36% White individuals, 32% Hispanic, 25% Black, 3% Asian, and 4% Two+/Native/Other (based on Census Data). Orlando is known as an LGBTQ+ friendly community, achieving a perfect score on the Human Rights Campaign's Municipal Equality Index, which measures the LGBTQ+ inclusiveness of cities' laws, policies, and services.



Central Florida is also a paradise for nature lovers. The Orlando VA catchment area includes world-class beaches including Daytona Beach and Cocoa Beach. Natural springs are spread throughout the region and offer opportunities to get up close with nature and wildlife. Popular natural springs include Blue Springs, where manatees can be seen up close and personal at certain times of the year.



ORLANDO VA HEALTHCARE SYSTEM

The Orlando VA Health Care System (VAHCS), was officially established as a new VA facility in October of 2006. The Orlando VAHCS includes one of the nation's newest VA hospitals in Lake Nona with 134 inpatient beds, a 120-bed Community Living Center in Lake Nona, a two-site 110-bed Residential Rehabilitation Treatment Program at Lake Nona and Lake Baldwin, a multispecialty medical center at Lake Baldwin (uptown Orlando), two very large, comprehensive outpatient clinics in Daytona Beach and Viera (Cocoa Beach area), five Community-Based Outpatient Clinics (CBOC) in Clermont, Kissimmee, Deltona, Tavares, and Palm Bay.

The Orlando VAHCS Lake Nona Campus is co-located with the University of Central Florida College of Medicine, the University of Florida Academic and Research Center, the National Simulation, Learning, Education and Research Network (SimLEARN) Center, and Nemours Children's Hospital in the area known as the "Medical City." Orlando is rapidly becoming a prime destination for healthcare professionals and patients seeking state-of-the-art care.



INTERNSHIP IN HEALTH SERVICE PSYCHOLOGY

MISSION

The mission of the Orlando VA Healthcare System (VAHCS) Psychology Internship program is to develop ethical and competent psychologists capable of delivering quality care through evidence-based practice for the purpose of improving the quality of life and well-being for America's Veterans. The Psychology Training Program's mission is part of the larger mission of the Department of Veterans Affairs, set by President Abraham Lincoln to "To care for him who shall have borne the battle and for his widow, and his orphan."



TRAINING MODEL

The psychology internship at the Orlando VA Healthcare System follows a scholar-practitioner model of training. Our aim is to assist interns develop the ability to evaluate and conceptualize their professional activities while also integrating that knowledge into the delivery of clinical services with care and compassion.

TRAINING PHILOSOPHY

Our training program provides generalist training for professional psychologists. Our generalist approach to training aims to help interns develop a strong foundation of general clinical skills and knowledge to prepare them for a variety of career paths. As such, we strive to provide a variety of training experiences that will facilitate the development of foundational professional and clinical competencies.

Our generalist approach to training emphasizes evidence-based practice that converges clinical expertise, research, and individual patient characteristics. Such individual attributes include personal values, strengths, and histories, as well as demographic variables and culture. Cultural diversity is celebrated at Orlando VAHCS and Interns'



ability to work with demographically diverse patients and incorporate issues related to culture, ethnicity, and race is seen as a vital component of skill development.

Our training program values active learning and supervision. Continual communication between the Intern and their supervisor is expected, with Interns providing ongoing feedback to their supervisors regarding the supervision process and their supervisory needs. Additionally, Interns are expected to provide ongoing feedback and evaluation of the training program as a whole.

DIVERSITY

The Orlando VA Healthcare System serves our nation's Veterans, who represent a wide range of diversity including, but not limited to, differences in gender, race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, physical ability, regional affiliation, age, and religious/spiritual orientation. The Psychology Training Program is deeply committed to the appreciation of diversity as well as the development of multicultural competence. The internship program incorporates a variety of training experiences to help Interns expand their awareness, knowledge and appreciation related to diversity and cultural factors. Issues related to culture and diversity are highlighted throughout weekly didactics and seminars, readings, other learning activities, and clinical supervision.

PROGRAM STRUCTURE

The internship year is comprised of three main components: major rotations, optional minor rotation(s), and didactic/training seminars.

MAJOR ROTATIONS

Interns will complete **three major rotations** (4 months each) during the internship year. Time commitment: Interns will spend between 28-32 hours per week in their major rotation. Variation in time per week on the major rotations is dependent on time commitment for the optional minor rotation(s); see below. Interns will receive at a minimum 2 hours of individual supervision per week on their major rotations.

MINOR ROTATIONS (OPTIONAL)

Interns may elect to participate in additional minor rotations to augment the clinical experiences of their major rotations. Some minor rotations offer focused experiences in specific clinical areas (e.g., formal VA evidence-based psychotherapy trainings or specific therapeutic modalities). Other minor rotations may involve more non-traditional or administrative activities in which psychologists engage in.

Time commitment: Minor rotations vary in length lasting anywhere from 4 weeks to all year long with the majority of minor rotations lasting 4 months. Minor rotations will also vary from 1-4 hours per week. See the minor rotation descriptions for specific details.

DIDACTIC/TRAINING SEMINARS

Interns are engaged in weekly didactics and training seminars throughout the year. These didactics and seminars span a wide range of areas and topics to increase the breadth and depth of clinical skills and knowledge. Trainings include a weekly two-hour didactic seminar, journal club, supervision of supervision seminar, group supervision, and case conceptualization seminar.



SAMPLE INTERN WEEKLY SCHEDULE

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
8:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.	Major Rotation	Administrative Time	Major Rotation	Major Rotation	Major Rotation
9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.		Supervision of Supervision Seminar			
10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.		Case Conceptualization Seminar			
11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.		Group Supervision			
12:00 p.m. – 12:30 p.m.	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch
12:30 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.	Administrative Time	Intern Socialization Time	Administrative Time	Administrative Time	Administrative Time
1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.	Major Rotation	Didactic Seminar	Major Rotation	Minor Rotation	Major Rotation
2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.					
3:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.		Journal Club or Psychiatry Didactic Seminar			
4:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.	Administrative Time	Administrative Time	Administrative Time	Administrative Time	Administrative Time

ROTATION ASSIGNMENT

As a generalist program, Interns will be expected to participate in an array of rotations that emphasize core psychologist functions, including psychotherapy and assessment. Every effort is made to ensure rotation selection is a collaborative process that takes into account Intern preference as well as their identified training needs to fill any gaps in their graduate education and experience.

SUPERVISION

All clinical activities of Interns are supervised by professional clinical staff. At a minimum, each Intern participates in four hours of face-to-face supervision per week. Two hours are regularly-scheduled individual supervision with their primary clinical supervisor; one hour is group supervision focused on enhancing Interns' competency in providing supervision to others; and one hour is general group supervision. In addition, Interns who selected certain minor rotations may receive additional supervision or focused consultation regarding those experiences.

ASSESSMENT COMPETENCY

During the rotations, Interns also develop their assessment skills with a diagnostically complex Veteran population. Over the course of the year, Interns complete at least 3 comprehensive psychological assessments including behavioral observation, biopsychosocial history gathering, diagnostic assessment, cognitive assessment (such as WAIS-IV and WMS-IV), and personality instruments (such as MMPI-2/MMPI-2 RF and PAI). These comprehensive assessments, coupled with a minimum of six rotation-specific assessments throughout the year, provide practical skills training required to meet the competency benchmarks: to select and implement population-appropriate measures; recognize instrument strengths and weaknesses; administer, score, and interpret test results; integrate findings into a concise report; provide feedback to patients and others; develop case conceptualization skills; and communicate findings in verbal and written formats.

MAJOR ROTATIONS

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH INTERDISCIPLINARY PROGRAM (BHIP)

The BHIP is a multidisciplinary, team-based clinic that serves as the foundation of the Mental Health Service. BHIP provides outpatient mental health treatment to Veterans of all service eras with a wide range of psychiatric disorders (e.g., mood disorders, anxiety disorders, PTSD, personality disorders, psychotic disorders, etc.). BHIP teams are comprised of psychologists, psychiatrists, social workers, mental health counselors, psychiatric nurse practitioners, and registered nurses.

While working as part of a BHIP team, Interns will provide outpatient treatment and assessment. Interns will gain experience working with Veterans who range in age, gender identity, ability levels, SES, racial identity, ethnicity, sexual identity, and other varying identity variables. Interns have the opportunity to practice a variety of evidence-based psychotherapies on the BHIP rotation such as Cognitive Behavioral Therapy for Depression, Acceptance and Commitment Therapy, Interpersonal Psychotherapy for Depression. Lastly, personality and cognitive assessments are administered for diagnostic clarification and/or assess learning, attention, or cognitive deficits.

Location(s): Lake Baldwin

Supervisor(s): Tiffany Misra, Ph.D. & Stacey Polott, Psy.D.



SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER (SUD) INTENSIVE OUTPATIENT TREATMENT

The SUD Intensive Outpatient Treatment program is a multidisciplinary intensive outpatient program for Veterans with mild to severe substance use disorders. The interdisciplinary team includes clinical psychologists, a licensed clinical social worker, counselors, a peer support specialist, a clinical pharmacist, and physicians/psychiatrists. Veterans often attend the Intensive SUD Outpatient program multiple days per week and engage in a variety group and individual interventions including Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBT) for SUD, Motivational Enhancement, and Motivational Interviewing.

While on the SUD rotation, Interns will gain experience with substance use to include comprehensive assessments of and treatment for substance use and co-occurring disorders. Interns will gain familiarity with both individual and group interventions for SUD. Interns are an integrated member of the interdisciplinary treatment team and will have the opportunities to help the treatment team conceptualization and input in clinical decision-making.

Location(s): Lake Nona

Supervisor(s): Bernice Vazquez-Garay, Psy.D. & Chelsea Brieman, Ph.D.



TRAUMA RECOVERY SPECIALTY TEAM (TRUST)

The Trauma Recovery Specialty Team (TRuST) is the Posttraumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) Clinical Team (PCT) at the Orlando VA Medical Healthcare System. TRuST is an outpatient clinic specializing in the assessment and treatment of trauma-related disorders, with an emphasis on PTSD. Treatment options primarily consist of evidence-based psychotherapies for PTSD including Prolonged Exposure (PE), Cognitive Processing Therapy (CPT), and Eye Movement and Desensitization and Reprocessing Therapy (EMDR).

Interns on the TRuST rotation will gain experience on the assessment and differential diagnosis of trauma-related disorders. Assessment for trauma-related disorders include advanced diagnostic evaluations to differentiate PTSD from other trauma-related disorders (e.g., depression, anxiety, panic, personality disorders, malingering, cognitive disorders). Past interns have been able to further develop their proficiency in the treatment of PTSD by completing the formal VA training and consultation process for CPT and/or PE. Interns also have the ability to learn additional evidence-based psychotherapies associated with trauma such Dialectical Behavior Therapy (DBT).

Location(s): Lake Nona and Lake Baldwin

Supervisor(s): Laura Meyers, Ph.D., ABPP, Danielle Jahn, Ph.D., & Bryan Batien, Ph.D., ABPP

MENTAL HEALTH RESIDENTIAL REHABILITATION TREATMENT PROGRAM (MHR RTP).

The MHR RTP (also known as the Domiciliary, or “the DOM”) is a state-of-the-art residential rehabilitation and treatment program serving Veterans with multiple and severe medical conditions, psychological disorders, addiction, and/or psychosocial deficits. The residential component emphasizes a therapeutic community with an incorporation of clinical treatment gains into a lifestyle of self-care and personal responsibility. The MHR RTP at the Orlando VA has the capacity of 116 Veterans across two sites (Lake Nona and Lake Baldwin). The multi-disciplinary treatment team consists of psychologists, psychiatrists, social workers, recreation therapists, vocational rehabilitation specialists, nursing, and peer supports specialists. The treatment team works with the Veteran to establish an individualized recovery plan for improved coping skills, improved mental and physical health, sober living, improved well-being, housing, job training, and the development of community support.

Interns on this rotation will be embedded into the Lake Nona DOM, and will have the opportunity to conduct biopsychosocial assessments, complete discharge summaries, provide individual psychotherapy, engage in diagnostic assessment, facilitate conflict resolution/mediation, participate in resident community meetings, and participate in multidisciplinary treatment team meetings. Interns gain experience conducting individual therapy with Veterans as well as co-facilitating evidence-based groups therapy for Veterans with a variety of diagnoses.

Location(s): Lake Nona

Supervisor(s): Manjot Leafgreen, Ph.D. & Alysia Ivey, Psy.D.

PRIMARY CARE MENTAL HEALTH INTEGRATION (PCMHI)

PCMHI describes mental and behavioral health care services that are provided to Veterans in collaboration with primary care providers. These services are fully integrated into the primary care setting (Patient-Aligned Clinical Teams, or PACT), and support PACT-based treatment of both mental health conditions and behavioral aspects of chronic medical conditions. PCMHI providers are members of the PACT interdisciplinary team, where they collaborate on assessment, support or provide primary care-based treatment and brief therapy, and conduct follow-up assessments.

Interns on this rotation work alongside primary care providers regarding the psychological needs of Veterans by providing brief functional assessments and treatment. Interns receive consultation requests, complete initial intakes, provide feedback and consultation to other team members, and maintain an ongoing caseload of short-term outpatient psychotherapy/health psychology patients. Interns can expect to assess and treat Veterans with psychological issues (e.g., anxiety, depression, chronic pain, PTSD) and help patients work through barriers to transition to the Mental Health Clinic (BHIP). Interns may also work with Veterans who have psychological issues that exacerbate their medical conditions, as well as help patients with the psychological sequelae of medical problems such as hypertension, hepatitis C, cancer, diabetes, coronary artery disease, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, etc.

Location(s): Lake Nona

Supervisor(s): Chris Blagg, Ph.D.

PSYCHOSOCIAL REHABILITATION IN SERIOUS MENTAL ILLNESS

The Psychosocial Rehabilitation and Recovery Center (PRRC; also called Center for Recovery Education [CORE]) provides rehabilitation and recovery-oriented services for Veterans in intensive transitional treatment settings. Services are designed to provide care at a level higher than standard outpatient mental health treatment. Veterans in these populations typically present with serious psychiatric disorders (e.g., psychosis, schizoaffective disorder, major affective disorder, or severe PTSD), substance use disorders, and/or psychosocial deficits (e.g., homelessness).

Interns participate on a multidisciplinary team to support Veteran recovery and community integration by providing mental health services in an outpatient transitional learning setting. CORE programming is curriculum-based and is specifically designed to teach the requisite skills necessary for defining and realizing Veteran's self-chosen goals in all life domains. Specifically, Interns participate in CORE admission screenings, psychosocial assessments, group facilitation, wellness programming, community integration activities, and individual and family therapy sessions. Interns gain experience with the recovery model of treatment, provision of services to those in milieu treatment settings, and interdisciplinary team collaboration supporting each Veteran's achievement of self-determined goals. Training activities afford Interns to learn through concrete experience, reflective observation, active experimentation, and establishment of collegial relationships with professional staff where training is viewed as relational, culturally sensitive, and reciprocal.

Location(s): Lake Baldwin

Supervisor(s): Michael Lind, Ph.D.

NEUROPSYCHOLOGY

The Neuropsychology service is a consultative outpatient service that receives referrals from various specialties within the medical center including neurology, psychiatry/psychology, primary care, and other specialty medical clinics. Typical cases involve assessment of cognitive dysfunction associated with various medical conditions, illnesses, and injuries. Cases may include assessment of degenerative dementias (e.g., Lewy-body, Alzheimer's, frontotemporal), multiple sclerosis, cerebrovascular disease, epilepsy, traumatic brain injury, normal aging, and cognitive complaints associated with psychiatric disorders.

The Neuropsychology rotation provides the Intern an opportunity to learn about brain-behavior relationships through consultation, assessment, treatment, webinars, and outside readings. Experiences on the rotation are designed to meet relevant training goals for Interns in the context of a generalist training program by assisting the Intern in developing a broad-based understanding of brain-behavior relationships in order to enhance their general clinical diagnostic and case conceptualization skills. Although the rotation is primarily focused on developing assessment, diagnostic, and consultation skills, Interns may also be given the opportunity to gain exposure to and practice with individual or group cognitive remediation services. Additionally, throughout the rotation, Interns are expected to build skills in multicultural aspects of practice and professional ethics.

Location(s): Lake Baldwin

Supervisor(s): Janice Herron, Ph.D. & Justin Koenitzer, Psy.D.

MINOR ROTATIONS

Interns may elect to participate in additional training experiences with faculty who serve in non-traditional professional roles or provide non-traditional experiences. Each minor rotation can be up to 4 hours per week and may span across rotations. That time is subtracted from the major rotation time.

HEALTH PSYCHOLOGY

Major Focus: Group psychotherapies focusing on specific medical illnesses.

- 1st Thursday of the month: *Coping with Medical Issues* at 1-2pm; group aimed at building coping skills and making health behavior changes in context of chronic medical issues
- 2nd Wednesday of the month: *Heart Failure Self-Management* Group at 1-2:30pm; group aimed at building coping skills and strategies for adherence among patients with heart failure
- 3rd Tuesday of the month: *DOM Coping with Medical Issues* Class 9-10am; class aimed at building coping skills and making health behavior changes in context of chronic medical issues; more of a large class than the smaller coping group in MH
- 3rd Wednesday of the month: *COPD Empowerment* Group at 1-2pm; group aimed at building coping skills and strategies for adherence among patients with COPD
- *Shared Medical Appointment in Cardiology*: every other Friday 8:30-10:30am; group appointment for patients recently discharged from the hospital due to heart failure; consists of education about heart failure with psychologist and nurse case manager; patients then move on to individual exams with medical provider

Time Commitment: Individualized according to intern's interest and schedule above, from December through July.

Location(s): Lake Nona

Supervisor(s): Laurie Wolf, Ph.D.

FORENSIC TOPICS: THREAT AND RISK ASSESSMENT

Major focus is on forensic topics involving threat and risk of violence assessments, clinical or other interventions within these areas, and administrative management of threats and disruptive behaviors.

Examples of tasks and projects may include: attendance at Disruptive Behavior Committee meetings; disruptive behavior case analysis and brief presentation at meetings; threat/risk assessment of Veterans displaying such behaviors using evidence-based structured clinical judgment tools; clinical interviews of Veterans regarding reports of disruptive behavior; occasional readings and discussion of relevant research or literature reviews on special forensic topics of interest to the trainee.

Note: There is not clinical workload credit available in this minor rotation. Although it involves clinical assessment and intervention experiences, workload encounters/procedure codes are not credited due to the nature of the work (non-billable).

Time Commitment: 2-3 hours weekly, Thursdays – exact time each week TBD by Supervisor and trainee (never to exceed 4 hours).

This minor rotation can last 4 or 8 months, based on program needs and trainee schedule and interests. Available Rotations 2 & 3 only.

Location(s): Lake Nona

Supervisor(s): April Ace, J.D., Ph.D.

PSYCHOLOGY ADMINISTRATION

Major Focus: The major focus of this minor rotation is to develop an understanding of general Mental Health Service line management. Time is spent learning about mental health program requirements, such as the Uniform Mental Health Services Handbook, as well as data management. The intern attends scheduled management meetings as permitted.

Time Commitment: 4 hours per week

Location(s): Lake Nona

Supervisor(s): Kara Boyer, Ph.D.

DIALECTICAL BEHAVIOR THERAPY (DBT) FOR BORDERLINE PERSONALITY DISORDER

Major Focus: This is an 8-month or year-long experience providing DBT to Veterans with significant difficulties with emotion regulation, tolerating stress, relationships, and self-harm and/or suicidality. The experience includes working with 1-2 Veterans at a time, co-leading a DBT skills group, and attending weekly group consultation on DBT. Patients may come from the Intern's primary rotation or from the trauma recovery team. The 8-month (2 rotation) option is for Interns who would like experience in DBT in order to provide DBT-informed therapy in the future; the 1-year option is for interns who would like to be fully trained in DBT and have a solid foundation toward certification by the DBT-Linehan Board of Certification. Additional experience can also be obtained in DBT during a rotation on TRuST.

Time Commitment: 4 hours per week for 8 or 12 months

Location(s): Lake Nona

Supervisor(s): Laura Meyers, Ph.D., ABPP

WHOLE HEALTH AND COMPLIMENTARY/ALTERNATIVE MEDICINE

Major Focus: The experience is an introduction to the different CAMs available: Yoga, Mindfulness, Tai Chi, Qichong, Art Therapy, progressive muscle relaxation, and Acupuncture. The interns learn about available resources in OVAHCS, and how to refer Veterans to one or more of these CAMs. A practice session is dedicated to show them and actual Yoga session offered to Veterans and they may immerse in the experience by being part of the class not just as an observant.

Time Commitment: 2 hours/week for 4 weeks

Location(s): Lake Nona

Supervisor(s): Bernice Vazquez-Garay, Psy.D.

CARE TRANSITIONS AND MENTAL HEALTH OUTREACH

The Care Transitions minor clinical rotation focuses on working with Veterans who were recently discharged from acute psychiatric inpatient or residential settings. Interns will participate in the post-discharge group and engage in outreach to recently discharged Veterans and Veterans who have been lost to care.

Location(s): Lake Nona

Supervisor(s): Steve Shea, Ph.D.

EVIDENCE-BASED PSYCHOTHERAPIES

Interns may have the opportunity to receive specific training and consultation in various evidence-based psychotherapies. Often the trainings include formal, multiday VA trainings with follow-up consultation. Past trainings in evidence-based psychotherapies include Cognitive Processing Therapy (CPT) for PTSD, Prolonged Exposure (PE) for PTSD, and Social Skills Training (SST) for Schizophrenia. Please note availability of specific trainings may vary from year to year. Additional requirements such as completing certain number of cases with that specific evidence-based psychotherapy may be required to complete the consultation process. Time commitments vary and may often last for six months to one year.

Location(s): Various

Supervisor(s): Various

DIDACTIC AND TRAINING SEMINARS

CLINICAL DIDACTICS

The ***Didactic Seminar*** focuses on relevant topics selected to address specific competencies and interests, as well as the multiple roles of the contemporary psychologist. Factors considered in developing the didactic curricula include intern-identified training needs and interests, faculty areas of specialty, cultural competencies, and evidence-based clinical practices. Special attention is given to issues related to diverse populations and multicultural factors, including those that may not be typically considered. Topics related to professional and ethical development are also emphasized. Various teaching methods are employed including didactic instruction, live demonstrations, videos, discussions, and recommended readings.

TRAINING SEMINARS

Supervision of Supervision seminar facilitates the Interns' growth as clinical supervisors. The seminar consists of a weekly training in clinical supervision and provides direct experience providing supervision to practicum students while under the supervision and guidance of a licensed psychologist. The Supervision of Supervision seminar covers areas including basic supervision principles and the developmental process of clinical supervision. The seminar and supervision experience help the intern to develop a philosophy or model of supervision. The Intern is expected to also demonstrate understanding of the complexity of the supervisor role including ethical, legal, and contextual issues, and to demonstrate an awareness of the current needs of supervised trainees, including how to provide developmentally appropriate feedback. In this vertical model, consistent with the VA Psychology Training Council (VAPTC) recommendations, some Interns also participate as "supervisees" of the postdoctoral fellows.

Case Conceptualization Seminar is a weekly seminar that focuses on the formulation and application of case conceptualizations from a cognitive-behavioral perspective. The seminar consists of didactics as well as experiential case presentations. Each intern rotates responsibility for presenting a case using conceptualization tools that are introduced towards the beginning of the seminar. Presentations are designed to be informal, and Interns and faculty facilitators will have the opportunity to ask questions and discuss ideas throughout the presentation. The goal of the seminar is to strengthen Interns' ability to conceptualize the development and maintenance of psychological issues based on a centralized theory.

Journal Club supplements the Didactic Seminar, and is an opportunity for Interns to critically evaluate relevant articles in the scientific literature related to the didactic topic. Interns rotate responsibility for selecting an article of interest related to the scheduled didactic and lead a critical analysis and discussion of the research. The Intern presenter should include evaluation of research design and analysis, reliability of findings, implications and limitations of the study, multicultural and ethnic issues related to both the methodology and clinical application of findings, ethical considerations, and considerations for treatment with the identified populations.

A faculty member participates as both an active discussant and to provide supervisory guidance on meeting didactic objectives. Evaluations are completed by faculty for each Journal Club, and feedback is provided to the Intern who led the effort.

LIFE AFTER INTERNSHIP

Following internship, the vast majority of our Interns choose to stay within the VA, either for a postdoctoral fellowship or as full-time clinical staff. For the Interns who choose to stay in the VA, about half accept a postdoctoral fellowship and half choose a permanent VA position (see below for data for the past three Intern cohorts).

Initial Post-Internship Position (past 3 years)

	Postdoctoral Fellowship	Employed Position
VA Medical Center	10	10
Academic University/Department		
Independent Practice Setting		
Other Medical Center or Hospital	2	

Total Number of Interns (2017-2020) = 22



APPLYING TO THE INTERNSHIP

Number of Available Internship Positions: 6

APPIC MATCH NUMBER

2221

INTERNSHIP YEAR

July 6, 2021 – July 2, 2022

STIPEND

\$26,234

Federal Income Tax and FICA (Social Security) are withheld from interns' checks. Please note that *Florida does not* have a state income tax.

FRINGE BENEFITS

Interns are eligible for health insurance. Interns also receive 4 hours of paid sick leave and 4 hours of paid annual leave (paid time off/vacation time) every 2-week pay period. This equates to approximately 13 days of sick leave and 13 days of annual leave over the course of the internship year. In addition, there are 10 federal holidays. With the approval of the current rotation supervisor and the training director, each intern may be additionally allocated up to five days of authorized absence (AA) for professional development activities (e.g. conferences, presentations, interviews, meetings with academic program advisor/ faculty, etc.). The United States government covers interns for malpractice under the Federal Liability Reform Tort Act.



ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

1. Completed at least three years of graduate course work in an APA- or CPA-accredited clinical or counseling psychology training program in good standing. Applicants from programs on probation will not be considered.
2. Approval for internship status by your graduate program training director.
3. Successfully defended the dissertation proposal.
4. Completed a minimum of 500 hours assessment/intervention supervised clinical practica, with preference given to 300+ hours intervention and 200+ assessment hours. Applicants with fewer than 500 clinical hours at the time of application should indicate a plan to accrue the necessary hours prior to starting internship.
5. Be a citizen of the United States. The Department of Veterans Affairs is unable to consider applications from anyone who is not currently a U.S. Citizen. Verification of citizenship is required following selection. All interns must complete a Certification of Citizenship in the United States prior to the beginning of VA training.
6. Federal law requires that most males living in the US between the ages of 18 and 26 register with the Selective Service System. Male, for this purpose, is any individual assigned male on their birth certificate regardless of current gender. Males required to register, but who failed to do so by their 26th birthday, are barred from any position in any Executive Agency. Visit <https://www.sss.gov> to register, print proof of registration or apply for a Status Information Letter.
7. Interns are subject to fingerprinting and background checks following match selection. Match results and selection decisions are contingent on passing these screens.
8. The Department of Veterans Affairs is a drug-free workplace in accordance with federal mandates and laws. All VA employees, including trainees, are subject to randomized drug screening. Ongoing participation in the internship is contingent on passing these screens.

APPLICATION PROCEDURE

The AAPI (APPIC Application for Psychology Internships) online application portal should be used by all interested students to apply to the Orlando VA Healthcare System Psychology Internship Program.

Your online AAPI application package should include:

- Verification of Internship Eligibility and Readiness, completed by University Director of Training
- Current official graduate transcript(s)
- Three letters of reference from faculty members or practicum supervisors who know you and your work well
- Cover letter
- Curriculum vitae

Complete application packets must be received by us **by 11:59 PM Eastern Time Zone November 15, 2020** for consideration for internship appointment beginning the following July 2021.

INTERVIEWS

Individual interviews will be conducted by invitation only, following initial evaluation of application materials. Applicants invited for interviews will be notified by December 18, 2020.

In light of COVID-19, all interviews will be virtual and are scheduled for the following dates:

- January 6, 2021
- January 14, 2021
- January 15, 2021

Policies and procedures regarding internship offers and acceptance recommended by the APPIC and the Council of Directors of Clinical Training Programs will be followed for the appointment of interns. The internship site agrees to abide by the APPIC Policy that no person at this training facility will solicit, accept or use any ranking-related information from any intern applicant prior to Uniform Notification Day.



NON-DISCRIMINATION:

Federal law prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age and disability. The Orlando VAHCS Psychology Internship Program extends this definition to mean that no information about the applicant which is not relevant to the applicant's potential to succeed in the training program is utilized in the selection process.

During the internship year, should there be an instance of discrimination experienced or observed by trainees or staff, there is an obligation to address the problem so as to minimize psychological harm. Interns are encouraged to consult with their clinical supervisor, mentor, training director, or Chief of Psychology for assistance in such matters.

Where this level of resolution is not effective or the instances are systemic, Interns have access to formal procedures, as per Medical Center Policy. The local EEO program manager is available for consultation to assist in any employee's exercise of their rights.

ACCREDITATION STATUS

The Orlando VA Doctoral Psychology Internship Program is fully accredited by the American Psychological Association (APA).

The American Psychological Association
Commission on Accreditation
750 First Street, NE
Washington, DC 20002
(202) 336-5979 – Office of Program Consultation and Accreditation

The Orlando VA Psychology Doctoral Internship Program is a member of APPIC. The Program abides by the APPIC internship selection and notification guidelines.



INTERNSHIP CONTACT INFORMATION

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Physical Address

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13800 Veterans Way
Orlando, FL 3 2827

APPENDIX A: FACULTY & STAFF

The Orlando VAHCS Psychology Staff includes over 100 doctoral level clinical and counseling psychologists, plus licensed professional counselors, marriage and family therapists, and vocational rehabilitation specialists.

The Education Service is led by **Jennifer Thompson, MD**, Associate Chief of Staff for Education. Within Mental Health Service, the Psychology Section is led by **Steven Herman, Ph.D.**, Chief of Psychology.

Staff Psychologists are assigned to a variety of clinics, including the Behavioral Health Integrated Program (BHIP), medical psychology, Primary Care Mental Health Integration (PCMHI), the Substance Use Disorder (SUD) treatment program, Intensive Case Management in Mental Health Recovery (ICMHR), the inpatient psychiatry (MH CARE) unit, the Center for Recovery Education (CORE), the Residential Rehabilitation Treatment Programs (RRTP), the Trauma Recovery Specialty Team (TRuST), and the Community Based Outpatient Clinics (CBOCs). Our staff are diverse not only with regard to areas of clinical expertise, but in terms of theoretical orientations, training experiences, research interests, and cultural backgrounds. Staff psychologists participate in a number of profession-specific and system-wide committees that address issues relating to quality of patient care, efficient delivery of services, and development of new programs. In addition, the staff is highly committed to the training of new professionals and is actively involved in the fellowship training program. Psychology staff who contribute to our training programs are listed below along with brief biographies.

TRAINING STAFF

Acting Training Director

Bryan Batien, Ph.D., ABPP received his Ph.D. from the University of South Dakota and completed his internship at the Cincinnati VA Medical Center. Dr. Batien is a psychologist on the *PTSD treatment (TRuST) team*, and he is also a member of the Emergency Response team at the Orlando VAHCS. He is board certified in Behavioral and Cognitive Psychology. His professional interests include readjustment challenges of OEF/OIF Veterans, PTSD, and anxiety disorders. He routinely provides presentations on Veterans' mental health challenges and readjustment to a number of organizations including NASA, local universities and colleges, and law enforcement agencies. Dr. Batien is a Veteran of the U.S. Army, which included a 14-month deployment to Iraq in 2003-2004.

SUPERVISORY STAFF

April Ace, JD, Ph.D., *Forensic Issues, Lake Nona.* Dr. Ace graduated from the University of Florida College of Law in 1992, worked for five years as an attorney, then earned her doctorate in Clinical and Community Psychology from the University of South Carolina in 2004. She completed her doctoral internship at the Tampa VA in 2004 and a forensic psychology postdoctoral residency at the University of Washington and Washington State Hospital in 2005. She has worked in juvenile and adult correctional facilities, a private medical practice, and has been with the Orlando VA since January 2008. With the VA she has worked as a Primary Care - Mental Health Integration (PCMHI) psychologist, the sole psychologist at a Community-Based outpatient Clinic (CBOC), a Psychology Supervisor, and now as the Orlando VA Workplace Violence Prevention Program Manager since 2016. She is a member of the international Association of Threat Assessment Professionals (ATAP), an organization of legal, mental health, law enforcement, and other experts who specialize in conducting structured threat and risk assessments for businesses, agencies, and medical facilities around the world. Her clinical and professional interests are primarily in forensic psychology and PTSD.

Christopher Blagg, Ph.D., *Primary Care Mental Health Integration, Lake Nona.* Dr. Blagg earned his doctorate in Clinical Psychology from Florida State University in 2012, where his research focused on measuring motivation to change, the relationship between smoking and anxiety, and the effectiveness of placebos in alcohol experiments. He completed his doctoral internship at the Federal Correctional Institution in Tallahassee, FL and his postdoctoral training at Southwestern State Hospital in Thomasville, Georgia. Dr. Blagg currently works at the Orlando VAHCS in Primary Care-Mental Health Integration, as part of a multi-disciplinary primary care team providing collaborative care. This includes conducting initial brief functional assessments, providing time-limited therapy, completing cognitive screenings, and facilitating shared medical appointments.

Kara Boyer, Ph.D. earned her doctorate at The University of South Dakota and completed her internship at Gulfcoast Veterans Health Care System. Dr. Boyer has served as the Team Leader of the PTSD Intensive Outpatient Program in the past. She has also worked as the Assistant Clinical Coordinator and Program Manager of the Mental Health Residential Rehabilitation Treatment Program at the Gulfcoast VHCS. While at Gulfcoast VHCS, she served as the Assistant Director of Training of the Psychology Postdoctoral Program. She is the Deputy Associate Chief of Staff for Mental Health at Orlando VAMC. She holds a Mississippi license. Dr. Boyer's interests include working to maximize patient flow within the larger VA system. She is also interested in program development.

Chelsea Brieman, Ph.D., *Supervision of Supervision Seminar Supervisor. Clinical location: Substance Use Disorders Team, Lake Nona and Daytona OPC*, earned her doctorate in Clinical Psychology from Rosalind Franklin University of Medicine and Science in 2015. She completed her internship at the Federal Medical Center-Devens and worked for the Federal Bureau of Prisons (BOP) prior to transferring to the Orlando VAHCS system in 2018. She has worked at the Metropolitan Correctional Center-Chicago, the Federal Correctional Institution-Oxford, and the U.S. Medical Center for Federal Prisoners-Springfield. She has administered and scored over 500 Psychopathy Checklist-Revised (PCL-R) interviews within a correctional setting and has several peer-reviewed publications related to her research in this area. She has experience completing competency and sanity evaluations for the federal court, as well as violence risk assessments (using the HCR-20) for civilly committed offenders. She has specialized in the assessment and treatment individuals with severe mental illnesses and is passionate about utilizing psychosocial interventions for individuals with psychotic symptoms/illnesses. She also served as the Mental Health Expert on a BOP Crisis Negotiation Team for two years. She is certified in Prolonged Exposure (PE) treatment and has been selected as a CBT for Substance Use Disorders (CBT-SUD) consultant. She has experience providing individual DBT and has co-led DBT Skills Groups in the community as well as in the VA. Her clinical and research interests are primarily in the areas of Military Sexual Trauma, psychopathy, relapse prevention for SUD, group psychotherapy, resilience after trauma, and PTSD. Her personal interests include cooking delicious low-carb comfort foods, biking, kayaking, and anything UW Badger-related.

Pamela C. Brown, PhD *Substance Use Disorder Treatment Program, Lake Baldwin*. Dr. Brown earned her doctorate in Clinical Psychology from the University of Central Florida in 2010. She completed her doctoral internship at the VA Connecticut Healthcare System, West Haven campus and a 2-year NIDA T32 fellowship in Addictions at the Center for Addictions Research, University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences. She is licensed in Arkansas. She is the Program Manager for Substance Use Disorders Treatment at all sites of care for OVAMC. She received the Outstanding Clinician award from APA Division 18, VA Section in 2017. Her primary clinical interests are treatment of substance use disorders, co-occurring disorders, PTSD, and the recovery approach. Dr. Brown provides and supervises diagnostic assessment and empirically supported interventions for Veterans with Substance Use Disorders and various other mental health issues (i.e., Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder, Major Depressive Disorder, Bipolar Disorder, etc.). Her research interests include treatment outcome research and the use of technology for the prevention and treatment of substance use disorders.

Virginia Gründler, Psy.D. *Pain Management, Lake Baldwin.* Dr. Gründler completed her bachelor's degrees in Business Administration from the Inter-American University from Puerto Rico and in Psychology from the Florida International University (FIU). She received her doctorate in Clinical Psychology from The Chicago School, formerly known as The Chicago School of Professional Psychology. Dr. Gründler completed her residency at Nova Southeastern University and her Post-Doctoral Training at Maryville Academy- City of Youth, Chicago IL. Her population expertise includes children, adolescents, and adults of varying ages and settings. Her clinical and consulting experience are varied and include medical settings (with an emergency room specialty); residential treatment facilities for children and adolescents; government/ federal programs including VA, Head Start, the Department of Corrections, women's psychiatric prison facilities; and community mental health centers in both Puerto Rico and Chicago, IL. Her treatment approach is interdisciplinary and includes evidence-based practices, Ericksonian Self Hypnosis, Cognitive Behavioral Therapy, Family Systems and Psychodynamic approaches. Dr Gründler was a collaborating partner in the success of four CARF accreditations with the Caribbean Health Care System. She is also fully bilingual (English and Spanish) and bi-cultural, and enjoys outdoor activities, and values friendships and commitments.

Janice Herron, Ph.D., *Neuropsychology, Lake Baldwin.* Dr. Herron is a Clinical Neuropsychologist at the Orlando VAHCS. She earned her Ph.D. in the APA-accredited Human Services Psychology Program at the University of Maryland Baltimore County in 1999, completing both Clinical Psychology and Behavioral Medicine tracks. Doctoral psychology internship training was completed in the Neuropsychology track of the Medical University of South Carolina/Charleston VA Consortium, followed by completion of a National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) Research Fellowship at MUSC. She has earned VA certification in Prolonged Exposure therapy for PTSD and maintains interest in clinical care of Veterans with mild TBI and PTSD. Prior to joining the Orlando VAHCS in 2012, Dr. Herron worked as a Clinical Neuropsychologist at the Martinsburg VAMC, in private practice, and has been involved in teaching undergraduate and graduate interns. Dr. Herron is actively involved with the Psychology Internship training committee with a focus on assessment activities. Other professional interests involve neuropsychological variables impacting coping and recovery following neurological events.

Alysa Ivey, Ph.D., MHR RTP, Lake Nona, completed her doctorate in Clinical Psychology with a concentration in Organizational Consulting at Pacific University's School of Graduate Psychology in Oregon. For her dissertation, Dr. Ivey conducted qualitative research on the effects of workplace discrimination and microaggressions on minority Veterans' overall job satisfaction with their military career. Dr. Ivey completed the APA-accredited Psychology Internship training program at the Orlando VA Medical Center and now serves as Psychology Resident at the Lake Nona Domiciliary. Although trained as a Generalist, Dr. Ivey has sought specialty experience in evidence-based treatments for insomnia, chronic pain, depression, anxiety, OCD and related disorders, trauma- and stressor-related disorders. Following training by Dr. Frost and Lee Shuer in March 2017, Dr. Ivey established Buried in Treasures group therapy for Hoarding Disorder at Kaiser Permanente Northwest Region's Skyline Medical Office—the first of its kind in Salem, Oregon and surrounding mid-valley. Her organizational consulting work has centered on assessment, program evaluation, leadership development, team building, organizational culture and diversity. Dr. Ivey earned her certification as a Facet5 practitioner in July 2015 through the Perrault Consulting Group in Portland, Oregon. Personal interests include creative writing, attending live concerts and theatre, frequenting Universal and Disney parks, exploring Orlando foodie culture, and spending time with her beloved 16-year-old dachshund (Nemo).

Danielle Jahn, Ph.D., Trauma Recovery Specialty Team, Lake Nona. Dr. Jahn received her doctoral degree in clinical psychology from Texas Tech University in 2014. She completed her doctoral internship at the VA Eastern Colorado Health Care System in Denver, Colorado. Her postdoctoral fellowship focused on serious mental illness at the VA VISN 5 Mental Illness Research, Education, and Clinical Center. Prior to joining the Orlando VA Medical Center psychology team, Dr. Jahn held various positions, including Clinical Research Psychologist at the VISN 5 MIRECC, Assistant Professor in the Division of Psychiatric Services Research at the University of Maryland School of Medicine, Psychologist at Primary Care Institute (Gainesville, FL), and Health Psychologist at SIMED Health (Gainesville, FL). She is now a psychologist at the Mental Health Center for Acute Recovery Empowerment, an acute psychiatric inpatient setting. Dr. Jahn is an appointed Research Program Member of the Military Suicide Research Consortium and Older Adult Advisor for the QPR Institute. She has published over 40 peer-reviewed articles and authored over 50 research presentations at national and international conferences. She has served on a national task force addressing gaps in clinical training in suicide risk assessment and management through the American Association of Suicidology, acted as the program chair for the 47th Annual American Association of Suicidology Conference, and was a member of the older adult workgroup for the Maryland Governor's Commission on Suicide Prevention. Dr. Jahn's clinical and research interests focus on suicide prevention, serious mental illness, older adults, and transitions of care.

Justin C. Koenitzer, Psy.D., Neuropsychology, Lake Baldwin. Dr. Koenitzer earned his undergraduate degree in Psychology from Rutgers University. He earned both his Master's and Doctoral (2008) degrees in Clinical Psychology from Florida Institute of Technology, within the specialty track of Behavioral Medicine and Neuropsychology. He completed his Fellowship at Eastern Virginia Medical School in Norfolk VA, followed by his Postdoctoral Residency in Neuropsychology through the private practice of Dr. Patrick Gorman in Winter Park, Florida. He has been licensed in the State of Florida since 2012. Dr. Koenitzer has taught at the undergraduate and graduate levels and supervised graduate students, doctoral Fellows, and Postdoctoral Fellows. Broadly, his primary clinical and research areas of interest are in Health Psychology and neurocognitive disorders to include TBI and dementia. He has been involved in research related to various aspects of human olfaction and the relationship between olfaction and neurocognitive disorders. In addition to his clinical experience in neuropsychological assessment, Dr. Koenitzer focuses on cognitive remediation interventions for individuals with neurocognitive disorders, addressing the management of a broad array of medical conditions with and without psychopathological overlay. When he is not working, he enjoys distance running, playing the piano, and making "drip castles" and playing with his eight-year-old and nineteen-month-old daughters.

Manjot Dhooper Leafgreen, Ph.D., Domiciliary, Lake Nona. Dr. Leafgreen completed her doctoral training at the University of South Dakota and internship at Park Center, Inc., a Community Mental Health Center in Ft. Wayne, IN. She has worked as a Clinical Psychologist & Intensive Outpatient Program (IOP) Coordinator at the VA Daytona Beach Outpatient Clinic, a Senior Mental Health Clinician at Florida State Prison, Senior Psychologist at Union Correctional Institution (FL State Prison), Clinical Psychologist at SD Human Services Center/ George S. Mickelson Center for the Neurosciences (State Psychiatric Hospital), Vertical Clinical Team Instructor at University of South Dakota and Psychology Associate at SD State Penitentiary. She currently works as a Staff Psychologist, Lake Nona Domiciliary. She is licensed in South Dakota & Florida. Dr. Leafgreen's areas of interest include severe and persistent mental illness, personality disorders, substance use disorders, forensics, animal-assisted therapy, inpatient and residential levels of care.

Michael Lind, Ph.D., *Center for Recovery Education (CORE), Lake Baldwin*. Dr. Lind earned his doctorate in Counseling Psychology from the University of Kansas in 2000. He was awarded a Fulbright Fellowship, which he fulfilled at the University of British Columbia in Vancouver, Canada. He completed his doctoral internship at the Salt Lake City VAMC and has been licensed in Utah since 2001. Over the past 25 years, he has worked with Veterans, teens, adults, and the geriatric population providing assessment, individual psychotherapy, and group therapy. He has been involved in VA program development and implementation in a variety of settings, including the Domiciliary, Compensation & Pension, and Primary Care Mental Health Integration. He is currently a staff psychologist in the Orlando VA Psychosocial Rehabilitation and Recovery Center (PRRC) working with Veterans who have been diagnosed with serious mental illness. He grew up in South Jersey, right across the Delaware River from Philadelphia, and is a rabid fan of all Philadelphia sports teams. Additionally, he is a life-long distance runner and enjoys rock-n'-roll music and travel.

Diana M. Mendez, Ph.D. Specialty Mental Health Psychology Program Manager; Dr. Mendez earned her doctorate in Clinical Psychology in 2012 from the University of Detroit Mercy. She then completed a postdoctoral fellowship in Clinical Health Psychology through the University of Miami Miller School of Medicine. Upon completion of her training, Dr. Mendez worked as an Attending Psychologist at University of Miami Miller School of Medicine/Jackson Memorial Medical Center, providing clinical care and supervising postdoctoral fellows, interns, and practicum students. Most of Dr. Mendez' clinical experiences have been with diverse inner-city populations, with individuals exposed to various types of traumas. In addition, she has served as an investigator on studies looking at cultural factors that impact clinical presentation, manifestation of psychopathology (e.g., depression, PTSD), and delivery of effective treatments to ethnic minority populations. Her primary clinical and research interests focus on trauma, resiliency, minority mental health, evidence-based practices, and health psychology. She joined the Orlando VAHCS in 2014. She trained in a Consultant for Prolonged Exposure Therapy (PE), and is trained in Cognitive Processing Therapy (CPT), Cognitive Behavioral Therapy for SUD (CBT-SUD), and Dialectical Behavior Therapy (DBT). Dr. Mendez has been actively involved in the training committee for the last 6 years, at all levels of training (i.e., externs, interns, fellows), and supervising trainees through BHIP and TRuST in both English and Spanish. She is also the Orlando VA Evidence Treatment Coordinator and is devoted to increase access to evidence base care to veterans across sites of care throughout the Orlando VA Health care system. Dr. Mendez is currently the Primary Investigator in an HSR&D COVID19 grant, looking at Changes in the Delivery of Evidenced Based Psychotherapies for Depression and PTSD as the Result of COVID-19 Pandemic. She is licensed in the state of Florida. She loves spending time with family and friends, basketball, music, and reading.

Laura Meyers, PhD, ABPP, is the Program Manager of the *Trauma Recovery Specialty Team (TRuST – PTSD treatment team)* and a Psychology Supervisor at Lake Nona. She earned her PhD in Clinical-Community Psychology at the University of South Carolina in 2006, completed internship at the Bay Pines VA Healthcare System, completed a postdoctoral fellowship in Health Psychology and Serious Mental Illness at the Minneapolis VA Healthcare System, and completed her ABPP certification in Clinical Psychology. She worked on the new Primary Care Mental Health Integration Team at the Minneapolis VA for 5 years, co-directed the DBT program, and was the Evidence-based Psychotherapy Coordinator. She then worked as the Program Coordinator for the PTSD treatment team at the Minneapolis VA for 5 years and developed and ran the Journeys Program, a national 12-week intensive outpatient program that provided DBT and PE. She then moved to the Orlando VA in 2017 to help develop the PTSD program and because Minneapolis is chilly. She is certified in Cognitive Processing Therapy (CPT) and Prolonged Exposure (PE) and is a national trainer and consultant for PE. She is also nationally certified in Dialectical Behavior Therapy (DBT) by the DBT-Linehan Board of Certification. She loves to supervise all levels of trainees in evidence-based approaches for trauma and/or Borderline Personality Disorder, specifically PE, CPT, DBT, ACT, and IBCT. She supervises trainees through TRuST, as well as in PE and DBT. Personally, she is a recovering perfectionist and is working on taking life less seriously. She loves spending time with her family and fostering dogs, who are the perfect examples of inconsistently applied behavioral principles (both her kids and the dogs).

Tiffany Misra, Ph.D., BHIP, Lake Baldwin, earned her doctorate degree in Clinical Counseling Psychology from the University of South Alabama in 2013. She completed her doctoral internship at West Virginia University at the Carruth Center and completed her post-doctoral training at Oberlin College, in Oberlin, Ohio. Since that time, Dr. Misra has worked in a variety of settings, including college counseling (most recently University of Central Florida), long-term care and short-term rehab facilities, private practice, and currently has been with the Orlando VA since 2018. Dr. Misra has publications in the areas of Intimate Partner Violence and Narcissism; her research has additionally focused on Non-suicidal Self-Injury and Suicide. Throughout her experiences, Dr. Misra has specialized in Supervision, Training, and Administration. She is currently VA trained in CBT for Depression and Interpersonal Therapy for Depression, but has experience in other therapy approaches including Prolonged Exposure and Cognitive Processing Therapy. Current VA related activities include assessment (ADHD, memory/cognitive concerns, and psychodiagnostic), providing therapy, and serving on the Template and Training committees.

Stacey Polott, Psy.D. completed her undergraduate education at the College of William & Mary in Williamsburg, Virginia, and is a graduate of Florida Institute of Technology's clinical Psy.D. program. She completed her internship training at the Coatesville VA Medical Center in Pennsylvania, and her doctoral fellowship at the Daytona Beach VA Outpatient Clinic. She has worked in the Kissimmee Community Based Outpatient Clinic for 2 years before transferring to her current position in BHIP 2 at Lake Baldwin in November 2018. Dr. Polott is truly a generalist who has spent her career thus far in general mental health settings, and is also a strong proponent of EBPs, having training and experience in CPT, CBT-D, ACT-D and IPT-D. She also has a strong interest in psychological assessment, and particularly enjoys utilizing assessment as a therapeutic intervention. Dr. Polott hails from the Maryland suburbs of Washington, D.C., and moved to Florida to escape those treacherous mid-Atlantic winters. When she is not working, she is spending time with her husband and two small children, trying to squeeze in distance runs with a local running group, and of course practicing plenty of mindfulness.

Mary Beth Shea, Ph.D., earned her doctorate in Clinical and Community Psychology from the University of South Carolina in 1990. She completed her doctoral internship at the Bay Pines VAMC in St. Petersburg, FL and has been with VA throughout her career. She has worked at the WJB Dorn VAMC in Columbia, SC as a medical and geriatric psychologist, the Columbia SC Vet Center as the MST Coordinator, and as the Local Recovery Coordinator and the Psychology Training Director at the Orlando VAHCS. Until her current VA position, Dr. Shea also maintained a private practice in adolescent, adult, and geriatric psychology. She is a Cognitive Processing Therapy (CPT) trainer and Prolonged Exposure (PE) therapy Supervisor and served as chair of the Orlando VA IRB for 7 years. She is a member of the National Emergency Medical Response Team and the American Red Cross Disaster Mental Health team. She is the immediate past-president of the Association of VA Psychology Leaders and a past-president of the Florida Chapter of the Psychiatric Rehabilitation Association. Her clinical and research interests are primarily in the area of sexual coercion, sexual assault, and PTSD. She was awarded the 2019 Outstanding Director of Training by APA Division 18, VA Section.

Cristy Russo, Ph.D., MSCP, earned her doctorate in Clinical Psychology from the University of Arkansas, Fayetteville. She completed her predoctoral internship at the Arkansas State Hospital in Little Rock, AR. Dr. Russo completed a postdoctoral fellowship specializing in Neuropsychology at Children's Hospital of New Orleans. She completed a postdoctoral Master of Science in Clinical Psychopharmacology from Alliant University. She has worked in outpatient and inpatient settings throughout her career. She is currently the Consultation and Liaison Medical Psychologist at the Orlando VA where she provides inpatient medical psychology consultation to Veterans who are hospitalized on the medical units. Dr. Russo is also in private practice in the local area and is currently affiliated faculty at UCF College of Medicine.

Bernice Vazquez-Garay, Psy.D. was born and raised in Puerto Rico. She earned a master's degree in industrial organizational psychology from the University of Puerto Rico in Rio Piedras before relocating in 2004 to the states with her husband, whom was a JAG Officer for the ARMY at the time. As a military spouse, Dr. Vazquez-Garay had the opportunity to travel around the country, spend time with many military families, and immerse herself into the military culture. In 2007, she was accepted by the prestigious Professional Psychology Program from the Columbian College of Arts and Sciences at George Washington University in Washington, DC. Dr. Vazquez-Garay earned her Doctor of Psychology degree in 2010 and completed her doctoral internship at the Jefferson County Internship Consortium in Louisville, KY; part of the umbrella of the Seven Counties Services where she was hired in 2011 as a Staff Psychologist. Dr. Vazquez-Garay worked in this position for four years attending the mental health needs of the underserved Hispanic population in Kentucky before relocating to Orlando, FL in the Summer of 2015. She currently holds licenses to practice psychology in Puerto Rico, Kentucky, and Florida. In the Fall of 2016, Dr. Vazquez-Garay was appointed to serve as a Licensed Clinical Psychologist for the IOP/SUD Program at OVAMC at Lake Baldwin. Dr. Vazquez-Garay's personal interests includes practicing Yoga, area in which she holds an instructor certification of 200 hrs. RYT by Yoga Alliance, playing the piano, and spending time with her husband and two children.

Laurie Wolf, Ph.D. is a Clinical Health Psychologist within the *Medical Psychology Program* and works embedded within the *Cardiology service*. Her work in Cardiology includes a rehabilitation psychology focus that aims to improve functioning and quality of life among Veterans with heart disease. She conducts cognitive assessments and provides brief interventions including motivational interviewing and cognitive-behavioral therapy aimed at improving coping, adherence, and management of heart disease. She completed her undergraduate work at the University of South Florida and obtained her Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology at Arizona State University in 2016. She completed predoctoral internship training in Behavioral Medicine, PTSD, and substance use at VA Boston Healthcare System. She continued at VA Boston to complete fellowship training in Behavioral Medicine. Professional interests include Health Psychology, comorbid chronic pain and trauma, and program development aimed at improving physical functioning and well-being among patients with chronic illness.

DIDACTIC INSTRUCTORS, AVAILABLE MENTORS, AND OTHER POSTDOCTORAL FELLOWSHIP TRAINING STAFF

Margaret Arnott, Ph.D. earned her degree in Psychology in 2000 from The Ohio State University while it was ranked one of the top Counseling Psychology programs in the nation. She is currently the Primary Care Mental Health Integration Program Manager and Psychology Supervisor (for staff in this program) at the Orlando VAMC. She completed her internship at the Dayton VAMC and was hired as part of the newly formed PTSD Clinical Team. While in Dayton she was the co-director of training and supervised Fellows on the PTSD rotation. She transferred to the Columbus VA, where she led the PTSD team and was selected as the Evidence-Based Psychotherapy Coordinator and the Practicum Fellow Training Coordinator. She also served as the VISN 10 PTSD Co-Mentor and was selected as the Psychology Supervisor. She is certified through the VA EBP rollouts in both Prolonged Exposure (PE), Cognitive Processing Therapy (CPT), and is certified in EMDR I. She has spoken at numerous conferences and presented a poster and presentation on an educational program she co-developed, PTSD University, at the VA MH Conference on Best Practices in Portland 2006. Her clinical and outcome research interests include PTSD treatment, hope instillation for treatment engagement and self-efficacy.



Peter Castranova, *Program Support Specialist, Lake Nona*, began his career with the federal government in 2009 at the Sarasota National Cemetery. In 2015, he relocated to Orlando and began working for the VA Healthcare System. He has worked various administrative roles in the VA since that time.

Teri Carper, Ph.D. is a Staff Psychologist at the Orlando VAHCS within the TRuST team and is also the Telemental Health Coordinator as well as the VISN8 Telemental Health Lead. She completed her undergraduate work at Boston University and earned her Ph.D. in 2010 from the University of Central Florida (UCF). Dr. Carper completed her doctoral internship at Boston Consortium for Clinical Psychology and her postdoctoral fellowship at the National Center for PTSD at Boston VA, where she also held the positions of Clinical Fellow in Psychiatry at Harvard Medical School and Teaching Fellow in Psychiatry at Boston University School of Medicine. Dr. Carper's clinical and research interests center around trauma trajectories and resiliency factors, and she is currently a PI or co-I on three research projects. Dr. Carper's personal interests include animals, distance running, skiing, and most importantly, spending time with her husband and twin daughter and son.

Valerie Masten Hoese, Ph.D. received her degree in Human Services Psychology from the University of Maryland Baltimore County in 1990, having completed tracks in Behavioral Medicine and Clinical Psychology. She completed her internship at the Springfield Hospital Center in Sykesville, MD. She is a Clinical Neuropsychologist and has worked in a variety of settings, including a Level I trauma center, neurology practice, nursing homes, psychiatric hospital, jail, community medical centers, and continues in independent practice providing medicolegal assessment. She has published and presented in neurotoxic exposure, cognitive rehabilitation, professional practice issues, and cultural and diversity variables in neuropsychological assessment. She is an Associate Professor at the University of Florida College of Medicine and teaches a section on Neuropsychological Assessment. She teaches at the University of Central Florida as an Associate Professor in the Neurosciences doctoral program. She is licensed in Florida (active) and Maryland (inactive). She serves on several committees for APA and the National Academy of Neuropsychology. She is the former training director of the Orlando VA and current Medical Psychology supervisor. Her clinical interests are in the areas of assessment of performance validity, cross cultural neuropsychological assessment, and professional ethics.

Dr. John Merladet, Ph.D., ABPP holds a doctorate in Counseling Psychology from the University of Minnesota, Department of Educational Psychology: Counseling, Student, and Personnel Psychology Program. This doctoral program is accredited by the American Psychology Association (APA). He also completed a clinical internship that was also APA approved at Mt. Sinai Elmhurst Hospital Center, in Queens, New York, rotating through inpatient psychiatry, outpatient psychiatry, child psychiatry, inpatient forensics, and substance abuse clinics. He has a one year of supervised postdoctoral training in the neuropsychological assessment of Alzheimer's and Dementia from New York's Mt. Sinai's Clinical Neuroscience Program. He is a licensed psychologist in the States of Minnesota, Florida, and New York. Dr. Merladet is a board-certified specialist and aspires to the Pikes Peak Model of geropsychology practice. He presently works in the Homebased Primary Care program, VA's primary care premier service for home bound Veterans many of which are frail elderly with multiple medical, cognitive, and MH conditions. He has been working for the VA for a total of seven years. Before that, he has worked in rehabilitation psychology, as a psychologist for a jail's medical unit, as a nursing home psychologist, as a grief counselor for visiting nurses, on an elderly suicide crisis line, for a NORC (naturally occurring retirement community) as a therapist, and a community based senior church-based outreach program. Dr. Merladet has also been a trainer and adjunct professor. He has taught at Argosy University, St. Mary's University of Minnesota, and in New York City, Queens College. He has facilitated and created many workshops and presentations. His present interests are in assessment and testing of cognitive disorders, Hispanic elderly and caregivers, human-animal bond in caring for impaired elderly, cognitive enhancement groups for elderly, demystifying capacity evaluations, caregiver burden in the Latino community, and interplay between medical disorders and cognitive status. Dr. Merladet has been trained in CPT, ACT, MI, DBT, CBT-Sleep, CBT-Smoking, Pain Management, Biofeedback (Certified), Problem Solving, and EMDR. Dr. Merladet is bilingual and can do assessment, testing, and therapy in both English and Spanish along with understanding/appreciating the research and clinical implications in working across languages and cultures. His theoretical orientation is cognitive-behavioral/multimodal.

Nkaku Kisaalita, Ph.D. is a Psychologist at the Orlando VAMC with a background in Clinical Health Psychology and pain management. He completed his undergraduate work at UNC at Chapel Hill and earned his doctorate in Clinical Psychology from the University of Florida Department of Clinical & Health Psychology in 2014. He completed his doctoral internship in Medical Psychology at the Medical College of Georgia/Charlie Norwood VAMC Psychology Consortium in Augusta GA. He then completed a Pain Psychology Postdoctoral Fellowship at the James A. Haley Veterans' Hospital in Tampa FL. Dr. Kisaalita joined the Orlando VAMC Medical Psychology staff as an outpatient Pain Psychologist in 2015. In addition to his clinical interests in behavioral pain management, Dr. Kisaalita has published several peer-reviewed empirical studies on chronic pain and placebo analgesia and has presented his research at national and international scientific meetings. Other professional interests include cultural diversity, positive psychology, and strength-based approaches. Personal interests include fitness/health, soccer, traveling, and cooking. Additionally, Dr. Kisaalita is self-described obsessive UNC basketball fan.

William E. Riebsame, Ph.D., ABPP earned his doctorate in Counseling Psychology from Virginia Commonwealth University in 1987. He then completed his internship at the University of South Florida. He was initially employed at the University of Maryland-College Park but returned to Florida in 1989 and was then licensed to practice as a psychologist. Dr. Riebsame maintained an independent practice treating adult, adolescents, and families for over 20 years. His practice evolved and became more forensic in nature leading to his board certification in Forensic Psychology in 2006. Dr. Riebsame became employed with the VA in 2013 and now carries out disability evaluations and sees veterans in individual and group psychotherapy at the Outpatient Clinic in Viera, FL. This work is full circle for Dr. Riebsame who was born in Ft. Bragg, NC and comes from a military family. His son is now an officer in the USMC. Dr. Riebsame enjoys all the aspects of the Florida lifestyle and is happy to introduce others to the "local scene!"



Steven Shea, Ph.D. is the Local Recovery Coordinator at the Orlando VAMC and an Assistant Professor of Medical Education, University of Central Florida School of Medicine. He served as the Chief of Psychology at OVAMC from 2008-2018. He received his Doctorate in Clinical and Community Psychology from the University of South Carolina and did his undergraduate education at Rutgers University. Dr. Shea has been working in the behavioral health field since 1979. Areas of professional interest include psychosocial rehabilitation of persons with serious mental illnesses, education of trainees in all mental health professions, mental health administration, criminal forensic psychology and educating the legal system about mental health issues. He is married to an OVAMC psychologist and the Shea's have a daughter and 2 granddaughters (photos available upon request). Outside interests include outdoor activities (hiking, travel, boating, & fishing), motorcycles (photos available upon request), old cars and photography.

APPENDIX B: DIDACTIC TOPICS

Previous Didactic Seminars have included the following topics:

Military Culture	Insomnia and Sleep Management
Diversity in the VA	Psychological Sequelae of Sexual Trauma
Suicidal Ideation and Crisis Intervention	Seeking Safety Psychotherapy Curriculum
Brief Interventions & Interdisciplinary Practice	Health Psychology/Behavioral Medicine
Professional Ethics	Pain Psychology
Treatment of Panic Disorder	mTBI and PTSD: Implications for Treatment
Introduction to Evidence Based Psychotherapies	Cognitive Rehabilitation
Interpersonal Therapy for Depression	Dementia
Acceptance & Commitment Therapy	Geriatric Psychology
Next Steps: Postdocs and Job Search	Adults with History of Developmental Disorders
Psychopharmacological Interventions	Licensure/EPPP
Self-Care: Work/Life Balance	Couples Therapy
Substance Use Disorder Treatment	Religious and Spiritual Factors in Treatment
Anger Management	Medically Unexplained Illness
Diversity: LGBT Issues	Professional Boundaries
Marriage & Family Therapy	Culturally Informed EBP
Treatment of Subthreshold PTSD	Self-Care Strategies
Cognitive Processing Therapy	Psychosocial Programs for SMI
Prolonged Exposure Therapy	Research in the VA Setting