

Predoctoral Psychology Internship

VA Medical Center

Northport, New York



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The information in this document is provided for staff and interested parties of the Department of Veterans Affairs Northport Medical Center Predoctoral Psychology Internship Program.

Introduction

The Northport VA Medical Center is situated on a large, beautiful campus just outside the seaport village of Northport, Long Island. The location offers the advantages of a suburban setting within easy reach of both New York City and the beaches and vineyards of eastern Long Island. Cultural opportunities abound, not only because of the proximity to New York City, but because of the major universities on Long Island including Stony Brook University, Adelphi University, Hofstra University and Long Island University.

Opened in 1928 as a psychiatric hospital, the VA Medical Center at Northport was converted to a full service Medical Center in 1971. The Northport VAMC provides inpatient medical, surgical, and psychiatric treatment. There are also community living centers that provide nursing home care and residential treatment programs for substance abuse and PTSD. Over 600,000 medical and psychiatric outpatient visits were made last year to the Medical Center and to its Community Based Outpatient Clinics throughout Long Island. The Northport VAMC is accredited by The Joint Commission and is a clinical campus of the School of Medicine at Stony Brook University. Several programs, including programs that are administered by Psychology Service have obtained accreditation from the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF).

The Veteran Population: All veterans who received an Honorable Discharge from the military are eligible to utilize the VA for their mental and physical health needs. Therefore the veteran population represents a full adult age range. Although the patients seen are primarily adult males, the intern will have the opportunity to work with our steadily increasing population of female veterans, as well as spouses of veterans.

The Northport VAMC attracts veterans from throughout the New York City metropolitan area. The Psychology Service Training Program is committed to training interns to work with our culturally diverse population. An emphasis on cultural competence is not limited to the training program. For example, several programs where interns receive training follow a recovery-oriented therapeutic community model. Within these programs, the veterans may be addressing cultural factors amongst themselves in group therapy discussions.

As VAMC staff members, our commitment is to all of the veterans who receive treatment at the Northport VAMC. However, concerns about the veterans from Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan and Operation Iraqi Freedom/Operation New Dawn in Iraq are particularly compelling. All interns receive extensive training, education and experience in providing services to our OEF/OIF/OND population.

The Northport VAMC, along with other VA and non-VA training programs, has joined with the American Psychological Association and the Council of Chairs of Training Councils to express our commitment to the White House Joining Forces Initiative. This is a “national initiative that mobilizes all sectors of society to give our service members and their families the opportunities and support they have earned”.

The Psychology Service: The Psychology Service at the Northport VA Medical Center is an autonomous service headed by a Chief, and includes 21 full-time psychologists and two part-time psychologists. The range of professional activities conducted is exceptionally wide. Generally, psychologists are members of multidisciplinary treatment teams and, in some cases, are directors of treatment programs. Staff members conduct psychological and neuropsychological assessments and provide psychotherapy and behavioral treatments. Psychologists also provide consultation to other health care providers.

Predoctoral Internship: The predoctoral internship, which is fully accredited by the American Psychological Association (APA), has been maintained at the Northport VAMC for over 30 years. Our most recent APA site visit was in 2009. We have funding for three intern positions. The program also provides training for three to five externs each year.

Training Facilities: Interns have private offices, located in the Mental Hygiene Clinic. Depending on the rotation or experience, interns may have access to additional private or shared space on the training site. Interns have personal computers in their offices for access to the medical center patient records, e-mail, Internet, psychological testing, research, and word processing. Our Testing Center maintains and continuously adds to a library of assessment materials. For a variety of tests, computer administration, scoring or interpretation is available. Interns have full access to the medical center library, which coordinates with local libraries and all VA libraries to obtain any requested materials. Literature searches are also provided. Interns with children may also use our on-station, accredited Day Care and Summer Camp.

The Psychology Internship

TRAINING MODEL

The internship program follows the Practitioner-Scientist Model. Within this model, the program focuses on the training needs and interests of the intern. Rather than having a prescribed series of rotations, each intern works with the Training Committee to construct an individualized program that includes both required and elective experiences. To acquaint interns with the Northport VA Medical Center, and to assist them in preparing their schedule of rotations, the first two weeks are devoted to orientation. During this time the interns visit units and programs where staff psychologists are assigned and observe the functioning of the unit. Interns also visit other sites in order to gain information that will be useful to them during the internship year. In addition, seminars and discussions are scheduled to answer questions and to review and explain medical center procedures and forms and patient records. The orientation phase is an extremely valuable part of the internship program. Interns learn about staff members' approaches to clinical work and to supervision, and about the intern's role at various sites. After the orientation period, each intern meets with members of the Training Committee to discuss preferences for training sites and to set up his or her schedule for the year.

TRAINING GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

As the Northport VA is a full service medical center, psychologists participate in a broad range of assessment and treatment modalities. Our objective is to familiarize interns with the many different roles of a medical center psychologist and to ensure that they leave the program with a core of psychological skills, as described in eight general goals of training. Each goal incorporates specific objectives.

Goals:

1. Maintenance of the high ethical and professional standards required for effective functioning in the role of a professional Clinical or Counseling Psychologist
2. Competence in integrating cultural and individual differences into psychological assessment and treatment
3. Proficiency in structured and semi-structured interviewing and diagnostic formulation
4. Proficiency in psychological/neuropsychological testing
5. Competence in treatment planning and provision of psychological interventions
6. Consultation skills for a variety of programs, populations and systems
7. Competence in the delivery of supervision to more junior members of the profession, peers or other mental health providers as appropriate
8. Shows knowledge of and ability to apply current research, different theoretical approaches, evidence based treatment strategies and established practices

Objectives:

- 1. Maintenance of the high ethical and professional standards required for effective functioning in the role of a professional Clinical or Counseling Psychologist**
 - a. Demonstrates awareness of and adherence to the mission and vision of the VAMC
 - b. Is aware of and adheres to VA, APA and HIPAA standards with regard to confidentiality
 - c. Is aware of and adheres to VA and APA standards with regard to professional boundaries
 - d. Demonstrates reliability
 - e. Documentation is timely, appropriate and co-signed
 - f. Communicates important information in a timely and effective manner
 - g. Displays appropriate decision making; recognizes areas of limitation
 - h. Participates professionally in Medical Center or program reviews
- 2. Competence in integrating cultural and individual differences into psychological assessment and treatment**
 - a. Delivery of services based on knowledge of and respect for individual differences.
 - b. Is aware of impact of one's own cultural background and biases upon the delivery of services
 - c. Selects assessments and interventions appropriate to factors that influence client's worldview such as age, ethnicity, gender, religious beliefs, sexual preferences and physical limitations
 - d. Comfortably and openly addresses cultural factors as an integral aspect of providing treatment
- 3. Proficiency in structured and semi-structured interviewing and diagnostic formulation**
 - a. Demonstrates ability to establish rapport and engage the patient
 - b. Effectively obtains information to aid in assessment for level and type of care
 - c. Demonstrates ability to address differential diagnosis
 - d. Performs timely and accurate suicide assessments according to VAMC standards
 - e. Effectively communicates results and recommendations
- 4. Proficiency in psychological/neuropsychological testing**
 - a. Selects a battery of tests that is appropriate to the referral question, client characteristics and setting
 - b. Administers tests according to established procedures
 - c. Scores tests accurately
 - d. Interprets tests accurately
 - e. Writes a report that accurately integrates the data, is internally consistent and clearly addresses the referral question
 - f. Writes report promptly
 - g. When appropriate, presents verbal feedback regarding the results to other professionals and the patient in a manner that is sensitive to the needs of the audience
 - h. Make appropriate and useful treatment and management recommendations
- 5. Competence in treatment planning and provision of psychological interventions**
 - a. Establishes rapport and effectively uses the patient-therapist relationship as a tool for change
 - b. Collaborates with patient to establish individualized, measurable and realistic treatment goals that are regularly reviewed and updated
 - c. Effectively chooses appropriate treatment strategies, that are informed by current best practices and knowledge of evidence-based approaches and are consistent with the treatment goals
 - d. Provides effective crisis management when necessary
 - e. Provides appropriate and timely discharge planning to insure continuity of care
 - f. Effectively solicits and integrates supervisory input
- 6. Consultation skills for a variety of programs, populations and systems**
 - a. Responds in a timely fashion to requests for consultation
 - b. Effectively and efficiently assesses patient needs
 - c. Effectively and efficiently provides treatment and management recommendations and referrals
 - d. Effectively communicates with staff and patient

7. **Competence in the delivery of supervision to more junior members of the profession, peers, or other mental health providers as appropriate**
 - a. Articulates a preliminary model of supervision which identifies the roles and responsibilities of supervisor and supervisee. This model integrates legal, ethical, developmental, and multicultural perspectives
 - b. Demonstrates knowledge of the procedures and practices of supervision such as the need to prepare a supervision contract and assess trainees on therapeutic skills
 - c. Articulates how to use the supervisory relationship as a model during supervision process
 - d. Demonstrates knowledge of supervisory interventions

8. **Shows knowledge of and ability to apply current research, different theoretical approaches, evidence based treatment strategies and established practices**
 - a. Demonstrates ability to access and apply scientific knowledge and skills to professional practice
 - b. Shows knowledge of evidence based treatments for appropriate populations and issues
 - c. Utilizes knowledge of current research, different theoretical approaches, evidence based treatment strategies, and established practices to choose treatment strategies appropriate to patients' individualized needs and preferences
 - d. Routinely evaluates effectiveness of interventions based on measurable criteria

INTERNSHIP COMPLETION REQUIREMENTS

1. Interns must complete 2080 hours, which includes all paid Annual Leave, Sick Leave and Authorized Absence. Authorized Absence can be requested for scheduled activities related to dissertation completion, continuing education related to the mission of the VA and interviews for VA postdoctoral fellowships and employment.

2. Interns must complete four required year-long training experiences and six rotation experiences. The rotation experiences are part-time and interns participate in two during each four-month rotation period. Four of the six rotation experiences are mandatory and two are electives. The required and elective experiences and rotations are listed below.

Required Yearlong Experiences

Mental Hygiene Clinic – minimum of 4 cases (may include one group therapy hour)
 Primary Care (may include Women's Wellness Center) – one morning/week
 Primary Care/Mental Health – 2 hours/week
 OEF/OIF/OND Post Deployment – 2 hours/week

Required Rotations

Psychosocial Rehabilitation and Recovery Center – 10 – 15 hours per week during one rotation
 Neuropsychology and Psychological Testing – 8 hours per week during two rotations (5-10 batteries/rotation)
 Smoking Cessation – one afternoon per week during one rotation

Elective Rotations

Dual Diagnosis Recovery Center
 Geropsychology
 Health Psychology
 PTSD Residential and Outpatient Program
 Substance Abuse Residential Rehabilitation Treatment Program

3. Interns must have **capable** or better performance for all training objectives, according to written evaluations completed by supervisors at the end of each rotation; at the midpoint of each year-long training experience; and at the end of each year-long training experience. If an intern's performance on

an objective is less than **capable** at any point in the internship year, there must be a written plan to address this, with improvement to the **capable** level by the end of the internship year. Intern competency for each objective is rated on a 7 point scale:

1. **Poor** – Undeveloped and well below expected level of performance
2. **Novice** - Undeveloped knowledge. Requires introductory training and close supervisory oversight
3. **Basic** - Shows evidence of emerging skills. Requires consistent supervisory input
4. **Average** - Good knowledge base. Requires consistent supervisory input
5. **Capable** – More advanced knowledge base. Requires intermittent supervision
6. **Competent** – Advanced skills. Requires intermittent supervision
7. **Advanced** – Demonstrates skills typifying those of an independent psychologist practitioner

4. Interns must have **capable** or better performance in psychotherapy and psychological assessment, according to formal scheduled presentations. If an intern's performance on these formal scheduled presentations is less than **capable** for any aspect, there must be a written plan to address this, with improvement to the **capable** level by the end of the internship year.

5. Interns must show ethical and professional behavior.

6. Interns must attend all scheduled activities, including seminars, case conferences and Psychology staff meetings.

Intern Schedules

Interns' schedules are comprised of a combination of required and elective experiences. The set of experiences that are required provides each intern an opportunity for training that encompasses a variety of modalities, settings, and patients. With some exceptions, the required experiences continue throughout the internship year.

The year is also divided into three rotation periods. During each of the three rotations, an intern works in two specialized settings. Of these six settings, interns choose two electives. Therefore, at any one time during the internship year, an intern's time will be split among several different areas.

REQUIRED YEAR-LONG EXPERIENCES

A number of hours each week will be devoted to the required year long experiences which are described below. The number of hours for each one may fluctuate throughout the year.

Mental Hygiene Clinic

Interns are required to maintain a caseload of outpatient cases in the Mental Hygiene Clinic throughout the training year. The Mental Hygiene Clinic (MHC) is an outpatient psychiatric program. The population of patients is varied including the full range of psychopathology and life cycle related issues.

Each intern works with a supervising psychologist in the MHC to select referrals that are likely to be good patients for long-term psychotherapy. Interns conduct intake interviews and individual psychotherapy. Interns may facilitate a therapy group in the MHC as one of their cases. Some experience with marital/family cases may be available, depending upon the types of referrals. Interns receive at least one hour of supervision per week on their cases from the MHC supervisor and can consult with the multidisciplinary treatment team staff if necessary. The supervisors in the MHC have a variety of orientations toward psychotherapy, including cognitive-behavioral and psychodynamic.

Primary Care and Inpatient/Outpatient Consultation

Interns spend one morning a week throughout the training year seeing patients in our three primary care medical clinics. These primary care clinics provide comprehensive outpatient medical services to over 16,000 veterans annually for the full range of acute and chronic medical conditions. The intern works under supervision as an on-site psychological consultant to the medical team. Interns provide health psychology interventions when issues of adjustment to medical conditions or noncompliance with treatment are of concern. Interns provide a) health psychology assessments b) short term therapy (which often include brief health psychology interventions such as stress management, pain management, hypnosis, smoking cessation, weight management, relaxation training, and c) referrals to other mental health services available throughout the medical center.

In addition, psychologists and interns may respond to referrals from the specialty medical-surgical clinics such as neurology, vascular, orthopedics, or general surgery. Similar consultation services are provided to these clinics as in primary care. In all cases, psychologists and interns strive to empower patients to become responsible for their own health outcomes with a view toward prevention.

Interns also respond to consults from the inpatient medical units. This provides interns with the unique opportunity to provide psychological services bedside to a range of acutely medically ill patients.

Interns may choose to include, as part of their Primary Care experience, working in the Women's Wellness Center. Female veterans and other women eligible for treatment at the VAMC may choose to receive their care through this Primary Care Clinic, which provides treatment in an environment that is sensitive to women's particular needs. The psychology intern's role as a consultant is similar to the intern's role in the other primary care clinics; providing the same range of services, including assessment, treatment, consultation and referral. While the services provided are similar, the training experience for the intern will be different, as female veterans often have medical and psychosocial needs that are distinct from those of male veterans.

Primary Care/Mental Health Integration Project

Interns spend two hours each week in our Mental Health/Primary Care Integration Project (PC/MH). The goal of PC/MH is to promptly provide mental health services to veterans who are seeking these services for the first time. One of these hours will be devoted to scheduled patients and one to walk-ins.

OEF/OIF/OND Post-Deployment Readjustment Program

This program is geared to addressing the mental health needs of those returning from the Iraq and Afghanistan war zones. It emphasizes making mental health services accessible to active duty military personnel and to veterans who have recently returned. Interns provide individual therapy and may also conduct psychological assessments or group therapy. As part of this experience, interns learn and practice evidence based treatments for PTSD.

REQUIRED ROTATIONS

The internship year is divided into three rotation periods of approximately four months apiece. During each of these rotations periods, interns will participate in two part-time rotation experiences. Mandatory rotation experiences include the Psychology Testing Center (for two rotations), Psychosocial Rehabilitation and Recovery Center and Smoking Cessation Program. This leaves time for two part-time elective rotation experiences.

Psychosocial Rehabilitation and Recovery Center (PRRC)

The PRRC, a required rotation, is an outpatient program for veterans with mental health disorders. The program is based upon the Recovery Model and is administered by a psychologist. The PRRC provides a structured, supportive environment within which veterans can develop the skills and confidence necessary to live satisfying lives and to function successfully in the community. It empowers veterans to take control of their lives by becoming actively involved in their recovery, in the program itself, and in the outside community. The multidisciplinary treatment team includes staff from Psychology, Social Work, Chaplaincy, Nursing and Vocational Rehabilitation. Peer support technicians are also on the staff and offer a unique perspective for our veterans. Therapeutic activities include primary group therapy (e.g., PTSD group, Mood Disorders group), psycho-educational programs (e.g., Smoking Cessation, Weight Management), skills training groups (e.g., Life Skills, Anger Management), recreation (e.g., golf, bingo), socialization and self-help activities. Veterans are scheduled to attend the program from one to five days per week depending on their needs as assessed by the treatment team. Interns attend community and staff meetings, lead and co-lead groups, and participate fully in treatment planning and implementation.

Neuropsychology and Psychological Testing

Each intern is required to participate in the Neuropsychology and Psychological Testing rotation on a part-time basis for two of the three rotation periods. The intern develops skills in providing consultation to other health care providers and in designing and administering an assessment battery that addresses a specific referral question. The majority of the referrals are for neuropsychological assessment, but the intern will also conduct psychodiagnostic assessments. The intern is supervised in all aspects of the evaluation, including the clinical interview, administration and interpretation of appropriate test batteries, and report writing. This rotation can be designed for interns requiring either basic or advanced training. Interns will also be involved in the assessment of veterans with possible Traumatic Brain Injuries due to their recent military service in Iraq or Afghanistan.

Smoking Cessation Program

Primary Care staff members from Psychology and Medicine, including a psychologist, psychology interns, a physician and medical residents offer an integrated program in Smoking Cessation within the Primary Care clinics. Psychological and medical treatment is offered to all patients interested in quitting smoking. The clinic provides comprehensive assessment, treatment and follow-up support in a group and individual format.

ELECTIVE ROTATIONS

Dual Diagnosis Recovery Center (DDRC)

The Dual Diagnosis Recovery Center is an evidence-based interdisciplinary outpatient treatment program that aims to improve the quality of life for veterans with co-occurring severe and persistent mental illness and active substance use disorders by integrating substance abuse services with traditional mental health care. The core philosophy of the DDRC rests on the principles of bio-psychosocial rehabilitation, combining pharmacological, psychological, educational, and social interventions to assist the veteran to stabilize his/her illness and when possible, to establish a meaningful role in the community. Interventions will be culturally sensitive, dignifying, and respectful of individuality. DDRC therapists endeavor to establish therapeutic relationships with veterans that are free of power struggles, collaborative, draw upon existing strengths, and are focused on instilling hope. Interns participating in the DDRC rotation will be involved in the provision of individual and group psychotherapy services under appropriate supervision.

Geropsychology

Interns may choose the Community Living Centers (Nursing Home Care Units) for one of their part-time elective rotations. The residents of these units present varied medical, physical and psychiatric conditions, including cardiac and respiratory conditions, sequelae of stroke, dementia, schizophrenia, and major depression. The two psychologists assigned to the Community Living Centers (Nursing Home Care Units) conduct cognitive, emotional, and behavioral assessments on newly admitted residents. In addition, they provide individual, group and family therapy as well as ongoing consultation to staff as part of the units' multidisciplinary treatment teams. Two of the units are long-term skilled nursing facilities for veterans with primarily medical diagnoses. One of the five units provides palliative care as well as respite services for homebound veterans. Two of the units are home to aging veterans with psychiatric diagnoses who are medically stable. Interns who select this rotation work with their supervisor to design an experience that matches their interests.

Health Psychology

An elective part-time rotation in health psychology expands upon the required yearlong experiences in Primary Care and PC/MH. During a Health Psychology rotation, interns increase the number of hours spent in the primary care clinic and/or the Women's Wellness Center. The intern focuses on interventions related to health psychology and healthy behaviors, such as pain management or weight management. In addition, interns co-lead Health Psychology groups with a supervising psychologist. Present Health Psychology groups are listed below. New groups are being planned and interns may take a leadership role in their development.

Stress Management

The Stress Management Program is a psychoeducational group which receives referrals from health care providers throughout the Medical Center. Participants learn about stress and related topics, including relationships, healthy choices, and anger. Interns co-facilitate the group.

Diabetes Support Group

Support and information are provided for veterans diagnosed with diabetes.

PTSD Residential and Outpatient Program

The PTSD Program is comprised of an 8 bed 90 Day Residential Rehabilitation Program (PRRP) and an Out-patient After-care program. The program treats veterans with a diagnosis of PTSD who have experienced military-related trauma often accompanied by co-occurring alcohol/substance use disorders. The Residential program provides intensive group and individual psychotherapy and other therapeutic interventions toward development of insight and skills for coping with PTSD symptoms and maintenance of abstinence and sobriety. There is a significant focus on providing evidence-based treatments, such as Cognitive Processing Therapy and Prolonged Exposure Therapy. Interns will have the opportunity to participate in Biopsychosocial assessments, individual psychotherapy, group therapy, co-therapy, treatment planning and consultation with the PTSD treatment team, and may also provide evidence-based individual therapy in the Residential setting.

Substance Abuse Residential Rehabilitation Treatment Program (SARRTP)

The SARRTP is a residential treatment program for substance abusers who require a structured and therapeutic environment. The 30 residents participate in substance abuse treatment, vocational rehabilitation and self-help groups. Interns function as members of a multidisciplinary team, which includes staff from Psychology, Vocational Rehabilitation, Social Work, Nursing and paraprofessionals.

Interns participate in team meetings, community meetings and screening of new residents. Interns co-facilitate groups with psychologists in the program and assume responsibility for facilitating a cognitive-behavioral Anger Management group. Interns also function as primary therapist for one or two program residents. This role includes individual therapy and treatment coordination.

PROGRAMS NOT CURRENTLY PROVIDING TRAINING TO INTERNS

Our Psychology Service has been undergoing a period of expansion, based on the Department of Veterans Affairs commitment to enhancing mental health services. This has been reflected in an increase in the number of different training sites that are offered. However, there are several sites to which psychologists are assigned where we are not currently training interns. This includes areas to which psychology has expanded recently, as well as sites in which the training experience might be redundant with other areas. However, a brief description of these areas is included.

Home-Based Primary Care (HBPC)

The HBPC team provides comprehensive, interdisciplinary primary care services in the homes of veterans with complex and chronic, disabling disease. In addition to doctors and nurses, these veterans also receive visits from social workers, recreational therapists, physical therapists and the team psychologist. The goals of HBPC are to assist the veteran and caregiver to avoid hospitalizations and to prevent premature nursing home placement. The HBPC psychologist functions as the primary mental health provider of the team, providing mental health prevention, assessment, treatment, management and professional consultation services.

Community Based Outpatient Clinics (CBOC)

The CBOC's are smaller clinics designed to provide a full range of services to veterans who may find it difficult to travel to Northport VAMC for their treatment. Psychologists assigned to the CBOC's provide individual and group psychotherapy as well as referrals to programs at the Northport VAMC.

Acute Admissions Units

The Northport VAMC maintains two acute units for psychiatric admissions. The goal of these units is to provide short term intensive treatment to veterans in order to facilitate their return to the community. Each unit is administered by Psychiatry Service and operates on the multidisciplinary team concept.

Polytrauma Support Clinic Team

The Polytrauma Support Clinic Team (PSCT) is a comprehensive, interdisciplinary team focused on treating OEF/OIF/OND veterans identified as having polytrauma or TBI (Traumatic Brain Injury), most often resulting from exposure to blasts or other serious life threatening injury sustained during combat. The team consists of a Rehabilitation Psychiatrist, Psychologist, Neuropsychologist, Physical Therapist, Occupational Therapist, Speech/Language Therapist and a Social Work Case Manager. The PSCT provides comprehensive assessment of needs across disciplines, and then provides treatment as needed, monitoring and evaluating patient progress over time. The Polytrauma Psychologist provides assessment and treatment of veterans most typically presenting with the combination of mild TBI, PTSD and pain, and coordinates this treatment across disciplines.

SUPERVISION

A major strength of this program is its commitment to supervision. Supervision for an experience or rotation is provided by the staff psychologist assigned to the particular program or unit where the intern has been placed. Interns can expect to have at least three supervisors at any one time and, therefore, receive a minimum of three to four hours of individual supervision each week. Interns are provided additional formal and informal supervision as needed. Interns also receive an hour of group supervision each week in the Intern Psychotherapy Case Conference. Interns also attend a weekly meeting to learn and discuss Evidence-Based Treatments for PTSD. The psychology staff at the Northport VA represents diverse theoretical orientations including cognitive-behavioral, psychodynamic, and interpersonal. The psychology staff is committed to providing effective treatment that is respectful of the wishes of the patient.

TRAINING SEMINARS

To integrate clinical and academic knowledge, interns attend training seminars approximately once weekly. These seminars vary in length and are presented by Northport VA staff from both within and outside of the Psychology Service. Interns are also encouraged to attend Continuing Education courses presented to the psychology staff throughout the year. Previous Continuing Education programs have included presentations on EMDR, Motivational Interviewing, and Dialectic Behavior Therapy.

CURRENT TRAINING SEMINARS

Weekly Conferences

Case Conference - Alan Weiss, PhD

Post-Deployment Readjustment Program (OEF/OIF/OND) – Stephen Long, PhD; Melody Millando-Wirtenson, PhD

Primary Care/Mental Health Case Conference – Joanne Taylor, PhD; Alan Weiss, PhD, Mathew Williams, PhD

Bi-weekly Conference

Intern Luncheon - Janet Eschen, PhD, Training Director

Seminars

Suicide Assessment- Nancy Olsen, LCSW, Suicide Prevention Coordinator

Military Culture- Keith Godwin & James Hilaire

Orientation to PC/MH- Mathew Williams, PhD

Psychodiagnostics- Thomas McMath, PhD

Ethics- Amy Tal, PhD

Inpatient Neuropsychology- Bill Cheney, PhD

Vocational Rehabilitation- James Fleischmann, VRS

Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) - Mark Sandberg, PhD

Counter transference/ Transference- Thomas McMath, PhD

Multicultural Aspects of Psychotherapy- Leroy Monroe, PhD

Psychopharmacology- Elsa Mirasol, MD

Military Sexual Trauma (MST) - James Leathem, LCSW

Motivational Interviewing- Mathew Williams, PhD

Neuropsychological Assessment Case Conference- Bill Cheney, PhD

Prolonged Exposure- Mathew Williams, PhD

Group Therapy- Erin Kode, PsyD

Cultural Diversity Case Conference- Heather Juby, PhD

Supervision – Amy Tal, PhD

Psychology of Aging- Amy Scott, PhD and Lauren Flanagan, PsyD

Spirituality & Psychotherapy- Erin Kode, PsyD

Dual Diagnosis- Tracy French, PhD

Pain Management – Michelle Castellano, PhD

Holistic Psychology – Heather Juby, PhD

Yoga for Life – Linda Hacker, E-RYT

Mind Body Modalities – Richelle Rapaport, RN, MSN, CS

Clinical Meditation – Mary Chereskin, RN, MSN

RESEARCH OPPORTUNITIES

Staff psychologists at Northport have collaborated with faculty at major universities in areas of research including personality and neuropsychological assessment, hypertension, learned helplessness and depression, post-traumatic stress disorder, and efficacy of substance abuse treatment programs. Diverse research populations exist at the Medical Center. Several of the staff psychologists are available for consultation or participation in all phases of dissertation and other research. Through the Medical Center Library there is access to the standard professional journals, as well as the capacity for computer searches for the literature. Interns may participate in ongoing research projects or may conduct their own research under staff supervision if they receive approval from the Medical Center Research Committee. SPSS and other statistical packages are available on the PC's housed in the Psychology Testing Center. In addition, upon the approval of the Training Committee, interns may use internship time to conduct their own dissertation research.

PSYCHOLOGY STAFF AND CLINICAL ASSIGNMENTS

MICHELLE CASTELLANO, Ph.D. – Nova Southeastern University

Assignment: Substance Abuse Residential Rehabilitation Treatment Program, PTSD Residential and Outpatient Program

WILLIAM CHENEY, Ph.D. – New School for Social Research

Assignment: Psychology Testing Center, Neuropsychology, Polytrauma Support Clinic Team; Training Committee

JANET ESCHEN, Ph.D. – Fordham University

Assignment: Training Director; Program Director, Substance Abuse Residential Rehabilitation Treatment Program

LAUREN FLANAGAN, Psy.D. – Long Island University, C.W. Post Campus

Assignment: Community Living Centers; Women's Wellness Center

TRACY FRENCH, Ph.D. – Argosy University

Assignment: Dual Diagnosis Recovery Center

DAVID GATELY, Ph.D.– The Ohio State University

Post-Doctoral Certificate in Psychoanalysis and Psychotherapy, Derner Institute of Advanced Psychological Studies, Adelphi University

Assignment: PTSD Residential Rehabilitation Program (PRRP) and PTSD Out-patient After-Care Program

HEATHER JUBY, Ph.D. – Columbia University

Assignment: Home-Based Primary Care, Dementia Care Clinic, Mental Hygiene Clinic

ERIN KODE, PSY.D. – Regent University

Assignment: Substance Abuse Residential Rehabilitation Treatment Program

STEPHEN LONG, Ph.D. – California School of Professional Psychology

Post-Doctoral Certificate in Psychoanalysis and Psychotherapy, Derner Institute of Advanced Psychological Studies, Adelphi University

Assignment: Post-Deployment Readjustment Program, Operation Enduring Freedom/Operation Iraqi Freedom/Operation New Dawn (OEF/OIF/OND); Training Committee

MICHAEL MARINO, Ph.D. – Bowling Green State University

Assignment: Chief, Psychology Service

W. THOMAS MCMATH, Ph.D. – Derner Institute of Advanced Psychological Studies, Adelphi University

Assignment: Mental Hygiene Clinic, Compensation and Pension Examinations

VIVIAN MENDELSON, Ph.D. – Derner Institute of Advanced Psychological Studies, Adelphi University

Assignment: PTSD Residential Rehabilitation Program (PRRP) and PTSD Out-patient After-Care Program

MELODY MILLANDO-WIRTEASON, Ph.D. – Derner Institute of Advanced Psychological Studies, Adelphi University

Assignment: Post-Deployment Readjustment Program, Operation Enduring Freedom/Operation Iraqi Freedom/Operation New Dawn (OEF/OIF/OND)

LEROY MONROE, Ph.D. – Derner Institute of Advanced Psychological Studies, Adelphi University

Assignment: Community Based Outpatient Clinics

MARGARET RAYNE, PSY.D. – Long Island University, C. W. Post Campus

Assignment: Program Director, Psychosocial Rehabilitation and Recovery Center (PRRC); Training Committee

MARK SANDBERG, Ph.D. – University of Miami

Assignment: Psychology Testing Center, Neuropsychology

AMY SCOTT, PSY.D. – Nova Southeastern University

Assignment: Community Living Centers; Community Based Outpatient Clinics

MARC SHULMAN, Ph.D. – Yeshiva University

Assignment: Substance Abuse Residential Rehabilitation Treatment Program, Community Based Outpatient Clinics

AMY TAL, Ph.D. – Fordham University
Assignment: Psychosocial Rehabilitation and Recovery Center (PRRC); Training Committee

JOANNE TAYLOR, Ph.D. – Fairleigh Dickinson University
Assignment: Health Behavior Coordinator

ALAN WEISS, Ph.D. – Derner Institute of Advanced Psychological Studies, Adelphi University
Post-doctoral Certificate in Psychoanalysis and Psychotherapy, Derner Institute of Advanced Psychological Studies, Adelphi University
Assignment: Primary Care/Health Psychology; Training Committee

MAUREEN WELSH, Ph.D. – Derner Institute of Advanced Psychological Studies, Adelphi University
Assignment: Community Living Centers

MATHEW WILLIAMS, Ph.D. – Stony Brook University
Assignment: Mental Health/Primary Care Integration Project

The Northport VA internship is fully accredited by the American Psychological Association. Interns complete a 2080-hour, twelve-month training program from August 26, 2013 to August 22, 2014. The stipend is \$27, 031. Medical benefits and life insurance are available.

APPLICANT REQUIREMENTS

1. Applicant must be a citizen of the United States.
2. Applicant must be a doctoral student in good standing at an APA-accredited program, or respecialization program, in Clinical or Counseling Psychology.
3. Applicant must be approved for internship status by graduate program training director.
4. Applicant must have a minimum of 500 intervention practicum hours.
5. Applicant must have a minimum of 75 assessment practicum hours.
6. Applicant must have written at least four supervised integrated psychological reports for adults.
7. Dissertation proposal must be approved prior to the date of the application.
8. Applicant must have training and career goals that fit with the mission of the training program and the Department of Veterans Affairs.
9. Letters of recommendation must indicate a high quality applicant.

Note: A CERTIFICATION OF REGISTRATION STATUS, CERTIFICATION OF U.S. CITIZENSHIP, and DRUG SCREENING are required to become a VA intern. The Federal Government requires that male applicants to VA positions who were born after 12/31/59 must sign a Pre-appointment Certification Statement for Selective Service Registration before they are employed. All interns will have to complete a Certification of Citizenship in the United States prior to beginning the internship. VA will not consider applications from anyone who is not currently a U.S. citizen. VA conducts drug screening exams on randomly selected personnel as well as new employees. Interns are not required to be tested prior to beginning work, but once on staff they are subject to random selection as are other staff. Interns are also subject to fingerprinting and background checks. **Match result and selection decisions are contingent on passing these screens.**

APPLICATION PROCESS

1. The Northport VAMC uses the AAPI online. No additional materials are requested.
2. Completed applications for admission for the 2013 – 2014 training year must be received by November 15, 2012.
3. The Training Committee attempts to interview as many candidates as possible. All applicants who submit a complete set of application materials will be notified by e-mail of their interview status by December 15, 2012. We do not conduct telephone interviews.

OUR COMPUTER MATCHING CODE NUMBER IS 148111

<p>Office of Program Consultation & Accreditation American Psychological Association 750 First Street, NE Washington, DC 20002-4242 Phone: 202-336-5979 Web: www.apa.org Email: see APA site at www.apa.org/about/contact.html for complete listing</p>	<p>APPIC 10 G Street, NE Suite 440 Washington, DC 20002 Phone: 202-589-0600 Web: www.appic.org Email: appic@aol.com</p>
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Directions to the Northport VA Medical Center

<http://www.northport.va.gov>

Take the Long Island Expressway (I-495) to Exit 53. Follow signs to Sunken Meadow Parkway North (also known as Sagtikos Parkway)

Proceed north on the Sunken Meadow Parkway to Exit SM 5 West. Continue westbound on route 25A for approximately 2 ½ miles until you see the Norwood Plaza on your right.

Take the next left (at the blinking light) which will be Rinaldo Road. At that left, you will see a small sign for the VA Medical Center. The Medical Center is at the juncture of Rinaldo Road and Middleville Road.

Enter the VA. You will be driving through a golf course. At the end of the golf course there is a security booth at which you will need to show picture I.D. At the second STOP sign after the security booth, make a left onto 60's Blvd. You will be passing buildings 61-64. After building 64, keep to the left. You will be passing buildings 89 and 88. You will see on your left, a large parking lot. Park in this lot. Directly across the street from the parking lot is a dead end. Walk into the dead end and building 6 will be directly in front of you. The Psychology Service office is on the second floor of Building 6, room 229.

Street Address:

Northport VA Medical Center
Psychology Service (116B)
Building 6, room 229
79 Middleville Road
Northport, NY 11768-2290

Contact Information:

Phone: 631-261-4400, x2258
E-mail: janet.eschen@va.gov