

Psychology Internship Program



Kansas City VA Medical Center
Director, Psychology Training Program (MH-116A3)
4801 Linwood Blvd.
Kansas City, Missouri 64128
800-525-1483 ext. 56601
<http://www.kansascity.va.gov/>

MATCH Number: 234011
Applications due: December 1, 2015

Accreditation Status

The Psychology Predoctoral Internship Program at the **Kansas City VA Medical Center** is a new program which accepted the first training class for the 2015-2016 training year. As a result, this program will not be accredited by the American Psychological Association for the first year. The training staff at KCVA will be pursuing APA accreditation as soon as possible, however this is not guaranteed. Additionally, as a new program, we are not currently eligible as members of APPIC at this time.

Of note, VA policy regarding employment in the VA system indicates that individuals who complete a VA internship **will be** eligible for VA post-doctoral fellowships and further VA employment. This policy is stated below.

The basic requirements for employment as a VHA psychologist are prescribed by: Public Law 96-151 codified in Title 38, U.S.C. § 7402. To qualify for appointment, all applicants for the position of psychologist in VHA must meet the following:

- a. **Citizenship.** Citizen of the United States. (Non-citizens may be appointed when it is not possible to recruit qualified citizens in accordance with chapter 3, section A, paragraph 3g, this part.)
- b. **Education** (1) Have a doctoral degree in psychology from a graduate program in psychology accredited by the American Psychological Association (APA). The specialty area of the degree must be consistent with the assignment for which the applicant is to be employed. **AND** (2) Have successfully completed a professional psychology internship training program that has been accredited by APA. Exceptions: (1) new VHA psychology internship programs that are in the process of applying for APA accreditation are acceptable in fulfillment of the internship requirement, provided that such programs were sanctioned by the VHA Central Office Program Director for Psychology and the VHA Central Office of Academic Affiliations at the time that the individual was an intern and (2) VHA facilities who offered full one-year pre-doctoral internships prior to PL 96-151 (pre-1979) are considered to be acceptable in fulfillment of the internship requirement.

Application & Selection Procedures

Eligibility Requirements

To be considered for the predoctoral stipend internship program, the applicant must be a full time student actively involved in pursuing the Ph.D. or Psy.D. degree in Clinical or Counseling Psychology from an APA -ACCREDITED PROGRAM. The student must be within one year or less of completing all requirements for the Ph.D. or Psy.D. In addition to the above requirements, applicants are required to have a strong interest in utilization of evidenced-based treatments for mental health issues and to hold long-term goals of contributing to this area in psychology through practice and organizational involvement. They must have completed all graduate prerequisites for internship candidacy including completion of

comprehensive exams by December 1, 2015. All applicants must have U.S. citizenship to be considered for an internship with the VA. A male applicant born after 12/31/1959 must have registered for the draft by age 26 to be eligible for any US government employment, including selection as a paid VA trainee. Male applicants must sign a pre-appointment Certification Statement for Selective Service Registration before they can be processed into a training program.

Stipend, Benefits, and Application Information

The stipend for VA internships is set by the Office of Academic Affiliations. The Kansas City VA Medical Center internship stipend is currently set at \$23,974 for the full-time, one year training program. The training year starts on or about July 25, 2016 and ends July 21, 2017. VA training programs offer health and life insurance benefits.

The Kansas City VA Medical Center maintains a policy of equal employment opportunity in training recruitment and retention. All recruitment processes are consistent with existing federal laws, guidelines, and policies. As a federal employee, drug screens and background checks are routine. The Department of Veterans Affairs, and consequently this medical center, adheres to the Americans With Disabilities Act and will provide reasonable accommodations for an individual who informs us that s/he has a disability. If you are a retired federal employee, before you apply to this predoctoral internship program, you should contact the Human Resources department to determine whether or not you may accept a funded position as an intern with the VA Medical Center.

ONLINE APPLICATION PROCEDURE:

The launch of the AAPI Online is the culmination of a multi-year effort by APPIC to make the internship application process more cost-effective and efficient for applicants, doctoral programs, and internship sites. Students may now access the AAPI Online (www.appic.org, click on "AAPI Online") to create and develop their application for the selection process. In order to apply to KCVA, please complete the APPIC online registration. Additionally, please provide us with three letters of recommendations and your graduate school transcripts. We do not require any supplemental information to the online application. The AAPI Online should be used by students to apply to all APPIC-member internship programs as well as those non-member programs that register to participate in the APPIC Match.

THE DEADLINE FOR RECEIPT OF ALL MATERIALS IS DECEMBER 1, 2015.

If there are questions about the internship program or if you need to check the status of your application, please call Dr. Brenna Shortridge, Director of Psychology Training, at (816) 861-4700, extension 56601. You may also contact Dr. Shortridge via e-mail at Brenna.Shortridge-Pearce@va.gov.

Our APPIC match number is: 234011.

POST APPLICATION PROCESS:

The Department of Veterans Affairs and the Kansas City VA Medical Center is an equal opportunity employer. All applicants receive consideration without regard to race, religion, color, sexual or gender orientation, national origin, non-disqualifying mental or physical disability, age, sex, political affiliation, or any other non-merit factor.

Training staff recognize the impact of race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, age, disability, culture, and gender across all levels of psychological theory, research, practice, and education. We seek both staff and interns who are strongly committed to diversity and who are supportive of providing a welcoming work and training environment. We welcome members of underrepresented groups including women and minorities and encourage them to apply for positions. The training staff at KCVA believes that we provide a safe and encouraging environment for the exploration of multicultural and diversity issues.

All members of the psychology staff at KCVA are invited to participate in the intern selection process. Each application is read, reviewed, and scored by at least 3 staff members. The Training Director will participate in this process and also will compile and rank order the staff application ratings. After all applicants have been reviewed and rank ordered, the top applicants will be offered interviews. Applicants not selected for interviews will be notified (by e-mail) by December 23, 2015 that they are no longer candidates for KCVA internship.

On-site interviews will be January 7 and 8, 2016. While on-site interviews are encouraged, a telephone interview may be arranged for those unable to schedule an on-site interview.

Following the last scheduled applicant interview, the psychology staff will meet again with additional information gathered during the interviewing process and will rank order their respective candidates. There will be no notification for candidates who are no longer under consideration.

KCVA will submit the rankings list to the National Matching Service by February 3, 2016. Lists must be submitted in accordance with yearly dates established by APPIC.

APPIC Match Day is generally in late February, set yearly by APPIC. Following confirmation of match results, the Training Director will confirm the selection of interns by phone and letter to the applicant and the applicant's university training director. Selected interns will be asked to provide a written statement officially accepting and committing to the internship training program. At that time, interns and University Training Directors will be expected to assist in formalizing an affiliation with KCVA. That paperwork needs to be completed no later than April 15th.

Psychology Setting

The Kansas City VA Medical Center (KCVAMC) is a general medical, surgical, psychiatric, and ambulatory care facility located on a 37-acre site just six miles from downtown Kansas City, Missouri. The Medical Center places special emphasis on maintaining its role as a major teaching hospital. Training programs in virtually all medical and associated health specialties are offered through affiliation with many universities throughout the country. The primary medical school affiliation is with the University of Kansas Medical Center. Numerous other university affiliations provide for the training of social workers, audiologists, dentists, occupational and physical therapists, chaplains, recreational therapists, pharmacists, etc.

Mental Health Service

Mental Health is composed of psychologists, psychiatrists, social workers, nurses, pharmacists, a physician assistant, addiction therapists, and medical administration staff. Mental Health serves a culturally diverse group of young, middle-aged, and older adults who have a broad range mental health diagnoses. Psychologists serve a number of programs throughout the medical center including: (1) Mental Health Clinic (MHC), (2) Post Traumatic Stress Disorder Clinical Team (PCT), (3) Substance Abuse Residential Rehabilitation Treatment Program (SARRTP), (4) Mental Health Intensive Case Management (MHICM), (5) Neuropsychology, (6) Psychosocial Rehabilitation and Recovery Treatment Program, (7) Home Based Primary Care (HBPC), (8) Primary Care/Mental Health Integration, and (9) Inpatient Acute Psychiatry. Interns have the opportunity to gain knowledge and choose clinical experiences in these areas as major and minor rotations.

Training Model and Program Philosophy

Program Mission and Model

Psychologists at the Kansas City VA Medical Center thank you for your inquiry and welcome your interest in our Psychology Predoctoral Internship Program. The primary goal of the program is to provide an emphasis on both breadth and intensity of training that allows interns to have a solid, well-rounded training experience. Our focus is on helping interns better learn to understand and assist individuals who are experiencing significant psychological problems. Additionally, the experiences provided in our program require a broad array of clinical skills that are important in helping individuals in many different settings outside of a VA Medical Center.

The philosophy of training at KCVA is best described as a "scholar-practitioner" model. The training experiences have a strong clinical focus. Knowledge and use of empirically supported processes and interventions and models of evidence-based practice are expected and encouraged in all aspects of the program. The training program at the Kansas City VA Medical Center is a generalist program that provides all trainees the opportunity to work closely with a diverse patient population under supervision of a psychology staff with a broad range of interest and expertise. One of the goals of this internship is to provide the necessary skill set that will enable the intern to function effectively in a professional role in a variety of employment settings.

We also value a developmental approach to training in which tasks of increasing difficulty and complexity are given to interns throughout the course of their internship as they demonstrate their ability and readiness to take on new responsibilities. Supervision is expected to match the needs of the intern in a way that facilitates professional development and progression. Thus, the intensity of supervision diminishes over the course of the rotation and internship as the intern matures into a role approaching colleague rather than student. By the internship's end, we expect to play more of a consultant role for the interns, rather than that of a supervisor monitoring every decision and move. Continued professional growth is fostered through ongoing examination of current research to inform clinical practice and through encouraging interns to learn and utilize treatments that he or she may not have been exposed to in the

past. Supervision will also generally be matched to the needs of the intern and the intensity of this supervision is expected to diminish as the intern transitions into the role of a psychologist.

A special focus of our internship is fostering the growth and integration of interns' personal and professional identities. We emphasize the need for balance in our lives. This results in our insistence on a 40-hour work week and encouraging our interns to pursue interests outside of psychology, such as recreation, exercise, family, and friendships. Professional identity development, especially in the areas of employment location and selection, is assisted by seminars about job searches, licensure, program development, mental health administration, and supervision. Additionally, the Director of Training spends significant time with the interns, both individually and as a group, encouraging and facilitating completion of the dissertation, exploring possible career paths, and assisting in conducting appropriate, timely and successful job searches. In addition, psychology staff are very open to providing informal assistance in these areas. Finally, the atmosphere in Mental Health at KCVA is quite collegial. We value our interns highly, appreciating them both as professional colleagues and as fellow human beings.

KCVA provides services to diverse populations and strives to create a therapeutic environment for, and ensure ethical treatment of, patients with diverse backgrounds and characteristics. Thus, an important goal of the psychology training program is to increase trainees' knowledge and skills in working with a wide range of clients from different cultural backgrounds.

TRAINING COMPETENCIES AND OBJECTIVES

The internship training program at KCVA encompasses six overall goals: professional/ethical issues and sensitivity to diversity, assessment/diagnosis, intervention (individual, group, and couples psychotherapy), program evaluation/administration and strategies of scholarly inquiry, supervision/consultation, and professional identity development. Across each of these core competencies, interns will demonstrate an understanding of and sensitivity to human diversity issues.

GOAL #1: PROFESSIONAL/ETHICAL ISSUES AND SENSITIVITY TO DIVERSITY ISSUES

Objective: Interns will demonstrate professional behavior consistent with professional standards and ethical guidelines. They will have a mature understanding of professional ethics as well as issues of ethnic, cultural, gender, sexual, and other aspects of diversity.

GOAL #2: ASSESSMENT/DIAGNOSIS

Objective: Interns will demonstrate competency in conducting psychological evaluations which integrate patient biopsychosocial history, interview data, and a variety of psychological tests to provide accurate diagnoses and to make useful treatment/intervention recommendations to providers requesting consultation.

GOAL #3: INTERVENTION (INDIVIDUAL, GROUP, COUPLES THERAPY)

Objective: Interns will develop competence in the provision of psychological interventions for adult with a variety of diagnoses, problems, and needs. They will be exposed to a range of therapeutic orientations, techniques, and approaches and are expected to develop competency in general psychotherapy skills. An emphasis is also placed on developing competency in at least one empirically-supported modality.

GOAL #4: PROGRAM EVALUATION/ADMINISTRATION & STRATEGIES OF SCHOLARLY INQUIRY

Objective: Interns will be skilled in scholarly practice by applying scientific knowledge to the clinical setting, being educated consumers of empirical research, participating in scholarly activities and program evaluation, and having competence in at least one empirically-supported method.

GOAL #5: SUPERVISION/CONSULTATION

Objective: Interns will develop competence in providing consultation and in understanding methods and theories of supervision, as well as in translating psychological principles to colleagues, trainees, and others. Interns will be able to provide colleagues and other trainees with feedback and guidance and to translate psychological principles and findings to professionals from different disciplines.

GOAL #6: PROFESSIONAL IDENTITY DEVELOPMENT

Objective: Interns will develop maturing professional identities. They are expected to be aware of their continuing developmental professional goals (including any areas of specialization) and areas needing further development and to possess well-formed career plans, evidenced by vocational or training choices to be pursued upon completion of the program.

Program Structure

Clinical Rotations

The Psychology Internship Program at KCVA follows a traditional generalist, training model. Interns participate in 4 major rotations, 6-months each, throughout the training year. These major rotations include the following: 1) Mental Health Clinic, which includes individual and group psychotherapy in a setting with a wide array of mental health needs, 2) Substance Abuse, which includes treatment planning, individual and group interventions in a residential treatment setting, 3) Post Traumatic Stress, which includes diagnostic evaluation, individual and group psychotherapy interventions, and 4) Home Based Primary Care, where multidisciplinary care is provided to patients who are primarily homebound, with medical and behavioral health services provided.

Each intern will also choose 4 minor rotations over the course of the training year, 2 per 6-month rotation. Interns will spend 4 hours per week on each minor rotation. Options for minor rotations include Neuropsychology, Psychosocial Rehabilitation and Recovery/ Mental Health Intensive Case Management, Assessment, Rural Veterans, and Inpatient Acute Psychiatry.

A minimum of four hours per week of individual supervision by licensed psychologists will be provided, and weekly didactics seminars are conducted. Additional monthly didactics, peer supervision, monthly psychology meetings, and other supervision opportunities are structured throughout the training year. Further, interns will be required to complete, at a minimum, 6 diagnostic assessments per year. These assessments may include psychological/personality testing, transplant evaluations, etc.

Major Rotations

Mental Health Clinic

The rotation in the Mental Health Clinic provides the opportunity to function as part of an interprofessional team including psychologists, psychiatrists, social workers, a marriage and family therapist, and nurses. The focus of the rotation is individual and group psychotherapy for a wide range of patient needs, including but not limited to substance abuse, post traumatic stress disorder, depression, anxiety, grief, anger, sexual abuse, personality disorders, and adjustment to illness, divorce, or other stressors. Consultation is provided to other disciplines regarding the appropriateness for psychotherapy through the BHIP team model. Interns may have the opportunity to provide secondary supervision to psychology practicum students during the fall and/or spring semesters from one or more of the four regional APA accredited doctoral psychology programs. The KCVA is in compliance with APA Standards as intern supervision of practicum students is not a substitute for supervision from a licensed psychologist. Practicum students will meet with a licensed psychologist, in addition to the intern, for the time specified in their program requirements.

There are five supervising psychologists in the Mental Health Clinic (MHC). All trainees benefit from the expertise these staff have in differing theoretical orientations and experience in evidence-based practices. Each supervisor provides a minimum of one hour of face-to face supervision weekly with interns. In addition, trainees will meet one-on-one with the Training Director for additional supervision and training one-hour per week. Supervisors may request audiotapes of therapy sessions in order to provide specific feedback on therapy skills and contribute to case conceptualization. Co-facilitation of groups is also an opportunity for observation of skills and competencies.

Substance Use Disorders Program

The substance use disorders rotation includes the following activities:

- Case management as well as individual, and possibly couples, psychotherapy with patients who have substance use disorders.
- Individual psychotherapy with patients who have a dual diagnosis of a substance use disorder and post-traumatic stress disorder.
- Independent facilitation of a weekly relapse prevention skills training group in the Substance Abuse Residential Treatment Program.
- Opportunities to become a SMART recovery facilitator and to lead SMART meetings.
- Opportunities for independent facilitation of a motivational enhancement group in the Substance Abuse Residential Rehabilitation Treatment Program as well as the opportunity to receive supervised experience with Motivational Interviewing and Motivational Enhancement Therapy.
- Independent facilitation of a weekly Seeking Safety therapy group and an educational class on the interaction of post-traumatic stress disorder and substance use disorders.
- Opportunities to receive supervised experience with Contingency Management.

Supervision and didactic training is provided by Dr. Bullard and Dr. Krieschok, who have had postdoctoral training in the addictions field. Supervision is provided during weekly supervision sessions with the psychologist(s) clinically responsible for the direct patient care.

Posttraumatic Stress Disorder Program (PCT)

The posttraumatic stress rotation includes the following activities:

- Initial evaluation of veterans at entry into the PCT (Posttraumatic Stress Disorder Clinical Team) program.
- Individual and group psychotherapy with patients who have posttraumatic stress disorder.
- Provision of evidence-based PTSD treatments (Cognitive Processing Therapy and/or Prolonged Exposure)
- Possible facilitation of PTSD symptom management groups
- Possible facilitation of psychotherapy groups (e.g., Cognitive Processing Therapy, In Vivo Exposure group)

Supervision of clinical work in the PCT program is provided by Dr. Constance, Dr. Dent, and Dr. Piedimonte.

Home-Based Primary Care Program

VA Home-Based Primary Care (HBPC) is a program that provides comprehensive longitudinal primary care in the homes of Veterans with complex chronic disabling disease. The care is delivered by an interdisciplinary team comprised of medicine, nursing, social work, occupational therapy, dietetics, pharmacy, and psychology. HBPC manages (1) patients with multiple interacting chronic medical problems requiring longitudinal intervention to maintain health status, retard functional decline, and reduce or delay institutionalization; (2) certain patients with relatively short term problems, who need health services, home training, and home adaptation until they can be managed in an outpatient clinic, and (3) patients with advanced terminal illness who want palliative care.

The psychologist provides assessment and intervention to individuals and families to address psychological issues that are interfering with their medical care, compromising their health status and functional capacity, and/or reducing their quality of life. Cases include helping patients cope with grief, depression, anxiety, and other psychological issues related to the aging process, having chronic medical illnesses, and/or other life stressors; interventions to increase compliance with and adjustment to treatment regimens; and working with caregivers to improve patient well-being and treatment compliance.

Psychology Training Provided: In the HBPC program, interns conduct psychological/cognitive assessment, brief psychotherapy, family interventions, and become active members of an interdisciplinary treatment team.

Roles and responsibilities of interns during this rotation include the following:

- Attending weekly HBPC team meetings.
- Providing psychological assessment and/or intervention with referred HBPC patients (typically conducted in patients' homes, assisted living facilities, extended care facilities).
- Providing consultation to staff regarding mental health issues and treatment.
- Providing staff in-service and education.

Skills emphasized on this rotation are: a) development of an understanding of normal functioning in aging, such as age-related changes in cognitive and physical functioning, and common developmental issues/tasks associated with aging; b) assessment of older adults through use of clinical interviewing, psychodiagnostic evaluation, neuropsychological screening, and evaluations of daily living skills; c) individual psychotherapy with older adults with chronic medical illnesses; d) provision of services to the family in coping with caregiving and addressing problems that arise during the course of a medical or mental illness, including dementia; and e) active participation in a treatment team through consultation, staff education, and facilitating team functioning. The primary theoretical orientation of the rotation is cognitive-behavioral, although other approaches can be integrated when appropriate.

Diagnostic Assessment Component

Interns are required to complete 6 assessments over the course of the training year. This requirement is over and above the assessments completed on the Neuropsychology and the Assessment minor rotations. Psychologists at KCVA provide consultation services to health care providers throughout the Medical Center. Training activities include mental health/personality/diagnostic evaluations, compensation and pension evaluations, and medical (e.g., transplant) evaluations. Assessments for mental health treatment and/or compensation and pension may consist of clinical interviews and the use of various psychological tests to evaluate psychopathology. The experience includes the entire evaluation process; i.e., test selection, test administration and scoring, clinical interviewing, test interpretation, diagnostic formulation, treatment recommendations, report writing, and providing direct feedback to the referral source, as well as to patients and family members.

Interns may also conduct psychological evaluations as part of the presurgical screening process for a variety of surgical procedures to include: gastric bypass and organ transplant. Supervision is provided for all general assessment cases. Dr. Skadeland provides supervision for the optional neuropsychological training experience. Consultation or supervision is provided as needed throughout the evaluation process. Supervisors review all aspects of the assessment process and co-sign the final reports.

Minor Rotations

Mental Health Intensive Case Management (MHICM)

The MHICM program is under the umbrella of services available to veterans diagnosed with serious mental illness. In the MHICM program, a multidisciplinary team provides comprehensive, community-based case management, psychiatric treatment, rehabilitation, and support to veterans diagnosed with serious mental illness. MHICM program goals are recovery-based and include improving veterans' quality of life and psychosocial functioning, increasing independence, and decreasing need for inpatient psychiatric treatment. MHICM follows the VA's modified version of Assertive Community Treatment, an evidence based practice. The MHICM multidisciplinary team is comprised of psychologists, a psychology resident, social workers, nurses, psychiatrists, and a peer specialist, many of whom serve as case managers. MHICM interventions are varied, tailored to each veteran's needs, and include activities such as medication management, encouraging compliance with treatment, assistance in learning daily living skills, assistance with housing and benefits issues, transportation, coordination with veterans' families and other supportive resources, community reintegration activities, and coordination of care. Interns will participate in MHICM multidisciplinary team meetings and accompany the MHICM psychologists and other team members into the community on MHICM visits. Interns will develop skills in working with the seriously mentally ill population, community-based provision of services, and multidisciplinary team functioning. The opportunity to participate in MHICM administrative experiences may also be available. Dr. Baich and Dr. Tiegreen serve as supervisors on this rotation.

Psychosocial Rehabilitation and Recovery Center

The PRRC program is under the umbrella of services available to veterans diagnosed with serious mental illness. In the PRRC program, a multidisciplinary team provides group and individual interventions on an outpatient basis to veterans diagnosed with serious mental illness. Programming also includes community reintegration group activities that take place in natural settings. PRRC program goals are recovery-based and focus on enhancing veterans' understanding of and ability to cope with life's challenges; improving quality of life and psychosocial functioning; and increasing independence. The PRRC multidisciplinary team consists of a psychologist, a psychology resident, a social worker, a nurse, psychiatrists, and a peer specialist. Ancillary staff, including a recreation therapist and chaplain, also offer group and individual services to veterans. Interns will develop skills in working with the seriously mentally ill population through outpatient group and individual interventions, assessment, and consultation. The intern may also participate in PRRC multidisciplinary team meetings. The opportunity to participate in PRRC administrative experiences may also be available. Dr. Baich and Dr. Tiegreen serve as supervisors on this rotation.

Neuropsychology Evaluations

Typically the intern will complete one assessment per week. The experience is highly individualized and the intern will develop with at the beginning of the rotation specific outcome goals for the experience. Often these will involve gaining training assessing the cognitive functioning of patients with particular problems (e.g., history of substance abuse, dementia), expending the types of instruments they can administer, and gaining high quality cognitive screening skills. Under supervision, the intern will be involved with test selection, test administration and report writing. Dr. Skadeland supervises all activities on this rotation.

Inpatient Acute Psychiatry

This elective option is new to the Psychology Training Program, but offers the opportunity for intern involvement on the inpatient acute psychiatry unit. Tasks on this rotation may involve participating in patient rounds, shadowing the inpatient psychologist, conducting group and/or individual therapy, etc.

Assessment

This rotation will emphasize personality and intellectual assessment, with focus on comprehensive testing batteries that include clinical interview, intellectual and cognitive screening, various personality measures, and other screening measures as needed. The intern will receive practical and didactic training on

specific instruments, including the WAIS-IV, MMPI-2, SCID I/II, and some projective measures (e.g., Rorschach). This rotation will require an additional 4 assessments over the course of 6 months and will be focused in the Mental Health Clinic.

Rural Veterans

This rotation will emphasize work with Veterans living in rural areas and will take place at either the CBOC at Excelsior Springs, MO or Paola, KS. This rotation may include individual therapy, as well as assessment integrating unique considerations for Veterans living in rural areas.

Additional Training Year Experiences

Psychology Community and Training Meetings

The Psychology Community and Training Committee Meetings are held monthly to present information of general interest to the psychology staff related to administrative, clinical, and training issues.

Group Supervision

The Training Director meets with post-doctoral residents and interns on a weekly basis to assure the smooth operation of the training program, to assist trainees with any programmatic difficulties or questions, and for general professional guidance

Didactic Training Seminars

Seminars are integral to training throughout the training year. Seminars are provided on a variety of topics that span both professional development and clinical practice issues. In addition, there may be opportunities for attendance at other workshops and conferences held in the local area.

Multicultural Committee

Each month, a didactic is presented as part of the multicultural series. These didactics are devoted to topics specific to diversity issues. Additionally, once per month, all trainees and interested staff participate in a multicultural journal club "lunch and learn" where articles are presented for discussion. Residents and interns have the opportunity to participate in additional multicultural events and discussion about continuing to integrate multicultural opportunities for training.

Requirements for Completion

In order to successfully complete the program, interns must participate for the full designated year. In addition, completion of specific program elements will be required for successful completion. These include, but are not limited to, required number of assessments, assigned readings, case presentations, and documented hours log.

The program expects all applicants to adhere to the highest professional standards and the current Ethical Standards published by the American Psychological Association.

Facility and Training Resources

The Kansas City VA Medical Center has ample resources to support the Psychology Internship Program. Interns have private office space to use for clinical and administrative duties. These offices provide them with personal computers that are fully integrated with the internet, the VA Central Office intranet, and the Medical Center's electronic patient record system. Psychology has current software for psychological assessment instruments that are frequently used and also has a Psychology Library which contains frequently used literature including empirically supported treatment manuals.

The KCVA has many other services that provide support to the Medical Center, to which trainees have access. There is an eight-story Research and Education Wing that houses an active research program. The Medical Library subscribes to approximately 300 professional journals and has over 5,000 books and

500 audiovisual software items in its collection. Books and periodicals not in our collection can be borrowed from the library through an extensive inter-library loan network. Medical Media Service, utilizing television, photography, and illustration, produces presentations in all types of modalities for patient and staff education. This service also documents and produces audiovisual materials dealing with patient care, research efforts, public relations, and any other communicative efforts deemed important by the Medical Center.

Administrative Policies and Procedures

Psychology interns at Kansas City VAMC fall under the national leave policy found on the OAA web page (13 vacation days, 13 sick days, 10 federal holidays). Interns are encouraged to discuss issues, concerns, and suggestions for improvement throughout the year with their supervisors and the Training Director. Evaluation and grievance procedures are outlined in the Psychology Internship Handbook and are discussed in full with interns during the first week of the program.

Training Staff

Stephen Baich, Psy.D.

Position: Acting Program Manager, Mental Health Intensive Case Management (MHICM)/Psychosocial Rehabilitation and Recovery Center (PRRC)

Degree: Clinical Psychology, University of Hartford, 1999

License: Missouri, Kansas

Dr. Baich's clinical interests include serious mental illness, recovery model, and program development. His primary orientation is Cognitive Behavioral Therapy.

Mary M. Brant, Ph.D., R.N.

Position: Home Based Primary Care Psychologist

Degree: University of Wisconsin-Madison, 1995

License: Minnesota, Missouri

Dr. Brant serves as the Home Based Primary Care psychologist for northern Kansas City and rural NW Missouri. She completed a postdoctoral fellowship in geriatric neuropsychology, has served as a faculty member and training coordinator for the University of St. Thomas in Minneapolis, MN, and with a long-term care practice for over 20 years. She is currently chair of the KCVA Dementia Committee and represents KCVA on the VISN 15 Dementia Committee. Publication and practice interests include: Geropsychological supervision and assessment, resilience in aging, extended caregiving, brief psychological interventions for nursing, and health interventions, with VA training in Cognitive Behavioral Therapy for Insomnia (CBT-I).

Amalia Bullard, Ph.D.

Position: Staff Psychologist, Substance Abuse Residential Rehabilitation Treatment Program (SARRTP)

Degree: University of Kansas, Counseling Psychology, 2007

License: Kansas

Dr. Bullard is a psychologist with SARRTP where she provides evidenced based individual and group treatments for co-occurring disorders. Dr. Bullard received her postdoctoral training at the Kansas City VA Medical Center, has an interest in training and supervision, and serves as one of the primary supervisors for the substance use disorder training rotations. Other interests include Cognitive Behavioral Therapy for PTSD including Prolonged Exposure Therapy and Cognitive Processing Therapy, as well as, Relapse Prevention, Motivational Interviewing, and Motivational Enhancement Therapy.

Janet Constance, Ph.D.

Position: Staff Psychologist, Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder Clinical Team

Degree: Saint Louis University, Clinical Psychology, 2008

Licenses: Missouri and New York

Dr. Constance serves as a psychologist in the outpatient Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder Clinical Team (PCT). Dr. Constance specializes in evidence-based treatment of PTSD and mild traumatic brain injury (mTBI)/concussion. She enjoys providing supervision in the evidence-based protocols of Cognitive Processing Therapy (CPT) and Prolonged Exposure (PE). Dr. Constance's research interests include psychotherapy duration, therapist self-disclosure, and mTBI in the veteran population. She has published in *The Clinical Neuropsychologist*, *Journal of Head Trauma Rehabilitation*, and *Journal of Contemporary Psychotherapy*.

George Dent, Ph.D.

Position: Staff Psychologist, Mental Health (PCT Program).

Degree: University of Missouri-Kansas City, Counseling Psychology, 2005.

License: Missouri.

Dr. Dent serves as a psychologist in the outpatient Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder treatment program (PCT). His interests include psychological assessment and cognitive therapy for post traumatic stress, affective, and anxiety disorders. In addition, Dr. Dent has an interest in psychotherapy and assessment with veterans that have experienced traumatic brain injury. Dr. Dent has had experience in working with individuals with substance use issues, aggression, and intimate partner violence. Dr. Dent has obtained training and experience in substance abuse treatment centers, outpatient and inpatient mental health, and college counseling centers. He also serves on the Behavioral Emergency Committee.

Jaymee E. Dow, Ph.D.

Position: Staff Psychologist, Mental Health

Degree: Auburn University, Counseling Psychology, 2006

License: Kansas, Missouri

Dr. Dow serves as a staff psychologist in the outpatient Mental Health Clinic, as well as one of the facilitators of the Multicultural Committee. She also serves as the Local Evidence-Based Psychotherapy (EBP) Coordinator at the KCVA. Dr. Dow is committed to providing multiculturally competent individual and group psychotherapy and collaborative, developmentally-based supervision. Dr. Dow's clinical interests include: trauma, PTSD, multiculturally competent therapy, substance abuse, eating disorders, relational concerns, ethics, LGBT concerns, and mindfulness. She is trained in Cognitive Behavioral Therapy, Brief Psychodynamic Therapy, Acceptance and Commitment Therapy (ACT), Prolonged Exposure, and Cognitive Processing Therapy. Dr. Dow serves as a VA ACT consultant, providing consultation for providers in the VA ACT training program. She has published in the *American Psychologist* and the *International Journal of Psychology*.

Amber Hinton-Dampf, Ph.D.

Position: Home-Based Primary Care (HBPC) Psychologist

Degree: University of Missouri-Kansas City, Clinical Psychology, 2013

License: Missouri

Dr. Hinton-Dampf serves as a psychologist in the Home Based Primary Care Program. Dr. Hinton-Dampf specializes in evidence-based treatment, including exposure based therapies and brief interventions such as Motivational Interviewing (MI), Cognitive Behavioral Therapy for Insomnia (CBT-I), etc. Dr. Hinton-Dampf has completed VA training in Cognitive Processing Therapy (CPT), Cognitive Behavioral Therapy for Chronic Pain (CBT-CP), Cognitive Behavioral Therapy for Insomnia (CBT-I), and is the process of becoming a CBT-CP consultant. Dr. Hinton-Dampf completed a VA internship and residency. She values education and enjoys teaching as an adjunct instructor outside of her VA tour. She has published in the *American Journal of Pharmaceutical Education* and the *European Journal of Educational Psychology*.

Shannon M Huebert, Ph.D.

Position: Staff Psychologist, Primary Care

Degree: University of Denver, Counseling Psychology, 2004.

License: Kansas.

Dr. Huebert is the Health Behavior Coordinator and serves as the lead clinical consultant to the medical center staff on patient centered communication. She has received advanced training in Motivational Interviewing and the Stanford Chronic Disease Self-Management model. She facilitates the Quit Tobacco Clinic and assists Primary Care in their efforts to achieve strategic initiatives.

Peggy H. Krieshok, Ph.D.

Position: Program Manager, Substance Abuse Residential Rehabilitation Treatment Program (SARRTP)

Degree: University of Maine, Clinical Psychology, 1983.

License: Missouri, Kansas.

Dr. Krieshok is the program manager of the SARRTP. Her areas of interest are: addiction, evidence-based substance use disorders treatment, developmental models of recovery, relapse prevention, dual diagnosis, mindfulness approaches to recovery, weight management, anger management, and attention deficit disorder. She has been involved in national service activities including being a member of the Board of Directors of the Association of Psychology Postdoctoral and Internship Centers (APPIC) (including Chair) and serving in elected positions with the Association of VA Psychologist Leaders (AVAPL) including President.

An Le, Psy.D.

Position: Staff Psychologist, Mental Health

Degree: Clinical Psychology, California School of Professional Psychology, 2002

License: Missouri

Dr. Le serves as a part-time psychologist in the Mental Health Outpatient Clinic. She completed her postdoctoral training at the Kansas City VA Medical Center. She has experience in conducting research with veterans diagnosed with psychotic disorders, PTSD, and mood disorders. She has completed VA training in Cognitive Processing Therapy (CPT), as well as Cognitive Behavioral Therapy for Insomnia (CBT-I). She also has been involved in grant writing and is currently the Military Sexual Trauma Coordinator.

Ian Lynam, Ph.D.

Position: Staff Psychologist Mental Health (Excelsior Spring Outpatient Clinic)

Degree: University of Missouri-Kansas City, 2010

License: Missouri

Dr. Lynam serves as a general mental health clinician in the Excelsior Springs Outpatient Clinic and provides services to the Cameron Outpatient Clinic via telemedicine. His primary orientation is Cognitive Behavioral Therapy with training and interests in Cognitive Processing Therapy for PTSD (VA trained provider), Prolonged Exposure for PTSD, Motivational Interviewing, Smoking Cessation, and Primary Care integration.

Charlotte McCloskey, Ph.D.

Position: Staff Psychologist, Mental Health Clinic

Degree: University of Missouri- Columbia, 2008

License: Kansas

Dr. McCloskey is one of five staff psychologists in the outpatient Mental Health Clinic. She is also one of the primary facilitators of the Multicultural Committee. Dr. McCloskey has interests in research and assessment, as well as special interests in issues related to diversity. She is currently an adjunct research faculty member of the Center for American Indian Community Health at the University of Kansas Medical Center. She has VA provider status in Prolonged Exposure for PTSD and Cognitive Processing Therapy, and is experienced in providing Cognitive Behavioral Therapy, and other evidence-based treatments. Dr. McCloskey's theoretical orientation is integrative and reflects multicultural awareness, Psychodynamic and Cognitive Behavioral Theory. Dr. McCloskey received her postdoctoral training at the Kansas City VA Medical Center and has also previously worked in the KCVAMC Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder Clinical Team (PCT).

Thomas Palma, Ph.D.

Position: Staff Psychologist, Counseling Psychology, Inpatient Acute Psychiatry

Degree: University of Missouri-Kansas City

License: Missouri

Dr. Palma serves as the psychologist on the Inpatient Acute Psychiatry Unit, as well as in Palliative Care at KCVVA. His work includes brief individual intervention, team consultation, and outpatient treatment planning.

Daryl Richey, Ph.D.

Position: Program Manager – Primary Care Mental Health Integration

Degree: University of Missouri – Kansas City 1995

License: Missouri

Dr. Richey is the program manager for the primary Care – Mental Health Integration program. He has long-term interest in brief approaches to psychotherapy. PCMH practice includes therapy for self-management of chronic health conditions, substance misuse, problem-solving therapy, and negotiating life change.

Brenna Shortridge-Pearce, Ph.D.

Position: Training Director and Staff Psychologist, Mental Health Clinic

Degree: University of Kansas, Counseling Psychology, 2008

License: Kansas

Dr. Shortridge has completed VA training in Cognitive Processing Therapy (CPT), Prolonged Exposure therapy, as well as Cognitive Behavioral Therapy for Insomnia (CBT-I). Dr. Shortridge has worked and received much of her clinical training in the VA system. She has strong interests in clinical training and supervision, as well as psychological assessment and PTSD.

Dean R. Skadeland, Psy.D.

Position: Director of the Neuropsychology Clinic

Degree: Florida Institute of Technology, Clinical Psychology, 1987.

License: Missouri, Kansas.

Academic Appointments: University of Kansas Medical Center-Department of Psychiatry, University of Missouri Medical School-Department of Psychiatry, University of Kansas- Departments of Clinical and Counseling Psychology, and University of Missouri, Kansas City-Department of Clinical Psychology.

Dr. Skadeland is the neuropsychologist at the KCVAMC. His interests include neuropsychological assessment, projectives, personality theory, and spiritual issues associated with mental health.

Lauren Spears, Ph.D.

Position: Staff Psychologist, Mental Health Clinic

Degree: University of Kansas, Clinical Psychology, 2014

License: Kansas

Dr. Spears has an interest in evidence-based psychotherapies such as Prolonged Exposure, Cognitive Processing Therapy, and Cognitive Behavioral therapy for depression, anxiety, and insomnia. Her clinical interests are in the treatment of anxiety disorders, psychological testing, and in the provision of supervision.

Timothy Streitwieser, Psy.D.

Position: Home-Based Primary Care (HBPC) Psychologist

Degree: Clinical Psychology, Spalding University

License: Arkansas

Academic Appointments: Avila University

Dr. Streitwieser's interests include: Integrated Primary Care, Pain Management, Behavioral Approaches to Manage/Prevent Chronic Illnesses, Smoking Cessation, Insomnia Intervention, Motivational Interviewing, Acceptance and Commitment Therapy (ACT), Brief Neuropsychological Assessment and Geriatrics.

Douglas B. Vaughan, Ph.D.

Position: Staff Psychologist, Mental Health.

Degree: Rosemead School of Psychology, Clinical Psychology, 1986.

License: Missouri.

Dr. Vaughan has more than 25 years of experience as a psychologist across a variety of outpatient, inpatient, and private practice settings. He served as the Evidence-Based Psychotherapy Coordinator for the West Texas VAMC Mental Health Service before coming to the KCVA, and he is trained as a VA provider in Motivational Interviewing and Cognitive Processing Therapy. He has over two decades of experience in disability evaluation as a psychological consultant and examiner for Social Security Disability and providing VA compensation and pension exams. His clinical interests include cognitive-behavioral and insight-oriented therapies for mood and anxiety disorders and the integration of spiritual/faith issues with mental health.

Local Information

General Information

www.kansascity.com

Kansas City is located on the western boundary of Missouri. The present population of the metropolitan area (which includes Kansas City, KS, Kansas City, MO, Kansas City North, Independence, and suburban areas) is over 1.7 million. Kansas City is a city of culture, with its international airport, modern hotels, auditoriums, sophisticated retail stores and shops, and varied nightlife. Kansas City has a world-renowned country club residential district considered to be a model of city planning.

Educational Facilities

Educational institutions of greater Kansas City include the University of Missouri at Kansas City, the University of Kansas Medical Center, the Kansas City Art Institute and School of Design, three graduate religious seminaries, excellent junior colleges, numerous public schools and parochial schools, academies and institutions. Several mental health organizations in the community provide opportunities for quality continuing education programs.

Recreational Facilities

The recreational needs of the area are met by ample facilities and activities. Kansas City maintains a system of 108 parks, covering 7,030 acres. Swope Park, the largest of many renowned parks, consists of picturesque picnic grounds, a zoo, colorful gardens, tennis courts, golf course, and the famed Starlight Theater. The newly renovated Union Station offers Science City (an interactive science exhibit), movies, shopping, and restaurants. Two large amusement parks, Worlds of Fun and Oceans of Fun, provide amusement rides and water attractions. These entertainment parks along with the Ozarks a couple of hours to the south draw many tourists to the area each year.

The Kansas City Chiefs of the NFL, the Kansas City Royals baseball club of the American League, the Attack (indoor) and the Sporting (outdoor) soccer clubs, and the Kansas Speedway NASCAR race track combine with several top flight collegiate competitive events such as basketball, tennis, and track to offer the sports fan a varied and entertaining assortment of diversions. The full spectrum of participating sports is also available to residents. Kansas City is proud of its top quality rodeo and the annual American Royal Livestock and Horse Show, as well as the annual BBQ Cook offs.

Cultural attractions include the Kauffman Performing Arts Center, Missouri Repertory Theater, the Sprint Center, the Power and Light District (a new concept entertainment center), the Lyric Opera, Kansas City Symphony, Kansas City Ballet, and several dinner theaters. The Nelson Gallery of Art and the Mary Atkins Museum of Fine Arts rank with the country's best.