Postdoctoral Residency Programs Brochure 2019 - 2020
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TBD

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TBD

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Entrance, American Lake Division
ABOUT THE VA PUGET SOUND HEALTH CARE SYSTEM

Overview
With a reputation for excellence in caring for our Nation’s Veterans, VA Puget Sound strives to lead the nation in terms of quality, efficiency and public service. As the primary referral site for VA’s northwest region, VA Puget Sound provides care for Veteran populations encompassing Alaska, Washington, Idaho and Oregon. Since its inception, VA Puget Sound Health Care System has distinguished itself as a leader in teaching, research and patient care while earning prestigious recognition as part of the largest health care network in the country. We consider it our privilege to serve the health care needs of more than 80,000 Veterans living in the Pacific Northwest.

In addition to two divisions located at American Lake and Seattle, VA Puget Sound offers services at community-based outpatient clinics. They are located in Bellevue, Bremerton, Federal Way, Mount Vernon, North Seattle, Port Angeles, and South Sound (Chehalis). VA Puget Sound is affiliated with the University of Washington, School of Medicine, in Seattle.

Mission
Honor America’s Veterans by providing exceptional and innovative care that improves their health and quality of life.

Vision
The Veterans Health Administration will continue to be the benchmark of excellence and value in health care. Our Mental Health Service strives to provide services reflective of the latest technologies in patient-centered and evidence-based care. We provide this care in engaged, interprofessional teams who support learning, discovery and continuous quality improvement. Our efforts also emphasize prevention and population health and contribute to the Nation’s well-being through education, research and service in national emergencies.

Core Values
Compassion, Commitment, Excellence, Professionalism, Integrity, Accountability, Stewardship

More information on the VA Puget Sound Health Care System can be found at: http://www.pugetsound.va.gov
ABOUT THE AMERICAN LAKE DIVISION

The VA Puget Sound Health Care System (VAPSHCS) is comprised of two divisions (American Lake and Seattle), each with its own Psychology Training Program. The American Lake Division of VAPSHCS is located in Lakewood, a major suburb of Tacoma, Washington. Nestled along 1.8 miles of the beautiful American Lake shoreline with Mt. Rainier standing to the East, this Division enjoys one of the most beautiful settings in the VA system. The 378 acres of medical center grounds include 110 acres of natural habitat, 8 acres of lawns, and a 55-acre golf course.

The American Lake campus was founded in 1923 as the 94th Veterans Hospital built by the War Department for the provision of care to World War I Veterans. The Secretary of the Army authorized, under a revocable license, the Veteran Bureau’s use of 377 acres of the 87,000 acre Fort Lewis Army Base property.

The planning committee chose a site on the western shores of American Lake and aspired to build a facility that was both functional and aesthetically pleasing. They chose a Spanish-American architectural style reminiscent of the United States early military structures, such as the Alamo. Many of the stucco and terra cotta buildings are listed on the National Register of Historical Buildings and are still enjoyed by both patients and staff for their beauty.

The medical center was dedicated in 1924 and chartered with a single mission — neuropsychiatric treatment. On March 15, 1924, the first 50 patients were admitted to the hospital, by transfer, from Western State Hospital at Fort Steilacoom. Over the years, American Lake has grown from its original mission to a national leader in integrated health care.

Psychologists, physicians, social workers, nurses and ARNPs, dentists, rehabilitative medicine, physician assistants, and auxiliary staff make up the approximately 800 individuals employed at this campus. American Lake’s Psychology Training Program has been training doctoral psychology interns since the 1950s. Postdoctoral residency training began at American Lake in 2014.
THE TRAINING PROGRAMS

Accreditation Status
The postdoctoral residency programs at American Lake are in their initial training years and are currently not accredited. We have submitted our initial multiple practice (Clinical Psychology, Geropsychology and Clinical Neuropsychology) self-study to APA (as of April 30, 2018).

Questions related to APA accreditation should be directed to the Committee on Accreditation:

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

APPIC Membership Status
The postdoctoral residency programs at American Lake are proud Association of Psychology Postdoctoral and Internship Centers (APPIC) member programs (since May 2015).

Questions related to APPIC Membership can be directed to APPIC Central Office:

Association of Psychology Postdoctoral and Internship Centers
17225 El Camino Real
Onyx One - Suite #170
Houston, TX  77058-2748
Phone: (832) 284-4080
Email: appic@appic.org
Web: http://www.appic.org

Mission
Training provided through the American Lake Psychology Training Programs (Residency and Internship) supports the Mission of VA Puget Sound to “Honor America’s Veterans by providing exceptional and innovative care that improves their health and quality of life,” and the national VA Missions of patient care, education, research, and serving as back-up to the Department of Defense.

The Training Program has a specific mission, as captured in the following statement:

“It is the mission of the Psychology Postdoctoral Residency Training Programs at the American Lake Division of VA Puget Sound is to ensure that Veterans and others across the nation have continuing access to highly qualified, ethical, and professional psychological staff who possess advanced competencies in Clinical Psychology, Geropsychology, or Clinical Neuropsychology, from a scientist-practitioner orientation, that is grounded in diverse clinical experiences, with sensitivity to and knowledge about the influence of ethnic, cultural, and individual differences on psychological services.”
Philosophy
It is our belief that excellence in health service psychology requires attention to ethics, diversity, science, and practice. The residency programs at American Lake draw from the Scientist-Practitioner model, which requires the integration of science and practice.

The postdoctoral residency provides specific training in advanced competencies, as well as acculturation into a philosophy with which clinical and research problems are approached. The scientist-practitioner model most clearly reflects the philosophy of objectivity, openness to the available data, and a willingness to explore various hypotheses to understand and address specific clinical situations through research, as well as through study and training.

Within our postdoctoral programs, translation of the scientist-practitioner model into practice occurs under the supervision of psychologists in programs that have either service delivery or clinical research as a primary focus. Emphasis is placed on the acquisition of clinical skills, including the ability to evaluate psychiatric and neuropsychological disorders objectively, to develop and implement treatment plans, and to evaluate the effectiveness of interventions. Seminars dealing with relevant clinical, research, and professional concerns occur throughout the year at the American Lake VA medical center and in the greater professional community.

Overview of the Training Programs
There are three postdoctoral residency programs at American Lake (Clinical Psychology, Geropsychology and Clinical Neuropsychology) all part of a multiple practice program. Within the Clinical Psychology program there are three separate Focus Areas (Behavioral and Cognitive Psychology with PTSD Focus, Primary Care Mental Health Integration Focus, and Trauma and Substance Use Residential Treatment Focus). Each program has specific aims which reflect our belief that psychologists are defined both by specific training received and by the attitude with which clinical and research problems are approached. The program aims also support the VA’s broader mission of training psychologists competent and committed to practice in public service settings.

Clinical Psychology Program Aims
The postdoctoral residency in Clinical Psychology has three overarching goals:
1. Residents will be prepared for institutional practice in complex and comprehensive public service environments.
2. Residents will develop the full range of skills required for independent functioning as a clinical psychologist.
3. Residents will engage in the necessary training experiences while a resident to be eligible to sit for ABPP specialty certification in Clinical Psychology and/or another relevant ABPP specialty certification (e.g., Clinical, Behavioral and Cognitive Psychology).

Geropsychology Program Aims
The postdoctoral residency in Geropsychology has three overarching goals:
1. Residents will be prepared for institutional practice in complex and comprehensive public service environments.
2. Residents will develop the full range of skills required for independent functioning as a geropsychologist.
3. Residents will engage in the necessary training experiences while a resident to be eligible to sit for ABPP specialty certification in Geropsychology.
Clinical Neuropsychology Program Aims
The postdoctoral residency in Clinical Neuropsychology has three overarching goals:

1. Residents will be prepared for institutional practice in complex and comprehensive public service environments.
2. Residents will develop the full range of skills required for independent functioning as a clinical neuropsychologist.
3. Residents will engage in the necessary training experiences while a resident to be eligible to sit for ABPP specialty certification in Clinical Neuropsychology.

Our residency programs are developed from the basic perspective that a health service psychologist should be broadly trained in accordance with the Profession-Wide Competencies defined by the APA during the course of graduate and doctoral residency training. Thus, we view the residency training experience as the time for advanced competency development and specialization training. To that end, residency training at American Lake is designed to provide individually tailored, collaborative, and advanced training in Clinical Psychology, Geropsychology, or Clinical Neuropsychology.

Residents can expect to be exposed to a wide array of patients and problems over the course of the residency. Residents are expected to further develop already-acquired Level 1 (Core) Competencies, Level 2 (Program Specific) Competencies, and Level 3 (Speciality Specific) Competencies. The competencies for each of the three programs are listed below. Residents are also expected to have exposure to, and/or direct clinical experiences with, patients that represent a cross-section of the diverse veterans served at VA Puget Sound’s American Lake Division and to acquire sensitivity to, and knowledge of, cultural differences, as well as other individual differences that influence the manner in which services are provided.

Clinical Psychology Program Competencies
The focus of the clinical psychology residency year is on the acquisition of advanced and Level 1 and Level 2 Competencies as applied to specific areas of focus (Behavioral and Cognitive Emphasis with a PTSD Focus, Residential Mental Health Focus, and PCMH Focus). Please see American Psychological Association, Commission on Accreditation. 2015. Standards of Accreditation for Health Service Psychology. Retrieved from http://www.apa.org/ed/accreditation/about/policies/standards-of-accreditation.pdf and the APA’s 2012 Competency Benchmark Revision for further elaboration on these competencies (http://www.apa.org/ed/graduate/benchmarks-evaluation-system.aspx).

Level 1 - Integration of Science and Practice: Understanding of research, research methodology, techniques of data collection and analysis, biological bases of behavior, cognitive-affective bases of behavior, and development across the lifespan. Respect for scientifically derived knowledge. Use of the scientific method to inform therapy and assessment practices. Generating research that contributes to the professional knowledge base and/or evaluates the effectiveness of various professional activities.

Level 1 - Individual and Cultural Diversity: Awareness, sensitivity and skills in working professionally with diverse individuals, groups, and communities who represent various cultural and personal background, and characteristics defined broadly and consistent with APA policy.

Level 1 - Ethics and Legal Standards: Application of ethical concepts and awareness of legal issues regarding professional activities with individuals, groups, and organizations.
**Level 2 - Professional Values, Attitudes, and Behaviors:** Behavior and comportment that reflect the values and attitudes of psychology.

**Level 2 - Communication and Interpersonal Skills:** Practice conducted with personal and professional self-awareness and reflection; with awareness of competencies; with appropriate self-care. Relate effectively and meaningfully with individuals, groups, and/or communities.

**Level 2 - Intervention Skills:** Interventions designed to alleviate suffering, and to promote health and well-being of individuals, groups, and/or organizations. Integration of research and clinical expertise in the context of patient factors.

**Level 2 - Assessment Skills:** Assessment and diagnosis of problems, capabilities, and issues associated with individuals, groups, and/or organizations.

**Level 2 - Education:** Knowledge of theories of learning and/OR supervision. Evaluation of teaching practices and incorporates feedback to modify current and future teaching strategies.

**Level 2 - Consultation and Interprofessional Skills:** Knowledge of key issues and concepts in related disciplines. Identify and interact with professionals in multiple disciplines. The ability to provide expert guidance or professional assistance in response to a client’s needs or goals.

**Geropsychology Program Competencies**


**Level 1 - Integration of Science and Practice:** Understanding of research, research methodology, techniques of data collection and analysis, biological bases of behavior, cognitive-affective bases of behavior, and development across the lifespan. Respect for scientifically derived knowledge. Use of the scientific method to inform therapy and assessment practices. Generating research that contributes to the professional knowledge base and/or evaluates the effectiveness of various professional activities.

**Level 1 - Individual and Cultural Diversity:** Awareness, sensitivity and skills in working professionally with diverse individuals, groups, and communities who represent various cultural and personal background, and characteristics defined broadly and consistent with APA policy.

**Level 1 - Ethics and Legal Standards:** Application of ethical concepts and awareness of legal issues regarding professional activities with individuals, groups, and organizations.

**Level 2 - Professional Values, Attitudes, and Behaviors:** Behavior and comportment that reflect the values and attitudes of psychology.
Level 2 - Communication and Interpersonal Skills: Practice conducted with personal and professional self-awareness and reflection; with awareness of competencies; with appropriate self-care. Relate effectively and meaningfully with individuals, groups, and/or communities.

Level 2 - Education: Knowledge of theories of learning and/or supervision. Evaluation of teaching practices and incorporates feedback to modify current and future teaching strategies.

Level 3 – Foundations of Professional Geropsychology Knowledge: Knowledge of models of aging, demographics, normal aging vs. pathology, and diversity in aging experience; knowledge of models of health care for older adult populations; interplay of health and late-life issues across settings of care, etc.

Level 3 – Geropsychology Intervention Skills: Interventions designed to alleviate suffering, and to promote health and well-being of individuals, groups, and/or organizations, especially as related to the unique needs of older adults. Integration of research and clinical expertise in the context of patient factors.

Level 3 – Geropsychology Assessment Skills: Assessment and diagnosis of problems, capabilities, and issues associated with individuals, groups, and/or organizations, especially as related to the unique needs of older adults.

Level 3 – Geropsychology Consultation and Interprofessional Skills: Knowledge of key issues and concepts in related disciplines. Identify and interact with professionals in multiple disciplines. The ability to provide expert guidance or professional assistance in response to older adult client’s needs or goals.

Clinical Neuropsychology Program Competencies

The focus of the two-year clinical neuropsychology residency program is on the acquisition of advanced Level 1 and Level 2 Competencies and advanced specialty Level 3. Please see American Psychological Association, Commission on Accreditation. 2015. Standards of Accreditation for Health Service Psychology. Retrieved from http://www.apa.org/ed/accreditation/about/policies/standards-of-accreditation.pdf, the APA’s 2012 Competency Benchmark Revision (http://www.apa.org/ed/graduate/benchmarks-evaluation-system.aspx), and the Council of Specialties (https://www.cospp.org/) for further elaboration on these competencies.

Level 1 - Integration of Science and Practice: Understanding of research, research methodology, techniques of data collection and analysis, biological bases of behavior, cognitive-affective bases of behavior, and development across the lifespan. Respect for scientifically derived knowledge. Use of the scientific method to inform therapy and assessment practices. Generating research that contributes to the professional knowledge base and/or evaluates the effectiveness of various professional activities.

Level 1 - Individual and Cultural Diversity: Awareness, sensitivity and skills in working professionally with diverse individuals, groups, and communities who represent various cultural and personal background, and characteristics defined broadly and consistent with APA policy.

Level 1 - Ethics and Legal Standards: Application of ethical concepts and awareness of legal issues regarding professional activities with individuals, groups, and organizations.
Level 2 - Professional Values, Attitudes, and Behaviors: Behavior and comportment that reflect the values and attitudes of psychology.

Level 2 - Communication and Interpersonal Skills: Practice conducted with personal and professional self-awareness and reflection; with awareness of competencies; with appropriate self-care. Relate effectively and meaningfully with individuals, groups, and/or communities.

Level 2 - Education: Knowledge of theories of learning and/or supervision. Evaluation of teaching practices and incorporates feedback to modify current and future teaching strategies.

Level 3 – Foundations of Clinical Neuropsychology - Knowledge: Knowledge of clinical and cognitive neurosciences, including neurology, neuroanatomy, neurobiology, neuropathology, brain development, and neurophysiology; knowledge of the scientific basis for assessment strategy including test selection, use of appropriate normative standards, psychometric and operating characteristics, and test limitations, etc.

Level 3 – Clinical Neuropsychology Intervention Skills: Interventions designed to alleviate suffering, and to promote health and well-being of individuals, groups, and/or organizations, especially as related to generating recommendations, providing feedback, and addressing neurocognitive disorders. Integration of research and clinical expertise in the context of patient factors.

Level 3 – Clinical Neuropsychology Assessment Skills: Assessment and diagnosis of problems, capabilities, and issues associated with individuals, groups, and/or organizations, especially as related to the unique needs of individuals with neurocognitive disorders.

Level 3 – Clinical Neuropsychology Consultation and Interprofessional Skills: Knowledge of key issues and concepts in related disciplines. Identify and interact with professionals in multiple disciplines. The ability to provide expert guidance or professional assistance in response to Neuropsychological client’s needs, goals, and/or related neuropsychological assessment findings and recommendations.
**Resident Preparation**

Incoming residents are required to have completed a doctoral degree in Clinical or Counseling Psychology from a program that is accredited by the APA CoA, CPA, and/or another VA recognized accrediting body (e.g., PCSAS). To be eligible to attend residency at American Lake, incoming residents must have adequate academic preparation, including receipt of the doctoral degree and successful completion of doctoral internship training as part of the doctoral degree, have acquired Profession-Wide Competencies in the context of service provision to adult patients, have received individual supervision with direct observation of their graduate and internship clinical work, and meet the eligibility requirements for VA employment. Applicants must meet the eligibility qualifications for psychology training within the Department of Veterans Affairs: [https://www.psychologytraining.va.gov/eligibility.asp](https://www.psychologytraining.va.gov/eligibility.asp) - these include, but are not limited to: U.S. Citizenship, completion of our application materials, completion of the doctoral degree by the time the internship begins. Note: All applicants who are U.S. citizens, required to register for the Selective Service, born after December 31, 1959, and who are not otherwise exempt, must show proof of Selective Service registration as part of their VA application. Acceptance of residents is contingent upon the results of a background check, TQCVL verifications (see [https://www.va.gov/OAA/TQCVL.asp](https://www.va.gov/OAA/TQCVL.asp)), and possible drug screening.

**Diversity Statement**

The Psychology Training Committee at the VA Puget Sound, American Lake Division, is committed to fostering an appreciation for multiculturalism and preparation for research and practice in a multicultural society among our trainees and staff. We believe it is crucial to understand how facets such as race, ethnicity, language, immigration history, sexual orientation, gender, age, disability, health status, national origin, indigenous heritage, socioeconomic status, education, and religious/spiritual views powerfully shape an individual’s life and experience as well as inform our own clinical practice. Our Psychology Training Program is thus dedicated to creating an environment focused on increasing the knowledge of, and competence around, multicultural issues. In service of this aim, we formed a Diversity Committee which actively creates opportunities for our trainees and staff to discuss, experience, and learn about multiculturalism. We also encourage trainees and staff to explore their own multicultural identity to help build personal and professional awareness of their own unique experiences. We prioritize these opportunities as we believe that rich educational experiences are gained when we learn and work with people from a multitude of backgrounds. We hope you will join our program and welcome your participation in continuing to cultivate an inclusive workplace and community.

**Preparation for Licensure**

The programs prepare residents to meet licensure requirements for Washington State [https://www.doh.wa.gov/LicensesPermitsandCertificates/ProfessionsNewReneworUpdate/Psychologist/LicenseRequirements](https://www.doh.wa.gov/LicensesPermitsandCertificates/ProfessionsNewReneworUpdate/Psychologist/LicenseRequirements). If you have plans to practice in a particular jurisdiction outside of Washington, please contact that jurisdiction’s licensing board to seek clarification. Licensing information can be found via the Association of State and Provincial Psychology Boards (ASPPB) at [http://www.asppb.net/](http://www.asppb.net/).

**Administrative Policies and Procedures**

**Holidays and Leave:** See OAA national policies, as well as the Office of Personnel Management website (http://www.opm.gov) for full information on leave and benefits for VA personnel. Residents receive 10 annual federal holidays. In addition, residents accrue 4 hours of sick leave and 4 hours of annual leave for each full two week pay period as a resident, for a total of 104 hours of each during the year.
**Authorized Absence:** According to VA Handbook 5011, Part III, Chapter 2, Section 12, employees, including trainees, may be given authorized absence without charge to leave when the activity is considered to be of substantial benefit to VA in accomplishing its general mission or one of its specific functions, such as education and training (e.g., licensure exam, conference presentation). Requests for Authorized Absence are reviewed on a case by case basis by the Training Directors.

**Privacy:** We will collect no personal information about you when you visit our website.

**Due Process:** Impairment and grievance procedures are consistent with VA Human Resource regulations.

**Stipend:** Residents receive a competitive stipend paid in 26 biweekly installments. VA residency stipends are locality adjusted to reflect different relative costs in different geographical areas. The stipend for the 2018-2019 training year for first year postdoctoral residents at American Lake VA is $49,994 (for second year residents, the stipend is $52,696).

**Benefits:** Residency appointments in the Clinical and Geropsychology programs are for 2080 hours, which is full time for a one year period. Residency appointments in the Clinical Neuropsychology program is for 4160 hours, which is full time for a two year period. All three of American Lake’s residency programs begin September 3, 2019. VA residents are eligible for health insurance (for self, spouses, and legal dependents) and for life insurance, just as are regular employees.

**Liability Protection for Trainees:** When providing professional services at a VA healthcare facility, VA sponsored trainees acting within the scope of their educational programs are protected from personal liability under the Federal Employees Liability Reform and Tort Compensation Act 28, U.S.C.2679 (b)-(d).
THE TRAINING YEAR(S)

Program Calendars
The postdoctoral residency programs begins in September every year. For the 2019-2020 cohorts in the Clinical Psychology & Geropsychology Programs the academic calendar will be: September 3, 2019 – August 28, 2020. For the 2019-2021 cohort in the Clinical Neuropsychology Program the academic calendar will be: September 3, 2019 – August 27, 2021.

Diversity
The Psychology Training Program at VA Puget Sound American Lake is sensitive to individual differences and diversity and is committed to practice that is culturally sensitive. We value greatly the complexity and richness of cultural diversity, and strive to foster an environment that actively promotes diversity (e.g., age, disability, ethnicity, gender, gender identity, language, national origin, race, religion, culture, sexual orientation, marital/parental status, social economic status). Moreover, the concept of diversity is a central component of the Psychology Training Program, both at the internship and residency level.

A number of clinical and training opportunities exist within the program related to diversity, including participation in the American Lake Division’s Diversity Committee, which is a subcommittee of the Training Committee. This Committee challenges trainees and faculty alike in their awareness and implementation of individually and culturally informed best practices.

There are a number of ways for residents to participate in Diversity Committee-related activities. For example, trainees are encouraged to participate in monthly Diversity Committee meetings. These meetings provide opportunities to discuss Committee-related activities such as the Mentoring Program, seminar and didactic presentations related to multiculturalism, and developing new learning opportunities for the Psychology Service. In terms of the Diversity Mentorship Program, residents are encouraged, but not required, to participate in this program by receiving mentorship from staff members. In addition to the Mentorship Program, Diversity Committee members have created and continue to implement community experiential exercises as well as host consultation groups which include outside speakers and clinical case presentations. The Diversity Committee is very interactive and encourages trainees to consider the impact of multicultural issues in everyday clinical and research practice.

In addition to the diversity within the training programs, the Pacific Northwest has a history of richness in diversity. Washington State is home to over 60 Native American tribes, and has one of the highest concentrations (nationwide) of military personnel with Joint Base Lewis-McChord (Army/Air Force) just a few miles away from American Lake. Rich in the arts, the greater Puget Sound is home to a wide range world class venues to include Tacoma Opera, Seattle Symphony, Pacific Northwest Ballet, Seattle Art Museum, Tacoma Museum of Glass, UW Arts Series, Seattle Men's & Women's Chorus, Bumbershoot and Folk-life Festival, to name a few.
Facility and Training Resources

As the American Lake Psychology training programs enjoy a long history of providing excellent training (at the doctoral internship level), it is well-integrated into the VA Puget Sound and VISN 20 Northwest Network training infrastructure. The full resources of VA Puget Sound, affiliated with the University of Washington, are available to residents in our programs. The Psychology Training Program at American Lake has had some didactic training exchanges with Joint Base Lewis McChord, as well as the Seattle Division of the VA Puget Sound Health Care System, and VA Community Based Outpatient Clinics. The Center for Education and Development at VA Puget Sound oversees all academic and continuing education activities for our facility, which includes over 1,600 academic trainees and more than 2,700 employees. There are two branch libraries as well as our medical media services.

In addition to the interprofessional core clinical staff and faculty, residents also receive support from administrative staff. Mental Health Service at American Lake has allocated necessary clinical space and equipment to insure high quality training in the service of veterans' healthcare. State of the art equipment made available for the training programs include computers for staff, phones, video teleconference, FAX machines, and copy machines. The medical record is completely computerized at this facility, so appropriate training and ongoing resources for using it effectively is available, as are a full selection of psychological assessment materials.
**Research**

While the primary focus of all three of our postdoctoral residency programs is the development of advanced and/or specialized Level 1, Level 2, and (if applicable) Level 3 Competencies, the residency programs at American Lake value the scientific method and scholarly productivity. As such, a portion of the training experience can be focused on psychological research. Residents are encouraged to develop a research project at the outset of the training year, in consultation with the Training Directors and Research Lead. We define research broadly and recognize three categories of research. These include traditional research (e.g., RCTs, empirical projects requiring IRB review, generalization is expected), utilizing an implementation science (IS) framework to ask systems-based questions to evaluate models of care, and utilizing program evaluation and quality assessment/improvement (QA/QI) frameworks to illustrate clinical service challenges, opportunities, and potential solutions. Thus, a resident research project may take several forms, to include the following:

- Participate in an ongoing research project (e.g., Mental Health Research, GRECC)
- Conduct a meta-analysis in an area of the resident’s interest
- Complete a literature review and research methods section for relevant research that could be conducted here or taken to with the resident to their next professional position
- Complete a grant proposal
- Complete an IS project to assess a systems level question
- Complete a QA/QI project to assess a clinic/program level question
- Conduct an approved research project based off an open dataset (e.g., Pew Research Center, General Social Survey, etc.)

Residents may allocate up to 4 hours per week for research over the course of the training program, depending on the scope of their project, this is collaboratively agreed upon at the outset of the training program with the preceptor and is delineated in the Individual Training Plan for each resident. Residents who engage in a research project must complete a research product (e.g., poster, presentation, or manuscript submission; grant submission; or, IS or QA/QI report) by early July and present their final project at the end-of-year psychology training retreat.

**Service**

Residents are asked to assist in the development and administration of the Training Programs by participating in committees and activities. These opportunities include, but are not limited to, service on the Training Committee, service on the Diversity Committee, service on the Education and Didactic Committee, presentations to Psychology Service, participation in Residency Programs Open House, and/or assistance with development of orientation and training week for incoming residents.

**Licensure Exam Preparation Time**

While the primary focus of all three of our residency programs is the development of advanced and/or specialized Level 1, Level 2, and (if applicable) Level 3 Competencies, the residency programs at American Lake aim to prepare trainees for licensure. To that end, a portion of the training experience can be focused on licensure exam preparation.

Residents may allocate up to 4 hours per week for licensure exam preparation over the course of the training program. This is collaboratively agreed upon at the outset of the training program with the preceptor and is delineated (e.g., number of hours, date for exam) in the Individual Training Plan (ITP). Residents who engage in a this process must sit for the exam during the course of the residency program.
**Provision of Education**

Residents are expected to engage in the education of others and there are many opportunities to do so. These opportunities may include, and are not limited to, education to service recipients and their family members in clinical placements, presentation to peers and junior peers (e.g., internship didactic series, integrated postdoctoral didactic series), presentations to Psychology Service (e.g., journal club series, seminar series, Training Day), presentation to interprofessionals within or outside of VA Puget Sound (e.g., clinical team meetings, leadership team briefings, UW Grand Rounds, Madigan continuing education series), outreach to community groups, consultation to interprofessional staff and/or trainees, and/or supervised peer supervision of junior psychology trainees. The advanced, specialized, and individually determined plan for education provision are described in the ITP.

**Seminars and Educational Offerings**

Education is an integral part of the training year, with a variety of opportunities available throughout the training year. Residents play an important role in shaping these didactic and other educational experiences by completing evaluation forms, participating in an end-of-year review with the Training Director(s), and active involvement with the Psychology Training Committee.

Clinical Psychology and Geropsychology Program residents must complete at least 52 hours of didactic training during the year, Clinical Neuropsychology Program residents must complete a minimum of 104 hours of didactic training during the two-year program. The Integrated Resident Didactic Series, the Psychology Service Seminars, and the Psychology Service Journal Club are required.

In addition, residents must attend other didactic presentations that are individually tailored with their preceptors to meet their training goals as delineated on their ITP. Please refer to the program-specific descriptions in this brochure for an overview of required didactic offerings for the Clinical Psychology, Geropsychology, and Clinical Neuropsychology programs. Optional didactic offerings are available at American Lake, the Seattle Division, Madigan Army Medical Center, Joint Base Lewis-McChord, and at outside professional meetings.

**Integrated Resident Didactic Series**

The Integrated Resident Didactic Series is a training experience comprised of topics in the areas of professional development, administrative, clinical issues in psychology, culture and psychology, and clinical research. This series is a collaborative experience for residents in all three residency programs. This is a required training activity. The Integrated Resident Didactic Series is held a minimum of once a month but may occur more often. Topics and frequency of the series is determined collaboratively by the residents across all three programs.

**Psychology Service Seminar**

The Psychology Service Seminar is a monthly continuing education program for the psychology faculty and trainees at the American Lake Division. Topics and presenters are quite varied, and are drawn from within the VA, nearby educational and governmental institutions, as well as from private practice. Residents are expected to give a presentation to the service during the course of the training year. This is a required training activity.
Psychology Service Journal Club
The purpose of the Psychology Service Journal Club is to facilitate the review of a specific research study and to discuss implications of the study for evidence-based clinical practice. A journal club has been defined as an educational meeting in which a group of individuals discuss current articles, providing a forum for a collective effort to keep up with the literature. There are many advantages of journal club, including keeping abreast of new knowledge, promoting awareness of current clinical research findings, learning to critique and appraise research, becoming familiar with the best current clinical research, and encouraging research utilization. Residents are required to participate in the monthly Psychology Service Journal Club, with each having the opportunity to lead one meeting over the course of the training year.

Steven C. Risse Memorial Lecture Series
The Risse Lecture is an annual seminar co-sponsored by the Psychology Training Programs at American Lake. This annual series provides half- and full-day trainings on a variety of mental health topics relevant to VA providers. This is a required training activity and usually takes place in the summer or fall.

UW Psychiatry Grand Rounds
Grand Rounds is a Department of Psychiatry & Behavioral Sciences Continuing Medical Education program, which consists of a series of educational lectures. Presenters at the Grand Rounds include both Department faculty and speakers from other institutions around the country. Grand Rounds typically occurs twice per month (generally every other Friday from 13:00 to 14:00). Attendance is optional. A yearly schedule, as well as access to the live telecast may be accessed at: http://www.uwpsychiatry.org/education/grand_rounds/index.html.

Madigan Professional Development Series
The American Lake Psychology Training Programs enjoy a strong training relationship with Madigan Army Medical Center, located at nearby Joint Base Lewis-McChord. American Lake residents are occasionally invited to join active duty Army psychology interns’ and residents’ educational and training experiences over the course of the training year. Participation in these events is optional.

Other Off-Site Training Opportunities
Additional off-site training opportunities are available over the course of the training year through the University of Washington, the Seattle Division of VA Puget Sound, Western State Hospital, and other local trainings/experiences. In addition, residents are encouraged to participate in unsponsored training and academic experiences, such as the APA annual conference and Washington State Psychological Association. These events may be approved for Administrative Leave on a limited case-by-case basis.

With the approval of the Training Director and the resident’s supervisor(s), Administrative Leave can be granted to residents wishing to attend non-VA professional meetings and workshops relevant to the practice of psychology (see the leave policy section of this manual for further details). Time devoted to such meetings or workshops outside normal VA hours is not compensable.

Resident Lunch
Ninety minutes per week is set aside for residents to meet and share concerns about issues of mutual interest. Residents are to be released from competing activities during this meeting time. The Psychology Training Committee strongly encourages residents to meet together; however, participation in the resident lunch meeting is not required.
**VHA Mandatory Training for Trainees (MTT)**

The MTT course includes all content necessary for trainees to practice safely and effectively in VA. Please go to the following website, which will direct you to the TMS portal, to complete: [http://www.va.gov/OAA/mandatory.asp](http://www.va.gov/OAA/mandatory.asp). This is **required** prior to beginning residency training.

**Supervision**

Formal supervision (i.e., scheduled face-to-face individual contact) is provided for at least two hours per week. Overall responsibility and coordination of supervision is provided by each program/focus area preceptor in collaboration with the primary clinical supervisor and the resident.

Supervisors vary in their theoretical orientation and supervisory style. Each, however, is committed to providing a meaningful training experience, with the supervisory process being central to that experience. Each supervisor provides supervision using the Competency Based Supervision framework (Falandar & Shafranske, 2004) that aligns with the APA Board of Educational Affairs (BEA) Guidelines for Clinical Supervision in Health Service Psychology [http://www.apa.org/about/policy/guidelines-supervision.pdf](http://www.apa.org/about/policy/guidelines-supervision.pdf). A resident individual training plan (ITP) is developed between the resident and preceptor at the beginning of the year, addressing the baseline competency of the resident, training goals, career goals and outlining training activities that will meet goals and training needs. A formal, regularly scheduled (i.e., quarterly) discussion between the resident and preceptor addresses progress in meeting specified goals and allows for mid-course corrections as needed.

In some settings, residents also have the opportunity to develop supervision skills by participating in vertical supervision of psychology interns. The residency program is committed to providing training and supervised experience using competency-based supervision with interns from our APA accredited internship program. Vertical supervision and consultation opportunities are designed to address the specific training needs identified in each resident’s ITP, targeting the development of competence in specific supervision skills.

**Evaluation**

Each primary supervisor provides regular, formal evaluations of the resident’s performance (i.e., quarterly for first year residents, semi-annually for second year residents). These evaluations are based not only upon the Level 1, Level 2, and (if applicable) Level 3 competencies, but also upon the achievement of the agreed upon goals and professional performance expectations that comprise the ITP. The preceptor, in collaboration with the primary clinic supervisor, integrate evaluative feedback from other supervisor(s) involved in the resident’s training (e.g., secondary clinical supervisor, research project mentor). These evaluations are discussed by the supervisor and/or preceptor and resident. Evaluations are retained after the residency is completed and may provide a basis for letters of recommendation.

The resident provides an evaluation of the training experience at regular scheduled intervals (i.e., quarterly for first year residents, semi-annually for second year residents). Further, at the end of the training program, the resident provides an overall evaluation of his/her residency experience. Both interim and final evaluations provided by the residents assist the programs in their self-assessment process.

Supervisory staff meet monthly in the Psychology Supervisors’ Meeting to review resident progress as well as to discuss general issues related to the training program. Training staff and residents meet monthly or as needed to discuss policy concerns and evaluation procedures.
Requirements for Completion
Consistent with APA CoA expectations, we have identified clear minimum levels of achievement for successful completion of each of our postdoctoral residency programs:

In order for residents to successfully complete the program they must:
- By the final evaluation/end of the training program, obtain ratings of “7” in all of the Competency Ratings areas on Supervisor Evaluation(s)
- Not be found to have engaged in any ethical, legal, or conduct violations
- Deliver all signed evaluations and training logs (ITP, supervision contracts, evaluations, log of residency activities [hours, didactic], and final residency report).
Behavioral and Cognitive Psychology (BCP) and PTSD Focus Area

Focus Area Preceptor: Ruth Varkovitzky, PhD
VA Puget Sound Healthcare System, American Lake Division (116a)
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Telephone: (253) 313-4961
Email: ruth.varkovitzky@va.gov

Overview
The goal of the Behavioral and Cognitive Psychology (BCP) and PTSD Focus Area in the Clinical Psychology program is to prepare residents to function as independent Health Service psychologists with advanced and specialized skills in Clinical Psychology with a focus on BCP and treatment of PTSD. This residency provides clinical, didactic, and academic training to develop advanced knowledge of the etiology, comorbidities, and treatment of trauma related disorders, including PTSD. The Focus Area includes a focus on the attitudes, knowledge, and skills in the area of BCP as well as an focus on application of those to the treatment of PTSD. This Focus Area integrates clinical work along with opportunities for teaching, administrative, research, and supervisory experiences within the context of outpatient PTSD treatment. The resident rotates through the PTSD outpatient clinic (POC) and may have minor clinical rotations in other settings utilizing BCP for the assessment and treatment of PTSD and co-occurring disorders. Specifically, the resident spend approximately 80% time in the outpatient PTSD clinic and may spend up to twenty percent of their time in another relevant clinical setting.

Number of Residents: One

Length of Training: One year

Goals
Postdoctoral education and training are designed to promote an advanced level of competence as a Health Service Psychologist with focus in Behavioral and Cognitive Psychology (BCP) and Posttraumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD).

At the conclusion of the residency, residents will be expected to demonstrate advanced competence in the following areas, consistent with the Clinical Psychology residency program expectations:

- Development of advanced skill in the Level 1 competencies of Integration of Science and Practice, Individual and Cultural Diversity, and Ethics and Legal Matters;
- Development of advanced skill in the Level 2 competencies of Professional Attitudes, Values, and Behaviors; Interpersonal and Communication Skills; Intervention; Assessment; Education and Teaching; and, Interprofessional and Consultation Skills

As applied to the following BCP/PTSD skills:

- Development of advanced understanding of BCP theories and application;
- Development of advanced understanding of Posttraumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD);
- Development of a professional identity as a Health Service Psychologist with specialized expertise in BCP, especially as applied to the assessment and treatment of PTSD;
• Scholarly activity, e.g., submission of a study or literature review for publication, presentation, submission of a grant proposal, quality improvement project, or outcome assessment;
• Preparation for state or provincial licensure or certification for the independent practice of psychology;
• Preparation for requirements for board certification in Clinical Psychology, Counseling Psychology, and/or Behavioral and Cognitive Psychology by the American Board of Professional Psychology.

Clinical Settings

**PTSD Outpatient Clinic (POC):** The Posttraumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) Outpatient Clinic (POC) is a specialized, outpatient clinic that provides evidence-based, trauma-focused treatment for veterans who struggle with PTSD as a result of their military service. Treatment in the POC is typically behavioral and cognitive, time-limited, and evidence-based. Such evidence-based, PTSD-focused interventions may occur within a group or individual format, depending on the intervention.

For those veterans who are ready to engage in trauma-focused work, treatment is available that has been scientifically shown to be effective, including Cognitive Processing Therapy (CPT) and Prolonged Exposure Therapy (PE); these are often referred to as the POC Trauma Focused interventions. Exposure, Relaxation, and Rescription Therapy, Military version (ERRT-M) for nightmares is also available to veterans struggling with chronic, trauma-related nightmares. ERRT-M includes the use of exposure techniques and thus is included as a POC Trauma Focused treatment option.

The POC recognizes that many veterans who struggle with PTSD may not be ready to directly address the traumas they experienced. Treatment is available for veterans who do not yet feel ready to address their trauma experiences, but who recognize that a goal of their program involvement is to be able to do so; this is often referred to as the POC Non-Trauma Focused interventions. These treatments include the Unified Protocol for Transdiagnostic Treatment of Emotional Disorders (UP), Cognitive Behavioral Therapy for Insomnia (CBT-I), Anger Management, and Seeking Safety.

Aftercare is also available to help veterans maintain the gains they have achieved and to pursue further engagement in life. Many of the aftercare services are available outside of the POC in other VA clinics. Aftercare may also take place outside of the VA within various community programs.

The overarching goal of the POC is to assist veterans in their recovery from the disabling and distressing consequences of their condition. For some veterans, this may be remission of PTSD, for others it may be a lessening in the symptoms with which they struggle, while for other veterans it may be seeking to improve the quality of their lives in spite of having PTSD. For all veterans who enter into treatment, the objective of the clinic is the same, that is, to assist in their efforts to change and to have a more meaningful life.

**The Role of the Resident**

Resident duties in the POC are to provide mental health treatment to include intake interviews, integrated assessments, collaborative treatment plan development with veterans, and time-limited focused interventions on both an individual and group basis. Comprehensive psychodiagnostic assessment may be required for veterans with complex symptom presentations. A resident may also be asked to help develop tailored services for the unique needs of patients, such as designing assessment batteries or intake procedures. Residents will coordinate care with other members of the veteran’s interdisciplinary care team, including medical staff, rehabilitation specialists, and family members, as necessary.
While on the POC rotation, the resident typically functions as the primary therapist for the veterans on his/her caseload. The veterans served by the POC often present with a variety of co-morbid disorders and psychosocial issues that necessitate interventions in addition to those that are trauma-focused. Residents are important members of the POC team, participating fully in administrative and case consultation meetings. Residents will also have the opportunity to engage in administrative projects, research tasks, and may have supervisory experiences with other trainees.

**Teaching Methods**

There are several methods that are used to train the BCP/PTSD Resident. They include:

**Didactics:** In addition to participation in the monthly general seminar attended by all residents, the PTSD program offers a number of specialty specific didactics. As mentioned previously, Clinical Psychology Program residents must complete at least 52 hours of didactic training during the year (to include the Integrated Resident Didactic Series, Psychology Service Seminars, and the Psychology Service Journal Club. In addition, residents must attend other didactic presentations that are individually tailored, in collaboration with their preceptor, to meet their training goals as delineated on their Individual Training Plan). Thus, within the Focus Area, BCP and PTSD psychology didactic trainings are designed to provide the resident with advanced knowledge of BCP and PTSD and to prepare the resident for board certification. The didactic training may occur via online trainings, webinars, in-person lectures, experiential trainings, and/or case conferences and may include some of the optional offerings listed below. Didactic trainings are individually tailored with the resident during the course of the training year; thus, some of the optional offerings listed below could be required for any given resident depending on training needs.

**Required Didactics:**
- BCP and PTSD Seminar Series – approximately 40 hours over the course of the training year, to be determined based on resident’s individual learning needs;
- American Lake Division Postdoctoral Residency Didactic Series – one to four hours per month, to be determined collaboratively with each residency class;
- American Lake Division Psychology Service Journal Club – one and a half hours per month (3rd Wednesday at 3pm);
- American Lake Division Psychology Service Seminar Series – one and a half hours per month (4th Wednesday at 3pm);

**Optional Didactics:**
- University of Washington, Psychiatry Grand Rounds – two hours per month (1st and 3rd Fridays at 12pm);
- National Center for PTSD Didactic Series – one hour per month (3rd Wednesday at 11am);
- VA National Military Sexual Trauma (MST) Didactic Series – one and a half hours per month (1st Thursday at 9am);
- VA NW MIRECC (VISN 20) Didactic Series – two hours per month (1st and 3rd Wednesdays at 12pm).

**Mentorship:** Dr. Varkovitzky provides leadership for the BCP/PTSD Focus Area of Clinical Psychology postdoctoral program, as the preceptor. The task of the preceptor is to aid the resident in evaluating individual training needs and interests, and to develop an individualized training plan (ITP) based on those needs and the training program’s competency areas. In addition, the preceptor provides professional
mentoring to the resident at least monthly, with an eye toward the resident’s overall progress through the residency program.

**Supervision:** Dr. Aosved has historically served as the primary POC clinical supervisor, with other staff psychologists and professionals from other disciplines serving as supervisors and consultants as needed. While Dr. Aosved has typically been the primary POC clinical supervisor for the resident; the determination of a primary clinical supervisor in both POC and in any minor rotation is a collaborative process with the resident that takes into account training needs and preferences. The other licensed psychologists who may supervise the resident include: Drs. Balliett, Bullock, King, Smith, and Zink.

The resident will receive both individual and group supervision where BCP, PTSD assessment and treatment, clinical, career development, teaching, and scholarly activity are addressed (with a minimum of two hours of face-to-face individual supervision being provided each week). The resident may also have the opportunity to supervise other trainees under the guidance of clinical staff, when feasible. In addition, the resident will have opportunities to work closely with professionals from other disciplines with different areas of expertise. Residents have opportunities to directly observe licensed staff psychologists in practice. For example, residents will observe licensed psychologists conduct intakes, other evaluations, or engage in other clinical or professional activities, and senior staff may co-lead a group with the resident.

**Scholarly Activity, Research, and Program Development**

Involvement in evaluation that embodies the integration of science and practice is an important component of the BCP/PTSD Focus Area. The resident will be encouraged to identify research or evaluation activities that would expand his/her current skill set. There are a wide range of opportunities available to the resident that include: participation in ongoing studies, participation in ongoing quality improvement projects, data analysis, preparing papers and presentations, interfacing with the local IRB, etc. Areas of ongoing evaluation include: research on implementation of Unified Protocol in a group format for veterans with PTSD, collaborating on ongoing projects with researchers outside of the POC, and program improvement within the POC. Residents are encouraged to participate in and take the lead in program improvement and development projects. These projects allow the POC to continuously evaluate its programs and offerings, incorporate new evidence-based interventions, and keep clinical programs current and responsive to patient needs/prefereces.

**Core Training Faculty**

Please see the Psychology Service Faculty section of this brochure for full biographies of the core training faculty for this Focus Area of the Clinical Psychology postdoctoral residency program.

**Allison C. Aosved, Ph.D.** is a Clinical Psychologist in the PTSD Outpatient Clinic and is the Director of Training for all Psychology Training Programs at the American Lake Division.

**Noelle E. Balliett, Ph.D.** is a Clinical Psychologist in the PTSD Outpatient Clinic at the American Lake Division.

**Cody L. Bullock, Ph.D.** is a Clinical in the PTSD Outpatient Clinic at the American Lake Division.

**Jennifer C. King, Ph.D.** is the POC’s co-occurring substance use/PTSD specialist and serves as the liaison between the POC and Addiction Treatment Center (ATC).
Dale E. Smith, Ph.D. is the longest standing member of the POC and has served as its Team Leader since its inception in September 1991 when it was first established as a Substance Use/PTSD Clinical Team.

Ruth L. Varkovitzky, Ph.D. is a psychologist in the Western Telemental Health Network and is the preceptor for this residency Focus Area.

Alycia S. (Barlow) Zink, Ph.D. is a staff psychologist in the PTSD Outpatient Clinic (POC) and the Women’s Trauma Coordinator for the POC.
Primary Care Mental Health Integration Focus Area

Focus Area Preceptor: Mary Catherine Kane, PhD
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Overview
The goal of the Primary Care Mental Health Focus Area is to prepare residents to function as independent scientist-practitioners and Health Service Psychologists (i.e., Clinical or Counseling psychologists with advanced training) in integrated behavioral health in primary care. Residents working on this track provide supervised behavioral health services as a member of an interprofessional team offering walk-in consultation and intervention to veterans enrolled in primary care services. Residents can expect training in multiple areas including brief functional assessment, risk assessment, treatment planning, intervention, consultation, and team-based collaborative care. Training will also comprise immersion into the biopsychosocial model of illness focusing on the etiology, comorbidities, and treatment of complex health concerns. In conjunction with clinical and didactic work this track also provides residents opportunities for teaching, leadership, administrative, research, and supervisory experiences.

Number of Residents: One

Length of Training: One year

Goals
Postdoctoral education and training is designed to promote an advanced level of competence as a Clinical or Counseling Psychologist with a focus in interprofessional collaborative care.

At the conclusion of the residency, residents will be expected to demonstrate advanced competence in the following areas, consistent with the Clinical Psychology residency program expectations:

- Development of advanced skill in the Level 1 competencies of Integration of Science and Practice, Individual and Cultural Diversity, and Ethics and Legal Matters;
- Development of advanced skill in the Level 2 competencies of Professional Attitudes, Values, and Behaviors; Interpersonal and Communication Skills; Intervention; Assessment; Education and Teaching; and, Interprofessional and Consultation Skills

As applied to the following PCMHI focus area skills:

- Development of advanced skills in the practice of brief psychological and behavioral interventions within a collaborative, team-based, patient-centered care environment;
- Development of advanced understanding of biopsychosocial model of etiology, experience of illness, and treatment of disease, including chronic pain;
- Development of a professional identity as a Clinical or Counseling Psychologist with an emphasis in providing integrated, collaborative care in a primary care setting;
- Preparation for state or provincial licensure or certification for the independent practice of psychology;
- Preparation for requirements for board certification in Clinical Psychology and/or Counseling Psychology by the American Board of Professional Psychology.
**PCMHI Clinical Opportunities**

Residents can select from a variety of clinical opportunities that meet his/her individual training goals.

**Same Day Access Clinic:** The resident will provide in-room consultation and same day consultation with providers and patients, as well as conduct functional and risk assessments for patients who are often referred following an appointment with their primary care provider.

**Chronic Pain Management:** The resident collaborates with primary care teams regarding patient recovery goals and biopsychosocial treatments for chronic pain management. In conjunction, the resident may co-lead and/or lead brief self-management, CBT, and ACT based groups for chronic pain. The resident will have the opportunity liaison with the Pain Service and to contribute to the ongoing staff education, and Quality Improvement and/or research projects.

**Diabetes Care Program:** The resident may consult and collaborate with primary care staff regarding biopsychosocial treatments and collaborative goal setting for diabetes management in conjunction with having the opportunity to engage in panel management and population based care of the disease. The track also provides an opportunity to co-lead a interprofessional diabetes care group.

**Health Promotion Disease Prevention (HPDP):** The resident may work with an interprofessional team related to staff education. Opportunities include developing and leading staff in-services on health promotion and disease prevention topics (i.e., smoking cessation, hypertension, diabetes), teaching and coaching primary care staff in motivational interviewing skills, as well as program evaluation.

**Healthy Living Program:** The resident may facilitate a variety of Primary Care classes for veterans related to improving their biopsychosocial functioning and well-being. Current offerings include Whole Health, Anxiety Series, Problem Solving therapy, and Anger Management. The Resident will have the opportunity to identify a population-based care need and develop an evidence-based class to address it.

**Homeless Patient-Aligned Care Team (H-PACT):** PCMHI works closely with the H-PACT team to facilitate mental health assessment and treatment planning for veterans who are homeless or in transitional housing. The PCMHI track provides opportunities to accompany the H-PACT team into the community to conduct outreach and meet with veterans in local shelters. These visits include opportunities to liaison with community volunteers, case workers, and providers serving the broader homeless population.

**Measurement-Based Care (MBC):** PCMHI has implemented a process to ensure that veterans are completing self-report assessments throughout their treatment, including validated measures of anxiety (GAD-7), depression (PHQ-9), alcohol use (AUD-C), PTSD screening (PC-PTSD), quality of life (URS), and the impact of pain intensity and interference with general activity (PEG). Residents will receive training in utilizing this practice based evidence in order to collaborate more effectively with patients and to improve outcomes.

**MOVE! Weight Management Program:** Weight Management Program offers multi-disciplinary groups co-led with the Nutrition Program focused on healthy eating and lifestyle change strategies that support weight loss and healthy living. The resident collaborating with this program will gain experience conducting cognitive-behavioral interventions to facilitate health promotion.
Sleep Medicine Program: The resident may provide services for individuals who are suffering from insomnia and other co-morbid sleep difficulties (i.e., sleep apnea, nightmares, circadian rhythm, and trauma related sleep disorders). The resident will gain an advanced knowledge of sleep disorders, and effective implementation of CBT-I and other behavioral sleep treatments. The resident will have the opportunity to work with a staff psychologist and Respiratory Therapy on an interprofessional quality improvement project.

Smoking Cessation Program: The resident may co-lead groups and/or provide brief individual support, motivational enhancement, and cognitive-behavioral strategies for smoking cessation. The resident may opt into promotion of the annual Great American Smoke Out.

Telemental Health: The resident may be trained in Clinical Video Telehealth as a means for providing individual treatment for Veterans.

Women’s Health Clinic: The resident may collaborate with primary care teams in the women’s health clinic to provide PCMHI services in this setting, including same-day access consultation and functional assessments, collaborating with WHC interprofessional staff, facilitating groups and providing brief individual treatment.

Leadership Development
The resident will have the opportunity to mentor with Primary Care Mental Health Integration leadership to develop skills in communication, health systems management and process improvement. The resident will learn to work with stake holders including primary care mental health integration, primary care general medicine, and specialty mental health, and develop an executive project related to staffing or business analysis that could lead to recommendations and implementation. This is a longitudinal experience up to 8 hours per week over the course of the residency.

Role of the Resident
Resident’s duties in PCMHI revolve around three important emphases throughout the residency training year, including: developing strong, collaborative interprofessional working relationships, increasing the utilization of behavioral health services by PACT and among veterans; improving veterans’ biopsychosocial health using brief, evidence-based interventions targeting health behavior change.

The resident functions as a primary therapist and member of the PACT, providing a breadth of services, including assessment and brief, evidence-based, interventions on both an individual and a group basis. The resident consults and collaborates with veterans, their families, and health care providers. The resident provides both scheduled and unscheduled patient-care working flexibly to respond to a fast-paced, dynamic environment to improve patient functioning and well-being.

The resident is an integral member of the primary care behavioral health team, participating fully in administrative, clinical care, and research/QI. While on the PCMHI track, the resident attends weekly Primary Care staff and nursing meetings and daily PACT “huddles.” Ample opportunity will be available to engage in program development activities, staff education, collaborative psychological and behavioral health interventions that support medical treatment, shared medical appointments and individual and group-based treatments. Quality Improvement and research opportunities are also available.
The resident receives training in the use of brief evidence-based treatments to improve veteran psychological well-being and health functioning. Training is available in many evidence-based therapy modalities, including Cognitive-Behavioral Therapy, Acceptance and Commitment Therapy, and Motivational Interviewing.

**Teaching Methods**
There are several methods that are used to train the PCMHI resident, and they include:

**Didactics:** As mentioned previously, Clinical Psychology program residents must complete at least 52 hours of didactic training during the year (to include the Integrated Resident Didactic Series, Psychology Service Seminars, and the Psychology Service Journal Club, and in addition, residents must attend other didactic presentations that are individually tailored, in collaboration with their preceptor, to meet their training goals as delineated on their Individual Training Plan). Thus, in addition to participation in the aforementioned trainings required by all residents, this residency Focus Area offers a number of specialty didactics. The didactic training may occur via online trainings, webinars, in-person lectures, experiential trainings, and/or case conferences and may include some of the optional offerings listed below. Didactic trainings are individually tailored with the resident during the course of the training year; thus, some of the optional offerings below could be required for any given resident depending on training needs or interests.

**Required Didactics:**
- Primary Care Focus Area Seminar Series – approximately 40 hours over the course of the training year, to be determined based on resident’s individual learning needs;
- American Lake Division Postdoctoral Residency Didactic Series – one to four hours per month, to be determined collaboratively with each residency class;
- American Lake Division Psychology Service Journal Club – one and a half hours per month (3rd Wednesday at 3pm);
- American Lake Division Psychology Service Seminar Series – one and a half hours per month (4th Wednesday at 3pm)
- Additionally, the resident will be expected to participate in PCMHI Competency training, and upon completion will be eligible for Competency Certification in PCMHI

**Optional Didactics:**
- University of Washington/DOD/VA Tele-pain conference – one hour per week
- Interprofessional Didactic Series – one hour per month

**Mentorship:** Dr. Kane provides leadership for the PCMHI Focus Area of clinical psychology postdoctoral program, as the preceptor. The task of the preceptor is to aid the resident in evaluating individual training needs and interests, and to develop an individualized training plan (ITP) based on those needs and the training program’s competency areas. In addition, the preceptor provides professional mentoring to the resident at least monthly, with an eye toward the resident’s overall progress through the residency program.

**Supervision:** Dr. Mary-Catherine Kane provides leadership for the PCMH Focus Area of the postdoctoral program. Dr. Kane serves as the primary advisor to the resident, with other staff psychologists and professionals from other disciplines serving as supervisors and consultants as needed. While Dr. Kane has
typically been the primary PCMH clinical supervisor for the resident, the determination of a primary clinical supervisor in both PCMH and in any minor rotation is a collaborative process with the Resident that takes into account training needs and preferences. The other licensed psychologists who may supervise the resident include: Drs. Breitstein, DiNatale, Epler, Hollrah, Katz, Katzenbach, and Kerr. Additional consultants on rotation include: Ms. Campbell, Ms. Delicana, Ms. Donals, Dr. Hirschhorn, Dr. Rougeau, and Dr. Starck.

The resident will receive both individual and group supervision where PCMHI, clinical, career development, teaching, and scholarly activity are addressed. The resident may also have the opportunity to supervise other trainees under the guidance of clinical staff, when feasible. In addition, the resident will have opportunities to work closely with professionals from other disciplines with different areas of expertise. The resident will have opportunities to directly observe licensed independent practitioners, including psychologists, psychiatrists, nurse practitioners, medical staff, and social workers. Residents may also have the opportunity to provide tiered supervision to psychology interns, utilizing a competency-based supervision framework. Opportunities to work with psychologists in leadership positions may also be available, based on goals.

Scholarly Activity, Research, and Program Development
Involvement in evaluation that embodies the integration of science and practice is an important component of the PCMHI Focus Area. The resident will be encouraged to identify research or evaluation activities that would expand his/her current skill set. There are a wide range of opportunities available to the resident that include: participation in ongoing studies, participation in ongoing quality improvement projects, data analysis, preparing papers and presentations, interfacing with the local IRB, etc.

Core Training Faculty
Please see the Psychology Service Faculty section of this brochure for full biographies of the core training faculty for this Focus Area of the Clinical Psychology postdoctoral residency program.

Joshua Breitstein, Psy.D. is a psychologist in the Primary Care Mental Health Integration clinic.

Emily Dinatale, Ph.D. is a psychologist in the Primary Care Mental Health Integration Clinic.

Amee J. Epler, Ph.D. is the Program Manager of Primary Care Mental Health Integration at the American Lake campus.

Mary-Catherine Kane, Ph.D. is a psychologist in Primary Care Mental Health Integration at the American Lake campus and serves as the preceptor for the Focus Area.

Lori Katz, Ph.D. is a psychologist in the Women’s Mental Health Clinic-Primary Care Mental Health Integration.

Jason Katzenbach, Ph.D. is a psychologist in Primary Care Mental Health Integration.

Burton Kerr, Ph.D. is a psychologist and the Director of Primary Care Mental Health Integration, VA Puget Sound Health Care System.

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Trauma and Substance Use Residential Treatment Focus Area

Focus Area Preceptor: Margaret Schwartz Moravec, Ph.D.
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Overview
The goal of this focus area within the Clinical Residency Program is to prepare residents to function as independent Health Service Psychologists (i.e., Clinical or Counseling psychologists) with a focus on advanced competence applied to specialized mental health treatment for Posttraumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) and Substance Use Disorders (SUD) with a veteran population in a residential treatment environment. The resident will have opportunities for applied learning related to evidence-based practice with both PTSD and SUD, and short and longer-term therapy with veterans who have complex medical, psychiatric, and psychosocial needs and who are admitted to the Mental Health Residential Rehabilitation Treatment Programs (MHRRT).

The MHRRT provides high-quality residential rehabilitation and treatment services for veterans who may have complex substance use, mental health, medical, and vocational concerns. The MHRRT identifies and addresses goals of rehabilitation, functional restoration, recovery, health maintenance, improved quality of life, and community integration. Clinical interventions and treatment goals vary based upon the program in which Veterans are admitted, and range from 4 weeks to 6 months of intensive treatment.

The MHRRT is comprised of five specialty treatment programs located both at the American Lake Division campus and community houses, located in Tacoma, Washington. The programs include 1) Substance Use (Substance Treatment and Recovery Program [STAR] – 20 beds), 2) PTSD (Veterans Intensive PTSD Program [VIP] – 18 beds), 3) Domiciliary Care for Homeless Veterans (DCHV – 18 beds), 4) Pain (Residential Functional Restoration Program [rFRP] – 8 beds), and Compensated Work Therapy – Transitional Residence (CWT-TR – 24 beds). Residents training during the 2019-2020 training year will have the opportunity to work in the above listed programs, with the exception of the Residential Functional Restoration Program for pain and CWT-TR.

The resident will engage in consultation, care coordination, collaboration, and intervention within an interprofessional treatment team consisting of nurses, physicians, physician assistants, peer support specialists, psychologists, psychiatrists, social workers, occupational therapists, social services assistants, and recreation therapists.

Length of training: One year

Number of Residents: One

Goals
The training year will be crafted to provide advanced competency as a Clinical or Counseling Psychologist with a focus in working with veterans with PTSD and/or SUD, as well as complex comorbidities and psychosocial stressors (e.g., homelessness). We expect these experiences to provide preparation for
board certification in Clinical and/or Counseling Psychology by the American Board of Professional Psychology, depending on resident background and interests, and we aim to make applicants competitive for a staff position in the VA setting.

At the conclusion of the residency, residents will be expected to demonstrate advanced competence in the following areas, consistent with the Clinical Psychology residency program expectations:

- Development of advanced skill in the Level 1 competencies of Integration of Science and Practice, Individual and Cultural Diversity, and Ethics and Legal Matters
- Development of advanced skill in the Level 2 competencies of Professional Attitudes, Values, and Behaviors; Interpersonal and Communication Skills; Intervention; Assessment; Education and Teaching; and, Interprofessional and Consultation Skills

As applied to the following TSUDR Focus Area skills:

- Selection and delivery of appropriate evidence based and/or theory-driven interventions from a patient-focused perspective to treat PTSD and SUDs
- Advanced skill in delivering time-limited treatment
- Conducting psychodiagnostic assessment (including both clinical assessment and personality assessment)
- Providing interprofessional consultation and engaging in collaborative relationships across disciplines, within team settings
- Demonstrate advanced knowledge of the interaction between comorbid PTSD, SUD, and psychosocial issues (e.g., homelessness)
- Successfully complete a quality improvement, program development or research project demonstrating knowledge of measurement based care
- Design and delivery of behavioral interventions to create a therapeutic community
- Advanced clinical competencies within a residential care setting and with psychosocial issues (e.g., homelessness)
- Consideration of multicultural diversity and interactional identities

Additionally, residents may have the opportunity to apply for participation in a VA roll-out training for Cognitive Processing Therapy, pursue advanced training in Motivational Interviewing, or obtain VA certification in CBT for SUD, as noted above. Residents may also have the opportunity to provide tiered supervision to psychology interns, utilizing a competency-based supervision framework. Opportunities to work with psychologists in leadership positions may also be available, based on goals.

**TSUDR Clinical Opportunities and Composition of the Training Year**

The resident typically spend approximately two weeks at the start of the year immersing themselves in the MHRRTP treatment environment and working in the DCHV program, as described below. They typically continue to spend four to eight hours/week working with their DCHV supervisor throughout the year. The remainder of the year will be split between the VIP and STAR Programs (approximately five and half months in each clinic, based on training needs).

**Domiciliary Care for Homeless Veterans (DCHV):** Residents will work with the DCHV psychologist and interprofessional team to increase their ability to work with veterans with complex presentations, including substance use, mental health, physical health, and psychosocial challenges. Veterans in this program are currently homeless and attempting to reach vocational goals. Veterans remain in the program from three to six months and residents will have the opportunity to identify and work with veterans with these complex needs for the duration of the veteran’s stay in the program. Treatment
programming is centered on interventions that are evidenced-based and tailored to meet the unique needs of each veteran from a strengths-based perspective. The resident will gain experience on this rotation with Motivational Interviewing, Cognitive Behavioral Therapy, Dialectical Behavior Skills, interpersonal approaches, milieu therapy, care coordination, PTSD/SUD specialty therapy (based on patient needs and resident interests), managing psychosocial issues, and psychoeducation groups. The recovery model will be a prime focus of the resident’s interactions with patients, and will serve as a foundation for the rest of the training year. Residents will increase their ability to coordinate services across the MHRRTP, VA, and with community partners. The resident will also have opportunities to hone advanced skills in interprofessional consultation with medical and mental health staff, with a focus on providing veteran-centered care. Residents will work intensively in the MHRRTP and DCHV setting for two weeks, and will continue to work throughout the training year with the DCHV psychologist for long-term therapy and coordinating/engaging the therapeutic community, totaling four to eight hours per week. An interested resident also has the opportunity to develop a training plan with Dr. Peltan, who is part of MINT (the Motivational Interviewing Network of Trainers), to learn advanced skills in Motivational Interviewing-Motivational Enhancement.

**Veterans Intensive PTSD (VIP) Program:** Residents will work within a team-based setting to provide intensive PTSD specialty treatment to veterans who are in need of a higher level of care than outpatient clinics can traditionally provide. The VIP Program provides a four-to-six week program of intensive treatment services for veterans. Treatment is recovery and phase-oriented, driven by both veteran’s readiness for treatment and complexity of treatment needs. Many of our patients have PTSD comorbid with substance use, depression, chronic pain, personality disorders, and/or a complex PTSD presentation. Thus, we practice from an integrative theoretical approach to best meet a variety of patient needs. There is significant latitude to tailor this experience to focus on trainee needs and goals. Specific treatments offered include: Prolonged Exposure Therapy, Cognitive Processing Therapy, Behavioral Activation, Interpersonal trauma processing, Adaptive Disclosure, Moral Injury/Trauma Informed Guilt Reduction group, Skills Training in Affective and Interpersonal Regulation (STAIR), and psychoeducational groups targeting relationship enhancement, chronic pain, cognitive functioning and anger management. The resident will lead and/or co-lead groups and will carry an individual caseload. Veterans are provided with individual therapy twice weekly. The content of individual sessions is set by the patient and therapist based on patient treatment goals; for example, sessions could focus on self-care and activities of daily living, or could follow a full protocol of Prolonged Exposure or Cognitive Processing therapy. Neuropsychology is embedded within this program, such that staff neuropsychologists attend weekly team meetings, provide group programming, and are able to provide full neuropsychological evaluations, quickly, for veterans who are presenting with unclear cognitive profiles.

The VIP program offers the resident a chance to work in an exciting and dynamic environment, in which the treatment team (consisting of psychologists, social workers, a recreation therapist, and a psychiatrist) works cooperatively to provide the best care for each individual patient. Thus, a focus of time spent here will be honing interprofessional communication and consultation skills, in addition to building advanced competence and autonomy with innovative approaches for PTSD. Successful residents are able to use theory-driven and flexible approaches to working with complex patients, using evidence-based therapy models. The resident participates in weekly interprofessional team meetings and is considered an integral member of the treatment team. Residents will work in the VIP program for approximately five and a half months.
**Substance Treatment and Recovery (STAR):** The Substance Treatment and Recovery (STAR) Residential Treatment Program is a 20 bed, four week residential program. The program serves both female and male Veterans who are struggling to attain their goals related to recovery for substance use. Providers in the STAR Program utilize several specialized treatment modalities including Motivational Interviewing, Cognitive Behavioral Therapy for SUDs, Acceptance and Commitment Therapy, Mindfulness Based Relapse Prevention, Behavioral Couples Therapy for SUDs, and Seeking Safety. The program also places an emphasis on improving substance use treatment for racial and ethnic minority veterans, the neurobiological aspects of SUDs, and medication treatment for substance use. The primary modality is group treatment, but also includes individual therapy and case management. STAR Program providers frequently collaborate with other VA services including medical providers for detox purposes, housing programs, work therapy programs, medical services, polytrauma/neuropsychology, VIP, homelessness, chronic pain, and additional VA programs for veterans requiring longer term stabilization. In addition to obtaining experience with brief group and individual evidenced based treatments for SUDs, residents would have unique opportunities to consult and collaborate with medical providers about detox procedures to best meet the veteran’s needs. In addition to clinical interventions, the resident will have opportunities for completing psychological assessments. A successful resident would serve as a fully functioning treatment team member and engage in this fast-paced treatment environment. In addition to treatment opportunities, a resident would have opportunities to participate in program development and quality improvement projects. There are also opportunities to participate in an administrative capacity, including facilitating treatment team meetings. An interested resident has the opportunity to work with Dr. Ahmad, a national VA consultant for CBT for SUD, to complete training requirements to be a VA provider for this treatment. Residents will work in the STAR Program for approximately five and a half months.

**Assessment:** Residents are expected to integrate psychological personality and diagnostic assessment into their ongoing practice of therapy, as clinically appropriate. Assessment opportunities will be an integral part of residents’ work with patients, and opportunities for additional training and experience in this area will be available.

**Teaching Methods**
There are several methods that are used to train the Trauma and Substance Use Residential Focus Area Resident. They include:

**Didactics:** In addition to participation in the monthly general seminar attended by all residents, the PTSD program offers a number of specialty specific didactics. As mentioned previously, Clinical Psychology program residents must complete at least 52 hours of didactic training during the year (to include the Integrated Resident Didactic Series, Psychology Service Seminars, and the Psychology Service Journal Club. In addition, residents must attend other didactic presentations that are individually tailored, in collaboration with their preceptor, to meet their training goals as delineated on their Individual Training Plan). Thus, within the Focus Area, didactic trainings are designed to provide the resident with advanced knowledge of Trauma, Substance Use, and Residential Treatment and to prepare the resident for board certification. The didactic training may occur via online trainings, webinars, in-person lectures, experiential trainings, and/or case conferences and may include some of the optional offerings listed below. Didactic trainings are individually tailored with the resident during the course of the training year; thus, some of the optional offerings below could be required for any given resident depending on needs.
**Required Didactics:**
- PTSD and SUD focused didactics based on training goals of resident—approximately 40 hours over the course of the training year, to be determined based on individual learning needs;
- American Lake Division Postdoctoral Residency Didactic Series — one to four hours per month, to be determined collaboratively with each residency class;
- American Lake Division Psychology Service Journal Club — one and a half hours per month (3rd Wednesday at 3pm);
- American Lake Division Psychology Service Seminar Series — one and a half hours per month (4th Wednesday at 3pm)

**Optional Didactics:**
- PTSD and Co-Occurring Disorders Journal Club — one hour per month
- National Center for PTSD Lecture Series — one hour per month
- VISN 20 MIRECC Didactics — one to two hours per month
- National MHRTP SUD Call — one hour per month
- Military Sexual Trauma Conference Series — one and a half hours per month
- VA Multicultural and Diversity Committee Diversity Consultation Call — approximately one hour per month
- National SUD Call — one hour every other month
- National MHRTP Fellows Consultation Call — one hour per month

**Mentorship:** Dr. Schwartz Moravec provides leadership for the TSUDR Focus Area of clinical postdoctoral program, as the preceptor. The task of the preceptor is to aid the resident in evaluating individual training needs and interests, and to develop an individualized training plan (ITP) based on those needs and the training program’s competency areas. In addition, the preceptor provides professional mentoring to the resident at least monthly, with an eye toward the resident’s overall progress through the residency program.

**Supervision:** Residents will receive at least two hours of individual, face to face supervision, weekly. Staff members will also offer additional consultation and support as needed. Supervisors’ practices represent a variety of theoretical orientations and supervision approaches, yet all supervision will utilize competence-based supervision strategies to help residents meet their goals and competence requirements. Both summative and ongoing formative feedback will be given in accordance with written postdoctoral policies. Group supervision may also be offered in addition to individual supervision requirements, as appropriate.

**Scholarly Activity, Research, and Program Development**
The Clinical Psychology postdoctoral residency program embraces the relationship between science and practice and recognizes that it takes many forms for VA psychologists. Thus, opportunities for program evaluation and research mirror this diversity within the TSUDR focus area. Residents may work with staff psychologists to engage in quality improvement and measurement or join with ongoing research projects. Residents are expected to complete a quality improvement or research-based product by the end of the training year.
Core training faculty
Please see the Psychology Service Faculty section of this brochure for full biographies of the core training faculty for this Focus Area of the Clinical Psychology postdoctoral residency program.

Zeba S. Ahmad-Maldonado, Ph.D. is the Program Manager for STAR Program and Chair of the Diversity Committee, a Subcommittee of the Training Committee.

James R. Dillon, Ph.D is a psychologist in the Veterans Intensive PTSD (VIP) Program.

Simon Kim, Ph.D. is Section Director of Community and Residential Care Services and Chief of Mental Health Residential Rehabilitation Treatment Program (MHRRTP).

Michelle Loewy, Ph.D. is the Program Manager for the Veterans’ Intensive PTSD (VIP) Program.

Jon T. Moore, Ph.D. is a psychologist in the Compensated Work Therapy/Transitional Residence (CWT/TR) program.

Jessica Peltan, Ph.D. is the Acting Program Manager for the Domiciliary Care for Homeless Veterans (DCHV) residential treatment program.

Troy Robison, Ph.D. is a psychologist in the STAR Program.

Margaret Schwartz Moravec, Ph.D. is a psychologist in the Veteran’s Intensive PTSD (VIP) program and serves as the preceptor for the Focus Area.

Julie Sharrette, Psy.D. is a psychologist in the Veteran's Intensive PTSD (VIP) Program.
GEROPSYCHOLOGY PROGRAM

Preceptor: Annie Mueller, Ph.D
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Overview
The mission of the Geropsychology program is to prepare residents to function as independent practitioners in the field of Geropsychology. This residency provides clinical, didactic, and academic training to develop advanced knowledge of biopsychosocial issues related to aging and treatment of those issues using cutting edge treatment modalities befitting an ever-changing health care system. The resident will work within an interprofessional context including physicians, nurse practitioners, nurses, social workers, occupational therapists, recreational therapists, dieticians, physical therapists, chaplains, and speech pathologists. The program adheres to the Pikes Peak Model (Knight et al., American Psychologist, 2009, 64, 205-214) for specialty training in professional Geropsychology, as described by Division 12, Section II of the American Psychological Association (APA), and meets post-doctoral training requirements for board certification, as specified by the American Board of Geropsychology. In other words, Geropsychology is a major area of study in this residency program. Our Geropsychology residency program received the 2016 Excellence in Geropsychology Training Award from the Council of Professional Geropsychology Training Programs (CoPGTP).

The resident and supervisors will collaborate to devise a training plan that is based on the resident’s training goals and needs, previous experience, and patient care needs. The resident works 40% in rotations under the Geriatrics and Extended Care service line, 40% in Primary Care-Mental Health Integration (PCMHI) with the remaining 20% spent within other settings of care serving older adults (Telemental Health or research). The resident also will have multiple teaching opportunities throughout the year, including the provision of professional presentations to the psychology service line, Geriatrics and Extended Care service line, and University of Washington Grand Rounds. The resident will have up to four hours per week allocated to the development and preparation of these materials.

Length of Training: One year

Number of Residents: One

Goals
At the completion of the residency, the resident is expected to demonstrate the following:

- Development of advanced skill in the Level 1 competencies of Integration of Science and Practice, Individual and Cultural Diversity, and Ethics and Legal Matters;
- Development of advanced skill in the Level 2 competencies of Professional Attitudes, Values, and Behaviors; Interpersonal and Communication Skills; Education and Teaching;
- Development of advanced knowledge and skills in the Level 3 Geropsychology competencies of Foundational Geropsychology Knowledge; Geropsychology Intervention; Geropsychology Assessment; and, Geropsychology Interprofessional and Consultation Skills
- Preparation for state or provincial licensure or certification for the independent practice of psychology;
• Preparation for requirements for board certification in Geropsychology by the American Board of Professional Psychology.

**Major Rotations**

**Geriatrics and Extended Care (GEC) Service Line:** The resident spends 40% of their time over the course of the year training in rotations under the GEC service line, consisting of the residential Community Living Center (CLC), the Geriatric Outpatient Primary Care Clinic (GeriPact), and end-of-life care. The resident will be responsible for direct patient care, consultation, and staff education. The primary supervisor for the GEC portion of the fellowship is Dr. Lane.

Dedicated in 2010, the CLC at VA Puget Sound American Lake is a state-of-the-art, LEED-certified facility based around a new concept called “cultural transformation” that encourages individualized care and involves the input of staff, residents, and family members. A culturally transformed community is an environment that treats residents as a whole, based on their individual medical, psychological, social, and spiritual needs. The CLC provides short- and long-term care for medically compromised Veterans, including those in Hospice for end-of-life care. The CLC also contains a Dementia Special Care Unit (DSCU), in which the resident will gain exposure to specialized therapy approaches, specialty assessments, and non-pharmacological interventions to manage challenging behavioral issues. Work in the CLC provides exposure to unique clinical, ethical, and legal challenges of caring for veterans across various stages of life and illness. In addition to the CLC, the resident also participates in the outpatient GeriPact clinic which serves older adults with particularly complicated medical and/or psychiatric presentations requiring geriatric specialization. Housed within a multidisciplinary geriatric medical team, this clinic offers opportunities for longer-term psychotherapy with a particularly complex sub-population of older adults. The resident is responsible for direct patient care, consultation, and staff education. The resident also has the opportunity to provide supervision of pre-doctoral psychology interns rotating through GEC, under the supervision of geropsychology residency faculty.

**Primary Care-Mental Health Integration (PC-MHI):** The resident trains for 40% of their time in PC-MHI, an interprofessional outpatient mental health service embedded within the Primary Care service line. PC-MHI promotes whole-person care by addressing mental and behavioral health needs through collaboration with veterans and their primary care teams. Dr. Hirschhorn is the primary supervisor for the PC-MHI rotation.

Given the tendency for older adults to seek mental health services initially within primary care, the role of the geropsychologist within this clinic is to provide direct mental health services with expertise in aging within the primary care setting. In particular, this includes access to mental health services on the same day as primary care appointments via “warm handoffs” from primary care teams. The resident will have opportunities to gain experience in areas such as brief psychotherapy for veterans with mild-to-moderate mental health concerns, brief interventions for common behavioral health concerns, cognitive screening, triage and risk assessment, behavioral activation, motivational interviewing, and caregiver support.

Resident responsibilities also include offering consultation to mental health and primary care providers treating older adults. The rotation affords opportunities for staff education within a broad interprofessional team about issues related to aging (e.g., normative/non-normative cognitive decline). There will be opportunities for program development (e.g., development of brief, group-based interventions) and quality improvement endeavors (e.g., tailoring clinic screening paperwork to older adults) particularly with regard to addressing the specific needs of an aging population. In addition, the
The resident has the opportunity to provide supervision of pre-doctoral psychology interns rotating through PC-MHI, under the supervision of geropsychology residency faculty.

**Minor Rotation**
The resident will spend 20% of their clinical time in one of the following rotations.

**Telemental Health:** Telemental Health services are utilized to increase access to care for rural and highly rural veterans and those for whom traveling to the clinic is otherwise contraindicated. Within VA, there is a growing emphasis on the development, integration, and use of Telemental Health services. There are high demands for geropsychology services given the burgeoning population of aging Veterans with limited access to VA clinics. Telemental Health services is quickly integrating within VA as a primary mode of therapy to reach a larger expanse of veteran populations, increasing the demand for future psychologists able to provide therapy to patients with significant and often complicated functional disabilities and/or limited access to care. Geropsychology is well-suited for this need; experience utilizing this treatment modality will position residents for future careers in VA. As part of this experience, the resident works through the Mental Health service line’s Telemental Health program to deliver individual psychotherapy services using telehealth technology. Dr. Mueller is the primary supervisor in telemental health.

**Geropsychology Research:** Engagement in the research minor may involve partnering with psychologists on ongoing research projects or pursuing a Quality Improvement project of their own. Examples of research include: demonstration projects focused on PTSD and Memory problems, including the creation of educational pamphlets and treatment manuals for a Memory Skills Group; and Quality Improvement projects focused on age differences in Veterans’ treatment adherence upon referral to specialty care. Current and future research may involve a continuation of these projects, including developing psychoeducational treatment protocols focused on brain health, memory skills, and other age-related issues. Drs. Trittschuh and Wood are the primary supervisors for this rotation.

**Teaching Methods**
There are several methods that are used to train the Geropsychology resident, and they include:

**Didactics:** As mentioned previously, Geropsychology program residents must complete at least 52 hours of didactic training during the year (to include the Integrated Resident Didactic Series, Psychology Service Seminars, and the Psychology Service Journal Club. In addition, residents must attend other didactic presentations that are individually tailored, in collaboration with their preceptor, to meet their training goals as delineated on their Individual Training Plan). Thus, approximately, forty hours of didactic trainings are required to provide the resident with advanced knowledge of Geropsychology and to prepare the resident for board certification. The didactic training may occur via online trainings, webinars, in-person lectures, experiential trainings, and/or case conferences and may include some of the optional offerings listed below. Didactic trainings are individually tailored with the resident during the course of the training year; thus, some of the optional offerings below could be required for any given resident depending on training needs or interests.

**Required Didactics:**
- National VA Geriatric Mental Health seminars
- Geropsychology Seminar Series
- Geriatric Medicine Journal Club
- American Lake Division Postdoctoral Residency Didactic Series – one to four hours per month, to be determined collaboratively with each Residency class;
• American Lake Division Psychology Service Journal Club – one and a half hours per month (3rd Wednesday at 3pm);
• American Lake Division Psychology Service Seminar Series – one and a half hours per month (4th Wednesday at 3pm)

Optional Didactics:
• Geriatric Research, Education, and Clinical Center Lectures Series
• University of Washington, Geriatric Medicine Grand Rounds
• University of Washington, Psychiatry Grand Rounds
• Neuropsychology Seminar Series
• Telemental Health Seminar Series

The resident is also encouraged to attend other regional trainings as it pertains to training goals. Residents in previous years have attended trainings at the University of Washington and Joint-Base Lewis McChord.

Mentorship: Dr. Mueller provides leadership for the Geropsychology postdoctoral program, as the preceptor. The task of the preceptor is to aid the resident in evaluating individual training needs and interests, and to develop an individualized training plan (ITP) based on those needs and the training program’s competency areas. In addition, the preceptor provides professional mentoring to the resident at least monthly, with an eye toward the resident’s overall progress through the program.

Supervision: The Geropsychology resident will receive individual supervision where clinical care, professional development, and teaching are addressed. If feasible, the resident may also have the opportunity to supervise interns under the guidance of clinical staff. In addition, the resident will have opportunities to work closely with professionals from other disciplines with different areas of expertise. The resident may also have opportunities to directly observe licensed staff psychologists in practice. For example, the resident may observe licensed psychologists conduct intakes, other evaluations, or engage in other clinical or professional activities.

Core training faculty
Please see the Psychology Service Faculty section of this brochure for full biographies of the core training faculty for the Geropsychology postdoctoral residency program.

Elizabeth W. Hirschhorn, Ph.D. is a Geropsychologist on the Primary Care Mental Health team.

Douglas Lane, Ph.D., ABPP is a Geropsychologist assigned to the Geriatrics and Extended Care Service. He also is a Clinical Associate Professor in the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences of the University of Washington School of Medicine.

Annie Mueller, Ph.D. is a Geropsychologist in the Mental Health Clinic.

Emily Trittschuh, Ph.D. is a Clinical Neuropsychologist with the Geriatric Research, Education, and Clinical Center (GRECC).

Amanda Ernst Wood, Ph.D. is a Mental Health Research psychologist a VA Puget Sound and a Clinical Associate Professor with the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences, University of Washington School of Medicine.
CLINICAL NEUROPSYCHOLOGY PROGRAM

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Overview
The mission of the Clinical Neuropsychology specialty program is to prepare residents to function as independent scientist-practitioners in the field of Clinical Neuropsychology. This residency provides clinical, didactic, and academic training to develop advanced knowledge in Clinical Neuropsychology with a focus on outpatient neuropsychological evaluations and treatment. Training will include attention to military culture, VA-specific issues, and common symptom presentations in Veteran populations. The program provides a major area of study on the attitudes, knowledge, and skills in the area of Clinical Neuropsychology. The program adheres to the Houston Conference Guidelines (Archives of Clinical Neuropsychology, 1998, 13, 160-166) for specialty training in clinical neuropsychology, as described by Division 40 of the American Psychological Association (APA). This program integrates clinical work along with opportunities for teaching, administrative, research, and supervisory experiences within the context of outpatient and residential settings. Residents rotate through the Mental Health Neuropsychology Consult Clinic and the Center for Polytrauma Care, spending approximately 50% of their time in each clinic.

Number of Residents: One

Length of Training: Two years

Goals
Postdoctoral education and training is designed to promote an advanced level of competence as a Clinical or Counseling Psychologist with a specialty in Clinical Neuropsychology.

At the completion of the residency, residents are expected to demonstrate the following:

• Development of advanced skill in the Level 1 competencies of Integration of Science and Practice, Individual and Cultural Diversity, and Ethics and Legal Matters;
• Development of advanced skill in the Level 2 competencies of Professional Attitudes, Values, and Behaviors; Interpersonal and Communication Skills; Education and Teaching;
• Development of advanced knowledge and skills in the Level 3 Clinical Neuropsychology competencies of Foundational Clinical Neuropsychology Knowledge; Clinical Neuropsychology Intervention; Clinical Neuropsychology Assessment; and, Clinical Neuropsychology Interprofessional and Consultation Skills
• Development of advanced skill in neuropsychological evaluation, treatment and consultation with patients and professionals sufficient to practice on an independent basis;
• Development of advanced understanding of brain-behavior relationships;
• Scholarly activity, e.g., submission of a study or literature review for poster presentation, publication, platform presentation; or a quality improvement (QI) project relevant to clinical practice;
• Preparation for state or provincial licensure or certification for the independent practice of psychology;
Preparation for requirements for board certification in Clinical Neuropsychology by the American Board of Professional Psychology/American Board of Clinical Neuropsychology.

Clinical Settings

**Outpatient Mental Health Neuropsychology Consult Service:** Residents serve as consultants and provide assessments as part of Mental Health Neuropsychology. Patients are referred to this service from a variety of sources and referrals typically include traumatic brain injury, various dementias, epilepsy/seizure disorder, stroke, and cognitive dysfunction secondary to medical or psychiatric conditions. The resident may also elect to participate in capacity referrals. Neuropsychology consults involve a clinical interview, test administration, scoring of test data, test interpretation, data integration and written report, and feedback to patients, family members, and the referral source. The majority of evaluations are completed at the Mental Health Clinic, although neuropsychological evaluations may also be completed through the Community Living Center and Domiciliary. Opportunities for neuropsychology-specific group interventions are available and include psychoeducational/cognitive rehabilitation interventions. Advanced trainees will have the opportunity to work with a psychometrist, if available.

**Center for Polytrauma Care:** The VA Polytrauma System of Care provides comprehensive, interdisciplinary care to veterans who have sustained traumatic brain injuries. At VA Puget Sound, services are provided on an outpatient basis to individuals in the postacute phase. We serve as the consultation and referral site for the geographic region of Alaska, Idaho, Oregon and Washington. The majority of our patients are veterans of Operation Enduring Freedom, Operation Iraqi Freedom, and Operation New Dawn (OEF/OIF/OND), have sustained one or more deployment-related mild TBIs/concussions, and typically present with co-occurring posttraumatic stress symptoms and chronic pain. We also receive referrals to assist with care planning for other populations served through the Rehabilitation Care Service, such as stroke, brain tumor, and anoxic/hypoxic injury. Our Polytrauma team is comprised of professionals from several disciplines, including physiatry, speech-language pathology, occupational therapy, physical therapy, recreational therapy, vocational rehabilitation, social work, and nursing.

Neuropsychology contributions in the Center for Polytrauma Care are wide-ranging, depending on veterans’ presenting concerns and prior treatment history. Residents will gain experience determining when cognitive assessment is indicated, and will be exposed to the many other roles that neuropsychologists can play in healthcare settings. They will further their understanding of the complex relationships between neurological, emotional, and personality factors, and how these interact with pain, sleep, motivational issues, and other variables to influence cognitive functioning. A strong emphasis is placed on psychoeducation to veterans and family members, and on facilitating connection with relevant care offerings. When testing is performed, this emphasis is reflected in written reports and feedback to patients, with the overarching goal of turning recommendations into action. Commensurate with their prior experience and training, residents will conduct individual and group psychotherapy and cognitive skills training. They may also develop intervention skills in coping and adjustment to disability. Advanced trainees will have the opportunity to work with a psychometrist, if available.

**The Role of the Residents**

A resident’s duties in the MHC Neuropsychology include providing comprehensive neuropsychological evaluations to answer a wide range of referral questions. This will include a thorough chart review, interview with the veteran and collateral if available, selection and administration of an appropriate battery, scoring, report writing, and feedback of results. Residents will coordinate care with other members of the veteran’s interdisciplinary care team, including medical staff, rehabilitation specialists, and family members, as necessary.
While on both rotations, the resident will work closely with his or her supervisors, but will be responsible for each component of the evaluation. The veterans served at VA Puget Sound often present with a variety of medical and mental health issues that complicate the neuropsychological picture. Residents are important members of the Neuropsychology team, participating fully in case consultation meetings. Residents will also have the opportunity to engage in administrative projects and research/QI tasks. Second-year residents may have supervisory experiences with other trainees.

Teaching Methods
There are several methods that are used to train the Clinical Neuropsychology resident, and they include:

**Didactics:** As mentioned previously, Clinical Neuropsychology residents must complete at least 104 hours of didactic training during the year (to include the Integrated Resident Didactic Series, Psychology Service Seminars, and Psychology Service Journal Club. In addition, residents must attend other didactic presentations that are individually tailored, in collaboration with their preceptor, to meet their training goals as delineated on their Individual Training Plan). The Clinical Neuropsychology Program offers specific didactics to prepare the resident for board certification. The didactic training may occur via online trainings, webinars, in-person lectures, experiential trainings, and/or case conferences and may include some of the optional offerings listed below.

**Required Didactics:**
- Neuropsychology Seminar – these occur weekly and with the Clinical Neuropsychology Fellowship at the Seattle VA. These are designed to prepare the resident for board certification. Residents help to organize the weekly in-house neuropsychology seminar series, which includes presentations by clinical neuropsychology supervisors and research staff, VA neurologists, and neuropsychology residents and interns.
- American Lake Neuropsychology Journal Club – One hour per month (2nd Thursday at 3pm)
- American Lake Neuropsychology Case Consultation – One hour per month (4th Thursday at 3pm)
- American Lake Postdoctoral Residency Didactic Series – One to four hours per month, to be determined collaboratively with each Residency class
- American Lake Psychology Service Journal Club – one and a half hours per month (3rd Wednesday at 3pm)
- American Lake Psychology Service Seminar Series – one and a half hours per month (4th Wednesday at 3pm)

**Optional Didactics:**
- University of Washington, Psychiatry Grand Rounds – Two hours per month
- University of Washington, Neurology Grand Rounds – One hour per month
- Rehabilitation Psychology Didactic Series – One hour per week
- Geriatrics and Extended Care Journal Club – One hour per week
- Geropsychology Didactic Series – One hour per week
- Geriatric Research, Education, and Clinical Center Lectures Series – Two hours per month

**Mentorship:** Dr. Brett Parmenter provides leadership for the Clinical Neuropsychology postdoctoral program as the preceptor. The task of the preceptor is to aid the resident in evaluating individual training needs and interests, and to develop an individualized training plan based on those needs and the training
program’s competency areas. In addition, the preceptor provides professional mentoring to the resident at least monthly, with an eye toward the resident’s overall progress through the program.

**Supervision:** Dr. Parmenter and Dr. Niki Amsden serve as primary supervisors in the Mental Health Neuropsychology Consult Clinic. Dr. Sarah Noonan serves as the primary supervisor in the Center for Polytrauma Care. Dr. Derek Anderson serves as a secondary supervisor in the Center for Polytrauma Care.

The resident will receive both individual and group supervision where clinical, career development, teaching, and scholarly activity are addressed. During his or her second year, the resident may also have the opportunity to supervise other trainees under the guidance of clinical staff, when feasible. In addition, the resident will have opportunities to work closely with professionals from other disciplines with different areas of expertise. Residents have opportunities to directly observe licensed staff psychologists in practice. For example, residents will observe licensed psychologists conduct intakes, feedback, or engage in other clinical or professional activities, and senior staff may co-lead a group with the resident.

**Scholarly Activity, Research, and Program Development**

Involvement in evaluation that embodies the integration of science and practice is an important component of the Neuropsychology residency. The resident will be encouraged to identify research or evaluation activities that would expand his/her current skill set. There are a wide range of opportunities available to the resident that include: participation in ongoing studies, participation in ongoing quality improvement projects, data analysis, preparing papers and presentations, interfacing with the local IRB, etc. Program improvement and development projects are areas in which residents are encouraged to participate and take the lead. These projects allow the Neuropsychology in the MHC and Center for Polytrauma Care to continuously evaluate our programs and offerings, and keep our clinical programs current and responsive to patient needs/preferences.

**Core training faculty**

Please see the Psychology Service Faculty section of this brochure for full biographies of the core training faculty for the Clinical Neuropsychology postdoctoral residency program.

**Niki Amsden, Ph.D.** is a Clinical Neuropsychologist in the Mental Health Clinic.

**Sarah Noonan, Ph.D.** is a Clinical Neuropsychologist in Rehabilitation Care Services, working primarily within the Center for Polytrauma Care.

**Brett Parmenter, Ph.D., ABPP** is a Clinical Neuropsychologist in the Mental Health Clinic and serves as the preceptor for the program.

**Derek Anderson, PhD** is a Psychologist in the Rehabilitation Care Service line.
PSYCHOLOGY SERVICE FACULTY

Zeba S. Ahmad-Maldonado, PhD is the Program Manager for the Substance Treatment and Recovery (STAR) Program in the MHRTP. She received her Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology from Seattle Pacific University, completing her doctoral internship at the Louis Stokes DVAMC in Cleveland, Ohio. She is licensed to practice in Washington State and is a Clinical Instructor in the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences at the University of Washington. Dr. Ahmad’s theoretical orientation is Cognitive Behavioral. Dr. Ahmad has been certified in Cognitive Behavioral Therapy for Substance Use Disorders (CBT for SUD) through the VA in 2015. She is a trained consultant for the national CBT for SUD training program through the VA. At American Lake, Dr. Ahmad is the Chair of the Diversity Committee, a Committee serving under the Training Committee. Dr. Ahmad has a special emphasis on diversity related issues.

Niki Amsden, PhD is a clinical neuropsychologist in the MHC. She attended the University of Georgia and completed her doctoral internship at the Long Beach VAMC where clinical interests focused on neuropsychology and general medical consultation. She completed her postdoctoral internship in medical psychology at Oregon Health Sciences University where she emphasized neuropsychological assessment in a consultation-liaison setting. She spent over 25 years in private practice specializing in adult clinical neuropsychological and psychological assessment and treatment with an emphasis on rehabilitation issues. She consulted for a number of years in both inpatient and outpatient interdisciplinary settings with a wide variety of patient populations including TBI, dementia, and other neurological disorders. Clinical interests include the impacts of psychiatric and chronic medical disorders on cognition. She is licensed in the states of California and Oregon.

Derek Anderson, PhD is a psychologist in the Rehabilitation Care Service. He obtained his PhD in Clinical Psychology from Ohio State University and is licensed in Washington State. He completed his doctoral internship at the Seattle VA and postdoctoral fellowship in Rehabilitation Psychology at the Seattle VA. Clinically, he is interested in adjustment to chronic disabilities and currently conducts brief outpatient neuropsychological assessments as well as provides individual and group psychotherapy. His intervention approaches are guided by empirically supported treatments, including Cognitive-Behavioral Therapy, Behavioral Activation, Acceptance and Commitment Therapy, Motivational Interviewing and Problem-Solving Therapy techniques to promote mood management, pain management, and optimize response to disability within a rehabilitation setting. As for research, he is most broadly interested in examining response to chronic medical conditions or acquired disability among patients and their family members. His most recent research efforts have included examining mood and social support among patients with limb loss. Additionally, he has been serving as a study therapist for an ongoing grant-funded, multi-site, group intervention for chronic pain management.

Allison C. Aosved, PhD is a Staff Psychologist in the PTSD Outpatient Clinic and the Director of Psychology Training Programs at the American Lake Division of VA Puget Sound. She earned her degree in Clinical Psychology from Oklahoma State University. She completed a doctoral internship at the Seattle Division of VA Puget Sound and postdoctoral residency at the National Center for PTSD, Pacific Islands Division. Dr. Aosved currently serves as both a trainer and consultant for the National VA Prolonged Exposure (PE) dissemination initiative. Dr. Aosved served as the secretary for the national VA Psychology Training Council (2012-2016) and is currently serving as an Association of Psychology Postdoctoral and Internship Centers (APPIC) board member (2015-2021). She was recognized in 2017 by the VA Section of APA’s Division 18 with the Outstanding Training Director Award. Her diversity interests include addressing the needs of underserved populations (including women and LGBT veterans), social justice, and ensuring evidence-based interventions are culturally accessible to veterans. Her professional interests also include
Behavioral and Cognitive Psychology, clinical supervision and training, dissemination of evidence-based interventions, program evaluation and quality assurance specific to implementation of evidence-based treatments, and sexual violence prevention.

**Noelle Balliett, PhD**, is a psychologist in the POC. She received her doctorate in clinical psychology from the University of Tulsa. She completed her doctoral internship at the Bay Pines VA Medical Center and her postdoctoral residency in evidence-based psychotherapy in the Anxiety Disorders Clinic at the VA San Diego Healthcare System. She is licensed in the state of Washington. Dr. Balliett’s research focuses on the treatment of trauma-related nightmares, the role of sleep in the development and maintenance of PTSD, treatment dissemination, and the impact of sleep on treatment engagement and effectiveness. Her clinical interests include treatment of PTSD and nightmares, use of evidence-based interventions, and culturally informed care, and she enjoys the opportunity to provide supervision and mentorship to trainees. She serves as a national trainer for Exposure, Relaxation, and Rescripting Therapy for trauma-related nightmares and is involved in national dissemination efforts. She also serves locally as the chair of the Education and Didactic Committee and serves nationally as a member of the Model Curriculum Committee, a subcommittee of the VA Psychology Training Council.

**Carol Becker, PhD, ABPP** is a psychologist in the Mental Health Clinic (MHC) and licensed in Washington state since 2014. She received her doctorate in Clinical Psychology from Pacific Graduate School of Psychology at Palo Alto University. She completed her doctoral internship at the Louis Stokes Cleveland VA and her postdoctoral residency in PTSD at the Memphis VA. Her areas of clinical interest include trauma-focused treatments, survivors of childhood physical and sexual abuse, and couples therapy. She is a certified provider of Cognitive Processing Therapy (CPT), Integrative Behavioral Couples Therapy (IBCT), Prolonged Exposure (PE) and Cognitive Behavioral Therapy for Depression (CBT-D).

**Sareeta Beeram, PsyD** is a psychologist with the Addictions Treatment Center (ATC). She received her PsyD in Clinical Psychology from Nova Southeastern University. She completed her doctoral internship at the VA Eastern Kansas HealthCare System and is licensed in the state of Kansas. Dr. Beeram’s theoretical orientation is Cognitive Behavioral. She completed the Motivational Enhancement Therapy (MET) training program through the VA in 2015 and serves as a national consultant for the Motivational Interviewing (MI)/Motivational Enhancement Therapy (MET) training programs. At American Lake, Dr. Beeram serves Veterans in both the outpatient addiction treatment program and the office-based buprenorphine treatment program. She is a member of the American Lake Suicide Risk Reduction Committee. Her professional/research interests include diagnosis and treatment of co-occurring disorders and the role of motivation in engagement and treatment.

**Richard E. Beth, PhD** is a staff psychologist in the Mental Health Psychiatric Assessment and Clinical Care (PACC) Intensive Outpatient Program (IOP) Clinic. He received his PhD in Clinical Medical Psychology from the University of Alabama at Birmingham. He completed his doctoral internship at Vanderbilt University—Veterans Affairs Internship in Clinical Psychology. His post-doctoral fellowship in clinical psychology was at Birmingham Psychiatry. He is licensed in the state of Alabama. His theoretical orientation is generally behavioral, and with training in Acceptance and Commitment Therapy (ACT), Interpersonal Psychotherapy (IPT), Prolonged Exposure Therapy (PE), and advanced training in Eye Movement Desensitization and Reprocessing (EMDR), and Clinical Hypnotherapy. His professional interests include general clinical practice and trauma work.

**Joshua Breitstein, PsyD** is a psychologist in the Primary Care Mental Health Integration clinic. He attended The Georgia School of Professional Psychology earning his PsyD in 2008. While attending his graduate
program, he earned a 2-year Health Professions Scholarship in the United States Army. He completed internship and post-doctoral training at Madigan Army Medical Center where he was trained as a clinical psychologist with a specific emphasis on military psychology. He served on active duty from 2007 to 2011, completing one deployment to Iraq from 2010 to 2011 as psychologist assigned to the 85th Combat Stress Control Detachment. Dr. Breitstein holds active psychology licenses in Colorado and Washington state. His theoretical orientation is cognitive behavioral within an interpersonal framework. Dr. Breitstein received advanced training in sleep medicine at Madigan Army Medical Center. He brings diversity experience working with active duty military populations across all branches of service. Dr. Breitstein clinical and research interest is in the area of sleep medicine. He enjoys mentoring and supervising Interns providing trainees with a diverse understanding of military culture and its impact on cognition and behavior. Dr. Breitstein also enjoys training Interns in various aspects of sleep medicine and applying these principles to treatment in a primary care setting.

Cody L. Bullock, PhD is a clinical psychologist at the VAPSHCS, American Lake Division, PTSD Outpatient Clinic (POC). He received his Ph.D. from Pacific Graduate School of Psychology at Palo Alto University, with an emphasis in Neuropsychological Assessment. He completed his doctoral internship at Heartland Behavioral Health Hospital through the Ohio Psychology Internship Program, and his postdoctoral residency through the San Francisco VA Medical Center, specializing in Rural Psychology. Dr. Bullock is licensed in Washington State and provides supervision for both clinical practice and psychological assessments. He has completed VA rollout trainings in both Motivational Enhancement Therapy and Prolonged Exposure. His theoretical orientation is primarily CBT-based and he has interest in incorporating technology into clinical practice.

Jessica Carlile, PhD is a psychologist in the PTSD Outpatient Clinic (POC) where she also serves as the clinic telehealth champion. She received her PhD in Clinical Psychology from Seattle Pacific University in 2016 with research examining military sexual trauma in male-identified Veterans and service members. She completed her doctoral internship at VA Puget Sound HCS, American Lake Division and a postdoctoral fellowship in Telehealth and Rural Outreach with emphasis in PTSD and Rehabilitation Psychology at the VA Puget Sound HCS, Seattle Division. She approaches clinical work from a cognitive behavioral orientation with consideration of the impact of systems and social-ecological factors on mental health. Her intervention approaches are guided by empirically supported treatments such as Prolonged Exposure, Cognitive Processing Therapy, Cognitive Behavioral Therapy for Insomnia, and Motivational Enhancement Therapy. Her research interests broadly include the intersection of trauma and health conditions (especially sleep-related disorders and sexual health), as well as integration of technology in clinical practice. Her professional interests include addressing the needs of underserved populations, including LGBTQ and rural Veterans.

David Correia, PhD is a staff psychologist in the Mental Health Clinic. He received his doctorate in Clinical Psychology from the Pacific Graduate School of Psychology at Palo Alto University. He completed his pre-doctoral internship at the W.G. (Bill) Hefner VA Medical Center in Salisbury, North Carolina. He completed his postdoctoral residency in Behavioral and Cognitive Psychology, PTSD emphasis, at the VA Puget Sound, American Lake Division. His theoretical orientation is primarily cognitive-behavioral. Dr. Correia received advanced training during internship and residency in trauma-focused interventions and completed VA evidence-based treatment rollouts for Prolonged Exposure and Cognitive Processing Therapy. He serves as a consultant on the Assessment Supervision Committee and also serves on the Diversity Committee. His professional interests include case-conceptualization, psychological assessment, professional development of ethnic minorities in psychology, and competency based supervision.
Eric R. Clausell, PhD is a psychologist in the Mental Health Clinic. He is licensed in Washington State. Dr. Clausell received his PhD in Clinical-Community Psychology from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. He completed his doctoral internship at Palo Alto VA Health Care System and his postdoctoral fellowship at Stanford University’s School of Medicine. Dr. Clausell received advanced training on internship and fellowship in Couples Therapy and Cognitive Behavioral Therapy Interventions. His theoretical orientation is cognitive behavioral within an integrative framework. He identifies as a generalist clinically and specializes in couples and family interventions. He is certified through the VA in Integrative Behavioral Couples Therapy and provides training and clinical supervision in this therapeutic modality. His professional interests include clinical training and mentoring of Interns and Residents, particularly in family interventions. In addition, Dr. Clausell is also interested in the role of diversity in clinical practice, particularly LGBT veteran concerns. He currently serves on the Diversity Committee and is a Diversity Mentor.

James R. Dillon, PhD is a psychologist in the Veterans Intensive PTSD (VIP) Program. Dr. Dillon earned his Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology at the University of Missouri-St. Louis. He completed his doctoral internship at the Jerry L. Pettis Memorial Veterans Medical Center in Loma Linda, CA and his postdoctoral residency in Interdisciplinary Treatment of Substance Abuse at the VAPSHCS, Seattle Division. His theoretical orientation is integrative, a blend of cognitive behavioral, interpersonal, and acceptance-based approaches. Dr. Dillon is licensed in the state of Washington. His professional interests include trauma and PTSD, moral injury, the influence of culture on psychological development, gender, and LGBT issues.

Emily Dinatale, PhD is a psychologist in the Primary Care Mental Health Integration Clinic. She attended East Carolina University and completed doctoral internship at Charlie Norwood Veterans Affairs Medical Center/Medical College of Georgia Consortium. She completed postdoctoral residency at the Salem Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Virginia. She has been licensed in North Carolina since 2015. Clinical interests include promoting health management behaviors. Research interests include development and assessment of novel behavioral interventions for diabetes and weight management in underserved populations.

Natalie Dong, PhD, ABPP is a board certified rehabilitation psychologist. She is the Deputy Chief, Psychology Service and served as the Interim Chief, Psychology Service from December 2014 to October 2015. Dr. Dong is the Director of the Center for Polytrauma Care and the VISN 20 Polytrauma Clinical Program Manager. She received her PhD from the Graduate School of Psychology at Fuller in 2000. She completed her pre-doctoral internship at the VA Los Angeles Ambulatory Care Center and her post-doctoral fellowship in Rehabilitation Psychology at Los Angeles County Rancho Los Amigos National Rehabilitation Center in Downey, CA. She provides program administration, management, and clinical services in the Center for Polytrauma Care at both the Seattle and American Lake facilities of the VA Puget Sound Health Care System. She is licensed as a psychologist in the states of Washington and California. Her clinical interests are in acquired and traumatic brain injury and adjustment to physical disability. Dr. Dong has served as a Member-at-Large to the Executive Committee of APA Division 22 and also served as an officer and as the Oral Examination Coordinator on the Board of Directors of the American Board of Rehabilitation Psychology. Dr. Dong is an alumni of the APA Leadership Institute for Women in Psychology and an alumni of the 2016-17 Executive Potential Program sponsored by the VA Corporate Employee Development Board.

Heather Dumser, PsyD is a geropsychologist in Home-Based Primary Care (HBPC). She received her PsyD in Clinical Psychology and Certificate of Gerontology at Pacific University. She completed her doctoral Internship at Edith Nourse Rogers Memorial VAMC in Bedford, MA with specialty in geropsychology.
her postdoctoral internship, she specialized in palliative care and psycho-oncology at Clement J. Zablocki VAMC in Milwaukee, WI. She is licensed to practice psychology in Washington since 2015. Her theoretical orientation is integrative, predominantly incorporating CBT, ACT, and mindfulness. Her clinical interests and specialties include end-of-life issues, anticipatory grief, loss and trauma, bereavement, aging, adjustment to chronic illnesses (particularly Veterans with ALS), caregiver burden, and PTSD in older adults. She has been trained to provide Prolonged Exposure (PE) and also in adapting PTSD treatment to older adults, including the Late-Onset Stress Symptomatology (LOSS) protocol.

Amee J. Epler, PhD is the Program Manager of Primary Care Mental Health Integration at the American Lake campus. She received her PhD in Clinical Psychology from the University of Missouri-Columbia. She completed her doctoral internship at the University of Mississippi Medical Center/VA Consortium in Jackson, MS. She is licensed in the states of Mississippi and Washington. Her theoretical orientation is primarily behavioral within a dialectical framework. Dr. Epler has received advanced training on internship and as a VA Staff Psychologist in Dialectical Behavior Therapy, Prolonged Exposure, Cognitive Processing Therapy, ACT for Depression, Problem Solving Therapy, CBT for Insomnia, and Motivational Interviewing. Her professional interests include brief interventions for primary care settings, health behavior change, and integrated care models.

Janna L. Fikkan, PhD is the Associate Director of Psychology Training and a staff psychologist in the Mental Health Clinic. She received her PhD in Clinical Psychology from the University of Vermont. She completed her doctoral internship at Duke University Medical Center and her postdoctoral fellowship in health psychology at Duke Integrative Medicine. She is licensed in North Carolina and Washington state and is an Associate Clinical Professor in the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences at the University of Washington. Her theoretical orientation is primarily behavioral within an interpersonal framework. Dr. Fikkan received advanced training on internship and fellowship in mindfulness and acceptance-based therapy approaches, including Dialectical Behavior Therapy. She is a national consultant for the IPT for Depression VA dissemination effort and serves on the Executive Committee of the VA Psychology Training Council. Her professional interests include training and mentoring of interns and residents and professional development of women in the field of psychology. Dr. Fikkan co-chairs the Women in Leadership SIG for the Association of VA Psychology Leadership.

Daniel J. Fischer, PhD is a psychologist in the Mental Health Clinic. He is licensed in Washington State. Dr. Fischer received his PhD in Clinical Psychology from the University of New Mexico. He completed his doctoral internship at the VA Puget Sound Health Care System, American Lake Division and his postdoctoral fellowship in the Center for Excellence in Substance Abuse Treatment and Education (CESATE) at VA Puget Sound Health Care System, Seattle Division. Dr. Fischer has received advanced training in the practice and education of Motivational Interviewing and is a member of the Motivational Interviewing Network of Trainers (MINT). He is certified through the VA in Cognitive Processing Therapy and is completing certification in Interpersonal Psychotherapy. His theoretical orientation is cognitive behavioral and he identifies as a generalist clinically. His professional interests include issues related to client engagement and retention as well as the training and dissemination of empirically based practices. Additionally, Dr. Fischer serves on the Education Committee.

Kristin Gayle, PhD is the Program Director for the Serious Mental Illness (SMI) programs and a psychologist in these programs. The SMI programs include the Psychosocial Rehabilitation and Recovery Center (PRRC) and Mental Health Intensive Case Management (MHICM). She received her Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology from Seattle Pacific University in 2009 after completion of internship at the New Jersey VA Health Care System. She began working at the VA Puget Sound, American Lake Division following
graduation in 2009. She is licensed in Washington state. Her theoretical orientation is integrative, relying heavily on cognitive-behavioral and interpersonal frameworks. Her professional interests include recovery-oriented treatment, changing cultures to provide more recovery-oriented treatment, and the treatment of serious mental illness.

Elizabeth W. Hirschhorn, PhD is a geropsychologist on the Primary Care Mental Health team. She earned her PhD in Clinical Psychology from the Catholic University of America. She completed her doctoral internship at the VA Salt Lake City Health Care System and her postdoctoral fellowship in geropsychology at VA Puget Sound Health Care System, American Lake Division. She is licensed in the state of Washington. Her theoretical orientation is primarily behavioral and informed by geropsychological theory. Her professional interests include interprofessional care, utilization of mental health services by older Veterans, and the integration of technology into mental health care. She is a member of the Diversity Committee.

Lauren Hollrah, PsyD is a clinical pain psychologist in the Pain Clinic at the VAPSHCS. She earned her doctoral degree in Clinical Psychology from Pacific University. She completed her doctoral internship at the Northampton VAMC in Northampton, MA and her residency at a multidisciplinary pain management clinic, Progressive Rehabilitation Associates, in Portland, OR. She also helped to develop a multidisciplinary pain management program for Peace Health Southwest Hospital. She has developed the Outpatient Functional Restoration Pain Program, that is the only CARF accredited pain program for VISN 20, and housed at the American Lake Campus. Dr. Hollrah specializes in the behavioral treatment of chronic pain and the psychological issues that arise from chronic health conditions. Her primary theoretical orientation is ACT. She received specialized training in ACT on internship and residency and continues to be involved in the Association of Contextual and Behavioral Science (ACBS) and the implementation of ACT in the Pain Clinic. She is also certified in CBT for Chronic Pain (CBT-CP). She has been licensed in both Oregon and Washington state since 2011. She also contributes on a national level as a Subject Matter Expert on chronic pain for the Veterans Health Library and is the Section Editor of the VA Pain Management Website – Patient Education. Her professional interests include the development of Functional Restoration Programs, patient education around chronic pain, and utilization of chronic illness management skills like mindfulness, stress management, yoga, and helping Veterans work toward an active and vital life.

Carrie Holtzman, PhD is a staff psychologist with the Western Telemental Health Network (WTN) and Promoting Access to Telehealth (PATH) teams. She received her PhD in Clinical Psychology from Emory University. She completed her doctoral internship and a postdoctoral fellowship specializing in trauma recovery at the Durham VA Medical Center in Durham, NC. She is licensed in the state of North Carolina since 2016. Her theoretical orientation is primarily cognitive-behavioral, with an emphasis on interpersonal factors. She has completed VA certification requirements in Cognitive Processing Therapy and Interpersonal Psychotherapy for Depression. Additional clinical interests include provision of evidence-based treatments via telehealth modalities, with particular interest in mindfulness-based treatments including Dialectical Behavior Therapy and Acceptance and Commitment Therapy. Her professional interests include training and supervision, and she is a member of the Association of VA Psychology Leadership.

Scott Hunt, PhD is a psychologist in the Psychiatric Assessment and Clinical Care (PACC) Unit. He received his PhD in Clinical Psychology from Fielding Graduate University. He completed both his doctoral internship and a postdoctoral research residency at the VAPSHCS, American Lake Division. Dr. Hunt’s clinical orientation is integrative and his clinical interests are in emergency mental health,
psychodiagnostic, and assessment. His research at the VA has ranged from biomedical research in antidepressant augmentation to aspects of religiousness in marital quality. He is licensed in WA state.

Devin Jordan, PhD is a Graduate Psychologist in the Addiction Treatment Center. He received his Ph.D. in Counseling Psychology from Western Michigan University. He completed his doctoral internship at VA Illiana. His theoretical orientation is primarily cognitive-behavioral within an interpersonal framework. He has clinical experience in general mental health and specialized addictions treatment. His research and teaching experiences include substance use-related topics, with an emphasis on motivation to change and natural recovery. He also has interest in supervision and multicultural issues.

Mary-Catherine Kane, PhD is a psychologist in Primary Care Mental Health Integration at the American Lake campus. She completed her Ph.D. in Counseling Psychology at Western Michigan University. Her doctoral internship was at the VA Medical Center, Battle Creek MI. She is licensed in the state of Washington. Dr. Kane has received advanced training on internship and as a VA Staff Psychologist in CBT for Depression, Cognitive Processing Therapy, and Motivational Interviewing. In addition to her clinical responsibilities, she is the Associate Program Director of Psychology in the Center for Excellence in Primary Care Education at Puget Sound. Her professional interests include enhancing interprofessional learning and implementation of integrated care, program development and evaluation, health behavior change, and brief interventions for primary care settings.

Lori Katz, PhD is a psychologist in the Women’s Mental Health Clinic-Primary Care Mental Health Integration. She received her BS degree from the University of California, Berkeley, and her double major PhD (Clinical and Social/Personality) from the University of Massachusetts, Amherst. She completed her doctoral internship at VA Long Beach Healthcare System. Her primary interests are assessing and treating Military Sexual Trauma, women’s health issues, and integrative care. She draws from cognitive-experiential and attachment theoretical models. She is licensed in the state of California.

Jason Katzenbach, PhD is a psychologist in Primary Care Mental Health Integration. He received his Ph.D. in Counseling Psychology from Brigham Young University. Prior to coming to American Lake, Dr. Katzenbach worked as a postdoctoral fellow in integrated primary care mental health at the WJB Dorn VA Medical Center in Columbia, South Carolina and completed his doctoral internship at the Boise VA Medical Center in Boise, ID. He is currently licensed in Washington State. Dr. Katzenbach’s clinical interests include short-term psychotherapy, health behavior change, chronic pain management, practical use of psychotherapy outcome data to improve treatment, evidence-based group process, career counseling, and integrating recovery and well-being focused interventions into clinical practice. Dr. Katzenbach’s theoretical orientation is integrative and incorporates aspects of Acceptance and Commitment Therapy, Existential Therapy, and Client Centered Therapy.

Burton “T” Kerr, PhD is the Director of Primary Care Mental Health Integration for the VA Puget Sound System and is a psychologist in the PC-MHI clinic at American Lake. He received his PhD in Clinical Psychology from Brigham Young University. He completed his doctoral internship at Walter Reed Army Medical Center, Washington DC and post-doctoral training in Clinical Health Psychology at Tripler Army Medical Center, in Honolulu, Hawaii. Dr. Kerr served 8 years as a psychologist and as an officer with the U.S. Army. He is licensed in the state of Idaho. His theoretical orientation is primarily behavioral. He has experience in general mental health, primary care mental health, and health psychology; particularly in sleep medicine, diabetes, and chronic pain.
Simon Kim, PhD is Section Director of Community and Residential Care Services and Chief of Mental Health Residential Rehabilitation Treatment Program (MHRRTP). Dr. Kim completed his Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology at Georgia State University, his internship at VA Palo Alto and was a postdoctoral fellow in Clinical Psychology at Stanford University. Prior to joining the VA Puget Sound Health Care System in 2012, he worked at the VA Palo Alto Health Care System managing their substance abuse residential rehabilitation treatment program. His areas of professional interests include empirically based treatment and assessment for substance use disorders, dual-diagnosis and brief intervention, multicultural competence/diversity issues, psychotherapy integration, and supervision.

Jennifer C. King, PhD is the co-occurring substance use/PTSD specialist and serves as the liaison between the PTSD Outpatient Clinic (POC) and Addiction Treatment Center (ATC). She received her PhD in Clinical Psychology (with an emphasis in forensic psychology) from Palo Alto University and completed her doctoral internship at VA St. Louis Health Care System. She is licensed in Kansas. Her theoretical orientation is integrative with a foundation in cognitive-behavioral. Dr. King became certified in Prolonged Exposure through the VA in 2015. Her professional interests include co-occurring substance use and PTSD in the Veteran population, evidence-based treatments, particularly Prolonged Exposure, “killing” and combat trauma specifically, harm reduction, age of substance use initiation and its implications, psychological assessment, and offender rehabilitation.

Douglas Lane, PhD, ABPP a geropsychologist in the Geriatrics and Extended Care Service. He is also a Clinical Associate Professor in the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences of the University of Washington School of Medicine. He completed a PhD in Clinical Psychology through the University of Kansas, internship training in the United States Army Medical Department, and a fellowship in psychology through the Yale University School of Medicine. He has also completed post-graduate training in Health Professions Education through the University of Glasgow School of Medicine, Scotland. He is board-certified in Geropsychology and Clinical Psychology by the American Board of Professional Psychology (ABPP), and is a member of the ABPP/American Board of Geropsychology itself. Dr. Lane is the current President of the Society for Clinical Geropsychology/APA Division 12-2. He is licensed in Washington state. He is also a Chartered Psychologist in the United Kingdom. His clinical areas of interest are psychotherapy with older adults, psychotherapy integration, dementia care, resiliency factors and aging including spirituality, and coping with neurological disorders.

Michelle Loewy, PhD is the Program Manager for the Veterans Intensive PTSD (VIP) program and the Lead for Women’s Mental Health at VA Puget Sound. She received her PhD in Counseling Psychology from the State University of New York at Buffalo. She completed her doctoral internship at VA Western New York Healthcare System. Dr. Loewy serves as the facility lead for Measurement Based Care within Mental Health Service line. Her primary interests are related to clinical program evaluation, team development, implementing system changes, trauma-informed care and women’s mental health. Her theoretical orientation is integrative, drawing from feminist, systems, behavioral, and interpersonal theories. She is licensed in the state of New York.

Russell McCann, PhD is the Team Lead of the Promoting Access to Telemental Health (PATH) Service and is an acting assistant professor with the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences at the University of Washington (UW). Dr. McCann received a PhD in Clinical Psychology from Seattle Pacific University and interned at Washington State University Counseling and Psychological Services. He went on to complete a postdoctoral fellowship in military research psychology at the National Center for Telehealth and Technology. He is licensed in Washington State. His area of expertise is the use of technology to augment and provide access to mental health services. Dr. McCann is the co-chair of the
Ross Melter, PsyD is a psychologist in the Psychosocial Rehabilitation and Recovery Center (PRRC). He received his Psy.D. in clinical psychology from the Wright Institute in Berkeley, CA. Dr. Melter completed his doctoral internship at the San Bernardino County Department of Behavioral Health and postdoctoral fellowship at the VA Palo Alto Health Care System with emphasis in Psychosocial Rehabilitation (PSR). His theoretical orientation is integrative and draws from interpersonal, behavioral and mindfulness-based modalities. Dr. Melter has received advanced training in the application of evidence-based psychotherapies with seriously mentally ill (SMI) populations. He is a VA certified provider in Social Skills Training for Schizophrenia and is involved with national dissemination efforts to spread awareness of recovery principles. Dr. Melter’s professional interests include stigma reduction, recovery from acute SMI, community integration, self-advocacy and concealable disabilities.

Jon T. Moore, PhD is a psychologist in the Compensated Work Therapy/Transitional Residence (CWT/TR) program. He received his PhD in counseling psychology from the University of Louisville. He completed his doctoral internship at the Cincinnati VAMC and continued his training in substance use and homeless rehabilitation as a postdoctoral fellow at the VA Palo Alto. Clinically, Dr. Moore uses a Feedback-Informed Treatment framework with theoretical rationales that primarily stem from Emotion-Focused Therapy and interpersonal foundations. Dr. Moore researches dogmatic/biased thinking styles as well as secular and religious groups’ mental health and spirituality. Dr. Moore is currently using program evaluation data from residential programs to identify the mechanisms of change for Veterans. He also serves as the Research Chair within the Training Committee and as an assessment supervisor. Dr. Moore is licensed in Washington State.

Sean Morrison, PhD is a psychologist in Mental Health Intensive Outpatient Program (IOP)/Psychiatric Assessment and Clinical Center (PACC). He completed his PhD in Clinical Psychology from Louisiana State University and his internship at the Central Texas VA in Austin, TX. He has been licensed in the state of Texas since 2016. His theoretical orientation is integrative with an emphasis on Cognitive Behavioral Therapy and Dialectical Behavior Therapy. He particularly enjoys working with individuals with severe mental illnesses and individual with personality disorders. His research interests primarily focus on better understanding social cognition and paranoia amongst individuals on the schizophrenia spectrum, as well as identifying ways to rapidly establish rapport with psychiatric inpatients experiencing paranoia.

Annie Mueller, PhD is a geropsychologist in the MHC. She received her PhD in Clinical Psychology with curricular emphasis in aging from the University of Colorado at Colorado Springs. She completed both her internship in clinical psychology and postdoctoral residency in geropsychology at VA Puget Sound, American Lake Division. Her theoretical orientation is integrative, with emphasis on cognitive behavioral. She has completed VA rollout trainings in CBT for Depression and ACT for Depression. Her clinical interests include aging and mental health, late life anxiety, end-of-life care, chronic illness and disability, and telemental health. She serves on both the Training Committee and the Diversity Committee, and is the preceptor for the geropsychology postdoctoral residency. She is licensed in Washington state.

Sarah Noonan, PhD is a clinical neuropsychologist in Rehabilitation Care Services, working primarily within the Center for Polytrauma Care. She earned her Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology, with a specialization in
neuropsychology, from the San Diego State University/University of California, San Diego joint doctoral program. She completed her internship and postdoctoral fellowship within the VA Boston Healthcare System, where she received advanced clinical training in neuropsychological assessment, cognitive rehabilitation, and evidence-based treatments for PTSD, and conducted research within the Boston Attention and Learning Laboratory and the VA Boston Neuroimaging Research Center. She is licensed in Washington State. Her professional interests include mTBI/concussion diagnosis and treatment in combat Veterans, holistic cognitive interventions, and neuroplasticity.

**Samantha Overstreet, PhD**, is a psychologist in the Psychosocial Rehabilitation and Recovery Center (PRRC). She received her Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology from The University of Tulsa in Tulsa, OK. She completed her doctoral internship at the Hunter Holmes McGuire VAMC in Richmond, VA in their Serious Mental Illness Across the Lifespan track. She went on to complete a post-doctoral fellowship in Psychosocial Rehabilitation and LGBT Healthcare at VA Connecticut Healthcare System in West Haven, CT. She is licensed in Rhode Island since 2017. Dr. Overstreet’s theoretical orientation integrates cognitive-behavioral and third-wave modalities, and she is a strong proponent of the recovery model. She has training in evidence-based treatments for serious mental illness, and is a VA-certified provider of Social Skills Training for Schizophrenia. Dr. Overstreet’s professional interests include recovery-oriented systems change, personality assessment, and diversity issues, particularly LGBTQ advocacy. She currently serves as an assessment supervisor and as a member of the Diversity Committee.

**Brett Parmenter, PhD, ABPP** is a clinical neuropsychologist in the MHC. She attended the University of Kansas and completed her doctoral internship at Yale University School of Medicine. She completed a postdoctoral residency in clinical neuropsychology at the University at Buffalo/SUNY School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences. She has been licensed in Washington since 2006. Clinical Interests include multiple sclerosis, medical factors that affect cognition, and cognitive effects of serious and persistent mental illness. Research interests include cognitive functioning in multiple sclerosis, performance and symptom validity testing, and traumatic brain injury in veterans. Dr. Parmenter serves on the Board of Directors for the American Academy of Clinical Neuropsychology (AACN) and is Secretary and Chair of the Development Committee for the AACN Foundation. She also is an active work sample reviewer for the American Board of Clinical Neuropsychology. She is a Clinical Associate Professor in the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences at the University of Washington. She is licensed in the state of Washington.

**Andrew “Andy” Paves, PhD** is a Staff Psychologist with the PC-MHI team at the Bremerton CBOC. Prior to joining us, he completed a postdoctoral residency specializing in Integrated Care at the VA Pacific Islands Health Care System in Honolulu, Hawaii. He completed his internship at the Southwest Consortium in Albuquerque, New Mexico, which included rotations in PCMHI at the New Mexico VA Health Care System and general mental health at Albuquerque Indian Health Service. Dr. Paves completed his Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology in 2016, also at the University of Washington. His clinical interests include providing interventions in behavioral medicine, Motivational Interviewing, Behavioral Activation, Mindfulness, DBT Skills, and Functional Analytic Psychotherapy (FAP). Dr. Paves has general interests in improving access to care and providing culturally relevant, evidence-based treatment to underserved populations. He is currently the Communications Chair for the Asian American Psychological Association.

**Jessica Peltan, PhD** is the Program Manager for the Domiciliary Care for Homeless Veterans (DCHV) program. She received her PhD in Clinical Psychology from Idaho State University. She completed her doctoral internship and postdoctoral fellowship at VA Pittsburgh Health Care System. Postdoctoral fellowship was in the area of substance use and trauma, specifically military sexual trauma. She is licensed
in the state of Washington. Dr. Peltan utilizes a motivational interviewing and cognitive behavioral approach. Dr. Peltan is a consultant for the Motivation Interviewing-Motivational Enhancement Therapy VA initiative and is a member of the Motivational Interviewing Network of Trainers. She also was certified in Cognitive Processing Therapy through the VA in 2013. Her professional and research interests include Veteran populations, substance use disorders, residential treatment, motivational interviewing, and assisting Veterans in returning to stable employment and housing. In addition, Dr. Peltan is a mentor for the diversity mentorship program and a member of the diversity committee. She completed the VA Puget Sound Health Care System Leadership Development program and is a member of the Leadership VA class of 2017.

**Greg Reger, PhD** is the Deputy Associate Chief of Staff, Mental Health, at VA Puget Sound and an Associate Professor in the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences at the University of Washington. He received his PhD in Clinical Psychology from Fuller Theological Seminary in 2004 and completed his psychology internship at Walter Reed Army Medical Center. He is an Army Veteran and deployed to Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom in 2005. Dr. Reger spent 5 years as a civilian with the Department of Defense leading teams designing, and evaluating technology in support of psychological health. His research has focused on the development and evaluation of virtual reality, mobile applications, and other innovative technologies for psychological purposes. He is currently funded to evaluate a virtual reality patient to support provider training in motivational interviewing. Dr. Reger also led the VA/DoD team that designed the PE (Prolonged Exposure) Coach mobile application and was recently funded to explore how providers are using the features of the app and to develop an intervention to increase full adoption of the application.

**Mark Reger, PhD** is the Chief of Psychology and an Associate Professor in the Department of Psychiatry & Behavioral Sciences at the University of Washington. He completed his doctorate in clinical psychology at the Rosemead School of Psychology at Biola University, his internship at the American Lake campus of VA Puget Sound, and a three-year NIH NRSA postdoctoral fellowship at the VA Puget Sound and the University of Washington School of Medicine. Prior to joining the VA, Dr. Reger worked as the Deputy Director for the Department of Defense’s National Center for Telehealth & Technology (T2), located at Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Washington. He provided senior oversight for six Divisions involved with the research, development, and implementation of technologies to provide behavioral health solutions, assessment, and support to service members, veterans and their families. Dr. Reger’s clinical work is focused on geriatric neuropsychology. His research centers on military and veteran suicide prevention. He led the development and implementation of the Department of Defense’s suicide surveillance system, and co-authored the DoD’s official annual suicide surveillance report for the last seven years. Dr. Reger has served as the principal investigator for multiple large studies including a large federally-funded epidemiological study of military and veteran suicide. He has extensive experience conducting clinical trials, and has authored more than 50 peer-reviewed articles and book chapters on topics including military suicide, post-traumatic stress disorder, telepsychology, neuroendocrinology and research ethics.

**Sean M. Robinson, PhD** is a psychologist with the Addictions Treatment Center (ATC) at American Lake (Intensive Outpatient Program). Dr. Robinson received his PhD in Clinical Psychology from Nova Southeastern University specializing in addiction and motivational interviewing and completed his doctoral internship from Central/Western Massachusetts VA. He completed his post-doctoral fellowship in quality improvement, leadership, and research for addictive behaviors within the North Texas VA Healthcare System. He is currently licensed in the state of Alabama. Dr. Robinson’s theoretical orientation is patient-centered / cognitive behavioral and he is trained in Cognitive Processing Therapy for PTSD, Motivational Interviewing, Cognitive Behavioral Therapy for Insomnia, and Cognitive Behavioral Therapy.
Troy Robison, PhD is a psychologist in Addictions Treatment Center (ATC). He completed his PhD in Clinical Psychology at Ohio University, his doctoral internship at the Cincinnati VA Medical Center, and is licensed in the state of Washington. His approach to psychotherapy is primarily humanistic, with specific interests in mindfulness based interventions and the incorporation of neurobiology into psychological treatments for addiction. He also provides Behavioral Couples Therapy for SUD and gambling addiction treatment in the ATC.

Margaret Schwartz Moravec, PhD is a psychologist in the Veteran’s Intensive PTSD (VIP) program. Dr. Moravec received her Ph.D. in Counseling Psychology from the University of Houston, completed her doctoral internship at VA Puget Sound, American Lake, and then worked as a postdoctoral fellow in Trauma/Anxiety Disorders at the Houston VA. She returned to the Pacific Northwest to work in the Veterans Intensive PTSD Program, and currently serves on the psychology training committee at American Lake as preceptor for the Trauma and Substance Use in Residential Treatment Focus Area in the Clinical Psychology Fellowship. She is also the Evidence Based Psychotherapy Coordinator at American Lake. She has successfully completed VA roll-out trainings in Cognitive Processing Therapy and Prolonged Exposure. Her clinical interests include: combat and Military Sexual Trauma, working with Women Veterans, interpersonal process approaches, and group therapy processes. She identifies with psychodynamic, interpersonal, and cognitive-behavioral theoretical orientations. She is licensed in the state of Kansas.

Julie Sharrette, PsyD is a psychologist in the Veteran’s Intensive PTSD (VIP) Program. She received a Psy.D. in Clinical Psychology from Nova Southeastern University and completed a pre-doctoral internship at Western State Hospital in Lakewood, WA. She is licensed in Washington State. Her theoretical orientation is cognitive-behavioral. Dr. Sharrette began her training and career with an emphasis in forensic psychology by conducting pre-trial evaluations in the courts and jails. She was involved in research on trauma throughout graduate school and eventually gravitated to clinical work in trauma at a psychologist position at Joint Base Lewis McChord. Dr. Sharrette went on to work at Boise VAMC, as a psychologist and team lead for the PTSD Clinical Team and PTSD Residential Program. She was certified through VA rollouts in ACT for Depression in 2017, CPT in 2015, and PE in 2013. Additionally, she was certified in EMDR through the EMDR Institute in 2011. Her professional interests include program development, psychological assessment, violence risk assessment and prevention, and treatment of complex trauma and moral injury.

Erika M. Shearer, PhD is a staff psychologist on the Promoting Access to Telemental Health (PATH) team. She received her PhD in Clinical Psychology from the University of Nevada, Reno and completed her doctoral internship at the VA Puget Sound Health Care System – American Lake division. She completed a postdoctoral residency in Rural and Telemental Health at the VA Puget Sound Health Care System – Seattle Division. She is licensed in Washington since 2015. Her theoretical orientation is primarily third wave cognitive behavioral interventions and she primarily utilizes Evidenced Based Psychotherapies to include: Acceptance and Commitment Therapy (ACT); Cognitive Behavioral Therapy for Insomnia (CBT-I); Prolonged Exposure; and Cognitive Processing Therapy. She is a national consultant for the ACT for Depression VA Training and Dissemination effort. Her research interests include mindfulness and acceptance strategies in the treatment of psychological issues related to chronic medical conditions, pain, and all things related to telemental health.
Dale E. Smith, PhD is the Program Manager of the PTSD Outpatient Clinic. He received his doctorate in social psychology from the University of Florida and completed the University of Washington’s Respecialization Postdoctoral Training Program in Clinical Psychology. He completed his psychology internship training in the Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences Department at the University of Washington School of Medicine, and has been licensed in Washington since 1992. He has held faculty positions at the University of Florida, the American University, and the University of Washington prior to his clinical licensure and has held a number of administrative positions since assuming the role of the program director of the specialized outpatient PTSD clinic at American Lake. He is also the lead mentor for the VISN 20 PTSD Mentoring Program. Dr. Smith’s diversity interests include how beliefs are shaped by sociopolitical cultures within and across time, and his professional interests include the psychology of trauma. He is also interested in the delivery of patient care and treatment outcomes.

Mark Soelling, PhD, ABPP is a staff psychologist in the Mental Health Clinic. He received a Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology from the California School of Professional Psychology, Fresno campus. He completed a postdoctoral fellowship in community psychology through the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences, University of Washington School of Medicine. Dr. Soelling is licensed in Washington and received his board certification through ABPP in clinical psychology. His theoretical orientation is cognitive-behavioral; areas of interest include general mental health, major mental illness, combat stress control, and civil commitment. Dr. Soelling is a Clinical Associate Professor, University of Washington School of Medicine, and former chair of the State of Washington Examining Board of Psychology.

Emily Trittschuh, PhD is a clinical neuropsychologist with the Geriatric Research, Education, and Clinical Center (GRECC). She completed her PhD in Clinical Psychology at Northwestern University with a doctoral internship at Brown University. Her postdoctoral fellowship was in Neuropsychology at the Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine’s Cognitive Neurology and Alzheimer’s Disease Center. Licensed in the states of Illinois and Washington, she is an Associate Professor in the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences at the University of Washington. Her clinical interests involve early diagnosis of neurodegenerative disease and her research has focused on the prevalence/incidence of Mild Cognitive Impairment, aging, dementia, late effects of head injury and GWAS studies of AD phenotypes. She leads a Clinical Demonstration project (VISN 20) which is focused on Dementia Education and Memory Skills training for older Veterans with PTSD. She is a member of the national VA Dementia Education Workgroup and is Chair of the VAPSHCS Psychology Professional Standards Board. She is on the Alzheimer’s Association King County Advisory Board.

Ruth Varkovitzky, PhD is a psychologist in the Western Telemental Health Network (WTN). She received her PhD in Clinical Psychology from Northern Illinois University, followed by internship at the Cincinnati VA Medical Center and postdoctoral residency (PTSD-emphasis) at the Raymond G. Murphy VA Medical Center in Albuquerque, New Mexico. She has been licensed in the state of Washington since 2013. Dr. Varkovitzky’s role in the WTN is to provide evidence-based treatment using the telehealth modality, where she commonly implements the Unified Protocol for Transdiagnostic Treatment of Emotional Disorders (UP), Skills Training in Affective and Interpersonal Regulation (STAIR), CPT, PE, CBT-I and ACT. Her theoretical orientation is primarily cognitive behavioral with consideration of the impact of community and systems on mental health. Dr. Varkovitzky is a Clinical Assistant Professor in the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences at the University of Washington. Additional professional interests include provision of mental health services for women Veterans, training/supervision, and multicultural issues. She is a founding member of the Telehealth SIG for the Association of VA Psychologist Leaders.
Alicia M. Wendler, PhD is a psychologist with the Addictions Treatment Center (ATC). She received her PhD in Counseling Psychology from the University of Missouri-Kansas City. She completed her doctoral internship at the VA Eastern Kansas HealthCare System and is licensed in the state of Kansas since 2008. Dr. Wendler’s theoretical orientation is integrative and she has completed several VA training rollouts: Cognitive Processing Therapy for PTSD, Motivational Interviewing, and Cognitive Behavioral Therapy for Depression. She serves as a national consultant for the VA Cognitive Behavioral Therapy for Substance Use Disorders dissemination initiative. At American Lake, Dr. Wendler serves Veterans in both the outpatient addiction treatment program and the office-based buprenorphine treatment program. She is a member of the American Lake Women’s Mental Health Consultation Group. Dr. Wendler’s professional/research interests includes treatment for comorbid substance use and mental health disorders, gender-specific programming for women Veterans, program evaluation, and clinician self-efficacy.

Amanda Ernst Wood, PhD is a Mental Health Research psychologist a VAPSHCS and a Clinical Associate Professor with the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences, University of Washington School of Medicine. Dr. Wood received her PhD in Clinical Psychology from the Graduate School of Psychology at Fuller Theological Seminary. She completed her doctoral internship at the VAPSHCS, American Lake Division, and her postdoctoral residency in Chronic Mental Illness and Neuropsychology at the University of Washington/VAPSHCS. She is currently licensed in the state of Washington. Dr. Wood’s research interests include pharmacogenetics, suicide prevention, provider burnout, and the treatment of substance abuse, depression, and PTSD.

Elisia Yanasak, PhD is the Program Manager of the Addiction Treatment Center (ATC) at American Lake VA. She received her PhD at the University of Houston in 2002. She completed her doctoral internship at VA Puget Sound Health Care System, American Lake Division. She completed her postdoctoral fellowship in the interdisciplinary treatment of substance abuse at the Center of Excellence in Substance Abuse Treatment at VA Puget Sound Health Care System, Seattle Division. She has been licensed in Washington State since 2004. Her theoretical orientation is primarily cognitive-behavioral. Her clinical interests include the treatment of male and female Veterans diagnosed with substance use and comorbid psychiatric disorders. Her research interests include evidence based treatment of substance use disorders.

Alycia S. (Barlow) Zink, PhD is a staff psychologist in the PTSD Outpatient Clinic (POC). She received her PhD in Clinical Psychology from California School of Professional Psychology with a dual emphasis in Clinical Health Psychology and Neuropsychology. She completed her pre-doctoral internship at John D. Dingell VA Medical Center in Detroit, Michigan and a two-year postdoctoral residency in neuropsychology at the VA Northern California Health Care System, Martinez. She is licensed in California and Hawaii. Dr. Zink primarily utilizes Evidenced Based Psychotherapies such as Acceptance and Commitment Therapy (ACT), Dialectical Behavior Therapy, Prolonged Exposure, and Cognitive Processing Therapy. She serves as a national VA consultant for ACT for Depression and the VA VISN 20 Regional Trainer. Additionally, she is currently serving as the President the ACBS Special Interest Group for the VA and on the WACBS. Her professional interests include training and mentoring of psychology trainees, program development in mental health settings, and working with female Veterans. Research interests include treatment approaches for adult survivors of childhood trauma and ACT treatment approaches.
APPLICATION AND SELECTION PROCEDURES

Resident Eligibility

1) Compliance with Eligibility Requirements for all VA Psychology Training Programs, available at: www.psychologytraining.va.gov/eligibility.asp (these will need to be verified via the TQCVL process prior to the start of residency, see: https://www.va.gov/OAA/TQCVL.asp for details)
2) Completion of an APA, CPA, and/or another VA recognized accrediting body (e.g., PCSAS) accredited doctoral program in clinical or counseling psychology
3) Completion of an APA or CPA accredited doctoral internship or any VA internship training program
4) U.S. Citizenship
5) Completion of our application materials

Note: All applicants who are U.S. citizens, required to register for the Selective Service, born after December 31, 1959, and who are not otherwise exempt, must show proof of Selective Service registration as part of their VA application. Acceptance of residents is contingent upon the results of a background check, TQCVL verifications (as indicated above), and possible drug screening.

Resident Recruitment and Selection

The procedures for resident recruitment and selection include development of residency Selection Committees for each residency program (i.e., Clinical Psychology, Geropsychology, and Clinical Neuropsychology) composed of American Lake psychologists who practice within the setting(s) where the residency training occurs, the Director of Training, and members of the Training Committee. The Selection Committees are responsible for careful review of applications to the residency programs. Each application is reviewed by at least two psychologists for goodness-of-fit which is determined by strength in a variety of categories, including research skills, scholarly productivity, diversity, intervention experience with adults related to the specialty program and/or focus area (within the Clinical Program, assessment experience with adults related to the specialty and/or focus area of the residency, quantity and quality of supervision received, evidence of interpersonal and communication skills, academic rigor of the doctoral program, and overall aptitude and fit with the to which program and/or focus area they are applying.

We look for residents whose academic background, clinical experience and personal characteristics give them the knowledge and skills necessary to function well in our setting and within the specific postdoctoral program. At the same time, we look for residents whose professional goals are well suited to the experiences we offer such that our setting would provide them with a productive training experience. In addition to these selection factors, we like to compose our incoming class with a variety of residents: from different kinds of programs, geographic areas, ages, backgrounds, and life experiences. This approach is a reflection of our commitment to diversity in psychology.

All applications are initially reviewed for eligibility in the order that they are submitted. We notify all applicants on the status of their applications by January 18, 2019. The Selection Committee will invite applicants remaining under consideration for interview*. We offer phone, v-tel, or in-person interviews to provide convenience to our applicants. The final rank list for each residency program (and each Focus Area within the Clinical Psychology Program) is determined by a combined score of the application review mean score and interview mean score with the former being weighted more heavily than the latter. Finally, those applicants being considered for ranking are invited to attend an optional Open House (all residents and the majority of the residency training staff participate in this event). *Applicants requiring any interview accommodation due to disability are asked to request such assistance at the time they receive notification of interview.
**Open House**
Applicants selected to participate in an interview may attend an Open House on **Wednesday, February 6, 2019**. The purpose of the open house is to assist applicants in deciding how to rank our program by providing an opportunity for the candidates to visit the facility, talk with our current residents, ask questions, and meet residency training staff. Perhaps most importantly, it provides an opportunity to experience the atmosphere and attitude of the program. Although the open house can be a helpful resource for the applicant, we understand that postdoctoral interviews incur a financial burden on applicants. Thus, attendance at the Open House as optional. We strongly encourage participation in the Open House in order to get a sense of the culture and “feel” of our training program. Ranking of candidates is based on the written application packet, work sample, and interview. An applicant’s choice to attend or opt out of Open House is not a factor in our ranking of candidates.

**Contacting Current Residents**
Current residents are one of the best sources of information about our postdoctoral programs. We strongly encourage applicants to talk with current residents about their satisfaction with the training experience. Please feel free to email the Training Director or Associate Director and request to speak with a resident. Your request will be forwarded to the current residents and a resident will contact you.

Questions about the residency programs and application process can be directed to the Training Director, Dr. Aosved: [Allison.Aosved2@va.gov](mailto:Allison.Aosved2@va.gov), or to our Associate Director of Training, Dr. Fikkan: [Janna.Fikkan@va.gov](mailto:Janna.Fikkan@va.gov).

**Residency Admissions, Support, and Initial Placement Data**

**Postdoctoral Program Admissions**

**Date Program Tables are updated**: June 1, 2018

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Briefly describe in narrative form important information to assist potential applicants in assessing their likely fit with your program. This description must be consistent with the program’s policies on intern selection and practicum and academic preparation requirements:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Incoming residents are required to have completed a doctoral degree in Clinical or Counseling Psychology from a program that is accredited by the APA CoA, CPA, and/or another VA recognized accrediting body (e.g., PCSAS). To be eligible to attend residency at American Lake, incoming residents must have adequate academic preparation, including receipt of the doctoral degree and successful completion of doctoral internship training as part of the doctoral degree, have acquired Profession-Wide Competencies in the context of service provision to adult patients, have received individual supervision with direct observation of their graduate and internship clinical work, and meet the eligibility requirements for VA employment (see <a href="https://www.psychologytraining.va.gov/eligibility.asp">https://www.psychologytraining.va.gov/eligibility.asp</a> for further details).</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Describe any other required minimum criteria used to screen applicants:

the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) adheres to all Equal Employment Opportunity and Affirmative Action policies. As a Veterans Health Administration (VHA) Health Professions Trainee (HPT), you will receive a Federal appointment, and the following requirements will apply prior to that appointment

1. **U.S. Citizenship.** HPTs who receive a direct stipend (pay) must be U.S. citizens. Trainees who are not VA paid (without compensation-WOC) who are not U.S. citizens may be appointed and must provide current immigrant, non-immigrant or exchange visitor documents.

2. **U.S. Social Security Number.** All VA appointees must have a U.S. social security number (SSN) prior to beginning the pre-employment, on-boarding process at the VA.

3. **Selective Service Registration.** Male applicants born after 12/31/1959 must have registered for the Selective Service by age 26 to be eligible for U.S. government employment, including selection as a paid or WOC VA trainee. For additional information about the Selective Service System, and to register or to check your registration status visit [https://www.sss.gov/](https://www.sss.gov/). Anyone who was required to register but did not register before the age of 26 will need to apply for a Status Information Letter (SIL) and request a waiver. Waivers are rare and requests will be reviewed on a case by case basis by the VA Office of Human Resources Management. This process can take up to six months for a verdict.

4. **Fingerprint Screening and Background Investigation.** All HPTs will be fingerprinted and undergo screenings and background investigations. Additional details about the required background checks can be found at the following website: [http://www.archives.gov/federal-register/codification/executive-order/10450.html](http://www.archives.gov/federal-register/codification/executive-order/10450.html).

5. **Drug Testing.** Per Executive Order 12564, the VA strives to be a Drug-Free Workplace. HPTs are not drug-tested prior to appointment, however are subject to random drug testing throughout the entire VA appointment period. You will be asked to sign an acknowledgement form stating you are aware of this practice. See item 8 below.

6. **Affiliation Agreement.** To ensure shared responsibility between an academic program and the VA there must be a current and fully executed Academic Affiliation Agreement on file with the VHA Office of Academic Affiliations (OAA). The affiliation agreement delineates the duties of VA and the affiliated institution. Most APA-accredited doctoral programs have an agreement on file. More information about this document can be found at [https://www.va.gov/oaa/agreements.asp](https://www.va.gov/oaa/agreements.asp) (see section on psychology internships). Post-degree programs typically will not have an affiliation agreement, as the HPT is no longer enrolled in an academic program and the program is VA sponsored.

7. **TQCVL.** To streamline on-boarding of HPTs, VHA Office of Academic Affiliations requires completion of a Trainee Qualifications and Credentials Verification Letter (TQCVL). An Educational Official at the Affiliate must complete and sign this letter. For post-graduate programs where an affiliate is not the program sponsor, this process must be completed by the VA Training Director. Your VA appointment cannot happen until the TQCVL is submitted and signed by senior leadership from the VA facility. For more information about this document, please visit [https://www.va.gov/OAA/TQCVL.asp](https://www.va.gov/OAA/TQCVL.asp)
   a. **Health Requirements.** Among other things, the TQCVL confirms that you, the trainee, are fit to perform the essential functions (physical and mental) of the training program and immunized following current Center for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines and VHA policy. This protects you, other employees and patients while working in a healthcare facility. Required are annual tuberculosis screening, Hepatitis B vaccine as well as annual influenza vaccine. **Declinations are EXTREMELY rare.** If you decline the flu vaccine you will be required to wear a mask while in patient care areas of the VA.
b. **Primary source verification of all prior education and training** is certified via the TQCVL. Training and Program Directors will be contacting the appropriate institutions to ensure you have the appropriate qualifications and credentials as required by the admission criteria of the training program in which you are enrolled.

8. **Additional On-boarding Forms.** Additional pre-employment forms include the Application for Health Professions Trainees (VA 10-2850D) and the Declaration for Federal Employment (OF 306). These documents and others are available online for review at [https://www.va.gov/oaa/app-forms.asp](https://www.va.gov/oaa/app-forms.asp). Falsifying any answer on these required Federal documents will result in the inability to appoint or immediate dismissal from the training program.

9. **Proof of Identity per VA.** VA on-boarding requires presentation of two source documents (IDs). Documents must be unexpired and names on both documents must match. For more information visit: [https://www.oit.va.gov/programs/piv_/media/docs/IDMatrix.pdf](https://www.oit.va.gov/programs/piv_/media/docs/IDMatrix.pdf)

Additional information regarding eligibility requirements (with hyperlinks)

- Selective Service website where the requirements, benefits and penalties of registering vs. not registering are outlined: [https://www.sss.gov/Registration/Why-Register/Benefits-and-Penalties](https://www.sss.gov/Registration/Why-Register/Benefits-and-Penalties)

Additional information specific suitability information from Title 5 (referenced in VHA Handbook 5005 – hyperlinks included):

(b) **Specific factors.** In determining whether a person is suitable for Federal employment, only the following factors will be considered a basis for finding a person unsuitable and taking a suitability action:

1. Misconduct or negligence in employment;
2. Criminal or dishonest conduct;
3. Material, intentional false statement, or deception or fraud in examination or appointment;
4. Refusal to furnish testimony as required by § 5.4 of this chapter;
5. Alcohol abuse, without evidence of substantial rehabilitation, of a nature and duration that suggests that the applicant or appointee would be prevented from performing the duties of the position in question, or would constitute a direct threat to the property or safety of the applicant or appointee or others;
6. Illegal use of narcotics, drugs, or other controlled substances without evidence of substantial rehabilitation;
7. Knowing and willful engagement in acts or activities designed to overthrow the U.S. Government by force; and
8. Any statutory or regulatory bar which prevents the lawful employment of the person involved in the position in question.

(c) **Additional considerations.** OPM and agencies must consider any of the following additional considerations to the extent OPM or the relevant agency, in its sole discretion, deems any of them pertinent to the individual case:

1. The nature of the position for which the person is applying or in which the person is employed;
2. The nature and seriousness of the conduct;
3. The circumstances surrounding the conduct;
4. The recency of the conduct;
5. The age of the person involved at the time of the conduct;
6. Contributing societal conditions; and The absence or presence of rehabilitation or efforts toward rehabilitation.
### Financial and Other Benefit Support for Upcoming Training Year*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Benefit Type</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount 1st yr</th>
<th>Amount 2nd yr</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Annual Stipend/Salary for Full-time Residents</td>
<td></td>
<td>$49,994</td>
<td>$52,696</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Annual Stipend/Salary for Half-time Residents</td>
<td></td>
<td>NA</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Program provides access to medical insurance for resident?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Trainee contribution to cost required?</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coverage of family member(s) available?</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coverage of legally married partner available?</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coverage of domestic partner available?</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### In the event of medical conditions and/or family needs that require extended leave, does the program allow reasonable unpaid leave to interns/residents in excess of personal time off and sick leave?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>


---

### Initial Post-Residency Positions

(Provide an Aggregated Tally for the Preceding 3 Cohorts)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Clinical Program</th>
<th>2014-2017</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total # of residents who were in the 3 cohorts</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total # of residents who remain in training in the residency program</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Clinical Program</th>
<th>PD</th>
<th>PD</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Community mental health center</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Federally qualified health center</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Independent primary care facility/clinic</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University counseling center</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Veterans Affairs medical center</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Military health center</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Academic health center</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other medical center or hospital</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Psychiatric hospital</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Academic university/department</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community college or other teaching setting</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Independent research institution</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>PD</td>
<td>EP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>---------------------</td>
<td>----</td>
<td>----</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Correctional facility</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School district/system</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Independent practice setting</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not currently employed</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Changed to another field</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unknown</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: “PD” = Post-doctoral residency position; “EP” = Employed Position. Each individual represented in this table should be counted only one time. For former trainees working in more than one setting, select the setting that represents their primary position.

**Initial Post-Residency Positions**

(Provide an Aggregated Tally for the Preceding 3 Cohorts)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Geropsychology Program</th>
<th>2014-2017</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total # of residents who were in the 3 cohorts</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total # of residents who remain in training in the residency program</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community mental health center</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Federally qualified health center</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Independent primary care facility/clinic</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University counseling center</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Veterans Affairs medical center</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Military health center</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Academic health center</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other medical center or hospital</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Psychiatric hospital</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Academic university/department</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community college or other teaching setting</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Independent research institution</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Correctional facility</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School district/system</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Independent practice setting</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not currently employed</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Changed to another field</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unknown</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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**Initial Post-Residency Positions**

(Provide an Aggregated Tally for the Preceding 3 Cohorts)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Clinical Neuropsychology Program</th>
<th>2014-2017</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total # of residents who were in the 3 cohorts</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total # of residents who remain in training in the residency program</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PD</td>
<td>EP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community mental health center</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Federally qualified health center</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Independent primary care facility/clinic</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University counseling center</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Veterans Affairs medical center</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Military health center</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Academic health center</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other medical center or hospital</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Psychiatric hospital</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Academic university/department</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community college or other teaching setting</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Independent research institution</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Correctional facility</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School district/system</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Independent practice setting</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not currently employed</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Changed to another field</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unknown</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: “PD” = Post-doctoral residency position; “EP” = Employed Position. Each individual represented in this table should be counted only one time. For former trainees working in more than one setting, select the setting that represents their primary position.

**Equal Employment Opportunity and Prohibited Discrimination**

VA does not tolerate discrimination, including workplace harassment, based on race, color, religion, national origin, sex (including gender identity, gender identity/expression, sexual orientation, and pregnancy), age, disability, genetic information, marital/parental status, political affiliation, or retaliation for opposing discriminatory practices or participating in the discrimination-complaint process. This applies to all terms and conditions of employment, including recruitment, hiring, promotions, transfers, reassignments, training, career development, benefits, and separation. VA’s Office of Resolution Management (ORM) is responsible for administering an impartial and effective complaints management process to receive, investigate, and resolve, if possible, complaints of employment discrimination at the earliest possible stage. Employees may report allegations of discrimination to ORM at (888) 737-3361.
Due Process

Grievance
A trainee has a grievance if he or she has any concern and believes a complaint related to that is in order. Examples include if she or he believes that a harmful and serious act or injury has been committed (e.g., requests made of a trainee by any VA employee or consultant to engage in behavior conflicting with the APA Ethical Principles of Psychologists and Code of Conduct and Federal Employee Code of Conduct, acts of gender or racial harassment, sexual harassment, observance of serious professional misconduct, observation of illegal behaviors, a desire to appeal an unsatisfactory evaluation). Trainees may seek counsel and advice concerning how they should direct a grievance, as well as the substance of their complaint. However, throughout the grievance process, everyone involved is expected to be sensitive to the privacy, confidentiality, and welfare of others. A grievance may be addressed either informally or formally. Usually, an informal procedure should be attempted first. The trainee may attempt a direct resolution of the grievance with the involved party, or may informally address the grievance with a supervisor, the Training Director, or the Chief Psychologist. When resolving problems, or grievances, the APA Ethics Code is to be followed at all times, in particular the standard related to treating others with courtesy and respect.

Informal Problem Resolution
Initially, a resident having a grievance with his or her supervisor or other staff member should discuss the situation with that individual and seek resolution of the problem. Open and direct communication is recommended. Similarly, approaching (instead of avoiding) the problem directly is also encouraged. Addressing the problem at the lowest level possible is best, although seeking outside consultation and help as soon as it is needed is advised.

Mediation
If an informal resolution cannot be reached, the Training Director or Associate Training Director should be alerted and they may act as a mediator or help to select a facilitator/mediator (from Psychology Service, Mental Health, or the VA EEO’s office) who is agreeable to both parties involved.

Formal Notice and Hearing
If a resolution is not reached via mediation the trainee with the grievance can bring it to the Chair of the Training Committee for formal problem resolution. The Training Committee will provide a hearing for the grievance within 5 business days, unless and extension is mutually agreed upon by the Chair of the Training Committee and the trainee with the grievance. The Training Committee gives the resident and the supervisor (or other VA psychologist) written notice of a hearing at least 48 hours before the hearing, asks the resident and the supervisor (or other VA psychologist) to present their issues, and may also interview others on matters related to these issues. The Training Committee then makes specific recommendations to maximize training and minimize conflict, along with a time frame for carrying them out. Specific and measurable evidence of success will be specified and expected in the time frame.

Appeal
The Chief Psychologist has minimal involvement in the training programs and rarely has an evaluative role within the programs. Thus, an appeal of the Training Committee decision may be made to the Chief Psychologist (or designee, e.g., Deputy Chief), who will make the final decision. The Chief Psychologist has the ultimate responsibility for the sensitive and appropriate evaluation of all grievances against psychology trainees and Psychology Service personnel. The Chief Psychologist is also responsible for ensuring equitable and unbiased procedures. The Chief will eliminate any conflict of interest in the
evaluation of a grievance. The Chief will provide a hearing for the appeal within 5 business days, unless and extension is mutually agreed upon by the Chief and the trainee requesting the appeal. The Chief gives the involved parties written notice of a hearing at least 48 hours before the hearing, asks the involved parties to present their issues, and may also interview others on matters related to the issues.

Disciplinary actions against staff members are the responsibility of the Chief Psychologist (or designee) and of the VA Puget Sound’s Human Resources Department.

**Resident Grievances with Non-Psychologists and/or people who are not faculty**

If a resident has a grievance with someone who is outside of the training programs (who is not a psychologist), the VA Puget Sound Health Care System policies and procedure are followed to address such a grievance. Such grievances are the responsibility of VA Puget Sound’s Human Resources Department. All employment-related disciplinary actions are subject to the guidelines outlined in the current VA Employee Handbook.

These procedures are not intended to prevent a resident from pursuing a grievance under any other mechanisms available to VA employees and/or psychologists, including:

- EEO Officers, available on-site
- The Washington State Psychology Licensing Board (1-360-236-4910)
- APPIC, 17225 El Camino Real, Onyx One – Suite #170, Houston, TX 77058-2748 (832-284-4080)
Applications and Interviews

Deadlines
Clinical Psychology Program
Behavioral and Cognitive Therapy (BCP) with PTSD Focus Area
PCMHI Focus Area
Trauma/Substance Use Residential Treatment Focus Area
December 13, 2018
Geropsychology Program
December 13, 2018
Clinical Neuropsychology Program
December 13, 2018

Required Application Materials
1. Graduate transcripts
2. Three letters of recommendation

Please ask three people to write a letter of recommendation in support of your application to our program who are knowledgeable of your competency in the following areas: Integration of Science and Practice, Individual and Cultural Diversity, Ethical and Legal Matters, Professional Attitudes/Values/Behaviors, Interpersonal Skills and Communication, Intervention, Assessment, Interprofessional and Consultation Skills, Teaching and Education, and your Knowledge of the Focus Area (in the Clinical Program) and/or Specialty Area (Geropsychology, Clinical Neuropsychology) relevant to your application. We encourage you to share with them the areas of competence upon which we are making our evaluations.

3. Curriculum Vita
4. Work sample

a. Clinical Program BCP/PTSD Focus Area Work Sample: One de-identified (according to HIPPA standards) case conceptualization that includes a) demonstration of your competency in the following areas: Integration of Science and Practice, Individual and Cultural Diversity, Ethical and Legal Matters, and Knowledge of Clinical Psychology with a focus on BCP Theories and Practices and PTSD via - b) treatment goals, c) intervention strategy d) how clinical choices were informed, e) diversity considerations and how you approached these, and f) ethical considerations. The case that you present ought to be recent and relevant to the population of adult veterans seeking treatment for PTSD from a cognitive-behavioral framework. Please do not exceed two pages, single-spaced. Note: a neuropsychological report will not be considered an appropriate work sample.

b. Clinical Program PCMHI Focus Area Work Sample: One de-identified (according to HIPPA standards) case conceptualization that includes a) demonstration of your competency in the following areas: Integration of Science and Practice, Individual and Cultural Diversity, Ethical and Legal Matters, and Knowledge of Clinical Psychology with a focus on PCMHI and Interprofessional patient care via - b) treatment goals, c)
intervention strategy d) how clinical choices were informed, e) diversity considerations and how you approached these, f) ethical considerations, and g) interprofessional aspects of the care provided. The case that you present ought to be recent and relevant to the population of adult veterans seeking treatment in a PCMHI setting. Please do not exceed two pages, single-spaced. Note: a neuropsychological report will not be considered an appropriate work sample.

c. **Clinical Program TSUDR Focus Area Work Sample:** One de-identified (according to HIPPA standards) case conceptualization that includes a) demonstration of your competency in the following areas: Integration of Science and Practice, Individual and Cultural Diversity, Ethical and Legal Matters, and Knowledge of Clinical Psychology with a focus on trauma and SUD treatment in residential settings via b) diagnostic formulation, c) treatment goals, d) intervention strategy, e) how clinical choices were informed f) diversity considerations and how you approached these, and g) ethical considerations. The case that you present ought to be recent and relevant to the population of adult veterans seeking treatment in a residential setting and/or seeking PTSD or SUD treatment. Please do not exceed two pages, single-spaced. Note: A neuropsychological report will not be considered an appropriate work sample.

d. **Geropsychology Specialty Program Work Sample:** One de-identified (according to HIPPA standards) clinical case conceptualization related to Geropsychology that includes a) demonstration of your competency in the following areas: Integration of Science and Practice, Individual and Cultural Diversity, Ethical and Legal Matters, and Knowledge of Geropsychology via b) diagnostic formulation using DSM-5 criteria, c) treatment goals, d) intervention strategy, and theoretical approach and how clinical choices were informed e) diversity considerations, and f) ethical considerations. Please do not exceed two pages, single-spaced. Note: a neuropsychological report will not be considered an appropriate work sample.

e. **Clinical Neuropsychology Specialty Program Work Sample:** One de-identified (according to HIPPA standards) comprehensive assessment report, related to Clinical Neuropsychological assessment.

5. **Cover Letter**

Please submit a cover letter detailing your interests in our program and goodness-of-fit – in multiple domains: a) your fit the Focus Area (in the Clinical Program) and/or Specialty Area (Geropsychology Program, Clinical Neuropsychology Program) relevant to your application; b) the diverse worldview you would bring to our training community; c) your preparation in the following competency domains - Integration of Science and Practice, Individual and Cultural Diversity, Ethical and Legal Matters, Interpersonal Relationships and Communication, Interprofessional and Consultation Skills, Teaching and Education, and Knowledge of the Focus Area (in the Clinical Program) and/or Specialty Area (Geropsychology, Clinical Neuropsychology); and d) your goals for postdoctoral residency training.
All application materials should be uploaded to the APPA CAS system: https://appicpostdoc.liaisoncas.com/applicant-ux/#/login

Interview Notification Dates

Clinical Psychology Program – All 3 Focus Areas: January 18, 2019
- Behavioral and Cognitive Therapy (BCP) with PTSD Focus Area
- PCMHI/Chronic Pain Focus Area
- Trauma/Substance Use Residential Treatment Focus Area

Geropsychology Program: January 18, 2019

Clinical Neuropsychology Program: January 18, 2019 – February 8, 2019

*Please note that our Clinical Neuropsychology program is independent and does not participate in the APPCN match, nor will we be conducting interviews at INS. Due to the special considerations of this field of residencies, applicants will be notified of interview status by February 8, 2019 at the latest. Interviews will be conducted by phone or v-tel and offers made on a rolling basis, and may occur prior to the INS conference (February 20-23, 2019).

Offer Notification Dates

For the Clinical and Geropsychology programs, residency offers will be made on the UND per the 2019-2020 APPIC Selection Guidelines. More information on the APPIC selection guidelines (for both postdoctoral programs and postdoctoral applicants) can be found at: https://www.appic.org/About-APPIC/Postdoctoral/APPIC-Postdoctoral-Selection-Guidelines.

For the Clinical Neuropsychology program, residency offers will be offers made on a rolling basis, and may occur prior to the INS conference.
NORTHWEST LIVING

The American Lake Division of the VA Puget Sound Health Care System is located in Lakewood, a city of about 59,000 people. Located within Pierce County (population of 831,928), Lakewood is 15 miles from downtown Tacoma and 45 miles from Seattle.

The population of the greater Puget Sound region is approximately 3.9 million. The Puget Sound holds two of the United States' busiest ports: the Port of Seattle and the Port of Tacoma. As such, the area has historically been an international hub for transportation, shipping, and industry. It is now also known for being the home of high technology development, the aerospace industry, and its military bases, including Joint Base Lewis-McChord (JBLM). In fact, the American Lake Division shares its border with JBLM, a joint military base of the United States Army and Air Force located in Pierce and Thurston Counties in Washington. JBLM has more than 25,000 soldiers and civilian workers. The post supports over 120,000 military retirees and more than 29,000 family members living both on and off post.

Housing

According to Zillow, the median 3 bedroom house price in Tacoma is around $270,000, though there is considerable range depending upon neighborhood. The median studio rental price is $1400/month; median 1 Bedroom rental price is $1200/month; median 2 Bedroom rental price is $1300/month; median 3 Bedroom rental price is $1500/month.

Some interns prefer to live in Seattle and commute to Tacoma. Seattle (King County) real estate and rental prices are higher than Pierce County. In Seattle proper, the median 3 bedroom house price is around $726,000. The mean studio rental price in Seattle is $2100/month; median 1 Bedroom rental price is $1800/month; median 2 Bedroom rental price is $2400/month; median 3 Bedroom rental price is $2700/month.

Climate

The area enjoys a temperate marine climate with rare summer and winter extremes. Rainy days are frequent during the winter months, averaging about 40 inches of rain per year. There are usually at least a few days of snow during the winter months, though the accumulation is typically minimal. Summers in this region are delightful, with average temperatures in the high 70s with minimal humidity.

![Average Temperature by Month](chart1)

![Average Rainfall by Month](chart2)
Transportation
Most employees commute by car from Tacoma, about 30 minutes from American Lake, but many commute from Seattle, Olympia, and the surrounding areas. There is a free shuttle that runs between the Seattle and American Lake VA campuses to which Veterans and employees have access. The local bus system provides regular transportation throughout the Tacoma area. There is also a commuter rail that connects Tacoma to Seattle, though it does not operate on weekends. Seattle-Tacoma International Airport, 35 miles away from the American Lake VA, provides worldwide travel through many commercial airlines on frequent schedules. Amtrak provides transit from Vancouver, BC to Portland (and beyond), and there are several bus lines connecting these cities as well.

Recreational Activities
The Pacific Northwest has abundant opportunities for any outdoor activity imaginable. The scenic beauty of the Cascade and Olympic Mountain ranges, Puget Sound and its islands, state parks, and the four National Parks within the Pacific Northwest are all easily accessible. "Sea level to ski level in two hours" is no exaggeration! Point Defiance is a 760 acre park within the city of Tacoma, which offers miles of forested trails, a public beach with kayak rentals, gardens, an off leash dog park, a zoo and aquarium, and a living history museum. Cougar Mountain and Tiger Mountain parks near Issaquah are also great areas for hiking, biking, or trail running enthusiasts. Puget Sound has 20,000 shoreline miles with bays, coves, and islands with plentiful opportunities for boating, fishing, and clamming. Mount Rainier (14,400 ft), Crystal Mountain, Alpental, Snoqualmie Pass, and other nationally known winter sports areas are within 75 to 100 miles. There are more than 15 public golf courses within 20 minutes driving time from the Medical Center, most of which are open year round.

Entertainment, Culture, and the Arts
Tacoma and Seattle have many fine restaurants and nightspots affordable on an intern's stipend. The Pacific Northwest is known for good theater, and Tacoma is no exception. Community and college playhouses abound, and there are a multitude of music venues offering concerts and shows of every genre imaginable. Tacoma also has an independent movie theater, the Grand Cinema, which offers film festivals throughout the year. Spectator sports of all kinds are available within the Seattle-Tacoma area, including college and professional baseball, basketball, soccer, and football, as well as horse, automobile, and hydroplane racing. The Tacoma and Seattle area hosts a diverse array of cultural history and arts venues ranging from museums to theaters to community parks and gardens. Some museums have free admission days, such as the first Thursday of every month in Seattle and the third Thursday of every month in Tacoma. There is also an abundance of local farmer's markets throughout Tacoma and Seattle, many of which are open throughout the year.