

RESEARCH MENTORS FOR INTERNS AND FELLOWS

2019 REVISION

**psychology**  
**research**  
psychology  
research



Faculty: [Patty Bamonti, Ph.D.](#), [Kate Hinrichs, Ph.D., ABPP](#), [Lindsey Jacobs, Ph.D., MSPH](#), [Michelle Mlinac, Psy.D., ABPP](#), [Jennifer Moyer, Ph.D., ABPP](#), and [Maggie Murphy, Psy.D., ABPP](#)

Campus: Brockton

Contact: [Patricia.Bamonti@va.gov](mailto:Patricia.Bamonti@va.gov), [Kate.Hinrichs@va.gov](mailto:Kate.Hinrichs@va.gov), [Mary.JacobsDodson2@va.gov](mailto:Mary.JacobsDodson2@va.gov), [Michelle.Mlinac@va.gov](mailto:Michelle.Mlinac@va.gov), [Jennifer.Moye@va.gov](mailto:Jennifer.Moye@va.gov), [Margaret.Murphy2@va.gov](mailto:Margaret.Murphy2@va.gov)

#### Faculty Interests:

Within our geropsychology program, we engage in clinical applied research and program evaluation focusing on improving the quality of care for older patients with complex comorbidities. Our projects range from large-scale grant funded research to small-scale evaluation of clinical interventions. We also engage in research to improve the quality of our training.

#### Current Research Interests/Topics of Study:

- Community Living Center (K Hinrichs): The CLC affords many opportunities for program development and program evaluation, according to trainees' interests. Fellows and Interns may participate in development and evaluation of programs including the Culture Transformation Initiative, Behavior Management Teams, Dementia Care, Hospice and Palliative Care, Caregiver Respite program, or other areas of special interest. There may be additional opportunities to assist with writing up local clinical innovations.
- Home Based Primary Care (M Mlinac, M Murphy, A Schwabenbauer): HBPC Psychologists engage in performance improvement projects related to chronic illness and end-of-life planning, dementia and capacity, integrated mental healthcare/interdisciplinary teams, and implementation of caregiver support programs. Two ongoing projects include: (1) boundaries within the disciplines on interdisciplinary teams and (2) telephone or televideo support group for adult children caregivers.
- Geriatric Mental Health Clinic (L Jacobs, P Bamonti): There are many opportunities for program development and evaluation in the Geriatric Mental Health Clinic. Program development/evaluation and research interests include acceptance and commitment group therapy for older Veterans, brief caregiver interventions focused on behavioral management of dementia-related symptoms and practice of acceptance and compassion in caregiving, measurement of psychological flexibility and mindfulness in older adults, resilience and meaning making, and coping with chronic illnesses.
- Education (J Moyer): Research and program development/evaluation opportunities include: (1) VISN wide geriatric education needs assessment and curricula planning, (2) survey of clinicians, attorney, guardians and geriatricians about decision making for "unbefriended adults," and (3) editorial processes/ improvements for the journal *Clinical Gerontologist*.

#### Potential / Available Research Activities for a Trainee:

- Co-write book chapters or review articles with faculty members, as available.
- Analyze data from program evaluation projects for presentation via a poster or manuscript.

- Analyze and write up archival data for reports or manuscripts from: Cancer Survivorship data set; Yoga data set; Geropsychology training data set.
  - Develop a group or educational outreach program and analyze its feasibility and effectiveness.
  - Write a case study for publication.
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Faculty: **Yelena Bogdanova, Ph.D.**

Campus: Jamaica Plain

Contact: [yelena.bogdanova@va.gov](mailto:yelena.bogdanova@va.gov)

#### Faculty Interests:

Dr. Bogdanova is a Clinical Neuropsychologist and a Clinical Lead at the LED TBI Clinic at the Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation Service, and an Assistant Professor of Psychiatry at Boston University. Dr. Bogdanova's research interests focus on development of multimodal neurorehabilitation program for TBI patients with cognitive and neuropsychiatric issues, and evaluation of the effect of noninvasive brain stimulation on cognition and sleep in chronic TBI. Her current projects include:

- 1) noninvasive brain stimulation (transcranial magnetic stimulation; TMS) to promote recovery in mild TBI, and
- 2) clinical program evaluation of photobiomodulation (LED) treatment for Veterans with chronic TBI and PTSD.

#### Current Research Interests/Topics of Study:

- Transcranial LED application to treat cognitive and neuropsychiatric symptoms in TBI
- Clinical program evaluation for LED Home Treatment for TBI and PTSD
- Noninvasive brain stimulation (TMS) to improve cognition and sleep in mild TBI

#### Potential / Available Research Activities for a Trainee:

- Write an empirical research review paper for submission
  - Analyze and write up archival data
  - Write up a case study for poster / conference presentation
  - Write up a case study for submission to a journal
  - Assist with a systematic literature review
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Faculty: **Michelle Bovin, Ph.D., Brian Marx, Ph.D.**

Campus: Jamaica Plain

Contact: [Michelle.bovin@vagov](mailto:Michelle.bovin@vagov); [brian.marx@va.gov](mailto:brian.marx@va.gov)

#### Faculty Interests:

We are clinical psychologists located in the Behavioral Science Division of the National Center for PTSD. Our interests include trauma, PTSD, and other trauma-related sequelae

(e.g., comorbidity, suicidality, functional impairment). We have several ongoing and archival studies which will provide numerous research opportunities for an intern or fellow

**Current Research Interests/Topics of Study:**

- PTSD and functional impairment
- Patterns of change in PTSD symptoms and suicidality longitudinally
- Screening for PTSD in primary care
- Assessment of trauma and PTSD

**Potential / Available Research Activities for a Trainee:**

- Analyze archival data and submit an article for publication
  - Write an empirical review article for journal submission
  - Write a clinical or professional issues paper for submission
  - Develop and present a research colloquium
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**Faculty:** Christopher (Kit) Brady, Ph.D.

**Campus:** Jamaica Plain

**Contact:** [Christopher.Brady2@va.gov](mailto:Christopher.Brady2@va.gov)

**Faculty Interests:**

Dr. Brady's research examines whether declining health and various disorders (e.g., amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, cardiovascular disease, kidney disease, PTSD in older Veterans) have specific deleterious effects on higher-order frontal system cognitive functions, compared with cognitive functions largely mediated by other brain regions (e.g., memory, visuospatial functions)

**Current Research Interests/Topics of Study:**

- Cognition, behavior and caregiver burden in ALS
- Clinicopathological correlations among antemortem assessments and postmortem neuropathology in persons with ALS or PTSD
- The effects of past trauma on cognitive and psychological functioning in aging veterans
- Longitudinal studies of the effects of aging on cognitive and psychological functioning in the VA Normative Aging Study

**Potential / Available Research Activities for a Trainee:**

- Write theoretical/empirical research review or empirical data-based paper for submission.
  - Write a portion of a grant with a supervisor/other students.
  - Develop a study protocol that would be run in the future.
  - Write a small grant (education, travel support, seed funds).
  - Co-plan study with supervisor and collect pilot data.
  - Develop and present a research colloquium.
  - Analyze and/or write-up archival data.
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Faculty: **Deborah Brief, Ph.D.**

Campus: Jamaica Plain

Contact: [deborah.brief@va.gov](mailto:deborah.brief@va.gov)

Faculty Interests:

Dr. Brief is interested in treatment outcome studies focused on:

- Substance use disorders and PTSD.
- Web and mobile interventions.

Potential / Available Research Activities for a Trainee:

- Write theoretical review paper.
  - Analyze existing data.
  - Write a portion of a grant with a supervisor/other students.
  - Co-plan study with supervisor and collect pilot data.
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Faculty: **Deborah Brief, Ph.D., Monica Roy, Ph.D., Justin Enggasser, Ph.D., Amy Rubin, Ph.D., Marika Solhan, Ph.D., Terence Keane, Ph.D.**

Campus: Jamaica Plain

Contact: [deborah.brief@va.gov](mailto:deborah.brief@va.gov); [monica.roy@va.gov](mailto:monica.roy@va.gov), [justin.enggasser@va.gov](mailto:justin.enggasser@va.gov), [amy.rubin@va.gov](mailto:amy.rubin@va.gov), [marika.solhan@va.gov](mailto:marika.solhan@va.gov), [terry.keane@va.gov](mailto:terry.keane@va.gov)

Faculty Interests:

Our research group is interested in the use of technology to improve delivery and accessibility of evidence-based treatments for SUD and PTSD. Most of our recent work has focused on the research and development of VetChange.org, a web/mobile self-help intervention designed for recent combat returnees with problem drinking and PTSD. Now a publicly available resource, Vetchange.org provides rich data for the study of self-directed change in the context of a web intervention, as well as opportunities to participate in our group's efforts to augment the website through novel uses of technology (e.g., social media).

Current Research Interests/Topics of Study:

- Substance Use Disorders.
- Comorbid PTSD.
- Technology-based treatment delivery.
- Clinical trials.
- Self-directed change.
- Integration of technological based applications with clinical care.

Potential / Available Research Activities for a Trainee:

- Preparation of empirical publications.
- Preparation of invited chapters and literature reviews.
- Attendance at weekly lab meetings/research discussions .
- One-on-one research mentoring.

- Data analysis of existing data bases and development of new studies.
  - Assistance in preparing grants, or writing a portion of a grant with a supervisor.
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Faculty: **Lynn E DeLisi, MD**

Campus: Brockton

Contact: [Lynn\\_DeLisi@hms.harvard.edu](mailto:Lynn_DeLisi@hms.harvard.edu)

Current Research Interests/Topics of Study:

- Marijuana effects in psychiatric disorders.
- Distinguishing schizophrenia from PTSD with psychosis.
- Genetic studies of schizophrenia and Bipolar Disorder.
- Brain imaging in psychiatry.

Potential / Available Research Activities for a Trainee:

- Interviewing families with multiply ill individuals (may take traveling to their homes).
  - CPRS chart review of patients with PTSD with and without psychosis.
  - MRI scanning of patients with PTSD (at JP VA).
  - MRI of patients with Bipolar Disorder—at McLean.
  - Working on an acute inpatient to develop protocol for assessing all patients using research interviews and rating scales and to examine outcome 6-12 months later.
  - Devising one's own hypothesis to test on any topics of my interest (Marijuana, PTSD with psychosis, or genetics).
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Faculty: **Kristin Gregor, Ph.D., Risa Weisberg, Ph.D., Melanie Veilhauer, Ph.D., Shelby Zuckerman, Psy.D., Nora Keenan, Ph.D., Rebecca Ametrano, Ph.D., Colleen Jackson, Ph.D.**

Campus: Jamaica Plain or Brockton

Contact: [kristin.gregor@va.gov](mailto:kristin.gregor@va.gov) or [risa.weisberg@va.gov](mailto:risa.weisberg@va.gov)

Faculty Interests:

Primary Care Behavioral Health Research

Current Research Interests/Topics of Study:

- We are refining and implementing a registry of patients seen by behavioral health providers in primary care. This includes health services information, such as referral processes, number of visits, diagnoses, and treatment methods utilized in sessions; as well as treatment outcome data. Combined with access to medical records, this will create a number of opportunities to study factors influencing the nature and type of primary care behavioral health received, referrals made, and treatment outcome

Potential / Available Research Activities for a Trainee:

- Assist in completion of patient registry
- Present data locally to primary care and/or mental health providers

- Conduct treatment research on primary care behavioral health
  - Prepare posters or papers on this research with our team
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Faculty: **Diana M. Higgins, Ph.D.**

Campus: Jamaica Plain

Contact: [diana.higgins2@va.gov](mailto:diana.higgins2@va.gov)

**Faculty Interests:**

Dr. Higgins has research interests in chronic pain and comorbid overweight/obesity. Her research involves clinical trials for chronic pain conditions using technology (e.g., IVR, smartphone applications, Internet) to increase access to evidence-based interventions for chronic pain. Dr. Higgins also conducts health services research on disparities in chronic pain, including gender differences in painful conditions and the impact of overweight/obesity on access to and outcomes of pain care.

**Current Research Interests/Topics of Study:**

- Technology-delivered pain self-management interventions
- Integrated interventions for pain and overweight/obesity
- Implementation science
- Health-services research focused on chronic pain (using large patient datasets)

**Potential / Available Research Activities for a Trainee:**

- Preparation of empirical publications
  - Abstract submission/conference presentation
  - Participate in the grant-writing process
  - Data analysis of existing databases
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Faculty: **Kate Hinrichs, Ph.D., ABPP, Michelle Mlinac, Psy.D., ABPP, Jennifer Moye, Ph.D., ABPP, Elizabeth Mulligan, Ph.D., ABPP and Maggie Murphy, Psy.D., ABPP**

Campus: Brockton

Contact: [Kate.Hinrichs@va.gov](mailto:Kate.Hinrichs@va.gov), [Michelle.Mlinac@va.gov](mailto:Michelle.Mlinac@va.gov), [Jennifer.Moye@va.gov](mailto:Jennifer.Moye@va.gov), [Elizabeth.Mulligan@va.gov](mailto:Elizabeth.Mulligan@va.gov), [Margaret.Murphy2@va.gov](mailto:Margaret.Murphy2@va.gov)

**Faculty Interests:**

Within our geropsychology program, we engage in clinical applied research and program evaluation focusing on improving the quality of care for older patients with complex comorbidities. Our projects range from large-scale grant funded research to small-scale evaluation of clinical interventions. We also engage in research to improve the quality of our training.

**Current Research Interests/Topics of Study:**

- Cancer survivorship (depression, anxiety, cognition, pain, fatigue, growth, coping).



- Decision making capacity assessment.
- Program evaluation for outpatient group psychotherapy program (e.g., Bereavement, Autobiography, CBT for Insomnia, Chronic Pain).
- Program evaluation for Community Living Center (e.g., Culture Transformation Initiative, Behavior Management Teams, Dementia Care, Hospice and Palliative Care, Caregiver Respite Program).
- Geropsychology training.

Potential / Available Research Activities for a Trainee:

- Co-write book chapters or review articles with faculty members, as available.
  - Analyze data from program evaluation projects for presentation via a poster or manuscript.
  - Analyze and write up archival data for reports or manuscripts from: Cancer Survivorship data set; Yoga data set; Geropsychology training data set.
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Faculty: **Kate L.M. Hinrichs, Ph.D., ABPP**

Campus: Brockton

Contact: [kate.hinrichs@va.gov](mailto:kate.hinrichs@va.gov)

Current Research Interests/Topics of Study:

- special populations in long-term care
- LGBT Aging

Potential / Available Research Activities for a Trainee:

- Program Evaluation or development in the CLC
  - Write-up a case study for submission to a journal
  - Write a clinical or professional issues paper for submission
  - Co-author chapters or other opportunities as they arise
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Faculty: **Sigmund Hough, Ph.D., ABPP**

Campus: West Roxbury

Contact: [Sigmund\\_Hough@hms.harvard.edu](mailto:Sigmund_Hough@hms.harvard.edu)

Faculty Interests:

Dr. Hough is interested in the investigation that involves a broader international lens into the psychological and medical aspects of sexuality and ability/disability in rehabilitation and community settings, as well as, during times of military and non-military service. Additional Interests: Advocacy, Politics, Diversity, Ethics, Cognition - Emotion, Leadership, Palliative Care, and Medical Health - Medical Injury.

Current Research Interests/Topics of Study:

- Professional scholarly mentorship is provided weekly to promote learning and professional development as one moves from trainee/intern/post-doctoral fellow to early career professional. As Editor-in-Chief of an international journal *Sexuality and Disability*,

Springer Publications, a unique perspective and insight into the operational aspects of publishing and the publication process is offered.

- Related to sexuality and disability/ability: issues related to palliative care, long-term care, spouse-partner-significant other in the caregiver role, decision-making capacity, access to education, access to resources, and access to treatment are reviewed.

#### Potential / Available Research Activities for a Trainee:

- Write an empirical research review paper for submission to the international journal *Sexuality and Disability*.
  - Write a clinical issues paper for submission to the international journal *Sexuality and Disability*.
  - Guest Co-Editor for a special topic issue in the international journal *Sexuality and Disability*.
  - Journal Peer-Reviewer
  - Potential projects may include: book review, co-author on a book chapter, conference presentation/poster.
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Faculty: **Katherine M. Iverson, Ph.D.**

Campus: Jamaica Plain

Contact: [Katherine.Iverson@va.gov](mailto:Katherine.Iverson@va.gov)

#### Faculty Interests:

Dr. Iverson's work is in the area of violence against women, with a special focus on intimate partner violence (IPV). Projects available to an intern would depend on the intern's specific interests and goals, as well as the available resources to match these. Available datasets for secondary analyses include variables such as PTSD, traumatic brain injury, interpersonal violence, and revictimization among samples of female veterans.

#### Current Research Interests/Topics of Study:

- Intervention development and evaluation;
- Implementation strategies.

#### Potential / Available Research Activities for a Trainee:

- Write an empirical research paper for submission;
  - Participate in ongoing research studies focused on IPV screening and counseling;
  - Analyze and/or write-up archival data.
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Faculty: **Lindsey Jacobs, Ph.D., MSPH**

Campus: Brockton

Email / Phone Contact: [Mary.JacobsDodson2@va.gov](mailto:Mary.JacobsDodson2@va.gov) 774-826-3725

#### Current Research Interests/Topics of Study:

- Feasibility and effectiveness of acceptance and commitment therapy (individual and group format) and other mindfulness-based interventions in older adults and caregivers

- Interaction and impact of autonomy, resiliency, self-image, and coping with chronic illness in aging
- Measures of psychological flexibility and mindfulness in the older population
- Geropsychology training
- Program development/evaluation of outpatient services in the Geriatric Mental Health Clinic
- Chronic pain in older adults

Potential / Available Research Activities for a Trainee:

- Analyze pre- and post-intervention data from one or more of the psychotherapy groups offered in the Geriatric Mental Health Clinic
  - Co-write a theoretical/empirical review, case study, or quality improvement manuscript for submission to a journal
  - Co-plan a research study and collect pilot data
  - Co-write or assist in writing a portion of a small grant
  - Co-peer review manuscripts from geriatric journals
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Faculty: **Barbara Kamholz, Ph.D., ABPP**

Campus: Jamaica Plain

Contact: [barbara.kamholz2@va.gov](mailto:barbara.kamholz2@va.gov)

Current Research Interests/Topics of Study:

- Program and training evaluation
- Mentorship

Potential / Available Research Activities for a Trainee:

- Writing a review paper for submission to a journal
  - Writing opinion/discussion paper for submission to a journal
  - Reviewing audio recordings of therapy sessions for behavioral coding
  - Analyzing and presenting pre- and post-treatment data from one or more of the psychotherapy groups offered through the General Mental Health Clinic
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Faculty: **Terence M. Keane, Ph.D.**

Campus: Jamaica Plain

Contact: [Terry.keane@va.gov](mailto:Terry.keane@va.gov)

Faculty Interests:

Dr. Keane's interests are in the diagnosis, assessment, and cognitive-behavioral treatment of Posttraumatic Stress Disorder. He is currently working on the creation of a national registry of VA clinical patients who are using VA system for their healthcare. In addition, he is working with the Substance Abuse Clinics to develop an internet treatment program for veterans with combat related PTSD symptoms and alcohol abuse problems.

Current Research Interests/Topics of Study:

- PTSD

- Cognitive Behavioral Treatments
- Psychological Assessment

Potential / Available Research Activities for a Trainee:

- Data Analyses and writing manuscripts.
  - Participate in ongoing studies.
  - Writing Review Papers.
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Faculty: **Amy E. Lawrence, Ph.D.**

Campus: Jamaica Plain

Contact: [amy.lawrence@va.gov](mailto:amy.lawrence@va.gov)

Current Research Interests/Topics of Study:

- Diagnosis/classification of anxiety disorders
- Decision-making impairment
- Program and training evaluation

Potential / Available Research Activities for a Trainee:

- Writing a review paper for submission to a journal
  - Analyzing and writing up archival data for presentation at a conference or submission to a journal
  - Analyzing and presenting pre- and post-treatment data from one or more of the psychotherapy groups offered through the General Mental Health Clinic
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Faculty: **Lewina Lee, Ph.D.**

Campus: Jamaica Plain

Contact: [lewina.lee@va.gov](mailto:lewina.lee@va.gov); [lewina@bu.edu](mailto:lewina@bu.edu)

Faculty Interests:

Dr. Lewina Lee is a geropsychologist with research and clinical interests on the interrelations of stress and health across the lifespan. Her research addresses the role of psychosocial stress exposure on short- and long-term health outcomes, and mechanisms which transmit or alter the effects of stress on health, while adopting a lifespan developmental perspective. Her work relies heavily on the application of contemporary quantitative methods (e.g., longitudinal structural equation modeling, multilevel models, survival analysis, mixture models) to longitudinal data to test hypotheses regarding stress-health associations over age.

Current Research Interests/Topics of Study:

- Evaluating stress exposure and stress response over different time windows as predictors of health outcomes in the context of a longitudinal daily diary study
- Psychosocial antecedents of cardiometabolic risk trajectories over age
- Development of a mobile app to evaluate real-time stress processes

- Examining family- and individual-level patterns of early adversity in relation to later-life health.

#### Potential / Available Research Activities for a Trainee:

- Assist with ongoing data analytic projects (experience with SAS and/or M+ required)
- Develop new projects based on existing data
- Contribute to the development of a mobile app to measure stress processes using an ecological momentary assessment (EMA) approach
- Write an empirical review paper for journal submission

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Faculty: **Brett T. Litz, Ph.D.**

Campus: Jamaica Plain

Contact: [brett.litz@va.gov](mailto:brett.litz@va.gov)

#### Faculty Interests:

I am a clinical psychologist. I am currently the director of the Mental Health Core of MAVERIC and the Assessment Core Director of the Consortium to Alleviate PTSD and the STRONG STAR PTSD Consortium. My research is funded by the Departments of Defense and Veterans Affairs. My lab is comprised of 4 post-docs, a graduate student, and 3 research assistants (my lab also has a dedicated biostatistician). I chiefly conduct clinical trials of service members and veterans with PTSD and other psychological, social, and spiritual problems implicated by exposure to war trauma (e.g., prolonged grief, moral injury) and I am developing a gold standard clinical outcome scale for moral injury. We have a number of comprehensive databases from several very large multi-wave prospective studies and randomized controlled trials of trauma-focused therapies, each with deployed active duty military personnel, which can be mined for presentations and papers. One of our current focus areas is predicting various courses of response to CBT (e.g., relapse, minimal gains) among service members with PTSD, as well as drop-out. The aim is to find ways of personalizing the care of veteran patients with PTSD.

#### Current Research Interests/Topics of Study:

- Multisite trial of Adaptive Disclosure
- Moral Injury Outcome Scale Consortium
- Individualizing treatment selection in PTSD treatment
- Clinical practice research networks

#### Potential / Available Research Activities for a Trainee:

- Analyze and write-up archival data
- Co-write an empirical research review paper for submission
- Co-write a clinical or professional issues paper for submission
- Write small grant (e.g., education, travel support; seed funds)
- Participate in the grant writing process
- Develop and present a research colloquium
- Develop a research question and study protocol

- Collect pilot data for a study
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**Faculty:** Regina McGlinchey Ph.D., William Milberg, Ph.D., Melissa Amick, Ph.D., Laura Grande, Ph.D., Mike Esterman, Ph.D., Joe DeGutis, Ph.D., David Salat, Ph.D., Betsy Leritz, Ph.D., Cate Fortier, Ph.D.

**Campus:** Jamaica Plain

**Contact:** [Regina.McGlinchey@va.gov](mailto:Regina.McGlinchey@va.gov)

**Faculty Interests:**

TRACTS is a Center of Excellence hosted by the VA Boston Healthcare System and funded by the VA Rehabilitation Research and Development Service (VARRDS). The mission of TRACTS is to promote multidisciplinary research that will lead to innovations in the diagnosis and treatment of the complex issues presented by the growing population of veterans who suffer the consequences of mTBI occurring in the context of stress-related emotional disorders. TRACTS provides a unique infrastructure to create synergy between investigators working in a number of scientific disciplines (including clinical neuropsychology; clinical psychology / psychiatry; translational basic science; and brain imaging). The TRACTS data repository which may be accessed for selected research project contains over 2000 behavioral, medical and demographic variables for over 400 prospectively enrolled participants, 150 with longitudinal data). In addition, the repository contains extensive quantitative neuroimaging information and in the near future will also contain data on over 500,000 genetic SNPS. We anticipate numerous opportunities for interns and fellows to develop research interests and skills related to the investigation of the joint effects of TBI and PTSD. TRACTS works closely with the VA Research Neuroimaging Center under the direction of David Salat, Ph.D., which will provide interns with the opportunity to learn about advanced structural and functional neuroimaging methods.

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**Faculty:** William Milberg, Ph.D.; Regina McGlinchey, Ph.D.; Betsy Leritz, Ph.D.; Cate Fortier, Ph.D.; Laura Grande, Ph.D.; Nikki Stricker, Ph.D.; Jessica Foley, Ph.D.; Joe DeGutis, Ph.D.; Mike Esterman, Ph.D.; David Salat, Ph.D.; Kit Brady, Ph.D.; Jim Rudolph, M.D.

**Campus:** Jamaica Plain

**Contact:** [wpm@bu.edu](mailto:wpm@bu.edu)

**Faculty Interests:**

Dr. Milberg and the Geriatric Neuropsychology Lab (GNL) / GRECC team have numerous research opportunities for an intern or fellow that range from literature search help, data entry, analysis, analysis of existing database data, design and implementation of various experiments and studies. These activities all would be available to interested interns and postdocs; however, some roles would require interns to commit time beyond the minimal “protected” time in their regular schedules. The lab has multiple investigators, and many areas of interest to choose from.

#### Current Research Interests/Topics of Study:

- Cerebrovascular Risk and Frontal Function in Elderly African Americans
  - Cerebrovascular Risk and Risk for Dementia
  - Regional white matter integrity in MCI and individuals at-risk for dementia
  - Brief Cognitive Assessment in Various Neuropsychological Populations
  - Vision, Attention in Hemispatial Neglect
  - Treatment of Hemispatial Neglect Using Noise Enhanced Electrical Stimulation
  - Treatment of prosopagnosia and attention using computer-based interventions
  - Aphasia Research Center Database Project
  - Post-Operative Delirium
  - Cerebrovascular Risk and Cognition in the Normative Aging Study
  - Associative Learning (eyeblink classical conditioning) in Alcoholism, Aging, TBI, and PTSD
  - Blast exposure, mild TBI, and PTSD in OEF/OIF Veterans
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Faculty: **Karen S. Mitchell, Ph.D.**

Campus: Jamaica Plain

Contact: [karen.mitchell5@va.gov](mailto:karen.mitchell5@va.gov)

#### Faculty Interests:

Dr. Mitchell is a Clinical Research Psychologist in the Women's Health Sciences Division of the National Center for PTSD and an Assistant Professor of Psychiatry at Boston University.

#### Current Research Interests/Topics of Study:

- Eating disorders in male and female veterans
- Comorbid PTSD and eating disorders/obesity
- Psychiatric genetics of eating disorders and PTSD

#### Potential / Available Research Activities for a Trainee:

- Analyze data and co-author manuscript on disordered eating, food addiction, obesity, emotion regulation, and/or trauma/PTSD in a nationally representative samples of male and female veterans.
  - Analyze data and co-author manuscript on longitudinal associations among eating disorder symptoms and PTSD in veterans.
  - Analyze data and co-author manuscript on eating disorders in middle-aged female veterans.
  - Analyze data and co-author manuscript on network analysis of eating disorder and PTSD symptoms in veterans
  - Explore the impact of trauma-focused treatment on eating disorder symptoms in female veterans.
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Faculty: Michelle Mlinac, Psy.D., ABPP, Maggie Murphy, Psy.D., ABPP and Michele Karel, Ph.D.

Campus: Jamaica Plain or Brockton

Contact: [Michelle.Mlinac@va.gov](mailto:Michelle.Mlinac@va.gov), [Margaret.Murphy2@va.gov](mailto:Margaret.Murphy2@va.gov), [Michele.Karel@va.gov](mailto:Michele.Karel@va.gov)

Faculty Interests:

Drs. Mlinac and Murphy supervise this rotation at VA Boston, while Dr. Karel is the Psychogeriatrics Coordinator for VA Central Office, and serves as coordinator for HBPC MH providers nationwide.

Current Research Interests/Topics of Study:

- Ongoing interdisciplinary performance improvement projects related to integrated mental health and primary care:
- Integrated mental healthcare/interdisciplinary teams.
- Caregiving.
- Chronic illness and end-of-life care planning.
- Dementia and capacity.

Potential / Available Research Activities for a Trainee:

- Help to write a telephone group protocol for adult children caring for a parent with dementia.
- Help develop an educational outreach to local nursing homes to improve their care of veterans with comorbid PTSD and dementia.
- Participate in an interdisciplinary pilot project on care planning for veterans with chronic illness.

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Faculty: DeAnna Mori, Ph.D.; Amy Silberbogen, Ph.D., ABPP, John Otis, Ph.D., Sarah Bankoff, Ph.D., Diana Higgins, Ph.D., Morgan McGillicuddy, Ph.D., and Rebecca Ametrano, Ph.D.

Campus: Jamaica Plain

Contact: [deanna.mori@va.gov](mailto:deanna.mori@va.gov); [amy.silberbogen@va.gov](mailto:amy.silberbogen@va.gov); [john.otis@va.gov](mailto:john.otis@va.gov); [sarah.bankoff@va.gov](mailto:sarah.bankoff@va.gov); [sari.chait@va.gov](mailto:sari.chait@va.gov); [diana.higgins2@va.gov](mailto:diana.higgins2@va.gov)

Current Research Interests/Topics of Study:

- Pulmonary Rehabilitation outcome data
- Weight management and physical activity
- Tele-health interventions
- Mindfulness
- Trauma and comorbid health conditions
- Pre-post comparison for group psychotherapy
- Tai Chi interventions
- Disparities in chronic pain

Potential / Available Research Activities for a Trainee:

- Program evaluation/Patient satisfaction research:



- Weight Management Program
  - Sexual Health Clinic
  - Medical Issues Group
  - Smoking Cessation Program
  - Behavioral Sleep Program
  - Cardiac Rehabilitation Group
  - Whole Health Group
  - Work with interdisciplinary pulmonary team to analyze and write-up data on the pulmonary rehabilitation program (pre-post data).
  - Assume responsibility for a portion of an on-going study
  - Analyze and write up archival data from:
    - Renal data set
    - Living organ donor data set
    - Liver transplant data set
    - Pain assessment dataset
  - Assist with data analyses for TLC-PED (Telephone Linked Care- Promoting Exercise for Diabetes)
  - Grant writing
  - Preparation of empirical or review publications, or conference presentations
  - Collaboration with National Center for PTSD to investigate the efficacy of complimentary and integrative health interventions in the treatment of Gulf War Illnesses and PTSD
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Faculty: **Barbara L. Niles, Ph.D.**

Campus: Jamaica Plain

Contact: [barbara.niles@va.gov](mailto:barbara.niles@va.gov)

**Current Research Interests/Topics of Study:**

- Complementary and Integrative Health interventions (e.g. Tai Chi, mindfulness) in the treatment of post-deployment distress
- Collaboration with Behavioral Medicine with a focus on promotion of wellness behaviors in veterans generally and those with PTSD specifically,
- Longitudinal course and the dynamic interplay of symptoms in chronic PTSD
- Anger Management and Present-Centered group treatments for PTSD.

**Potential / Available Research Activities for a Trainee:**

- Serve as a co-leader for the Wellness group as part of a randomized trial for Gulf War Veterans
- Contribute to data collection, entry, analysis, and write-up of program evaluation in the PTSD clinic
- Plan and conduct a clinical intervention as a single case design
- Write-up a case study for submission to a journal.
- Write an empirical research review paper
- Write a small grant (education, travel support, seed funds)
- Pre-post comparison for group psychotherapy.

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Faculty: **Yael I. Nillni, Ph.D.**

Campus: Jamaica Plain

Contact: [yael.nillni2@va.gov](mailto:yael.nillni2@va.gov)

Faculty Interests:

Dr. Nillni's research focuses on the intersection of trauma, PTSD and comorbid mental health conditions and women's reproductive health. She currently has three ongoing studies. The first study is examining the role of neurobiological and psychosocial factors impacting negative pregnancy outcomes among trauma-exposed pregnant women with and without PTSD. The second study is a large nationwide longitudinal survey of Veterans (oversampled for female Veterans and Veterans living in high crime communities) to examine the impact of trauma and ongoing community violence on mental health, physical health, reproductive health, functioning, and healthcare utilization over time. The third study is a hybrid effectiveness-implementation study which is testing a brief PTSD treatment (Written Exposure Therapy) for pregnant women with comorbid PTSD and SUD engaged in prenatal care within a high risk obstetrical and addiction recovery program.

Current Research Interests/Topics of Study:

- Impact of trauma and mental health on women's reproductive health across their lifespan
- Impact of PTSD on perinatal outcomes
- Impact of sex specific hormones and their underlying neurobiology on PTSD
- Development and refinement of existing interventions to improve their effectiveness for women

Potential / Available Research Activities for a Trainee:

- Secondary data analysis for conference or manuscript submission
- Collaboration on a review or theoretical paper
- Conduct structured clinical interviews using the CAPS and SCID for ongoing study with pregnant women.

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Faculty: **John D. Otis, Ph.D.**

Campus: Jamaica Plain

Contact: [johnotis@bu.edu](mailto:johnotis@bu.edu)

Current Research Interests/Topics of Study:

- CBT for chronic pain management
- Application of the Unified Protocol to chronic pain management
- Development of integrated treatment for pain and PTSD

Potential / Available Research Activities for a Trainee:

- Journal article review
- Write a case study, poster for a conference, review paper

- Analyze existing SR questionnaire database of 200+ veterans with pain and PTSD
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Faculty: **Suzanne Pineles, Ph.D.**

Campus: Jamaica Plain

Contact: [Suzanne.pineles@va.gov](mailto:Suzanne.pineles@va.gov)

Current Research Interests/Topics of Study:

- An electrophysiological predictor of SSRI response
- Influence of sex-related hormones on psychophysiology and neurobiology of PTSD
- PTSD and difficulties with smoking cessation
- Neural and physiological predictors of response to Prolonged Exposure Therapy

Potential / Available Research Activities for a Trainee:

- Write an empirical research review paper for submission
  - Assist with electrophysiological measures and clinical interviews on a study of predictors of SSRI response
  - Assist with psychophysiological measures and Prolonged Exposure on a study of predictors of PE responses
  - Analyze and write up archival data
  - Analyze-only archival data
  - Write a small grant (e.g., education, travel support, seed funds)
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Faculty: **Anica Pless Kaiser, Ph.D.**

Campus: Jamaica Plain

Contact: [anica.plesskaiser@va.gov](mailto:anica.plesskaiser@va.gov)

Faculty Interests:

Understanding the effects of stress and trauma over the lifespan, PTSD symptom course over time, assessment of PTSD and related disorders, development of interventions for older Veterans, and the relationship between PTSD and aging.

Current Research Interests/Topics of Study:

- Aging Veterans with PTSD: Intervention development, implementation, and evaluation
- Assessment of PTSD and related disorders in Veterans and Informants
- Conducting interventions with older Veterans with late-onset stress (LATR)
- Tai Chi and Wellness Education for trauma-exposed older Veterans

Potential / Available Research Activities for a Trainee:

- Participant recruitment
  - Telephone-based assessment of Veterans and Informants
  - Co-facilitation of groups for older Veterans with late-onset stress
  - Co-facilitation of Wellness Education groups
  - Co-authorship of conference presentations or manuscripts
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Faculty: **Jill Panuzio Scott, Ph.D.**

Campus: Jamaica Plain

Contact: [jillian.scott@va.gov](mailto:jillian.scott@va.gov)

Current Research Interests/Topics of Study:

- psychopathology-based risk factors for aggressive behavior
- empirically supported assessment and treatment for veterans with dual diagnoses
- enhancing motivation for and engagement in mental health treatment among returning veterans

Potential / Available Research Activities for a Trainee:

- co-authoring a review paper or clinical case study related to any of the above topics
  - analyzing, presenting, and/or writing up program evaluation data from veterans who have completed CRV intakes
  - co-authoring a paper focused on clinic or professional issues related to OEF/OIF/OND veterans
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Faculty: **Jillian Shipherd, Ph.D.**

Campus: Jamaica Plain

Contact: [Jillian.shipherd@va.gov](mailto:Jillian.shipherd@va.gov)

Current Research Interests/Topics of Study:

- Recovery from trauma, including cognitive facets such as thought suppression.
- The interface of mental and physical recovery and ways to promote adaptive coping.
- The role of gender, including transgender identity.

Potential / Available Research Activities for a Trainee:

- Write up a case study for submission to a journal or presentation at a conference
  - Write a clinical or professional issues paper for submission to a journal or presentation at a conference
  - Plan and conduct analyses with existing datasets
  - Analyze existing datasets and write up results for publication or presentation at a conference
  - Develop and present a research colloquium.
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Faculty: **Denise Sloan, Ph.D.**

Campus: Jamaica Plain

Contact: [denise.sloan@va.gov](mailto:denise.sloan@va.gov)

Faculty Interests:

My area of research concerns efficient treatment approaches for PTSD and methods for increasing treatment engagement. I am currently conducting two randomized controlled trials investigating PTSD treatment approaches. One study is a multi-site randomized controlled trial

examining whether a brief, exposure based treatment is equally effective relative to a first line PTSD treatment (e.g., Prolonged Exposure therapy). I have one additional randomized controlled trial that is being conducted at Ft. Hood with active duty personnel.

#### Potential / Available Research Activities for a Trainee:

- Conducting structured diagnostic assessments for a clinical trial study,
  - Serving as a study therapist,
  - Analyzing archival data and submitting an article for publication based on the findings,
  - Write an empirical review article for journal submission,
  - Write a clinical or professional issues paper for journal submission, develop and present a research colloquium.
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Faculty: **Brian N. Smith, Ph.D**

Campus: Jamaica Plain

Contact: [brian.smith12@va.gov](mailto:brian.smith12@va.gov)

#### Faculty Interests:

Dr. Smith is a Research Psychologist in the Women's Health Sciences Division of the National Center for PTSD and an Assistant Professor of Psychiatry at Boston University School of Medicine. His program of research is focused on examining the effects of traumatic stress and mental health sequelae on health and functioning across life domains (work, family, health-related quality of life), particularly in the context of gender differences and aging. The identification of modifiable risk and resilience factors (e.g., social, behavioral) operating in the wake of trauma and across the life course is a key focus, which includes research examining factors predictive of the post-military health and quality of life of male and female veterans.

#### Current Research Interests/Topics of Study:

- A study of the impact of military and other traumatic stress exposures and mental health sequelae (i.e., PTSD, depression, substance misuse) on later life health and functioning in an epidemiologic cohort of older Vietnam-Era women veterans.
- A longitudinal study examining the effects of deployment stressors and their associated mental health sequelae on post-9/11 male and female veterans' postdeployment quality of life in the domains of work and family (co-PI with Dr. Vogt).
- Longitudinal datasets of military veterans across eras through the Stress, Health, and Aging Research Program (SHARP).

#### Potential / Available Research Activities for a Trainee:

- Secondary analysis of datasets for conference submissions/presentations and manuscript development
  - Development of a new study proposal to be submitted as a small grant or other pilot project.
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Faculty: Avron Spiro, Ph.D., Anica Pless Kaiser, Ph.D., & Eve Davison, Ph.D.

Campus: Jamaica Plain

Contact: [eve.davison@va.gov](mailto:eve.davison@va.gov)

#### Faculty Interests:

Stress, Health, and Aging Research Program (SHARP) studies the effects of exposure to combat and other traumatic or stressful events on mental and physical health in aging veterans from a lifespan developmental perspective. Using this perspective, SHARP seeks to better understand the impact of military service on all Veterans, with the ultimate goal of designing more effective programs for those affected by their service.

#### Current Research Interests/Topics of Study:

- Later-Adulthood Trauma Reengagement (LATR)
- Vietnam Repatriated Prisoner of War Studies (RPW)
- Vietnam-era Women
- Fort Devens/Gulf War Project

#### Potential / Available Research Activities for a Trainee:

- Participant recruitment and telephone screenings
  - Analysis of archival data
    - Co-facilitation of LATR discussion groups with older Veterans
  - Co-authorship of conference presentations or manuscripts
  - Attendance at our twice-monthly SHARP lab meetings
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Faculty: Amy Street, Ph.D.

Campus: Jamaica Plain

Contact: [amy.street@va.gov](mailto:amy.street@va.gov)

#### Current Research Interests/Topics of Study:

- Correlates and consequences of interpersonal victimization, including sexual harassment and sexual assault in military and civilian populations and intimate partner violence
- Gender differences in trauma exposure (including both sexual and combat trauma) and in mental and physical health following trauma exposure
- Understanding the role that earlier traumatic experiences play in increasing an individual's risk for or influencing an individual's response to later traumatic experiences

#### Potential / Available Research Activities for a Trainee:

- Secondary data analysis of existing data sets resulting in a conference presentation or manuscript
  - Collaboration on a theoretical review paper
  - Develop a study protocol that could be run in the future
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Faculty: **Casey T. Taft, Ph.D.**

Campus: Jamaica Plain

Contact: [casey.taft@va.gov](mailto:casey.taft@va.gov)

Faculty Interests:

Dr. Taft's research falls within two main tracks: (1) Examining the etiology of intimate partner violence (IPV) with a particular focus on the role of trauma and PTSD; and (2) Developing, evaluating, and implementing IPV prevention and cessation interventions with military populations and civilians, court-mandated and self-referred.

Current Research Interests/Topics of Study:

- Intimate partner violence in service members/veterans
- Developing and evaluating IPV interventions
- Implementing IPV interventions

Potential / Available Research Activities for a Trainee:

- Data Analyses and writing manuscripts.
  - Participate in ongoing studies.
  - Writing Review Papers.
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Faculty: **David Topor, Ph.D., MS-HPEd.**

Campus: Brockton

Contact: [david.topor@va.gov](mailto:david.topor@va.gov)

Faculty Interests:

Dr. Topor's research interests are to develop, apply, evaluate, and disseminate learning theory and educational practices in health professions education.

Current Research Interests/Topics of Study:

- didactic curriculum development and evaluation
- assessment of learning
- provision of feedback to trainees
- interprofessional faculty development

Potential / Available Research Activities for a Trainee:

- a literature review of educational best practices
- development and assessment of interprofessional faculty development programming
- creation and assessment of a didactic curriculum for one or more health professions training programs
- a theoretical article identifying how psychological theory could be applied in health professions education

- survey of psychology internship and/or fellowship didactic curriculum content across sites

Faculty: ~~Glenn R. Trezza, Ph.D.~~

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Campus: Jamaica Plain

Contact: [glenn.trezza@va.gov](mailto:glenn.trezza@va.gov)

Faculty Interests:

Substance abuse, sex addiction, hoarding, HIV, LGBT issues, diversity and inclusion, spirituality and social class issues.

Current Research Interests/Topics of Study:

- Diversity issues
- Broadening awareness of sex addiction and hoarding issues
- Sexual identity issues
- HIV prevention and treatment
- Stigma reduction

Potential / Available Research Activities for a Trainee:

- Working on a journal article
  - Program development
  - Development of didactic presentations
  - Developing and evaluating community outreach initiatives
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Faculty: **Jennifer Vasterling, Ph.D.**

Campus: Jamaica Plain

Email / Phone Contact: 857-364-6522

Faculty Interests:

Dr. Vasterling is the PI of a long-standing longitudinal cohort study (the Neurocognition Deployment Health Study). Considerable archived longitudinal data related to this study, and its companion study examining outcomes of the family members of cohort members, are available for secondary data analysis.

Current Research Interests/Topics of Study:

- Neuropsychological and information processing correlates of PTSD
- Deployment mental health, including psychological neuropsychological outcomes
- Family outcomes of military deployment and veteran PTSD
- PTSD-TBI co-morbidity

Potential / Available Research Activities for a Trainee:

- Secondary data analysis
- Development of empirical papers
- Grant writing
- Journal peer reviews
- Preparation of literature reviews and/or chapters for publication



- Conference presentations of empirical papers
- Participation in weekly lab meetings

Faculty: **Dawne Vogt, Ph.D.**

Campus: Jamaica Plain

Contact: [dawne.vogt@va.gov](mailto:dawne.vogt@va.gov)

Faculty Interests:

Dr. Vogt is a Research Psychologist in the Women's Health Sciences Division of the National Center for PTSD and Associate Professor of Psychiatry at Boston University School of Medicine Her research focuses on the social determinants of health, with a particular emphasis on the role of stigma in veterans' engagement in mental health treatment, gender differences in the impact of military service on veteran's post-military health and well-being, and the development and validation of measures that can be used to study the impact of stress and trauma exposure on veterans' lives.

Current Research Interests/Topics of Study:

- Study of the impact of deployment stress and mental health on the work- and family-related quality of life of of male and female OEF/OIF Veterans.
- Longitudinal investigation of male and female Veterans' well-being throughout the military-to-civilian transition.
- Study of the role of mental health stigma and other factors related to mental health treatment engagement among male and female OEF/OIF Veterans.

Potential / Available Research Activities for a Trainee:

- Secondary analyses of existing datasets.

Faculty: **Jennifer Schuster Wachen, Ph.D.**

Campus: Jamaica Plain

Email / Phone Contact: [Jennifer.wachen@va.gov](mailto:Jennifer.wachen@va.gov)

Faculty Interests:

Dr. Wachen recently completed two large-scale clinical trials of Cognitive Processing Therapy with active duty military through the STRONG STAR Consortium. There are several large datasets available from these studies, including variables such as military factors, mental and physical health symptoms, and cognitive and emotional measures. Dr. Wachen is currently leading a randomized clinical trial of a massed version of CPT in an active duty sample.

Current Research Interests/Topics of Study:

- Improving the efficacy of empirically supported treatments for PTSD
- Predictors of treatment outcome
- Factors influencing treatment engagement and retention
- The relationship between PTSD and physical health and functioning outcomes

Potential / Available Research Activities for a Trainee:

- Secondary data analysis of existing data sets resulting in a conference presentation or manuscript

- Write a theoretical or review paper
- Write a small grant (e.g., education, travel support, seed funds)

Faculty: **Risa Weisberg, Ph.D.**

Campus: Jamaica Plain and Brockton

Contact: [risa.weisberg@va.gov](mailto:risa.weisberg@va.gov)

Faculty Interests:

Dr. Weisberg is interested in treatment development, outcome, and implementation studies focused on:

- Primary care – behavioral health integration
- Anxiety disorders
- Chronic Pain and Misuse of Opiate Pain Medications
- Cognitive Bias Modification Interventions
- Sexual functioning and reproductive health

She also has interest and experience in naturalistic, longitudinal data.

Current Research Interests/Topics of Study:

- Primary care intervention for chronic pain patients
- Cognitive Bias Modification for anxiety disorders

Potential / Available Research Activities for a Trainee:

- Write theoretical review paper
- Analyze existing data
- Preparation of empirical publications
- Preparation of a poster or oral presentation for a conference
- Write a portion of a grant with a supervisor/other trainees.
- Work to develop your own training grant submission
- Co-plan study with supervisor and collect pilot data.

Faculty: **Erika Wolf, Ph.D. & Mark Miller, Ph.D.**

Campus: Jamaica Plain

Contact: [erika.wolf@va.gov](mailto:erika.wolf@va.gov)

Current Research Interests/Topics of Study:

- Diagnostic classification and assessment
- Latent structure of trauma-related psychopathology, including associations with personality
- Epi/genetics of psychopathology and neuroimaging genetics
- Influence of PTSD on neuro/biology and health outcomes

Potential / Available Research Activities for a Trainee:

- Write an empirical paper using existing data
- Write a theoretical or review paper
- Conduct clinical interviews for on-going research
- Contribute to secondary or reliability coding of existing research data

