Psychology Internship Program

Southeast Louisiana Veterans Health Care System
Mental Health Service (116)
P.O. Box 61011
New Orleans, LA 70161-1011
504-412-3700
http://www.neworleans.va.gov/

MATCH Number: 1318
Applications due: November 5, 2017

Accreditation Status

The pre-doctoral internship at the Southeast Louisiana Veterans Health Care System (SLVHCS) is fully accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of the American Psychological Association. The next site visit will be during the academic year 2020.

Information regarding the accreditation status of this program can be obtained from:
Office of Program Consultation and Accreditation
American Psychological Association
750 First Street, N.E.
Washington, DC  20002-4242
(202) 336-5979
www.apa.org/ed/accred.html

Application & Selection Procedures

Eligibility: Applicants for internship must be Ph.D. or Psy.D. degree candidates from APA accredited doctoral programs in clinical or counseling psychology, and have supervised clinical practicum work to include at least 300 hours of direct contact hours in intervention and 100 hours in assessment. VA requirements specify that eligible applicants must be U.S. citizens and have fulfilled departmental requirements for internship as certified by their Directors of Clinical Training. Further details regarding the program are available in the APPIC Directory. The Department of Veterans Affairs is an Equal Opportunity Employer. As an equal opportunity training program, the internship welcomes and strongly encourages applications from all qualified candidates, regardless of gender, age, racial, ethnic, sexual orientation, disability or other minority status.

Procedures: Applications must be submitted no later than November 5. However, students are urged to complete application requirements as early as possible. Interviews and visits to the internship are normally scheduled during the first three weeks of January.

Application requirements:
1. Completed copy of the APPIC online Application for Psychology Internship (AAPI); The AAPI can be obtained at the APPIC Web site, http://www.appic.org
2. Letter of interest that explicitly states the applicants top four choices in rotation preference
3. Current curriculum vitae
4. Official transcripts of all graduate work
5. The form "Academic Program's Verification of Internship Eligibility and Readiness," certifying that you have met your program's prerequisites for internship. This can be found in the AAPI.

6. At least three letters of recommendation from psychologists familiar with the applicant, preferably one from your academic advisor.

**Completed applications or requests for additional information should be forwarded to:**

Julie R. Arseneau, Ph.D.
Director, Psychology Training Program
ATTN: Internship Information
Mental Health Service (116)
Southeast Louisiana Veterans Health Care System
P.O. Box 61011
New Orleans, LA 70161-1011
Julie.Arseneau@va.gov

**Psychology Setting**

Psychologists at the New Orleans VAMC function within an autonomous Psychology Service and cooperate with Psychiatry and Social Work Services to provide a broad range of mental health services to veterans. Within this system, psychologists hold primary administrative responsibility for a variety of mental health programs. Our new, state of the art, medical center opened in November 2016; thus the 2018-2019 internship class will be working within the new fully operational medical center. There are currently seven programs within the Mental Health Service that provide specialized mental health services, including, Substance Abuse, Posttraumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), Ambulatory Mental Health Care, Primary Care in Mental Health, Homeless Program, Mental Health Intensive Case Management (MHICM), and Compensated Work Therapy (CWT). Psychologists have been appointed to leadership positions on several clinical teams, reflecting both the capabilities of individual psychologists, and the high regard in which psychologists are held within the SLVHCS.

Joseph Constans Ph.D. currently serves as Chief of Psychology. The SLVHCS Psychology Training Committee is currently comprised of 11 doctoral level psychologists, with several additional doctoral level psychologists serving as training program supervisors. We currently have five pre-doctoral interns and six postdoctoral fellows. Psychologists apply the knowledge and skills of psychology as a science and profession toward three primary goals: (1) patient assessment, treatment, and rehabilitation; (2) psychology-related education and training; and (3) research designed to enhance knowledge of normal and abnormal behavior and clinically relevant practices. Opportunities are available for interns to participate in all three of these areas. Teaching and research affiliations are currently maintained with Tulane University School of Medicine and the Louisiana State University School of Medicine, enhancing the high quality of patient care provided to veterans of these areas. SLVHCS has six outpatient clinics in the 23 parish southeast Louisiana area.

**Training Model and Program Philosophy**

The Psychology Internship Program adheres to the values of the Department of Veterans Affairs, VISN 16, and the Southeast Louisiana Veterans Health Care System in its commitment to excellence in training.
Training is grounded in the scientist-practitioner model. Our program assumes that good practice is always grounded in the science of psychology. In turn, the science of psychology is necessarily influenced by the practice of psychology. Thus, our approach to training encourages clinical practice that is consistent with the current state of scientific knowledge while still acknowledging the complexities of real patients and the limits of our empirical base. In this regard, we aim to produce psychologists who are capable of contributing to the profession by investigating clinically relevant questions through their own clinical research or through program development and evaluation.

The members of the Psychology Training Program have identified six components to our educational model. With all interns, we attempt to ensure that these six components are a part of their training experience.

1. **An emphasis on high quality supervision** that varies with the developmental needs of an intern. On all rotations, a process is followed in which supervisors first assess the skill level of an intern, provide didactic instruction (if required) regarding the skill, model the clinically relevant skill for an intern, and observe the intern employing the skill. Only after completing this process is an intern allowed to employ the skill without direct supervision.

2. **Instruction in empirically-grounded methods of assessment and treatment.** On all rotations, interns are instructed in methods that have received widespread empirical validation. These include structured interview techniques, cognitive-behavioral techniques for treating a broad range of psychological problems, neurocognitive assessment procedures, and proper use of empirically validated psychometric instruments.

3. **A broad range of clinical experiences and didactics** designed to create general clinical skills. All interns are provided with a range of experiences across rotations designed to foster skills in general assessment of psychopathology, consultation and liaison skills, short and long-term therapy skills. Interns are also instructed in general professional issues.

4. **Specialized training in a substantive area chosen by an intern.** Interns may participate in the Traumatic Stress Recovery Program specialty offered at this site or in other rotations. Interns, in collaboration with the training director and their preceptor, may also design a unique set of training experiences that emphasize a trainee’s interests.

5. **Flexibility in designing an individualized internship experience.** Interns, in collaboration with staff members, have the opportunity to create a unique set of rotations that best match their professional interests and goals. These selections are guided by the training needs and goals of each intern rather than the systemic needs of the hospital. Opportunities are provided for interns to create high-quality experiences away from the SLVHCS, if dictated by legitimate training goals, such as working with a population the SLVHCS does not serve.

6. **Exposure to clinically-relevant research.** Opportunities to participate in clinically-relevant research are offered to all interns. These include collaborating with staff on ongoing projects or initiating a project during the internship year. At a minimum, interns are expected to develop a critical appreciation for ways in which clinically-relevant research can inform clinical practice.
Program Goals and Objectives

The purpose of the pre-doctoral internship is to train professional psychologists for independent professional psychology practice in the areas of clinical services, research, and education, particularly in medical center, public sector, and academic settings. This expected outcome is facilitated by the primary goal of ensuring advanced competency in clinical psychology.

Specific skills to be developed
The internship program is structured to provide training activities to facilitate development of advanced competencies in several areas important for the provision of good clinical care, research, and education.

1) Assessment, Diagnosis, and Intervention
Interns will develop competence in psychological evaluation and assessment of adults with a variety of diagnoses, problems, and needs. Interns will develop competence in theories and methods of intervention.

2) Consultation, Supervision, and Teaching
Interns will develop competence in providing consultation, in developing basic knowledge of supervision and possibly providing supervision, and in teaching. Interns will develop competence in educating and supporting other professionals in clinical settings, and may provide consultation to junior practicum trainees.

3) Scholarly Inquiry
Interns will develop competence in a course of scholarly inquiry for purpose of clinical practice, and, if applicable, to scientific literature. Interns will develop competence in applying scientific knowledge in a clinical setting, in being educated consumers of empirical research, and in becoming competent in at least one Evidenced Based Therapies (EBT). Interns may develop skills in participating in a research project.

4) Professional, Ethical, and Legal issues
Interns will demonstrate appropriate ethical and professional standards required for clinical psychologists. Interns will demonstrate professional responsibility and behavior consistent with current professional standards and ethical guidelines. Interns will demonstrate continued growth in professional development and identity.

5) Cultural and Individual Diversity
Interns will demonstrate knowledge of and provide culturally sensitive services (assessment, case conceptualization, and treatment) to the patient population. Interns will have a mature understanding of issues of ethnic, cultural, gender, sexual, and other aspects of diversity. Interns will, independently or with supervision, incorporate this understanding into their clinical work with veterans.

Structure of Internship Training

Administrative Structure
From an administrative standpoint, the program is supervised by the Internship Director of Clinical Training, who oversees and implements intern recruitment and selection, matching of interns to faculty preceptors, and coordination of clinical and research experiences. The Director of Clinical Training is responsible to the Chief of Psychology for productive operation of the training program. Each intern selects a preceptor from available staff psychologists for year-round consultation and support to ensure a balanced range of clinical experiences. The function of the preceptor is to guide
the student in the choice of clinical assignments, to assist in development and implementation of research activities, engage in professional development, and to aid in problem-solving throughout the internship year. Intern and supervisor evaluations are documented sixtimes annually, and written reports are forwarded at least annually to university training directors. The Director of Clinical Training, in concert with the preceptor, insures that internship experiences successfully meet an intern’s training needs.

The Training Year
Graduate students accepted for psychology internship training arrive at the SLVHCS for a full year beginning in July. Incoming interns receive a full orientation during the first two weeks of the training year, including opportunities to meet with staff, review training options, and select a preceptor from among available staff psychologists. A working plan specifying three four-month rotations is developed for each intern during the second full week of the training year. Rotations may be half time rotations or full time rotations. Interns may participate in rotations at community based outpatient clinics as well as in the New Orleans clinics. Rotation options are detailed in following sections of this brochure.

Rotation Selection
Interns electing to complete an Emphasis Area in PTSD will commit the equivalent of up to two full rotations to the specialty area. These rotations include those supervised by Drs. Arseneau, Ball, Cuccurullo, Hamilton, Vigil, and Walton.

In addition to ongoing rotations, interns establish a long term project to be completed followed throughout the year. This may consist of cases that are generated during initial rotation assignments early in the training year, but may also be selected to reflect other training interests or specific case types requested by the intern. Supervision for each long-term case normally will be provided throughout the year by the supervisor initially assigned to the case. In some instances, longer-term group activities may be substituted in part for individual cases. It may also include projects such as assessment or program evaluation.

Research Participation
Interns are encouraged to participate throughout the year in some type of research or educational project associated within an area of interest. Interns may pursue applied or experimental studies by participation in an ongoing staff project or by executing an independent but supervised research effort under the direction of a staff member. Selection and structuring of research projects and/or research collaboration begins during the first month of the internship year, and staff members guide interns in completing their investigative goals by providing necessary assistance in obtaining materials, subjects, and other support. Current VA research resources include an expanded virtual library and computer facilities.

Supervision
Interns receive a minimum of two scheduled hours of individual supervision per week during a full time rotation from the staff psychologist formally assigned to the rotation. In actual practice, the amount of real supervision is typically much greater due to daily supervisor trainee interactions in joint sessions with patients, etc. In total interns receive four hours of supervision per week. Although the specifics of such ongoing supervision experiences will vary depending upon rotation, a relatively high level of routine working contact between staff psychologists and interns is characteristic of all rotation options. The intern cohort also meets for an hour or more each week as a group with the Director of Clinical Training.
**Preceptors**
Each intern chooses a preceptor from our training committee of 11 psychologists for the training year. The preceptor’s role is to help the intern negotiate the internship program, integrate feedback from various supervisors, and plan for post-internship goals. Interns have an average of two hours per month of supervised contact with their preceptor.

**Evaluation**
Formal evaluations of intern performance are completed at the midpoint and end of each rotation. Supervisors complete the General Clinical Competency Assessment Form, providing ratings of the intern’s performance in key areas as well as narrative statements regarding strengths and weaknesses of the trainee or other relevant comments. Interns read and sign these evaluations. These materials become a part of the intern’s permanent file kept by Mental Health Service, which is available to the Training Committee.

If evaluations of an intern indicate that he/she has an educational or skill deficiency that compromises the quality of professional performance, it is the responsibility of the intern’s primary supervisor to discuss the deficiency with the intern, define the problem, and suggest procedures for remediation (e.g., special instruction, experience in a new training setting, etc.). The intern’s preceptor may also be involved in this discussion. If the problem cannot be resolved by the primary supervisor or preceptor, he/she will consult the Director of Clinical Training with the intern. If the difficulty is of a serious nature, the Director of Clinical Training will convene a meeting of the Training Committee to describe, evaluate, and seek resolution for the problem. These procedures will be in accord with established guidelines for confidentiality and protection of the intern’s right of due process.

**Compensation and Benefits**
Interns receive a stipend of $24,014 for 2017-2018 training year, paid biweekly. Interns also are eligible for the full range of health and life insurance options available to all federal employees. As with staff psychologists, professional liability coverage for all mandated intern activity is provided by the Federal Tort Claims Act. Benefits include 10 federal holidays, accrual of the equivalent of 13 vacation days and 13 sick days, approved educational and professional leave, and health insurance. Additionally interns are able to utilize authorized absence for workshops and presentations.

**Training Experiences: Clinical Rotations**
Full and half time rotations may be chosen from among the areas below. The primary clinical supervisor for each rotation is listed, though additional supervision or training experiences may be offered by other doctoral-level psychology supervisors working on that clinical team. Given potential clinic or staffing changes, rotations presented here are typical and representative, but not guaranteed.

**Ambulatory Mental Health (AMH)**
**Supervisor: Shannon Hartley, Ph.D. and Thomas Hallinan, Ph.D.**
Working within the framework of the Ambulatory Mental Health Clinic (AMH), multidisciplinary staff provide comprehensive mental health services to veterans suffering from issues related to anxiety, mood, personality, adjustment, grief, and psychosis. Interns will conduct initial evaluations for veterans seeking treatment, which will develop abilities in case formulation, differential diagnosis, and treatment planning. Interns will administer psychological assessments for diagnostic clarification and treatment planning purposes. Clinical writing skills will be developed throughout
the rotation. Interns will follow short- and long-term therapy cases and participate in group therapy (shadowing or co-facilitating depending on ability level). Attendance at interdisciplinary team meetings and group supervision is also required.

**Health Psychology and Behavioral Medicine**

**Supervisor: Karen Slaton, Ph.D.**

In health psychology and behavioral medicine, interns function as consultants on the psychosocial and behavioral aspects of disease expression, control, and prevention in addition to providing brief, solution-focused behavioral health treatment for adjustment issues and less severe mental illness. With potential involvement among several outpatient clinics, the Southeast Louisiana Veterans Health Care System offers opportunities for applying principles of health psychology and behavioral medicine in primary and specialty health care service delivery. Interns share responsibilities for providing acute and extended treatments for a wide range of emotional and behavioral complications of disease, medical and surgical procedures, hospitalization, and associated family crises. The module encompasses:

- **Primary Care Mental Health Integration**
  - Brief solution focused treatment for depression, anxiety and adjustment issues
  - Health coaching for health promotion and disease prevention utilizing motivational interviewing
  - Treatment of chronic pain in primary care setting
- **Assessment of patients prior to solid organ transplants, interferon treatment, bariatric surgery, and implantation of dorsal column stimulators**
- **Group and individual self-management interventions designed for pain management, weight control and smoking cessation**
- **Assessment and treatment of veterans with chronic illness**
- **Behavioral treatment experiences include:**
  - Cognitive restructuring therapies (pain control, insomnia, adherence)
  - Clinical Hypnosis (pain control)
  - Relaxation training (meditation, yoga)
- **Consultation and interprofessional treatment planning with primary care and specialty medical care providers (palliative care, infectious disease, physical medicine, etc.)**
- **Training emphasis is directed toward functioning within a multidisciplinary medical treatment team in primary care and surgery (anesthesia pain clinic).**

**Community Based Outpatient Clinics**

**Supervisor in LaPlace: Michele Carroll, Psy.D.**

**Supervisor in Slidell: Sheila Corrigan, Ph.D.**

These rotations emphasize development of skills needed to integrate psychological services within interdisciplinary treatment teams in medical contexts. Major components of these rotations include:

- Brief evaluation and treatment of clinical and health psychology problems;
- Triage decision-making to prioritize service delivery; consultation and collaboration with primary care providers for psychological and medical management;
- Psychological assessment, individual and group psychotherapy;
- Referral to specialty mental health programs, and coordination of care with the onsite psychiatrist/mental health staff.

Interns take part in leading empirically based treatment groups on topics such as sleep, pain, mastering emotions, and other chronic medical ailments. On these rotations, interns gain experience working with problems that have psychological origins (mood, anxiety, substance
abuse, sleep, adjustment, and anger management). In addition, interns have the opportunity to develop skills in promoting healthy behaviors (i.e., physical activity) and help patients resolve other medically-related problems (i.e., pain management, treatment adherence, coping with illness, and disease management).

**General PTSD**

**Supervisors:** Michelle Hamilton, Ph.D. & Jacqueline Ball, Ph.D.

Interns in this rotation will work with veterans with PTSD and Subthreshold PTSD related to military service. Students working with Dr. Hamilton will conduct PTSD intake evaluations. Students may opt to receive training in Acceptance and Commitment Therapy with Dr. Hamilton. They may also opt to participate in Mind Body Medicine Skills Groups. Interns will co-lead a module in the Whole Health Trauma, Recovery, and Wellness Program with Dr. Hamilton. Interns on this rotation will also have the opportunity to work with Dr. Ball conducting PTSD intake assessments and compensation and pension evaluations. Additionally, interns can elect to receive training experiences with Dr. Ball in providing evidence-based psychotherapies, including Cognitive Processing Therapy for PTSD and Cognitive Behavioral Therapy for Depression, as well as treatments for trauma-related insomnia (Cognitive Behavioral Therapy for Insomnia), recurrent nightmares (Imagery Rehearsal Therapy), and emotional and interpersonal regulation difficulties (Skills Training in Affective and Interpersonal Regulation).

**Military Sexual Trauma**

**Supervisor:** Lisa-Ann Cuccurullo, Psy.D.

Training experiences are provided in the assessment and treatment of military sexual trauma (MST) in both female and male veterans. This rotation includes intake assessment (clinical interview and psychometric evaluation), individual psychotherapy, and group psychotherapy. In assessment, there is an emphasis on case conceptualization, differential diagnostic formulation, identification of therapeutic targets and the prioritization of these targets for intervention. In treatment, there is an emphasis on Evidence-Based Psychotherapies (EBP’s). Trainees can select instruction in Acceptance and Commitment Therapy (ACT), Dialectical Behavior Therapy (DBT), or Prolonged Exposure (PE). Training in all therapies includes: didactics, readings, and supervised clinical application with veterans.

- **ACT:** Interns are able to co-facilitate an ACT group, have individual ACT patients, and co-facilitate a Mindfulness group.
- **DBT:** Interns are able to conduct individual DBT, conduct DBT program psychological assessments, and co-facilitate a Mindfulness group.
- **PE:** Interns are able to attend a weekly PE consultation group, maintain a caseload of PE patients, and have supervision based on audio tapes of PE sessions.

The intern may wish to engage in other experience such as: scholarly writing and research, ad hoc journal review with supervisor, and learning the Imagery Rehearsal Training for recurrent nightmares and the Clinician Administered PTSD Scale (CAPS).

**OEF/OIF/OND Combat Stress**

**Supervisor:** Julie Arseneau, Ph.D.

Embedded within the PTSD Clinical Team, the OEF/OIF/OND Program provides trainees an opportunity to work with post-9/11 combat veterans along the spectrum of post-deployment and post-trauma reactions. The rotation emphasizes the development of critical skills in the diagnosis and treatment of PTSD, with intervention typically being provided in a time-limited, individual modality. Interns may elect supervised experience using Prolonged Exposure or Cognitive Processing Therapy for PTSD, though a range of therapeutic approaches with demonstrated
effectiveness (e.g., psychodynamic, interpersonal, cognitive, behavioral) is supported and encouraged. Other components of the training experience include attention to the engagement of OEF/OIF/OND veterans, provision of psychoeducation, and enhancement of treatment motivation and participation.

Supplemental experiences vary in availability, and according to trainee interest, skills, and need. These may include: program evaluation and development, scholarly writing projects, participation in multidisciplinary team meetings, and group therapies.

**Psychosocial Rehabilitation (PSR)**

**Supervisor: Baris Konur, Psy.D.**

This rotation will emphasize development of skills needed to provide psychological services to a population with serious mental illness (SMI).

Major components of this rotation include evaluation and treatment of clinical and psychosocial problems both within an outpatient clinical setting and out in the community;

- Collaborate and work hand-in-hand with the Mental Health Intensive Case Management (MHICM) team
- Outreach to Veterans with SMI that are lost to care via the SMI Re-Engage Program
- Collaborate and consult with community providers and other stakeholders
- Provide group psychoeducation as part of the Psychosocial Recovery Program
- Provide education to staff and community stakeholders on SMI, Veteran issues, and other relevant topics

Interns have the opportunity to take part in promoting recovery principles and providing mental health care outside of a traditional outpatient setting. The rotation is highly customizable and allows the intern a large amount of flexibility in what services are provided depending on interests. In addition, interns are provided the opportunity to participate in activities that are outside of what is commonly thought of as "VA psychologist" activities. As this rotation is set within a community based outpatient clinic, interns will also gain experience working with problems that have biopsychosocial origins (mood, anxiety, substance abuse, sleep, adjustment, life stressors, medical conditions, pain, and anger management).

**PTSD & Substance Use**

**Supervisors: Joseph Vigil, Ph.D., Jessica Walton, Ph.D.**

This rotation will provide interns with exposure to integrated treatment of the often co-morbid Posttraumatic Stress Disorder and substance use disorders (PTSD/SUD). Along with providing evidence-based integrated treatment to this population, interns will also serve as members of and consultants to the PTSD team and the Substance Abuse Treatment Program (SATP) and will have the opportunity to work with providers from others disciplines (Psychologists, Psychiatrists, Social Workers, Addiction Therapists, Counselors, and Vocational Rehabilitation workers), usually aiding in the identification of co-morbidity coordination of care, treatment planning, and provision of services.

**Research**

**Supervisor: Laurel Franklin, Ph.D.**

Interns may select a half time rotation in research during their internship year. In addition, interns may select up to six hours of research per week across rotations, as part of their long term hours. The minimum requirement of 500 clinical hours must be met regardless of participation in research.
On the research rotation, emphasis is placed on development and implementation of an advanced curriculum that will promote intern skills and experiences in clinically relevant research. Specifics of the research module may vary widely to reflect the diversity of ongoing research programs and opportunities available at the start of the internship year.

Ongoing projects for 2017 include examination of the diagnostic characteristics of PTSD in *DSM-5*; overlap between symptoms of PTSD with other disorders; investigation of the role of Anxiety Sensitivity in PTSD and anxiety disorders; the role of gender and trauma type in development of PTSD and subthreshold PTSD symptoms; teleconferencing to deliver CBT for Insomnia; and examination of treatment readiness in patients presenting for PTSD treatment. Dr. Franklin also collaborates with clinician-researchers across rotations (e.g., SUD-PTSD, MST, SATP, AMH) to collect program analysis data and inform clinical work within and outside of SLVHCS. In addition, Dr. Franklin and her students have opportunities to collaborate with other VA sites and universities in collaborative projects.

**Sample of Recent Publications:**


**Authored Books:**


**Sample of Manuscripts Under Review:**


**Hurlocker, M.C., Vidaurri, D. N., Cuccurullo, L. J., Maieritsch, K., & Franklin, C.L.** (in revision). Examining the latent structure mechanisms for comorbid posttraumatic stress disorder and major depressive disorder.

**Sample of Recent Presentations at Professional Meetings:**


*Publications or presentations featuring an intern or resident as first-author are represented with an asterisk.

**Sample of Grant Funded Projects:**

Site Principal Investigator: VA Cooperative Study #593. *Comparative Effectiveness Research in Veterans with PTSD (CERV-PTSD).*

Site Principal Investigator: In cooperation with Florida State University. *Perceptual Retraining to Reduce Suicide Risk.*
Principal Investigator: South Central MIRECC Pilot Study Program Award. *Comparing Telemedicine to In Person Delivery of Cognitive Behavioral Therapy for Trauma-Related Insomnia in Rural Veterans.*

**Substance Abuse Treatment Program**  
**Supervisor: Mercedes Carswell, Ph.D.**  
The SLVHCS SATP provides outpatient services for veterans with substance use disorders. The program maintains a 12-Step emphasis but incorporates cognitive-behavioral and motivational principles. Community resources (e.g., AA/NA, Celebrate Recovery) provide additional support. The majority of veterans in SATP meet diagnostic criteria for another psychiatric disorder, including mood disorders, anxiety disorders (particularly PTSD), psychotic disorders, and personality disorders. Therefore, there is a heavy emphasis on dual diagnosis during the rotation. Interns will become a member of a multidisciplinary treatment team consisting of professionals in psychiatry, social work, nursing, and addiction therapy. The primary treatment modality in SATP is group therapy which allows interns an opportunity to co-lead/lead multiple groups including:
- Intensive Outpatient (IOP)
- Motivational enhancement
- Relapse prevention
- Anger management
Interns may also provide individual psychotherapy, conduct psychological assessments, and offer consultation for treatment and discharge planning. Opportunities to assist in ongoing program development are available.

**Additional Training Experiences: available to trainees not as rotations**  
**Neuropsychology**  
**Supervisor: John Mendoza, Ph.D.**  
The SLVHCS neuropsychologist collaborates with other health care professionals in the diagnosis and management of known or suspected neurological syndromes. This includes:
- Providing diagnostic assessments to rule out non-neuropathological factors that might account for, or contribute to, the presenting complaints
- Offer descriptions of cognitive-behavioral impairments associated with brain injury or compromise, define residual assets
- Outline patient management strategies
- Encourage adaptive skills necessary for normal daily living
Interns learn to apply specialized psychological and neuropsychological techniques in the evaluation and management of patients referred by Mental Health, Substance Abuse, Neurology, and Ambulatory Care Clinics. In addition, the SLVHCS is currently engaged in the routine assessment of traumatic brain injury in veterans returning from the Middle East. Standardized neuropsychological tests, mental status examinations, behavioral observation and assessment, and selected experimental procedures are used to define specific behavioral, cognitive, perceptual, and sensorimotor deficits. Following a process-oriented approach, qualitative and hierarchical analyses of test performance and behavioral deficits are emphasized. Formal neuropsychological testing is complemented by traditional psychological assessment, including use of individual and family interviews and objective personality measures to assess emotional and behavioral problems which often accompany brain injury and impact negatively on rehabilitation efforts, self-image, and/or social adjustment. There are opportunities for interns to provide individual and family consultations, and render specialized forms of treatment interventions such as cognitive retraining. Options are also available for applied clinical research in neuropsychology.
**Suicide Prevention**  
**Supervisor:** William Hill, Psy.D.

The Suicide Prevention office works closely with mental health and primary care providers to coordinate care for Veterans deemed high risk for suicide. This includes managing the high risk list to ensure that Veterans are being seen within the high risk protocol guidelines; and consulting with providers on complex cases where suicide risk is a concern. In addition, the Suicide Prevention office accepts crisis calls and responds to consults placed by the National Veterans Crisis Line. Suicide Prevention acts as consultants with hospital management on mental health protocols and procedures related to suicide prevention and investigates reports of patient suicides. Interns will learn from the VA’s nationally recognized “best practices” in suicide prevention, working alongside the suicide prevention staff with veterans determined to be at high risk for suicide. Interns generally will be seeing clients with another provider in the room and this rotation comes with extensive supervision due to the nature of high risk clientele. Interns may also participate in researching and completing a root cause analysis of aggregate patient suicides for VA leadership.

**DAT LAB: Depression, Anxiety, & Trauma-disorders Laboratory**  
**Supervisors:** Laurel Franklin, Ph.D., Jessica Walton, Ph.D., & Lisa-Ann Cuccurullo, Psy.D.

The Depression, Anxiety, & Trauma-disorders Laboratory ("DAT lab") mission is to examine relationships between depressive, anxiety, and trauma related disorders, specifically focusing on DSM-5 diagnostic overlap that may lead to higher rates of co-occurrence or comorbidity of disorders. Through understanding disorders at the structural level, DAT lab participants hope to inform treatment placement, adherence, and success rates.

Interns may participate in many levels in the DAT lab including during a half-time research rotation, as part of their long-term hours, or as part of a clinical rotation. Interns participating in DAT lab are required to maintain clinical hours that will reach the minimum requirement of 500 for successful completion of internship. It is possible that interns conduct their own research projects in DAT lab as part of a clinical rotation and in collaboration with their clinical supervisor. Preceptor concurrence is required prior to participation.

Ongoing projects for 2017-2018 include examination of the diagnostic characteristics of PTSD in DSM-5; overlap between symptoms of PTSD with other disorders; investigation of the role of Anxiety Sensitivity in PTSD and anxiety disorders; the role of gender and trauma type in development of PTSD and subthreshold PTSD symptoms; and examination of treatment readiness in patients presenting for PTSD treatment.

**DAT LAB Recent Publications:**


DAT LAB Manuscripts Under Review:


DAT LAB Recent Presentations at Professional Meetings:


Disorder. Poster accepted for presentation at the annual International Society for Traumatic Stress Studies conference, Dallas, TX.


*Publications or presentations featuring an intern or resident first-author are represented with an asterisk.

**Didactics**

**General Inservice Training:**
Psychology interns are provided an ongoing series of weekly presentations on areas of assessment and treatment interest. Presenters include VA and academically affiliated psychologists and psychiatrists, psychology interns, and fellows. Some of the topics from past didactics include, CBT for Insomnia, Psychotropic medication, CAPS training, Licensure, Board Certification, and
Professional Identity, Somatization, Suicide in the VA community, Private Practice, ACT training, and Attachment Theory. Participation in the in-service component of the internship is required to help maximize intern exposure to the expertise of mental health professionals within the VA and community.

**Presentations:**
Each intern makes a minimum of two presentations during the training year. The focus of the presentations are:
- A clinical scholarship presentation on a research topic
- A presentation on current issues in diversity and multicultural psychology

**Assessment Training:**
The SLVHCS internship believes that psychological assessment is a core competency of the applied psychologist. Our interns participate in a weekly assessment didactic series as a part of the training program. Over the course of the didactic series, interns receive instruction from staff psychologists on the fundamental aspects of psychological testing as well as supervised training in the administration, scoring, interpretation, and presentation of tests commonly utilized by practicing psychologists. Interns are required to complete at least two comprehensive, integrated assessment reports as a part of the assessment didactics. They will present one of these assessment cases as part of the didactic.

**Multicultural Training:**
All interns participate for a minimum of 3-4 months in a weekly seminar course on multiethnic/multicultural psychiatric practice, offered at the Tulane University School of Medicine. This inservice is both for interns from Tulane and from SLVHCS. Topic areas include: Undoing Racism, Diversity in Clinical Practice, Diversity in Research, Working with Diverse Populations, and Becoming Culturally Competent.

**Professional Identity and Development:**
Interns attend 3-4 months of weekly seminars in the area of Professional Identity and Development. These are held in conjunction with the Tulane University School of Medicine Internship program. Examples of topic areas include, CV Preparation, Negotiating Contracts/Business Issues, Academic Mentoring, Supervision, Forensic Assessment, and Developing a Research Career.

**Ethics:**
Interns attend 3-4 months of weekly seminars at the Tulane University School of Medicine in the area of Ethics. Examples of topic areas include, Psychotherapy, Children and Families, Testing and Research, and Legal Cases.

**Additional Didactics:**
Interns are also encouraged to attend lectures, seminars, and case conferences offered by affiliated medical schools and community groups and to participate in annual scientific meetings. During each year, the Training Program also attempts to offer specially scheduled presentations, workshops, and seminars for trainees and staff by nationally known scientist practitioners in psychology and related disciplines.
Requirements for Completion

To maintain good standing in the program and complete the program, the program requires that all interns demonstrate an intermediate to advanced level of professional psychological skills, abilities, proficiencies, competencies, and knowledge in the areas of:

a. Theories and methods of assessment and diagnosis and effective intervention (including empirically supported treatments)

b. Theories and/or methods of consultation, evaluation, and supervision

c. Strategies of scholarly inquiry

d. Issues of cultural and individual diversity relevant to all of the above

This is accomplished by:
1. Demonstrating intermediate to advanced progress in the training competencies.
2. Not be found to have engaged in any significant ethical transgressions

Additionally, interns are expected to complete a minimum of 500 direct clinical service hours, successfully complete all rotation requirements, and successfully complete all requirements of the long-term training hours.

Facility and Training Resources

Currently, interns share a "bull pen" office with a desk, telephone, and computer terminal for each intern. Swing offices are utilized for individual patient sessions. On different rotations and in different clinic settings, interns may change offices. Training settings consist of large and small conference rooms, and group rooms.

Assessment instruments are available as needed including the MMPI-2 RF, PAI, Beck Depression Inventory, etc. Access to the online library is available. Interns may utilize library resources at Tulane University or Louisiana State University Medical Center.

Administrative Policies and Procedures

Problem resolution and complaint procedures to ensure fellows have due process in addressing concerns are available and described in our Psychology Internship Training Manual which interns receive in the beginning of the training year.

Self Disclosure - The Southeast Louisiana Veterans Health Care System's Predoctoral Internship does not require interns to disclose personal information in the context of their training unless the supervisor feels that such personal information is needed in order to evaluate or obtain assistance for a student whose personal problems are preventing the student from performing professional activities competently or whose problems are posing a threat to the student or others.

Our privacy policy is clear: we will collect no personal information about you when you visit our website.

Training Staff

The following psychologists serve as primary supervisors and preceptors of interns. The following brief biographical sketches highlight the qualifications and interests of each faculty member.

Julie Arseneau, Ph.D. Staff Psychologist, PTSD Team; Director of Clinical Training, SLVHCS; Prolonged Exposure National Consultant; Clinical Assistant Professor, Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences, Tulane University School of Medicine. Counseling Psychology, University of Maryland-College Park, 2008. Dr. Arseneau completed her internship training in 2008 at SLVHCS
and was invited on for a post-doctoral fellowship in clinical psychology at our site. She subsequently accepted a position within the PTSD program as the OEF/OIF/OND (Operation Enduring Freedom/Operation Iraqi Freedom/Operation New Dawn) staff psychologist. She is licensed in LA. In addition to her clinical work at SLVHCS, Dr. Arseneau serves as a Prolonged Exposure therapy consultant for the National Center for PTSD. Her clinical practice is heavily influenced by relational theory and feminist-multicultural frameworks. Dr. Arseneau’s other professional interests include disaster-related trauma and acute stress reactions; gender and sexuality; feminist and culturally affirmative therapies; and mentoring. An emigree to New Orleans from The North, Dr. Arseneau spends much of her free time eating, speaking, and dancing like a local.

**Michele N. Carroll, Psy.D.** Staff Psychologist, Mental Health Clinic- St. John Community Outpatient Clinic. Clinical Psychology, Florida Institute of Technology, 1996. Dr. Carroll completed her internship at the University of Alabama at Birmingham Consortium and a post-doctoral fellowship at Spain Rehabilitation (a hospital of the UAB system). She then became the Clinical Director and later the Executive Director of Region One Mental Health Center, a rural community mental health center located in the Mississippi Delta. She was very involved in Mississippi state psychological issues and became the President of the Mississippi Psychological Association in 2007. She returned to Louisiana in 2008 where she is licensed. Her clinical interests include rural mental health, suicide prevention, anxiety disorders, and self-care. In her spare time, Dr. Carroll paints, exercises, and enjoys family and friends.

**Mercedes Carswell, Ph.D.** Staff Psychologist, Substance Abuse Treatment Program. Clinical Psychology and Sport Psychology, Michigan State University, 2008. Dr. Carswell completed her internship at the Missouri Health Sciences Psychology Consortium (Truman VA) and worked in the residential substance abuse treatment program at the Central Texas Veterans Healthcare System prior to joining the SLVHCS staff in 2009. She is licensed in Florida. Her clinical interests include group therapy, assessment, and multicultural psychology. She is also a member of the hospital’s multidisciplinary Palliative Care Team. While her theoretical orientation is primarily cognitive-behavioral, she is open to other case conceptualizations and interventions. In her spare time, Dr. Carswell enjoys traveling and attending many of the festivals and concerts in New Orleans. An avid football fan, you can usually find her watching Florida Gator games on Saturdays and NFL games on Sundays in the fall.

**Lisa-Ann Cuccurullo, Psy.D.** Military Sexual Trauma Coordinator, Staff Psychologist, PTSD Team; Assistant Director of Clinical Training. Clinical Psychology, La Salle University, 2011. Dr. Cuccurullo completed her pre-doctoral internship and her postdoctoral fellowship, with an emphasis on PTSD treatment and research, at SLVHCS. She accepted her position as MST psychologist upon completion of her fellowship. Her clinical and research interests include sexual trauma, exposure based treatments, empirically supported treatments, cognitive behavioral therapies, suicide prevention, and personality disorders. She is a part of the VA Prolonged Exposure Initiative, as a national consultant, and currently is working with Dr. Franklin, as the Sub-Investigator of a VA Cooperative Studies Program project investigating PE and CPT. As a New Orleans transplant from Brooklyn, New York, she is an avid sports fan (Go Yankees!) and spends her time exploring NOLA culture. Dr. Cuccurullo lives on the parade route, during Mardi Gras season she can be found watching the parades and catching beads.

**Laurel Franklin, Ph.D.** Staff Psychologist; Evidence Based Psychotherapy Coordinator; MIRECC Site Leader; Clinical Assistant Professor, Department of Psychiatry and Neurology, Tulane University School of Medicine; Prolonged Exposure National Consultant. Clinical Psychology, Pacific Graduate School of Psychology, 2001. Dr. Franklin completed her psychology internship at the New Orleans VAMC (now SLVHCS) and a research postdoctoral fellowship at Brown
University/Rhode Island Hospital. She currently is licensed in Louisiana. Her professional interests are assessment of posttraumatic reactions; treatment of posttraumatic insomnia; and evidenced based treatments for PTSD. Dr. Franklin is currently the Site Investigator for the Cooperative Study 591, comparing Cognitive Processing Therapy to Prolonged Exposure. Other ongoing research projects include examining the effectiveness of CBT for posttraumatic insomnia delivered by telephone; using Imagery Rehearsal Therapy for posttraumatic nightmares with an olfactory component; examining symptom overlap on the Clinician Administered PTSD Scale for DSM-5; and how perceived readiness for psychotherapy affects outcome in patients with PTSD. Dr. Franklin is a member of the International Society of Traumatic Stress Studies, and is a board member for several peer-reviewed trauma journals. When not at work, Dr. Franklin enjoys keeping up with her five seven year old son. She loves Mardi Gras and parades with the Krewe of Muses.

Michelle Hamilton, Ph.D.  Associate Director of Training for the Psychology Internship Program and Staff Psychologist, PTSD Team, Clinical Associate Professor, Department of Psychiatry and Neurology, Tulane University School of Medicine. Clinical Psychology, University of Southern Mississippi, 1994. Dr. Hamilton completed her pre-doctoral psychology internship at the New Orleans VAMC (now SLVHCS) in 1994 and began employment at the medical center directly after internship. She is licensed in Louisiana. Dr. Hamilton worked for several years on the inpatient psychiatric unit, the outpatient mental health clinic and most recently in the PTSD program. Her interests include using mind body medicine therapies, EMDR, ACT, and other alternative therapies with PTSD. Dr. Hamilton is passionate about everything New Orleans and can be found at various music, food, and art festivals on the weekends. She enjoys photography, travel, home renovation, and riding her scooter.

Shannon Hartley, Ph.D.  Staff Psychologist, Ambulatory Mental Health. Clinical Psychology, University of Alabama at Birmingham, 2006. Dr. Hartley completed internship at the Medical University of Ohio and postdoctoral fellowship in Pediatric Psychology with the University of Louisville School of Medicine and Kosair Children’s Hospital. She then became employed by a private inpatient psychiatric facility in Birmingham, Alabama which served an inner-city population. She conducted psychological evaluations for children, adolescents, and adults. Upon moving to New Orleans, Dr. Hartley joined SLVHCS, conducting intakes for the PTSD program. In December 2013, she joined the Ambulatory Mental Health program. Dr. Hartley is licensed in Alabama. At the VA, Dr. Hartley works with a wide variety of diagnoses and presenting issues, she has a special interest in adjustment to chronic illness. She is also trained in Motivational Enhancement Therapy for Substance Use Disorder and enjoys conducting psychological assessments. Dr. Hartley was born and raised in Metairie, LA and enjoys everything about New Orleans culture, especially the food.

Baris B. Konur, Psy.D.  Local Recovery Coordinator. Clinical Psychology, Regent University, 2005. Prior to completing his doctorate, Dr. Konur completed a one-year clinical internship with Eastern Virginia Medical School in Norfolk, VA with a focus on rehabilitation psychology and clinical neuropsychology within medical and psychiatric settings. Dr. Konur then completed a two year post-doctoral fellowship with the VHA National Center for Organization Development whose mission is to provide organizational assessment and consultation to VHA facilities nationwide. He is licensed in Ohio. These prior experiences have prepared him for his current position as Local Recovery Coordinator for the Southeast Louisiana Veterans Health Care System (SLVHCS). Dr. Konur participates in a variety of functions, including acting as coordinator and Mental Health liaison to the Mental Health Consumer Council, providing consultative services to mental health staff in areas of recovery, collaborating and partnering with community agencies, consulting with primary care staff on serious mental illness, as well as chairing the Disruptive Behavior
Outside of SLVHCS, Dr. Konur enjoys offshore fishing, boating, golf and spending time with his family.

**Karen Slaton, Ph.D.** Health Behavior Coordinator, Team Leader: Primary Care Mental Health Integration, Pain Psychologist: Interdisciplinary Pain Management Program. Clinical Assistant Professor, Departments of Family Medicine and Psychiatry, Tulane University School of Medicine. Counseling Psychology, The University of Southern Mississippi, 2000. Dr. Slaton completed a clinical psychology internship at Tulane University School of Medicine. After internship, she joined the faculty at Tulane in Family Medicine and Psychiatry where she remained until Hurricane Katrina. Prior to joining the New Orleans VA, Dr. Slaton maintained a private practice as the owner of Northshore Psychological Services and the Center for Wellness and Peak Performance. She is licensed in Louisiana. She is certified in Sports and Clinical Hypnosis and is Secretary/Treasurer for the New Orleans Society for Clinical Hypnosis. Dr. Slaton’s professional interests include behavioral medicine, mind-body medicine, health promotion and disease prevention, clinical hypnosis, performance enhancement and chronic pain. She is a fitness enthusiast and is certified by the American College of Sports Medicine as a Health Fitness Specialist. She is also a registered yoga teacher. In her spare time she is a fabric artist and builds homes with Habitat for Humanity. She enjoys live local music, professional football and hiking and kayaking with her husband. The weekends find her in bucolic Abita Springs passing the time with her pets Mathilda and Atticus Finch.

**Joseph O. Vigil, Ph.D.** Staff Psychologist in Substance Abuse, PTSD Team, Adjunct Instructor, Department of Rehabilitation Counseling, Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center. Counseling Psychology, The University of Memphis, 2003. Dr. Vigil completed his pre-doctoral psychology internship at the Central Arkansas Veterans Healthcare System in 2003, and he completed his postdoctoral hours working for a private practice in the New Orleans area in 2005, where he also served as a consultant/expert witness in regional torts. Dr. Vigil holds an additional license in Louisiana as a vocational rehabilitation counselor and specializes in rehabilitation psychology assessment and counseling. He is also a member of the American Psychological Association. When not at work for SLVHCS, Dr. Vigil mostly spends time with his children and family. He also enjoys playing and coaching soccer, as well as personal training, when not actively advancing awareness and research for classic Late Infantile Neuronal Ceroid Lipofuscinosis (or Batten Disease).

**Jessica Walton, Ph.D.** Staff Psychologist, SUD/PTSD Team. Clinical Psychology, Illinois Institute of Technology, College of Psychology 2011. Dr. Walton completed her pre-doctoral psychology internship and postdoctoral fellowship with an emphasis on PTSD treatment and research, at SLVHCS. She accepted the position as SUD/PTSD psychologist upon completion of her postdoctoral fellowship. Her professional interests are evidenced based treatments for PTSD; cognitive behavioral psychotherapy; treatment of posttraumatic insomnia; exposure-based treatments; and clinical research. She is currently a Co-Investigator and study therapist on a research project examining the effectiveness of Prolonged Exposure (PE) delivered via traditional telemedicine and iPhones to veterans diagnosed with PTSD. Dr. Walton is also a member of the International Society of Traumatic Stress Studies. A New Orleans native, Dr. Walton enjoys playing beach volleyball and is an avid New Orleans Saints fan (Who Dat!).

**Trainees**

We currently maintain five intern positions, which may be filled by either Clinical or Counseling Psychology students. Our former interns have gone on to work in VA medical centers, private practices, mental health units in the military, university medical centers, state hospitals, community mental health clinics, counseling centers, and universities. Many of our recent interns have chosen to
pursue postdoctoral training in specialty areas including health psychology, PTSD, and research. Please see last page of brochure for trainee's initial post internship positions.

Below is a list of recent trainee classes and the doctoral programs they attended.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2017-2018</th>
<th>2016-2017</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>University of Southern Mississippi</td>
<td>La Salle University</td>
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<tr>
<td>University of Tennessee-Knoxville</td>
<td>University of Southern Mississippi</td>
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<td>Western Michigan University</td>
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<td>University of Missouri-St. Louis</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>PGSP-Stanford Psy.D. Consortium</td>
<td>Louisiana Tech</td>
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Local Information

The city of New Orleans is a cosmopolitan community. One of the oldest and most fascinating cities in the United States, thousands of visitors enjoy its unique attractions throughout the year. The famous French Quarter has been declared a National Landmark as have other areas of the city, and the beautiful homes of the upper and lower Garden District reflect the genius of the architects who designed them. At Jackson Square, where the French Quarter meets the Mississippi, one can see paddlewheels, ferries and tugboats side by side. New Orleans is famous as a birthplace of jazz music, which is played at a wide variety of venues in the city, and a rich diversity of all musical styles abounds. If one enjoys live theater and the ballet, Le Petit Theatre du Vieux Carre, and the New Orleans City Ballet draw enthusiastic audiences. The Mardi Gras tradition is very much alive, and the beautiful parades preceding the Lenten season are described as the greatest free show on earth. Carnival is soon followed by the French Quarter Festival and the internationally acclaimed Jazz & Heritage Festival. The New Orleans area is known worldwide for its French, Creole and Cajun cuisine, as well as the famous seafood of the Gulf Coast Region. Recreational activities such as university and professional football, e.g., the annual Sugar Bowl is held in New Orleans. In view of the New Orleans SLVHCS, the Louisiana Superdome is the largest enclosed stadium in the world (and how about those Saints?? Who Dat!). For those who love the outdoors, Louisiana is a sportsman’s paradise, with good fishing and hunting, and beautiful Lake Ponchatrain is available for boating. Rental properties of varying types and locations are readily available at moderate rates. A semitropical climate with rare freezes and lush vegetation makes New Orleans an inviting place for the internship year.
**Initial Post-Internship Positions from 2014-2017**

Total number of interns
- 2014-2015: 4
- 2015-2016: 5
- 2016-2017: 5
- Total: 14

Total number of interns who did not seek employment because they returned to their doctoral program/are completing doctoral degree
- 2014-2015: 0
- 2015-2016: 0
- 2016-2017: 0
- Total: 0

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<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Postdoctoral Residency</th>
<th>Employed Position</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Veterans Affairs Medical Center</td>
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<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Military (Navy)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Independent Practice Setting</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Independent Research Institution</td>
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