SALT LAKE CITY CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGY
POSTDOCTORAL FELLOWSHIP: PTSD TRACK

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LETTER FROM POSTDOCTORAL FELLOWSHIP CO-DIRECTOR

Dear Prospective Applicant:

Thank you for your interest in the Clinical Psychology Postdoctoral Fellowship, PTSD Track, at the George E. Wahlen Department of Veterans Affairs Salt Lake City Health Care System (VASLCHCS). Postdoctoral training can be an exhilarating time as fellows continue their transformation from student to professional. We are excited to help be a part of this process. This brochure will provide you with an understanding of the experiences offered in our program. In addition to describing the clinical rotations, training requirements, and application procedure, these materials describe the overall goal and philosophies of our program and give some sense of the training experience at VASLCHCS.

The VASLCHCS has a long history of clinical psychology training across a variety of training levels. The Psychology Predoctoral Internship has been in operation since 1952 and has been continuously APA accredited since 1979. The Clinical Psychology Postdoctoral Fellowship has been operating since 2007, when the Salt Lake City VA was awarded with two clinical psychology postdoctoral positions to focus on PTSD, polytrauma, and readjustment after deployment with a particular emphasis on working with Iraq and Afghanistan veterans. In 2013, the Fellowship expanded with three more positions for with an emphasis on Integrated Primary Care Health Psychology, consisting of two tracks, Primary Care/Behavioral Health & Health Promotion and Chronic Disease Prevention (HPDP) and Geropsychology within Primary Care/Behavioral Health.

I hope this brochure reflects our enthusiasm for training, with professional development of fellows being our highest priority. It is difficult to communicate character from a brochure; so, please feel free to contact me with any questions about our program.

Sincerely,
Tom Mullin, PhD
Clinical Psychology Postdoctoral Fellowship Co-Director
VA Salt Lake City Healthcare System
Thomas.Mullin2@va.gov

ACCREDITATION STATUS

The Commission on Accreditation of the American Psychological Association accredits the Postdoctoral Psychology Fellowship and an initial full accreditation was granted in 2011. Our next site visit is anticipated during 2018. For information regarding APA accreditation of this or other accredited training programs, please contact:

Commission on Accreditation (CoA)
American Psychological Association
750 First Street, NE
Washington, DC 20002-4242
Phone: (202) 336-5979
FAX: (202) 336-5978
The Clinical Psychology Postdoctoral Fellowship is sponsored by the VA Salt Lake City Health Care System (VASLCHCS) located in Salt Lake City, Utah.

The main facility is located on an 81-acre campus adjacent to the Salt Lake City Veterans Affairs Regional Office and the University of Utah. It is a midsized primary and tertiary care facility with 121 beds providing a full range of patient care services. Comprehensive health care is provided through medicine, surgery, mental health, psychiatry, physical medicine and rehabilitation, neurology, oncology, dentistry, geriatrics, and extended care.

The VASLCHCS is part of VA Network (VISN) 19, which encompasses the largest geographic area in the 48 contiguous states. We serve an area covering the entire state of Utah, the majority of Montana, Wyoming and Colorado, and portions of Idaho, Kansas, Nebraska, Nevada, North Dakota, and Oklahoma. We have eleven Community Clinics (CBOCs) and two Outreach Clinics in remote areas of Utah, Idaho and Nevada.

In terms of demographics, 94% of the veterans served by VASLCHCS are male; 6% are female. Ninety-one percent identify as Euro-American, 5% as Latino, 2% as African-American, less than 1% as Asian American, and less than 1% as Native American. The socioeconomic statuses of the veterans vary widely.

VASLCHCS has a major affiliation with the University of Utah School of Medicine. Over 500 University of Utah residents, interns, and students are trained at the VASLCHCS each year. Additional Special Fellowship programs affiliated with the University of Utah are ongoing in Ambulatory Care and Medical Informatics Training Programs. Currently there are 115 physician resident positions funded at the VASLCHCS.

There are also nursing student affiliations with numerous colleges and universities throughout the United States, including local Intermountain West affiliations with the University of Utah, Brigham Young University and Westminster College. The VASLCHCS has ongoing training programs and affiliations with numerous colleges and university throughout the United States involving our Associated Health Training Program. The associated health training includes dentistry, pharmacy, social work, psychology, occupational and physical rehabilitation, audiology, physician assistant, dietetics, and podiatry training programs. Many of these training programs have been integrated into our Geriatric Research Education and Clinical Center (GRECC).

In 2006, VASLCHCS was designated a Level III Polytrauma Center to respond to the needs of Veterans of the Afghanistan and Iraq conflicts who have experienced multiple traumatic injuries, including TBI and PTSD.

Further information about the VA Salt Lake City Health Care System is available at http://www.saltlakecity.va.gov.

This document may contain links to sites external to Department of Veterans Affairs. VA does not endorse and is not responsible for the content of the external linked websites.
MENTAL HEALTH SERVICE
Although officially designated a General Medical and Surgical facility, the VASLCHCS also provides mental health treatment through a variety of inpatient, residential, and outpatient services and programs. The various programs of the Mental Health Services provide comprehensive mental health care by a multidisciplinary staff including psychiatrists, psychologists, clinical social workers, advanced practice nurses, vocational specialists, addiction therapists, and mental health associates. There are more than 700 admissions per year to the Inpatient Psychiatry Unit. More than 7,000 unique patients per year are seen on an outpatient or consultation basis by Mental Health Services personnel, resulting in over 50,000 patient contacts.

CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGY POSTDOCTORAL FELLOWSHIP
The Clinical Psychology Postdoctoral Fellowship is a full-time, 12-month continuous appointment. Fellows typically work 40 hours per week and complete a total of 2080 hours of training. The usual tour of duty is 8:00 – 4:30PM, although some training experiences may involve a different one (e.g., 12:30PM – 9:00PM) due to scheduled activities on that rotation (e.g., evening therapy groups, weekend post-deployment health assessments, etc.). The parameters of each rotation are explained during the first week of orientation.

TRAINING PHILOSOPHY
The Postdoctoral Fellowship ascribes to the practitioner-scholar model of training. As such, the goal of the internship program is to train psychologists to function in an informed, competent, independent, and ethical manner across a wide range of health care settings. The program’s structure allows for both breadth and depth of clinical experiences, as well as exposure to a variety of intervention approaches and professional issues. Fellows are here for training and professional development, not service delivery; consequently, didactics, training seminars, and any other educational activities take priority in a fellow's schedule.

FELLOWSHIP GOAL AND OBJECTIVES
This clinical psychology postdoctoral fellowship provides advanced interdisciplinary education and training across a variety of settings in outpatient mental health for the purpose of training future psychologists who are capable of providing the next generation of psychological services within Veterans Affairs. Even though this is classified as a general fellowship training, this program emphasizes the assessment and treatment of Posttraumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), Polytrauma associated with Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI), and readjustment problems in Operation Enduring Freedom/Operation Iraqi Freedom/Operation New Dawn (OEF/OIF/OND) veterans. Fellows also gain expertise in the complementary areas of trauma including, combat and military sexual trauma, substance abuse, couple/family therapy, and polytrauma.
FELLOWSHIP GOAL
The fellowship is guided by an overarching goal:

To train clinical psychology postdoctoral fellows to be future psychologists who are especially equipped to work within the Veteran’s Affairs Medical Center in clinical, and leadership roles. Training focuses on working with veterans with posttraumatic stress disorder, polytrauma histories, and readjustment strains post-deployment.

TRAINING OBJECTIVES
Within this goal, there are several training objectives:

1. **ASSESSMENT**
   Fellows understand, select, implement, interpret, and integrate effective methods of assessment in veterans accessing mental and medical care services through the VA Salt Lake City Health Care System.

2. **INTERVENTION**
   Fellows implement effective psychological interventions in group and individual formats for patients with PTSD, readjustment, and polytrauma histories within the framework of interdisciplinary team involvement.

3. **SUPERVISION AND CONSULTATION**
   Fellows develop and deepen their skills in receiving and giving supervision, and consultation. This is demonstrated by understanding and delivery of effective supervision and providing consultative services as needed.

4. **SCHOLARLY INQUIRY**
   Fellows demonstrate an ability to access and understand research with an emphasis on integrating science and practice for patients with PTSD, readjustment, and polytrauma histories. Fellows also share their knowledge by conducting professional presentations for psychologist, lay audiences, and other members of the healthcare community.

5. **ADMINISTRATIVE ABILITIES**
   Fellows demonstrate understanding of the organization and mission of psychology within Veterans Affairs. They further exhibit organization, management, and administration skills pertinent to psychological service delivery, training, and research.

6. **INDIVIDUAL AND CULTURAL DIVERSITY**
   Fellows demonstrate awareness, sensitivity, and skills in working professionally with diverse individuals, groups and communities who represent various cultural and personal background and characteristics defined broadly and consistent with APA policy.

7. **PROFESSIONALISM**
   Fellows demonstrate awareness of their identity as developing psychologists to include professional deportment, self-regulation, integrity, accountability, and adherence to professional conduct, ethics and law, and other standards for providers of psychological services.
FELLOWSHIP TRAINING EXPERIENCES

Postdoctoral fellows are active members of several interdisciplinary treatment teams:

1. The PTSD Clinical Team through the Outpatient Mental Health
2. The Polytrauma Team through the Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation Department and the Caregiver Program

Fellows also provide community outreach to returning veterans from Afghanistan (Operation Enduring Freedom; OEF) and Iraq (Operation Iraqi Freedom; OIF and Operation New Dawn; OND). Especially relevant to the VA Mental Health Strategic Plan, psychological services are provided within the complementary areas of emotional trauma (e.g., military combat, military sexual trauma), physical trauma (e.g., TBI, orthopedic injuries), substance abuse, and couples/family discord, primarily within the OEF/OIF/OND veteran population.

PTSD CLINICAL TEAM (PCT)

As a member of the of one of the largest PTSD Clinical Teams in the country, you will provide assessment and treatment to veterans with military-related PTSD. Sources of PTSD are primarily combat-related, but may also include military sexual trauma or other traumatic events occurring during military service. Goals for trainees at the completion of their postdoctoral fellowship are to have developed competency and expertise in the assessment of military related PTSD, to become familiar with dynamics of PTSD, and to institute evidence-based treatments in individual and group settings.

Fellows gain expertise in diagnostic interviewing and administering the Clinician Administered PTSD-Scale (CAPS) to assess for PTSD and other comorbid disorders. They will be exposed to and deliver evidence-based psychotherapy using a combination of treatment approaches, including Cognitive Processing Therapy (CPT), Prolonged Exposure (PE), and Acceptance and Commitment Therapy (ACT). There are also opportunities for providing PTSD process/integration treatments, including process-oriented psychotherapy, brief manualized treatment, and psychoeducational interventions.

ROLES/RESPONSIBILITIES:

1. Assessment: Fellows will conduct 2-3 assessments through PTSD Open Intake Clinic every week. Fellows also have an opportunity to move on to secondary level assessments based on this open intake clinic.
2. Individual Psychotherapy: You will be assigned a caseload of 4-5 veterans participating PE or CPT.
3. Group Psychotherapy: Each fellow will be involved several therapy groups over the training year.
4. Community Outreach: Fellows will work closely with other members of the PCT by offering services to returning military personnel, sharing resources with the local community, and providing specific education/training about PTSD.
5. PTSD Clinical Team Meeting: Fellows will attend this weekly team meeting.
6. Supervision/Training: Fellows will receive a weekly minimum of one hour of individual supervision from the PCT faculty, along with formal learning activities, and group supervision/consultation regarding EBTs.

POLYTRAUMA TEAM

The VA Salt Lake City Health Care System is a Level III Polytrauma Support Clinic Site that provides outpatient assessment and treatment services to returning OEF/OIF/OND service members and veterans with Polytrauma and Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI).

Fellows are members of the Polytrauma treatment team. This interdisciplinary rehabilitation team includes members from Medicine, Nursing, Physical Therapy, Occupational Therapy, Speech and Language Pathology, Social Work, and Psychology. The team works together to evaluate and treat patients with complicated physical and
psychological presentations. Fellows assist in evaluating and treating OIF/OEF/OND veterans with possible brain injury and other co-morbid physical injuries and psychological concerns.

Fellows also gain understanding and knowledge about TBI and the associated physical, cognitive, behavioral, and emotional sequelae through individualized training and supervision. These experiences aim to expose you to patients with challenging neuropsychiatric presentations in a variety of evaluative and therapeutic settings.

**Roles/Responsibilities:**

1. Polytrauma Clinic: Fellows participate in this interdisciplinary rehabilitation clinic, held on a weekly basis.
2. Individual and Group Psychotherapy: Fellows are provided the opportunity to work with Veterans with polytrauma issues.
3. Colleague Education: Educating other mental health providers about mild traumatic brain injury
4. Community Outreach: Fellows work closely with other members of the Polytrauma team by offering services to returning military personnel, sharing resources with the local community, and providing specific education/training about Polytrauma and mTBI. These experiences may include participating in social gatherings for patients and their families, speaking at local conferences, providing formal education to community members.
5. Community Consultation: This includes with employers and academic institutions to set up appropriate accommodations to facilitate best possible functioning

**Postdoctoral Fellow Didactics**

Several hours each month are designated for attendance at required didactic activities. Attendance and participation in these activities takes precedence over service delivery activities or other meetings.

**Polytrauma Team Didactic Series**

Fellows are provided with a formal overview of the Polytrauma System of Care and services available at our VA. These are discussions and training about the veteran patient population with respect with Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) and other polytrauma injuries. There is also detailed training on diagnosis and expected recovery following mild TBI (mTBI). Supervisors will also review the role that Rehabilitation Psychology and Neuropsychology has had with regard to adjustment and recovery from brain injury. Finally, this training exposes fellows to the most recent research on OEF/OIF/OND veterans with TBI. Over the course of the postdoctoral year, fellows are encouraged to attend monthly TBI Grand Rounds and spend one afternoon per month in a specialty clinic (i.e., radiology, neurology, epilepsy clinic, sleep clinic).

**Evidence-Based Treatment Didactic Series**

In 2001, the New Freedom Commission on Mental Health study indicated that the nationwide system of delivering mental health services needed to be "transformed." One of the recommendations from the commission was facilitating "knowledge about evidence-based practices (the range of treatments and services of well-documented effectiveness), as well as emerging best practices (treatments and services with a promising but less thoroughly documented evidentiary base." In response, the VA developed a strategic plan for transforming mental health care that lead to the Uniform Mental Health Services Handbook (Department of Veterans Affairs, 2008) and several initiatives to train clinicians in Evidence Based Psychotherapies. Current initiatives include:

- Prolonged Exposure (PE) for PTSD
- Cognitive Processing Therapy (CPT) for PTSD
- Acceptance and Commitment Therapy (ACT) for depression
Early in the training year, fellows receive formal training in PE and CPT. Over the course of the training year, fellows participate in ongoing training, individual supervision, and group consultation in one or more of these EBTs.

**Psychology Seminar Series**
This seminar series is designed for the predoctoral interns at the Salt Lake VA and is conducted by psychology staff members, other disciplines from the medical center, and community professionals. Fellows are welcome to attend these as their training interests develop.

**Professional Development**
Fellows develop presentation and teaching skills by preparing and delivering seminars to predoctoral Psychology Interns. Fellows will prepare and deliver at least one independent seminar for the Psychology Seminar Series. Fellows are encouraged to review the topics that have been presented in the past, and to offer training that will contribute meaningfully to the series. For example, fellows may wish to share expertise about a clinical topic, offer training that addresses "gaps" in the current schedule, and/or ask our current interns for topic suggestions. Feel free to consult with Dr. Mullin and Dr. Turley for other suggestions. These presentations are scheduled for the spring or summer of the training year.

**Postdoctoral Fellowship Project**
Over the course of your training year, fellows develop and present a yearlong Postdoctoral Fellowship Project. This project should exemplify the use of the Practitioner-Scholar model of psychology and be based on a clinical topic about which you are interested in learning more. Please select a specific supervisor-mentor for the project and ensure that the project meets the following goals/objectives:

- Is based on research
- Increases your knowledge and expertise in a topic of interest
- Advances the understanding of the needs/problems facing veterans
- Contributes to the knowledge-base and/or improves clinical practice in the PTSD Clinical Team, Polytrauma Team, OEF/OIF/OND Primary Care Clinic
- Provides you with a foundation and/or skill set that will increase your opportunities for VA employment.

Fellows are responsible for delivering a formal presentation of this project to the Psychology Staff, fellows, and psychology interns. Written evaluations of the presentation are based on Professional Competency development, as well as these goals/objectives, and will be completed by the audience following the presentation. Evaluations will be given to Dr. Mullin, who will discuss feedback with the fellow; copies of all evaluations will also be included in the fellow's training file.

Fellows should be considering topics for the fellowship project early in the training year and have a solid idea of their project within three months after starting the fellowship.

**Psychology Intern Presentation Series**
Over the course of the training year, predoctoral interns conduct two formal presentations, one of which is based on an interesting, complicated, and/or intriguing case, and the other of which is focused on a clinical topic of interest. Fellows are required to participate in this series as professional colleagues.
RESEARCH
Some fellows are interested in conducting research during the course of the postdoctoral year. Although the primary focus of our training program is the development of applied skills, fellows may have the opportunity to participate in ongoing clinical research activities and to develop their own research interests.

LEADERSHIP
Fellows have various opportunities to gain leadership and administrative experience. There are a variety of ways that fellows can be involved in these kind of experiences throughout the year. Some of the ways that fellows have participated in the past have included:

- Attending and participating in mental health supervisor's meetings
- Participating in weekly OEF/OIF/OND meetings
- Delivering presentations to community organizations (i.e., schools, military organizations, local conferences).
- Playing a role in Utah State legislative projects for veterans and their families.
- Participating in the Crisis Intervention Training (CIT) for law enforcement officers regarding the nature of PTSD and how to react to a person who may be displaying PTSD symptoms.
- Offering treatment to veterans in offsite locations, such as the Draper National Guard, Hill Air Force Base, and/or Salt Lake Community College.

OUTREACH OPPORTUNITIES
In the Utah valley, there are bases for the Utah National Guard, Army Reserves, Marine Reserves, Navy Reserves, and the Air Force. The goal of OEF/OIF/OND outreach is to establish a good relationship with all of these branches. By far, the largest branch is the Utah National Guard. The PTSD Clinic works closely with them and regularly provides psychoeducational presentations, assessments, consultations, and direct clinical contact. This relationship is valuable for reaching veterans who are having difficulty but are unsure of the resources available to them. One component of interaction is in conducting Post-Deployment Health Re-Assessments (PDHRA) over the Salt Lake City VA’s large geographical catchment area. VA clinicians often have multiple opportunities to interact one-on-one with service members in a "check-in" style of interaction during official National Guard trainings and activities. This allows Guardsmen and women to become familiar with VA staff and make them more approachable if needed in the future.

Over the course of the training, postdoctoral fellows develop competency in the assessment of military-related PTSD, facilitating PTSD groups, instituting PTSD interventions, and in delivering outreach to veterans. Fellows gain expertise in multiple methods of PTSD assessments from informal screenings to formal assessments utilizing the Clinician Administered PTSD Scale (CAPS-5). They also have exposure to Evidence-Based Treatments (e.g., Prolonged Exposure, Cognitive Processing Therapy, and Acceptance and Commitment Therapy) in both individual and group settings. Postdoctoral fellows have an opportunity to facilitate a variety of groups and classes including PTSD Clinic introductory classes (i.e. Start Point Class), Seeking Safety, Iraq/Afghanistan Readjustment, Nightmare Management classes, Insomnia Management Classes, and Anger Management.

Based on fellows' training interests, they may also work in collaboration with substance abuse treatment staff to identify appropriate referrals, and facilitate groups.

Fellows also provide community outreach programming outside of the VHASLC campus to Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF), Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF), and Operation New Dawn (OND) veterans who have not yet
accessed resources available to them at the VA. This is accomplished through a variety of services including presentation to active duty service members, participation in community activities as a VA representative, and other events.

**COMPETENCY EVALUATION**

Evaluation is an ongoing, continuous, and reciprocal process. The Postdoctoral Training Committee encourages and supports open and thorough communication between supervisors and fellows regarding training needs, objectives, and competencies. In addition, scheduled, formal evaluation processes occur throughout the postdoctoral year.

Evaluation forms used throughout the training year

- Professional Competency Assessment of Fellows: Completed by supervisors at the end of each quarter
- Fellow Self Evaluation: Completed by fellows at the start of fellowship, at the end of the second quarter and at the end of the fourth quarter.
- Fellowship Presentation Evaluation: After all presentations
- Fellow Evaluation of Training Site: Completed the end of the second quarter and near the end of the fourth quarter
- Fellow Evaluation of Training Supervisors: Completed by fellows at the end of each quarter

**FELLOW RESOURCES**

Fellows have private offices for use in assessment and psychotherapy. Fellows have access to computers with a Microsoft Office Suite, printer access, and a nationwide integrated electronic medical chart named CPRS. There is also computer support through IRMS. There also are several additional group therapy rooms available for fellows to reserve if needed. While training in the OEF/OIF/OND Primary Care Clinic and the Polytrauma Clinic, fellows have access to workstations with computer and network access. Fellows also receive a neuropsychological testing kit to share. The VA Salt Lake City has a medical library that provides a wide range of psychology, psychiatry, gerontologic, and other journals consistent with the needs of staff and the training program. Fellows have access to the VA library and may access the libraries at the University of Utah by either personal access or inter-library loan.

Fellows receive administrative support from administrative support assistants who help fellows with several aspects of the fellowship.

**FELLOW TRAINING YEAR**

The fellowship begins in early September 2019, with a full orientation from VA Human Resources and Psychology Service, and ends after one full year of training at full time.

Fellows devote eight hours per day, 40 hours per week, to the training program. The usual tour of duty is 8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m., although some require evening work with a shifted shift of 11:30 a.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Some weekend work is a part of the outreach activities.
STIPEND AND BENEFITS

Fellows receive a stipend of $46,102.00 paid in equal installments over 26 bi-weekly pay periods. Fellows are not covered by civil service retirement, but are eligible for federal employee group life insurance and health benefits.

Over the course of the year, fellows earn approximately 13 vacation days and 13 sick days, in addition to federal holidays.

Fellows who work 40 hours per week can fulfill their commitment and still have time for vacations and sick leave.

Postdoctoral fellows at the VASLCHCS are provided with all rights, benefits, and responsibilities associated with "Employee" status. As such, they are expected to comply with all medical center policies pertaining to employee behavior, including leave.

Fellows may also apply for limited hourly credit for attendance at national and regional professional meetings and workshops through their primary supervisor and Postdoctoral Training Committee.

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

1. Applicants must meet the following eligibility requirements for the postdoctoral training program:
2. Completion of doctoral degree, including defense of dissertation, from an APA-accredited doctoral program before the fellowship start date.*
3. Completion of an APA-accredited psychology internship program before the fellowship start date.*
4. U.S. citizenship

Those not meeting the eligibility requirements will be notified as soon as possible.

Failure to meet the above qualifications prior to the fellowship start date could nullify an offer to a candidate.

Fellows are considered federal employees and, therefore, must meet all federal employee requirements, including a background check, pre-employment physical examination, and drug screening. Other branches of the federal government may also conduct routine background checks at their discretion as well. Official hiring is contingent on meeting these federal requirements.

*If you have not yet completed your internship and degree by the time of the application, the Training Directors of both your doctoral programs and internship must verify that you are expected to complete these requirements prior to the start of the postdoctoral fellowship. Applicants must provide verification of a degree prior to an agreed upon postdoctoral training start date. In unique situations, extensions may be applied as deemed appropriately by the training committee.

APPLICANT MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS

1. United States Citizen (per VA Policy)
2. Completion of an APA accredited predoctoral internship
3. Graduation from an APA accredited Clinical or Counseling Psychology Doctoral Program.
DATES TO REMEMBER
- Application materials due: January 1, 5 pm (Eastern Time)
- Interviews of candidates: Early to mid-February

APPLICATION CHECKLIST
Submit the APPIC APPA CAS Online application no later than 5pm on the application due date listed above. Please use the following web address to access the application website:

https://portal.appicas.org/

- Include a letter of certification from your Internship Training Director that you are in good standing and they expect you to matriculate on time, in addition to indicating the last day of internship.

All application materials must be received by the due date listed above. Please submit the following:

1. Letter of interest including the following elements:
   - A description of your educational, clinical, and research experiences relevant to this fellowship
   - A statement of your training and career goals and how this fellowship may meet those goals
2. Curriculum Vitae.
3. Include graduate transcripts.
4. Three letters of recommendation including:
   - At least one from a faculty member personally familiar with your graduate school performance
   - At least one from a primary clinical supervisor during the pre-doctoral internship.
5. A brief statement regarding the status of your dissertation or research project and expected graduation date from your graduate school program.
6. A letter from your Internship Training Director verifying date you are expected to complete internship.

If you would like confirmation of receipt of application, please include a self-addressed, stamped postcard, which will be mailed to you upon our receipt of your information.

APPLICATION EVALUATION
Each set of application materials received by the due date will be reviewed by two members of the selection committee. Independent ratings are based on educational, intervention, and assessment experiences, cover letter, and professional letters of recommendation. The selection criteria focus on all aspects of the application materials, with emphasis placed on background training, experience, and an applicant’s clear articulation of training goals and professional aspirations.

After an average score is calculated, the selection committee addresses significant discrepancies in scores, and determines the cut-off score to participate in the interview process.

Interviews are typically planned for mid to late February, but this can vary based on the schedules of applicants. In addition to being interviewed by two members of the Selection Committee, applicants will have the opportunity to meet current interns, fellows, and staff members, as well as participate in a tour of the facility. Telephone interviews are available for applicants who are unable to attend in person.
Following all interviews, the Selection Committee will meet to identify the top candidates and alternates for the two postdoctoral positions. These selections are based on an integration of file and interview ratings, with the entire list of interviewees being reviewed to ensure that all candidates have received fair and equal consideration.

The Clinical Psychology Postdoctoral Program at VA Salt Lake City Health Care System is a member of the Association of Psychology Postdoctoral and Internship Centers (APPIC) and will abide by all APPIC guidelines regarding fellowship recruitment and notification procedures.

**COMMITMENT TO DIVERSITY**

The VASLCHCS Psychology Service has made efforts to recruit and maintain a diverse psychology staff in a geographic region with limited ethnic and racial diversity. As such, the Fellowship Program places a high value on attracting a diverse group of interns and on maintaining an awareness of diversity issues during the fellowship year. The program appreciates the fact that attracting a diverse group of fellows is important, not only for the fellowship, but for the staff as well.

Throughout the training year, the training program provides various learning activities and trainings that build upon the multicultural competency from graduate training. For example, the training program schedules a number of seminars directly dealing with a variety of diversity topics. We have speakers discuss issues of multicultural competency, religion/spirituality, gender, sexual orientation, culture, and age. The topics vary year to year, in large part due to the requests of the individual training cohort and their needs as determined by the training director.

**EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER**

The VASLCHCS is an Equal Opportunity Employer. The Psychology Service actively supports and is in full compliance with the spirit and principle of Affirmative Action in the recruitment and selection of staff and interns. We provide equal opportunities in employment and training for all qualified persons and do not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, disabilities, ethnicity, or sexual orientation. In accordance with federal government employment regulations, only citizens of the United States are eligible for training positions funded by the Department of Veterans Affairs.

**ABOUT SALT LAKE CITY AND UTAH**

According to the 2010 census, Salt Lake City has a population of approximately 182,000 with the surrounding metropolitan area having approximately 1.9 million people. Individuals unfamiliar with Salt Lake City and the state of Utah are often quite surprised at the wealth and variety of things to do and see. Salt Lake City is a montage of modern high-rises, commercial centers, unique sightseeing attractions, classic buildings, historic sites, excellent restaurants, and beautiful shopping malls. The city is also home to acclaimed ballet dance companies, the Utah Opera Company, many fine art galleries, and historical and art museums. Professional sports fans enjoy cheering for the Utah Jazz, Utah Grizzlies and Real Salt Lake. During the summer, baseball fans flock to Franklin Covey Field to watch the Salt Lake Bees, the Triple-A affiliate of the Anaheim Angels. Finally, fans of college sports may be enjoy attending a part of University of Utah and Brigham Young University events.

For the outdoor recreational enthusiast, Utah is truly a paradise. During the winter months, Utah has "The Greatest Snow on Earth." Eleven resorts are within an hour drive of Salt Lake City. During the summer months, Utahans take advantage of over 1,000 lakes, rivers and streams. Sailing, wind surfing, kayaking, rock climbing and mountain biking are extremely popular during the warmer months as well. Utah has five national parks: Arches
National Park, Bryce Canyon National Park, Canyonlands National Park, Capitol Reef National Park, and Zion National Park. Yellowstone and Teton National Park are within reasonable driving distances as well.

**TRAINING STAFF**

We encourage you to contact staff members if you have any specific questions for them.

*Steve Allen, Ph.D.*
*Training Background:* Ph.D., Clinical Psychology – University of Wyoming
*Predoctoral Internship:* Martinez VA
*Current Position:* PTSD Clinical Team Supervisor
*Areas of Interest/Expertise:* Treatment of PTSD and psychological assessment; community outreach and education, including law enforcement and clergy; process oriented group psychotherapy; development of psychology professionals.
*E-mail:* [Steven.Allen@va.gov](mailto:Steven.Allen@va.gov)

*James Asbrand, Ph.D.*
*Training background:* Ph.D., University of Utah
*Predoctoral Internship:* Brigham Young University Counseling Center
*Current Position:* Staff Psychologist, PTSD Clinical Team
*Areas of interest/expertise:* PTSD, Military Sexual Trauma, Diversity as related to therapeutic relationship.
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*Jacek Brewczyński, PhD*
*Training background:* PhD, Clinical Psychology, University of Detroit
*Predoctoral Internship:* Tampa VAMC
*Postdoctoral Fellowship:* Clinical Psychology, VA Salt Lake City Health Care System
*Current Position:* PTSD Clinical Team and the Substance Abuse Treatment unit.
*Areas of interest/expertise:* Psychological interventions for veterans with co-morbid diagnoses of PTSD & SUD; psychological & neuropsychological assessment, including personality assessment; transpersonal interventions, such as mindfulness & meditation-based treatment.
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*Tom Mullin, Ph.D., Clinical Psychology Postdoctoral Fellowship Co-Director*
*Training Background:* Ph.D., Counseling Psychology, University of Utah
*Predoctoral Internship:* VA Salt Lake City Health Care System
*Current Position:* PTSD Clinical Team
*Areas of Interest/Expertise:* PTSD, readjustment after OEF/OIF/OND deployment, psychological assessment, evidence-based treatment for PTSD, Prolonged Exposure Consultant, veteran outreach programs
*Email:* [Thomas.Mullin2@va.gov](mailto:Thomas.Mullin2@va.gov)


Leland “Ben” Swanson, Ph.D., Psychology Training Director

Training Background: PhD, Counseling Psychology, University of Utah
Predoctoral Internship: American Lake VAMC
Current Position: Psychology Training Director
Areas of Interest/Expertise: Telemental Health, Training, Motivational Interviewing
E-mail: Leland.Swanson@va.gov

Cicely Taravella, Ph.D., Assistant Psychology Training Director

Training Background: PhD,
Predoctoral Internship: VA North Texas Health Care System, Dallas Veterans Affairs Medical Center
Postdoctoral Fellowship: VA Salt Lake City Health Care System
Areas of Interest/Expertise: ACT, Prolonged Exposure, Cognitive Processing Therapy
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Harrison Weinstein, PhD

Training Background: PhD, Clinical Psychology, Palo Alto University
Predoctoral Internship: Southern Arizona VA Health Care System
Current Position: Staff Psychologist
Areas of Interest/Expertise: Assessment, PTSD, Polytrauma

Thank you for your interest in this fellowship program and we wish you the very best during this exciting time. If you have questions about the postdoctoral fellowship or about the Salt Lake City VA please feel free to contact me:

Sincerely,

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