



**VA** | Defining  
**HEALTH CARE** | **EXCELLENCE**  
 in the 21st Century

## 2015 FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM BROCHURE

### VA MIRECC Psychology Postdoctoral Fellowship Program

Hunter Holmes McGuire VA Medical Center, Richmond, Virginia

Co-Directors: Scott D. McDonald, Ph.D.  
 Treven C. Pickett, Psy.D., ABPP-Rp

The Hunter Holmes McGuire Veterans Affairs Medical Center's (VAMC) VISN-6 Mid-Atlantic Mental Illness Research, Education and Clinical Center (MIRECC) Psychology Postdoctoral Fellowship Program ("MIRECC Psychology Fellowship Program") anticipates two openings for a two-year, clinical or counseling psychology postdoctoral fellowship to begin between July 1st and September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2015. Please refer to the **Application & Selection Procedures** section below for application deadline and selection procedures.

### Overview

The [McGuire VAMC's MIRECC Psychology Fellowship Program](#) supports the development of scientist-practitioners in the area of post-deployment mental health, which encompasses:

- traumatic brain injury (TBI) and polytrauma rehabilitation,
- posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD),
- resilience and post-deployment adjustment,
- substance abuse, and
- other mental health concerns commonly faced by Service members and their families after deployment.

The McGuire VAMC's MIRECC Psychology Fellowship is part of a national program, the [VA Advanced Fellowship Program in Mental Illness Research and Treatment](#). Over the course of the two-year program, Fellows are trained in academic and health systems research, advanced clinical care service delivery, and program administration in an interdisciplinary setting. The fellowship combines individual mentored research and clinical training with state-of-the-art educational experiences.



*Courtesy of Richmond Metropolitan Convention and Visitors Bureau*

Fellows spend a minimum of 10-15 hours/week in supervised, direct service delivery and 10-20 hours/week in clinical research activities. Additionally, the fellowship encompasses didactics (4 hours/week, including 2 hours of supervision) and administrative experiences (5 hours/week) that support the Fellow's individual professional goals. In collaboration with research mentors, MIRECC Psychology Fellows are expected to develop and implement a research pilot project, publish and present findings, participate in grant writing, and utilize the latest technology for educational activities and clinical service delivery.

Early in the first year of the fellowship experience, MIRECC Fellows develop a written Individualized Learning Plan collaboratively with the fellowship directors. The Learning Plan contains organized, experiential, and sequential learning experiences in research, clinical service, and education during each year of the fellowship based on the goals and objectives as outlined below. The Learning Plan allows Fellows to tailor their learning experiences in order to best meet their individual training needs, while also providing sufficient structure to help ensure successful completion of training goals. Through the training plan, the program offers the potential for Fellows to develop expertise in an emphasis area within the scope of post-deployment mental health, such as PTSD treatment research, TBI rehabilitation, and substance abuse.

The [McGuire VAMC](#) is a 1A designated, tertiary care referral center located in Richmond, Virginia with a training and research infrastructure shared with our Academic Affiliate, [Virginia Commonwealth University](#) (VCU). There are several specialized clinical and research centers located at the McGuire VAMC including one of the five regional flagship [Polytrauma Rehabilitation Centers](#) (PRC), the [Chronic Effects of Neurotrauma Consortium](#) (CENC), and the [Defense and Veterans Brain Injury Center](#) (DVBIC). Our fellowship program is associated with the [Mid-Atlantic MIRECC](#) in VISN 6, a VA Center of Excellence that develops and applies scientific knowledge and best practices to enhance post-deployment mental health and wellness for our Nation's Veterans and their families.



*McGuire VA Medical Center*

The McGuire VAMC offers many unique training opportunities in research. It has a vibrant research program with annual budgetary allocation that consists of approximately seven million dollars. Over 80% of the medical center's research has a direct impact on patient care studies in the VA system and in the community. McGuire VAMC MIRECC Fellows are afforded opportunities to become involved in research regarding service delivery (e.g., intervention and performance evaluation) as well as archival data analysis and experimental studies. The VISN-6 MIRECC research program includes a multisite registry of over 3000 Iraq and Afghanistan (OEF/OIF/OND) war-era Veterans. This registry contains information regarding mental health diagnoses, TBI, and many other data points relating to health and demographic variables. Another MIRECC study investigates neuropsychiatric sequelae associated with Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) and Posttraumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) in OEF/OIF/OND Veterans.

There are robust possibilities for research collaboration with other on-site centers, including the Defense and Veterans Brain Injury Center (DVBIC) and the VA Polytrauma Rehabilitation Center. Additionally, there are manifold opportunities for Fellows to interface with researchers at our academic affiliate, Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU) in the Departments of Psychology, Psychiatry, Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation; the Virginia Institute for



*Credit: Chrystal Smith*

Psychiatric and Behavioral Genetics (VIPBG); and the Center of Researcher Sciences and Engineering (CERSE). VCU is an academic medical center with nationally-known investigators and extensive clinical research programs. For example, VCU was recently awarded a [\\$62 million VA/Department of Defense grant](#) to lead a Chronic Effects of Neurotrauma Consortium (CENC) to study effects of mild TBIs/concussions.

More than 40 psychologists provide assessment and treatment services at the McGuire VAMC, which also supports three community-based outpatient clinics (CBOCs) in Emporia, Fredericksburg, and Charlottesville, Virginia. Psychological assessment and treatment services are often provided in the context of interdisciplinary teams in specialty clinics such as the PTSD Clinic, Substance Abuse and Disorders Clinic, Polytrauma Rehabilitation Center, Primary Care, the Spinal Cord Injury & Disorders Service, and Geriatrics. Psychologists also provide consultation & liaison assessment services across the medical center including those for spinal cord stimulator placement, transplant (heart, liver, kidney, and lung), pre-surgical assessments for bariatric and other conditions, mental health evaluations, neuropsychological assessment for a spectrum of neurologic conditions, pain management classes, and CBT for insomnia.

## Guiding Principles

The structure and activities of the MIRECC Psychology Fellowship Program are designed to meet the guidelines established by the American Psychological Association and the VA Guidelines for Postdoctoral Programs. Our program is based on a scientist-practitioner model of training and, as such, provides a foundation for our Fellows to develop as independent practitioners who (1) utilize evidence-based psychotherapy (EBP) within the context of evidence-based medicine (EBM), (2) consult the research literature to inform treatment, and (3) employ scientific methodology in their clinical practice. More information about the VA MIRECC Advanced Fellowship Program can be found at [www.mirecc.va.gov/mirecc-Fellowship.asp](http://www.mirecc.va.gov/mirecc-Fellowship.asp) and in the following article:

O'Hara, R., et al. (2010). Increasing the Ranks of Academic Researchers in Mental Health: A Multisite Approach to Postdoctoral Fellowship Training. *Academic Medicine*, 85, 41–47.

## Training Goals

The purpose of the MIRECC Psychology Fellowship Program is to train professional psychologists for eventual leadership roles in clinical services, clinical research, and education--particularly in Medical Center, public sector, and academic settings. This eventual expected outcome rests on two primary aims of the fellowship program: 1) the development of advanced skills in the foundational and functional competencies of professional psychology (i.e., the APA's G&P Content Areas), and 2) the further development of advanced competencies in working with U.S. military Veterans and their families seeking treatment for mental health problems associated with military deployment.

The McGuire VAMC MIRECC embraces the scientist-practitioner model of training, which emphasizes the integration of science and practice. Our program offers Fellows a two-year, intensive training experience in which they may partake in a rich array of "hands on" experiential training activities that foster advanced clinical competencies for independent practice as a doctoral level clinical or counseling psychologist. Fellows enjoy a thoughtful, individualized, structured curriculum in which they receive protected time to develop advanced clinical research skills, as well as a coherent program of their own clinical research. Fellows receive advanced, supervised training in clinical psychology through direct clinical care experiences in a variety of inpatient, residential, and outpatient settings. Consistent with the emphasis of the VISN 6 MIRECC, McGuire VAMC MIRECC Fellows are encouraged to pursue clinical research and clinical training activities that focus on U.S. military post-deployment mental health.



**VISN 6**

*Post Deployment  
Mental Health*

During protected time for clinical research, MIRECC Fellows will:

- Develop awareness of pressing clinical /clinical research priorities within VA.
- Develop advanced clinical competencies in the context of military Veterans mental health care.
- Develop advanced skills in mental health research methodology and statistical analyses; scientific writing and presentation; and research ethics in mental health research, in order to understand the best evidence-based approach to clinical research and treatment.
- Develop skills in grantsmanship.

Fellows are provided with structured didactics that address an array of topics ranging from advanced research methodologies, professional writing, multicultural competency, and clinical research ethics. Fellows are also encouraged to participate in local opportunities for formal presentation of their clinical research findings.

In order to fulfill the goals of fellowship training, Fellows should demonstrate an advanced level of skill and knowledge in the following areas by the completion of the fellowship program, as measured by supervisors' evaluations of the specific competencies. Foundational and functional competencies are collapsed into the following domains for ease of dissemination and discussion with Fellows. The specific skills, behaviors and attitudes described below are assessed regularly across supervised clinical and research activities using standardized evaluation forms. All

training experiences are supervised, sequentially organized and designed to follow a logical flow that facilitates the acquisition of increasingly advanced knowledge and skills in the practice of clinical psychology. Moreover, all training experiences are designed around our service population, U.S. military Veterans accessing VA medical and mental health care. Below we briefly characterize our program's goals.

**Goal 1: Assessment, Diagnosis, and Intervention:** Fellows will demonstrate:

- a) independent-practitioner competence in psychological assessment, differential diagnosis, and empirically supported psychological treatments.
  - b) specialized, advanced competencies in working with U.S. military veterans presenting with deployment-related mental health problems.
- Fellows are required to complete at least six (6) clinical rotations during the 2-year fellowship program at a minimum of 10-15 hours per week. A rotation in a particular clinic or population can be repeated, given substantial addition to training goals to foster advanced skills. The Fellow must have at least two clinical supervisors per year. At least one of these rotations includes substantial work in psychological assessment and diagnostic interviewing using tools such as structured clinical interviews and/or standardized personality tests. At least one of these rotations includes substantial work in individual and/or group psychotherapy. At least two of the rotations are directly applicable to post-deployment mental health (e.g., PTSD Clinic, SeRV [OEF/OIF/OND mental health] Clinic, Polytrauma Network Site Clinic). Rotations can be extended in order to develop advanced skills (e.g., a second rotation in the PTSD Clinic to complete training in Prolonged Exposure) or to focus on developing new skills (e.g., a neuropsychology rotation followed by an individual psychotherapy rotation in the Polytrauma Network Site clinic).
  - At least 2 hours of direct clinical supervision are provided each week.
  - A full list of currently available rotations is provided in the **Clinical Rotations** section below.
  - It should be noted that Fellows are encouraged to shape rotations that advance their training needs, while also complementing their research interests. For example, a Fellow who is interested specifically in women's mental health care may seek supervision to develop a clinic and outreach program specifically targeting women OEF/OIF/OND Veterans.

**Goal 2: Consultation, Supervision, and Teaching:** Fellows will demonstrate independent-practitioner competence in delivering consultation to inter-professional teams, develop skills in the supervision of psychology trainees including interns and practicum students, and gain experience providing psycho-education to patients, family members and providers.

Activities:

- Consultation competencies will primarily be developed and evaluated during

mandatory clinical rotations as discussed above.

- Supervision competencies will be strengthened by several optional training opportunities, including supervision of junior psychology trainees and research assistants and participation in a 5-week Supervision Seminar offered in October of each year.
- Teaching competencies will be strengthened by presentation of research findings at a VISN-6 MIRECC videoconference, teaching at least one Intern Seminar, and through a multitude of available other teaching opportunities at the VA, VCU, or through conferences, outreach, or other professional events.

**Goal 3: Scholarly Inquiry:** Fellows will acquire skills and competencies in several aspects of clinical research and scholarships. Key competency areas are discussed below.

- a) ***Integration of Science and Practice:*** Fellows will learn to utilize the scientific literature to guide their clinical practice, and will use “lessons learned” from clinical practice to foster and shape their scientific hypotheses. Fellows will learn to use their emerging competencies in clinical science to identify solutions to emerging clinical problems they encounter in practice and will systematically evaluate the effectiveness of their clinical work (e.g., monitoring patient outcomes).
- b) ***Conducting Clinically Informed Research:*** Fellows will gain advanced skills in conducting clinically focused research pertinent to the mental health needs of today’s veterans.

Activities:

- The Fellow will choose a Research Mentor early in his or her fellowship. This Research Mentor (or alternately, a Mentorship team) will assist the Fellow in developing a cogent and cohesive research program that is expected to lead to independent functioning as an investigator. The Fellow will meet with the primary Research Mentor at least weekly.
- The Fellow will also meet with the fellowship director(s) at least bi-monthly to discuss progress and address barriers to meeting competencies that cannot be achieved working with the Research Mentor alone. For example, the fellowship director(s) can assist the Fellow in developing a network of collaborators to further his or her training and development of a research program.
- Fellows are expected to produce at least one first-author, peer-reviewed research publication, at least one other peer-reviewed research publication, and a grant submission. These activities conducted under mentorship provide a strong experiential learning environment. Fellows are also encouraged to participate in other professional research activities such as journal and grant reviews. They are also encouraged to take advantage of educational opportunities at our academic affiliate and beyond, such as joining a professional association, attending grand rounds, joining research teams, and taking advanced statistics or research methods classes.

**Goal 4: Organization, Management, Administration, and Program Evaluation:**

Fellows will gain experience pertinent to organizational management and administration pertinent to the career development of clinical psychologists and scientists. Fellows may choose additional training experiences that facilitate the development of advanced competencies in program evaluation.

Activities:

- Fellows will serve on selection committees for Psychology Interns and Fellows. Fellows are encouraged to attend psychology staff meetings as well as staff meetings of other services in which the Fellow performs clinical work (e.g., Polytrauma). Fellows will be assigned readings relevant to VA systems issues (e.g., peer-reviewed articles, VA Directives) by the fellowship director that will be discussed during monthly meetings. Competencies in this area will largely be demonstrated by efficient and autonomous successful navigation of the VA system of care.
- **Goal 5: Professional, Ethical, and Legal Issues:** Fellows will become competent (as appropriate for an entry level professional) in professional and collegial conduct, knowledge of the ethical guidelines of clinical psychology, and those ethical guidelines that govern the appropriate conduct of human subjects research. They will also become appropriately familiar with the wide array of legal issues pertinent to the proper conduct of clinical psychology and human subjects related research.

Activities:

- These competencies will be observed across all aspects of the Fellow's professional practice and will be assessed through clinical and research supervisor evaluations.
- Fellows will be encouraged to attend Grand Rounds and training seminars that are focused on clinical and research practice ethics.
- **Goal 6: Cultural and Individual Diversity Issues:** Fellows will further develop their awareness and appreciation of cultural and individual differences and will attain cultural competence regarding the delivery of mental health services to a diverse cadre of veterans.

Activities:

- Training in cultural and individual diversity is part of every clinical rotation. Fellows are encouraged to take at least one clinical rotation in SCI or Polytrauma, in which disability services are at the forefront of the learning experience. Fellows also attend diversity-focused seminars, and are encouraged to attend the Annual Diversity Conference sponsored by the Multicultural Training Committee within the Psychology Section of the Mental Health Service.

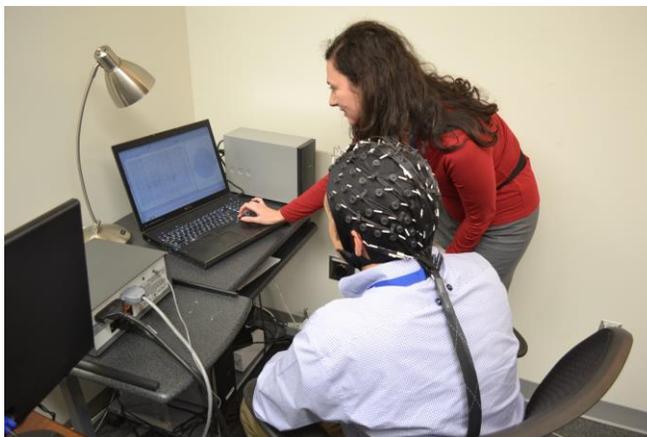
- **Goal 7: Confidence and Professional Identity:** Fellows will develop a strong professional identity and confidence and professional demeanor commensurate with their entry-level status in the profession.

Activities:

- These competencies will be observed across all aspects of the Fellow's professional practice and will be assessed through clinical and research supervisor evaluations.

## Research Training Activities

Research goals are achieved through mentored research activities, provision of research resources, and didactics. Research mentorship provides Fellows the opportunity to learn from an established local investigator as well as co-mentors from within the local research community, within the network of VISN-6 MIRECC investigators, or VA investigators across the nation. Fellows who develop a mentorship team that combine expertise from researcher-clinicians at the McGuire VAMC, researcher-clinicians at VCU, and beyond, are especially likely to be successful, as establishing an integrated team maximizes learning opportunities in each venue.



McGuire VAMC MIRECC Fellows are afforded opportunities to become involved in research regarding service delivery (e.g., intervention and performance evaluation), archival data analysis, and experimental studies. All Fellows participate in the Mid-Atlantic MIRECC's multisite Post-Deployment Mental Health (PDMH) Study (Site PI: Scott McDonald), that includes health, psychiatric, and genetic information for over 3000 Iraq and Afghanistan (OEF/OIF/OND) war-era Veterans. Fellows receive comprehensive training on administration of the Structured Clinical Interview for DSM Disorders (SCID), administer about one a month, and join monthly SCID fidelity calls.

There are multiple opportunities to become part of other MIRECC studies and research labs at the McGuire VAMC and VCU, as well.

A partial list includes:

**Core Labs at McGuire VAMC:**Defense and Veterans Brain Injury Center (DVBIC; Site Director: William Walker)

- A component center within the Defense Centers of Excellence (DCoE) for Psychological Health and TBI, DVBIC has several ongoing studies associated with TBI epidemiology, recovery, and rehabilitation. Dr. Walker is also an investigator for the Chronic Effects of Neurotrauma Consortium (CENC), a consortium of universities, VAs, and other partners to study effects of mild TBIs/concussions that is funded through a \$62 million VA/Department of Defense grant to VCU.
- Role of Fellow: TBD.

Neurocognition of TBI and PTSD Study (Site PI: Treven Pickett)

- A MIRECC investigation of the neuropsychiatric sequelae associated with Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) and Posttraumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) in OEF/OIF/OND Veterans.
- Role of Fellow: Fellow will learn to administer, score, and interpret an extensive battery of neuropsychological tests aimed towards assessment of cognitive, emotional, and neurobehavioral symptoms secondary to PTSD/TBI. Fellows will learn how to integrate test data with clinical impressions gleaned from clinical interview, as well as how to effectively communicate impressions and recommendations to interdisciplinary teams (if the patient is referred from an interdisciplinary team environment). Fellows will have the opportunity to learn the components of a large dataset for neuropsychological test instruments for PTSD/TBI and to ask questions of those data preparatory to abstract and manuscript submissions

Resilience Lab (PI: Scott McDonald)

- Dr. McDonald has several research projects regarding resilience and adjustment after traumatic and non-traumatic injuries, including TBI, spinal cord injury (SCI), and amputation.
- Role of Fellow: Fellows will have opportunities to learn about rehabilitation research in VA inpatient and outpatient settings. Fellows will lead research sessions with rehabilitation inpatients, receive training in the administration of the MINI Neuropsychiatric Interview, participate in manuscript and other writing projects, attend lab meetings, and may have the opportunity to supervise research assistants.

**Collaborators at VCU:**CBT-Insomnia (PI: Bruce Rybarczyk)

- This project, centered at VCU, involves clinical research in comorbid populations.
- Role of Fellow: Learn assessment and intervention methodology for CBT-I protocols and implement a study at the VA during the training year under supervision of mentor.

Collaborative Advanced Research Imaging (CARI; PI: F. Gerard Moeller)

- CARI houses a new research dedicated 3 Tesla Philips Ingenia MRI scanner in an over

6,000 square foot research-dedicated space at VCU. Dr. Moeller's research focuses on clinical research in addictions and related disorders.

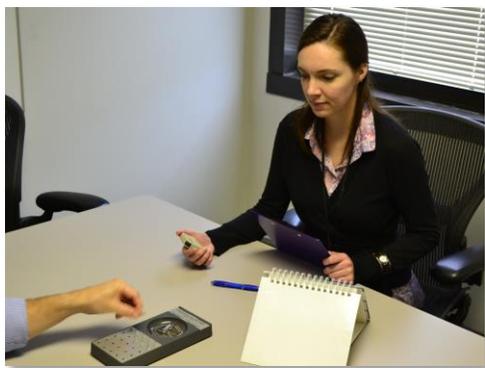
- Role of Fellow: Fellows will participate in clinical research in addictions and related disorders. Specific training and research participation includes screening of patients using standardized addiction and psychiatric assessment measures, use of human behavioral laboratory measures of impulsivity and decision making, clinical trials in addictions using combinations of manualized behavioral therapies plus pharmacotherapy and training in use of functional magnetic resonance imaging in addictions research.

Risk and resiliency for traumatic-stress related conditions (PI: Ananda Amstadter)

- Dr. Amstadter has several ongoing research studies based at McGuire VAMC (Site PI: Treven Pickett) and at VCU. Most of her research focuses on the identification of risk and resiliency factors, biologic and psychosocial in nature, for traumatic-stress related conditions, such as posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD), substance use disorders, and depression.
- Role of Fellow: TBD.

Vrana Lab (PI: Scott Vrana)

- Dr. Vrana's work focuses on emotion from a psychophysiological and information processing perspective. Current specific projects include studies of attentional processes in social anxiety, measure development for misophonia, psychophysiological response in PTSD, and the effect of ethnic/cultural differences and social context on the expression of emotion and on social interaction.
- Role of Fellow: The fellow can fit into projects at any level, from directing or developing new research to analyzing archival data.



Resources for Fellows include access to data analysis software (e.g., SPSS and AMOS), statistical consultation, and access to archival data from the PDMH Study. Fellows traditionally apply for and are offered an academic appointment in the Department of Psychology at our academic affiliate, VCU. An academic affiliation provides the Fellow an opportunity to audit select classes, access to library resources and electronic articles via a wide assortment of online databases (e.g., Medline, World of Science, PsycINFO), and the prospect of providing training and research collaboration in the academic community.

**Applicants are encouraged to contact the fellowship director(s) prior to applying to learn about faculty members who are currently available to provide primary research mentorship in the applicant's area of interest.** Scheduled visits to the McGuire VAMC and VCU to meet with the fellowship directors, training staff, and potential research mentors prior to the application deadline are welcomed.

## Clinical Training Activities

Fellows dedicate a minimum 10-15 hours/week to direct patient care. Fellows have the opportunity to be involved in inpatient, outpatient and specialty care settings to provide them with opportunities to build clinical specialization in post-deployment mental health. Fellows complete six, 4-month clinical rotations in their two year fellowship, reflective of their interests, training needs, and availability. At least 2 of these 6 rotations must be in rotations that provide experience in post-deployment mental health (see below). Multiple rotations may be completed within one clinic as long as the learning experiences are cumulative and graduated in complexity. Regarding the post-deployment mental health rotations, Fellows will generally select a focus for the rotation in collaboration with the clinic director or primary supervisor when developing a rotation training plan (e.g., intake assessment, psychotherapy, or neuropsychological assessment). Although the core rotations have been consistently available for several years, available clinical rotations may change annually depending on clinical needs, patient flow, and availability of supervision.

The clinical supervision structure has been established through the development of the psychology practicum, internship, and fellowship programs at McGuire VAMC, and is monitored for quality by the Director of Psychology Training, the Psychology Training Committee, and Associate Chief and Supervisory Clinical Psychologist (Research and Education), Mental Health Service. Fellows receive at least two hours per week of individual, face-to-face, regularly scheduled supervision, conducted by licensed psychologists with expertise in the areas being supervised. Fellows receive supervision from at least two psychologists during each training year. Supervision provided is relevant to the actual clinical services rendered by the Fellow. Fellows receive guidance for how to track aggregate clinical hours towards VA state licensure requirements for clinical psychologists. Fellows are expected to request approval to begin a residency from the state of Virginia prior to initiation of clinical activities.

## Available Clinical Rotations

### **Post-Deployment Mental Health Clinical Rotations:**

Polytrauma Network Site (PNS): Fellows provide a variety of psychological and neuropsychological services to outpatients in the Polytrauma outpatient program including psychological assessment, comprehensive neuropsychological evaluations, treatment planning, psychotherapy, family counseling, suicide and violence risk assessment, as well as provide behavioral health and pain management interventions. PNS patients include a large percentage of OEF/OIF Veterans with complex needs for conditions such as traumatic brain injury (TBI), limb amputation, post-concussion syndrome (PCS), PTSD, and chronic pain. Fellows participate as part of an interdisciplinary outpatient team involving medical, rehabilitation, and mental health providers assessing and treating PCS, PTSD, pain, and other comorbid problems. Fellows with limited experience with inpatient rehabilitation of moderate-to-severe TBI may request hands-on experience in our Polytrauma Rehabilitation Center as a prerequisite

(concurrent experience is acceptable) to learn more about a patient's transition from inpatient to outpatient care. The Fellow generally chooses an emphasis area prior to the rotation such as neuropsychology, CPT/PE for PTSD psychotherapy, or individual and family psychotherapy (Supervisors: Drs. Eugene Gourley, PhD, Sharon Funari, PhD, and Treven Pickett, PsyD, ABPP-Rp).

**PTSD Clinical Team (PCT):** The PTSD Clinic accepts patients with military-related PTSD, although psychiatric comorbidity, medical issues, and challenging psychosocial issues are also common. Fellows have the opportunity to: 1) administer program intake interviews, 2) co-lead PTSD process groups, 3) co-lead PTSD skills and education groups, and 4) conduct individual psychotherapy. Periodically, Fellows may also participate in the PTSD/Substance Use Disorders sub-rotation (Dr. Meyer) that involves co-leading treatment using the evidence-based "Seeking Safety" program. Fellows are also encouraged to attend PTSD Treatment Team meetings. Through these opportunities, Fellows are provided the opportunity to hone their skills in clinical interviewing, differential diagnosis, evidence-based psychotherapy (EBP) for PTSD (e.g., prolonged exposure and group-based CPT), and the delivery of psycho-education. Fellows are also provided exposure to systems and administrative issues in the management of a VA PTSD Clinic. (Supervisors: Drs. John Benesek, PsyD, John Lynch, PhD, and Brian Meyer, PhD)

#### **Other Available Clinical Rotations:**

**Polytrauma Rehabilitation Center (PRC):** Fellows provide neuropsychological and rehabilitation psychology services to inpatients on the 16-bed, CARF-accredited acute inpatient brain injury (TBI) rehabilitation program. This program admits Veterans with acute combat and non-combat injuries including TBI. These patients require a comprehensive, interdisciplinary rehabilitation program to optimally treat the complex medical, psychological, rehabilitation, and prosthetic needs of these individuals. Fellows participate in psychotherapeutic and behavioral interventions, neuropsychological evaluations, interdisciplinary rounds and meetings, and family conferences. Fellows participate in providing interventions to patients and family members, who often stay in a special residence on grounds for the duration of the inpatient rehabilitation stay. (Supervisors: Drs. Thomas Campbell, PhD and Kathryn Wilder-Schaaf, PhD)

**Spinal Cord Injury:** RVAMC is one of twenty-four VAMC specialty care center for Spinal Cord Injury. This eight-bed, CARF accredited program provides fellows with knowledge, skills and abilities in the following areas: Understanding of the basic physiologic changes which occur with various levels and degrees of spinal cord injury and the physical medicine, pharmacological and adaptive/assistive equipment available; Participation on a multidisciplinary rehabilitation team; assessment of personality, emotional, and cognitive functioning in relation to veterans successful participation in rehabilitation; Provision of individual, family and group therapies to address psychosocial, sexual, vocational and pain problems arising from spinal cord injury; and understanding of basic interventions to assist with adopting healthier lifestyles (e.g., smoking cessation, substance use, weight management, recreational activities). (Supervisors: Drs. Brian Mutchler, PsyD and Cathy Williams-Sledge, PhD)

Mental Health Diagnostic Clinic: Fellows provide neuropsychological assessment services to a diverse range of patients in both inpatient and outpatient settings. Fellows will enhance both brief and comprehensive neuropsychological consultation and evaluation skills while working with a wide variety of neurological and psychological disorders such as various dementias, Parkinson's disease, stroke, MS, and seizure disorders, and for clarification of medically unexplained symptoms. (Supervisor: Jennifer Lumpkin, PsyD, ABPP-Rp)

Mental Health Clinic: Fellows will carry a caseload of short-term psychotherapy patients, lead or co-lead psychotherapy, skills, and psycho-education groups, and administer intake interviews. The Fellow will be exposed to a wide range of presenting problems including acute crisis stabilization, severe mental illness, and personality disorders. Fellows will be exposed to evidence-based treatments, interdisciplinary treatment planning, and consultation. An emphasis area in women's mental health will be offered. (Supervisor: Kelcey Stratton, PhD)

Other clinical rotations are periodically available, including pain management, mental health clearance (e.g., organ transplant and spinal cord stimulator), primary care mental health, home-based primary care and geriatrics, substance abuse treatment, women's health, and inpatient psychiatry. In the past, Fellows have also developed clinical rotations with eligible supervisors in areas of interest.

## Didactics and Additional Training

Mentored research and supervised clinical training are enhanced with a progression of didactic opportunities including research methods, statistics, epidemiology, grant writing, mental health systems, quality improvement methods, and evidence based clinical assessment and intervention. Educational opportunities include not only didactics, but also mentored research training, training in evidence based psychotherapies (EBPs), supervised supervision of junior clinicians and research assistants, teaching activities, and opportunities to hone their research presentation skills. The **core, mandatory didactics** include a national didactics seminar series featuring nationally renowned presenters, a local seminar series focused on post-deployment health, and a diversity seminar. The system-wide MIRECC Advanced Fellowship Program videoconference seminar series ("V-Tels") offers Fellows a broad range of topics including those covering state-of-the-art research methodologies, biostatistics, intervention and services research, quality improvement methods, grant funding, and career development. The monthly MIRECC Fellowship Post-Deployment Mental Health (PDMH) Seminar Series includes offerings which may include local and remote speakers, visits to a local military bases, article review with integrative summary, as well as on-line trainings that have been previously viewed (and highly rated) by previous Fellows. In addition to organized learning activities, flexibility in the PDMH Seminar Series allows for Fellows to choose content based an individual Fellow's identified learning interests and needs. Finally, the diversity seminar offers structured training in awareness of individual differences and cultural competence. Fellows are also expected to attend the annual Diversity Conference, a one-day meeting hosted by the McGuire VAMC. In total, Fellows

participate in at least two hours per week of structured learning activities beyond clinical supervision and research mentorship.

Additionally, Fellows have a host of other **optional training and educational opportunities** available to them, including:

- Auditing of graduate courses offered by VCU's Department of Psychology to support each Fellow's specific learning needs and objectives.
- VA (local and national) and VCU grand rounds.
- VA journal clubs and seminars.
- Online trainings in leadership, clinical proficiencies, and personal growth through the VA Learning University (VALU).
- Clinical training in evidence-based psychotherapies (EBPs).
- Participation in the Psychology Section's Diversity Lunch-and-Learn series.
- Monthly MIRECC Advanced Fellowship V-Tel biostatistics lectures and interactive grant-writing workshops.

Several **other learning activities** foster development across professional competencies. These include:

- Staff meetings: Fellows participate as members of the McGuire VAMC's professional community in a variety of ways. Fellows attend the monthly Psychology Section staff meetings, the monthly Mental Health Service staff meetings, and if possible, the staff meetings of the unit(s) or services on which they provide clinical service. Staff meetings provide Fellows with an opportunity to learn about pragmatic issues of professional relationships in a complex organization. They are exposed to systems-level considerations that affect healthcare delivery systems, work conditions, and the discipline of psychology.
- Professional meetings: Fellows are encouraged to attend professional meetings and conventions of their choice as a means of participating in the larger professional world, and of pursuing individual professional interests. The McGuire VAMC provides funding for travel and registration for MIRECC Fellows to attend one combined national mental health research and planning meeting per year (approximately \$1000). Authorized absence may be granted for such activities in an amount comparable to other Psychology staff. Absences for such meetings must be negotiated with the supervisor and submitted electronically to the supervisor for approval.
- Instruction and supervision of other trainees: Fellows are able to be involved in training more junior psychology trainees at McGuire VAMC through lecturing, mentoring, and clinical supervision.
- Professional presentations: Fellows are expected to present at least once for the MIRECC Advanced Fellowship video teleconference seminar series, and once for a local grand rounds, in-service, or other appropriate venue. Fellows are also expected to present research data (e.g., poster, oral presentation, symposiums) at a national or international professional meeting or conference.

## MIRECC Fellowship Program Training Faculty

### Training Committee

**John Beneseck, Psy.D.**, 1999, University of Hartford

Primary Site: McGuire VA Medical Center

Clinical Duties: Director, PTSD Program

Research Interests: Combat-related PTSD; forensic evaluation and treatment; Chemical dependence treatment; general adult psychopathology; treatment of the chronically mentally ill.

Faculty Appointments: Assistant Professor, Department of Psychiatry, Virginia Commonwealth University.

**Thomas Campbell, Ph.D.**, 2008, Virginia Commonwealth University

Clinical Duties: Neuropsychologist, Polytrauma Rehabilitation Center. Dr. Campbell is the Director of the Rehabilitation Fellowship Program, which recently received a 5-year APA accreditation as a specialty program in Rehabilitation Psychology.

Research Interests: TBI and PTSD, effort and negative response bias in neuropsychological assessment, psychological sequelae of torture.

Faculty Appointment: Adjunct and Affiliate Assistant Professor, Department of Psychology, Virginia Commonwealth University.

**Michael Ellwood, Ph.D.**, 1991, Virginia Commonwealth University

Primary Site: McGuire VA Medical Center

Clinical Duties: Dr. Ellwood provides assessment, psychological testing, psychotherapy, behavioral therapy, and family therapy for newly injured and long-term Spinal Cord Injury patients as part of an interdisciplinary treatment team. He also provides patient and staff education, and assessment and treatment for patients in the SCI outpatient clinic. Dr. Ellwood is the Director of Training for the Psychology Section in the Mental Health Service.

Research Interests: Health Psychology in relation to SCI, depression, pain and smoking.

Faculty appointments: Affiliate Assistant Professor in the Department of Psychology, Virginia Commonwealth University.

**Eugene Gourley, PhD.**, 1998, Virginia Commonwealth University

Primary Site: McGuire VA Medical Center

Clinical Duties: Staff Neuropsychologist with clinical responsibilities in the Mental Health SerV program, which spans mental health assessment and treatment of OEF/OIF Veterans. Dr. Gourley also contributes neuropsychological services through the Polytrauma Network Site (PNS) outpatient program.

Faculty Appointments: Adjunct Professor of Psychology, John Tyler Community College

**John Lynch, Ph.D.**, 1988, Virginia Commonwealth University

Primary Site: McGuire VA Medical Center

Clinical Duties: Psychologist, PTSD and Evidence Based Psychotherapy Coordinator

Research Interests: Evidence-based psychotherapy.

**Jennifer Menzel Lumpkin, Psy.D., ABPP-Rp**, 2005, University: Indiana University of Pennsylvania

Primary Site: McGuire VA Medical Center

Clinical Duties: Neuropsychologist, Mental Health Service & Spinal Cord Injury Service.

Completes comprehensive neuropsychological assessments for a wide variety of patient populations throughout the hospital. Referrals are typically received from primary, mental health, geriatrics, and neurology.

Research Interests: Traumatic brain injury, depression following traumatic brain injury, dementia.

Faculty Appointments: Affiliate Assistant Professor in Psychology, Virginia Commonwealth University.

**Brian L. Meyer, Ph.D.**, 1990, Duke University

Primary Site: McGuire VA Medical Center

Clinical Duties: Interim Associate Chief, Mental Health Services/Supervisory Psychologist and SUD/PTSD Specialist. Provide evidence-based individual, family, couples, and group psychotherapies for veterans with substance abuse problems and Posttraumatic Stress Disorder. Work with SUD and PTSD teams to coordinate and integrate treatment for veterans with both sets of difficulties. Also provide clinical consultation, psychoeducation, and patient and staff education.

Research Interests: trauma, mindfulness, child abuse, co-occurring disorders.

Faculty Appointments: Assistant Professor, Department of Psychiatry, Virginia Commonwealth University.

**Scott McDonald, Ph.D.**, 2006, Virginia Commonwealth University

Primary Site: McGuire VA Medical Center

Clinical Duties: Neuropsychology consultation for the Spinal Cord Injury Service at the McGuire VAMC. Dr. McDonald serves as Co-Director for the MIRECC Psychology Fellowship program.

Research Interests: PTSD assessment, rehabilitation outcomes, and resilience. Currently funded through a VA RR&D Career Development Award-2 to study resilience following physical injury (e.g., spinal cord injury, amputation, TBI).

Faculty Appointments: Affiliate Assistant Professor, Departments of Psychology and Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, Virginia Commonwealth University.

Biosketch/CV:

<http://www.pmr.vcu.edu/Department/directory/faculty/SMcdonald/SMcdonaldCV.pdf>

**Christopher “Topher” Murphy, Psy.D.**, 2008, Regent University

Primary Site: McGuire VA Medical Center

Clinical Duties: Compensation and Pension Forensic Psychologist, Clinical Psychologist in

PTSD program at McGuire VAMC; provider of Cognitive Behavioral Therapy and evidenced based therapy for PTSD as accredited by VACO.

Research Interests: Combat-related PTSD; forensic evaluation and treatment.

Faculty Appointment: Affiliate Assistant Professor, Department of Psychology, Virginia Commonwealth University.

**Treven Pickett, Psy.D., ABPP-Rp**, 2001, Virginia Consortium Program in Clinical Psychology.

Primary Site: McGuire VA Medical Center

Clinical Duties: Associate Chief and Supervisory Clinical Psychologist (Research and Education), Mental Health Service at the McGuire VA Medical Center.

Research Interests: TBI; PTSD; Neuro-rehabilitation.

Faculty Appointments: Affiliate Assistant Professor, Department of Psychology; Assistant Professor of PM&R and Psychiatry at Virginia Commonwealth University.

**Kelcey J. Stratton, Ph.D.**, 2012, The New School for Social Research

Primary Site: McGuire VA Medical Center

Clinical Duties: Women's Health and Research Psychologist, Mental Health Service. Provides evidence-based psychotherapies, consultations, and short-term behavioral health interventions to women Veterans for disorders commonly found in referral to the Women's Clinic, including treatments for posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD), military sexual trauma, depression, anxiety, insomnia, eating disorders, and health concerns. Develops research and program evaluation projects in the Mental Health Service Line to enhance understanding of trends in mental health services, identify opportunities for improvement in service delivery, and engage Mental Health staff and Veterans in the development of high-quality treatment programs.

Research Interests: PTSD and pain, mindfulness meditation, psychological resilience, treatment outcomes.

Faculty Appointments: Affiliate Assistant Professor in Psychology, Virginia Commonwealth University.

## Associate Research Faculty

**Ananda Amstadter, Ph.D.**, 2008, Auburn University

Primary Site: Virginia Commonwealth University, MCV Campus

Research Interests: Identification of risk and resiliency factors, biologic and psychosocial in nature, for traumatic-stress related conditions.

Faculty Appointment: Associate Professor, Department of Psychiatry, Virginia Commonwealth University.

Biosketch/CV: <http://www.vipbg.vcu.edu/vipbg/dr/AAMSTADTER.shtml>

**F. Gerard Moeller, M.D.**, University of Texas Health Science Center At Houston, 1985

Primary Site: Virginia Commonwealth University, Medical College of Virginia

**Positions:** Division Chair for Addiction Psychiatry, Director of Addiction Medicine in the School of Medicine and the Institute for Drug and Alcohol Research at Virginia Commonwealth University

**Research Interests:** Addictions and related behavioral problems, including impulsivity and decision-making. Brain imaging as a tool for medication development for addictions.

**Clinical Interests:** Treatment of addictions using combined behavioral and pharmacotherapy.

**Faculty Appointments:** Professor of Psychiatry and Pharmacology and Toxicology, Virginia Commonwealth University

**Biosketch/CV:** <http://www.vcu.edu/idas/about/faculty.html>

**Bruce Rybarczyk, Ph.D., ABPP-Rp, 1988, Virginia Commonwealth University**

**Primary Site:** Virginia Commonwealth University, Monroe Park Campus

**Positions:** Director of the Clinical Psychology Program at Virginia Commonwealth University. He is board certified in Rehabilitation Psychology by the American Board of Professional Psychology. He serves as Associate Editor for the *Journal of Clinical Psychology*.

**Research Interests:** Understanding and facilitating the psychological adaptation to chronic medical illness and disability.

**Clinical Interests:** Clinical health psychology, behavioral sleep medicine, primary care psychology, and clinical geropsychology.

**Faculty Appointments:** Professor, Department of Psychology, Virginia Commonwealth University.

**Biosketch/CV:** <http://www.psychology.vcu.edu/people/rybarczyk.shtml>

**Scott Vrana, Ph.D., 1988, University of Florida**

**Primary Site:** Virginia Commonwealth University, Monroe Park Campus

**Positions:** Professor, Departments of Psychology and Psychiatry, Virginia Commonwealth University. Co-Director of the Anxiety Clinic of the Center for Psychological Services and Development, Virginia Commonwealth University.

**Research Interests:** The study of emotion, especially fear and anxiety, from an information processing and psychophysiological perspective.

**Clinical Interests:** Intellectual assessment and the assessment and treatment of anxiety disorders.

**Faculty Appointments:** Professor, Departments of Psychology and Psychiatry, Virginia Commonwealth University.

**Biosketch/CV:** <http://www.psychology.vcu.edu/people/vrana.shtml>

**William Walker, M.D., 1987, Virginia Commonwealth University**

**Primary Site:** Virginia Commonwealth University, Medical College of Virginia

**Positions:** Ernst and Helga Prosser Professor and Vice Chairman of Clinical Care in Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation. Principal Investigator for the Defense and Veterans Brain Injury Center (DVBIC) in Richmond.

**Research Interests:** Traumatic brain injury and pain assessment.

**Clinical Interests:** Brain injury, concussion, neuro-rehabilitation, and spasticity.

**Faculty Appointments:** Professor, Department of PM&R, Virginia Commonwealth University.  
**Biosketch/CV:** <http://www.pmr.vcu.edu/Department/Directory/faculty/wwalker/wwalker.aspx>

## Evaluation Procedures

### Program's Evaluation of Fellow

Core training goals and objectives will be discussed with the Fellow at the beginning of the fellowship training period and an individualized learning plan will be collaboratively drafted. Fellows are encouraged to work with the fellowship director(s) and research mentors to individualize goals and objectives that are consonant with his or her research program and career plan within the structure of the goals and training activities noted above.

Clinical rotation supervisors and research supervisors complete standardized evaluation at the mid-point and at the end of each 4-month rotation using the "Supervisor's Evaluation of Postdoctoral Fellow General Clinical Competencies" form. Feedback is expected to be as specific as possible, and communicated in a respectful manner. The supervisor and Fellow discuss the formal evaluation and both sign it before it is placed in the Fellow's training file. The Training Director(s) and the fellow will meet and collaboratively assess progress toward achieving goals and objectives in the next rating period and revise or remediate as needed.

Rotation evaluations are key contributors to the "Fellowship Director's Overall Summary of Areas of Competence," which is completed by the supervisor and discussed with the Fellow. In addition, the Fellows are asked to complete a self-assessment that summarizes key activities and achievements during the rating period. The fellowship director's summary is written feedback, structured to match the competencies on the supervisor ratings forms as well as feedback and tracking of the individualized learning goals and requirements for fellowship completion. The fellowship director's summary is based on written feedback from clinical supervisors, research mentors, fellowship director's observations, and other available information. The supervisor and Fellow discuss the formal evaluation and both sign it before it is placed in the Fellow's training file. The fellowship director(s) and the Fellow also use this meeting to collaboratively assess progress toward achieving goals and objectives and modify the training plan as needed.

Because feedback and instruction are most valuable when immediate and specific, supervisors, training directors, and Fellows are expected to exchange feedback routinely as a normal part of their daily interactions.

### Fellow's Evaluation of Program

A formal system of evaluation is used for Fellows to provide feedback on Fellow's clinical supervisory, mentorship, and overall fellowship program experience. The Fellows complete formal rating scales of their experience in clinical rotations at the end of each rotation and in the overall fellowship every six months and at the end of the training program to indicate their satisfaction with the training experiences, outcomes, quality of supervision provided, didactic experiences, research involvement, and facilities and resources available. However, keeping in mind that feedback is most useful when it is immediate and specific; Fellows are encouraged to provide informal input and feedback as a routine part of the supervision process, in their weekly

meetings with their research mentor(s), and in monthly meetings with the fellowship director. Clinical supervision evaluations are to be discussed and signed by the Fellow and supervisor/mentor prior to being submitted to the fellowship director. A copy is provided to the fellowship director as a means of monitoring program quality. The fellowship director and Fellow will review the Fellows' ratings and work collaboratively to address any areas of concern. Fellows receive a copy of the Fellowship Training Manual which provides additional detail about due process procedures in the event of trainee grievance.

## Requirements for Completion

In order for Fellows to successfully complete the program, they must successfully meet or exceed expectations in competencies set based on the goals of the fellowship. Core objectives and goals for our program, associated competencies, and methods for evaluation are delineated above. Below we outline the minimum requirements for successful completion of our program. These requirements are consistent with the overall mandate from the VA Office of Academic Affiliations of the national program.

### Minimum Requirements for Successful Completion of our Program Include:

1. Successful completion (via formal evaluation with supervisors and reflected in the "Fellowship Director's Overall Summary of Competence") of assigned training activities in clinical psychology.
  - Completion of requisite hours (4160 hours).
  - Successfully met or surpassed expectations for developing competencies based on goals of the fellowship as described above via formal evaluation by supervisors and fellowship director(s).
2. Successful completion of research goals (via formal evaluation by supervisors, research mentors, and fellowship director(s)).
  - Completion of a Fellow-generated clinical research project.
  - Minimum of 2 publications by completion of program; one must be as first author.
  - Regular presentations of research at professional conferences (1 per year).
  - Demonstration of grantsmanship through writing a career development award grant proposal (e.g., VA CDA-2, NIH K-series) OR writing and submitting a grant proposal as principal investigator or co-investigator to fund a Veteran-oriented clinical research project.
3. Successful completion of required didactics.
4. Maintenance of consistently professional and ethical conduct in professional setting throughout duration of training.

### Additional Suggested Benchmarks:

1. Licensure (or at least successful completion of EPPP).
2. Job market preparation (successful submission of grant and/or completion of job search).

Finally, our expectations of Fellows (and staff) extend beyond performance and achievement. We expect Fellows to consistently behave in a fully professional and ethical manner consistent with guidelines, laws, and regulations of the APA, VA, and the State of Virginia:

- APA's Ethical Principles of Psychologists and Code of Conduct (<http://www.apa.org/ethics/code/index.aspx>)
- McGuire VAMC's Behavioral Code of Conduct
- Laws and Regulations of the State of Virginia (<http://www.dhp.state.va.us/psychology>)

Fellows are expected to adhere to all relevant McGuire VAMC policies regarding the diagnosis, treatment and clinical management of patients and the appropriate conduct of research. Fellows are to ensure patient privacy and confidentiality by adhering to HIPAA guidelines and McGuire VAMC policies regarding the secure storage of clinical research data, etc.

Upon fulfillment of these requirements, a Certificate of Completion is awarded, verifying the Fellow's completion of a postdoctoral training program.

## Location and Resources

### McGuire VA Medical Center

The Hunter Holmes McGuire Veterans Affairs Medical Center (VAMC) is a 1-A designated, tertiary care referral center located in Richmond, Virginia. The medical center offers a full range of health care services including comprehensive outpatient care to complex inpatient services. The medical center has 427



operating beds, which includes internal medicine, surgery, neurology, physical and rehabilitation medicine, intermediate care, acute and sustaining spinal cord injury, skilled nursing home care, palliative care, and primary and secondary levels of psychology and psychiatric care programs. There are approximately 53,000 Veterans enrolled at the RVAMC, including 5,600 female Veterans. About 44,000 Veteran patients were served in calendar year 2009. The medical center is the host site for several notable specialty clinics and centers of excellence, including:

- Polytrauma Rehabilitation Center (PRC)
- Polytrauma Neuroscience Center of Excellence
- VA Parkinson's Disease Research, Education and Clinical Center (PADRECC)
- VA Epilepsy Center of Excellence (ECOIE)
- Spinal Cord Injury and Disorders regional center
- VA Amputation System of Care (ASoC) regional center
- Defense and Veterans Brain Injury Center (DVBIC)
- VISN-6 Mental Illness, Research, Education, and Clinical Center (MIRECC)

Future developments on the McGuire VAMC campus include the completion of the Polytrauma Neuroscience Center of Excellence, a 19,000 sq ft Mental Health expansion, a new dialysis center, and parking garage. Learn more about the McGuire VAMC at [www.richmond.va.gov](http://www.richmond.va.gov).

**Research:** The RVAMC has a vibrant research program with annual budgetary allocation that consists of approximately seven million dollars. The McGuire VAMC has a sound research infrastructure including an onsite institutional review board (McGuire IRB) and the McGuire Research Institute, a non-profit organization that supports grant management and other research activities at the McGuire VAMC. Over 80% of the medical center's research has a direct impact on patient care, studies in the VA system, and in the community. Seventy-five investigators conduct over 300 research studies with clinical research focus areas that include Hepatitis C, Diabetes Lipid Disorders, as well as in areas of Polytrauma, TBI, and mental health conditions that frequently present with TBI.

**Psychology Section:** The Psychology Section has over 40 doctoral level psychology staff with a wide range of specializations and theoretical orientations. In addition to traditional roles in Mental Health, staff psychologists are critical members of the Substance Abuse, PTSD, Polytrauma System of Care, Spinal Cord Injury, Geriatric/Home-based Care, PADRECC and Behavioral Medicine programs.

**Psychology Training:** Our training program includes an APA-accredited pre-doctoral psychology internship program, an APA specialty-accredited Rehabilitation Psychology fellowship, the MIRECC Psychology Fellowship Program, and pre-doctoral practicum positions. Currently, we have four psychology interns, three practicum students, two Rehabilitation Psychology Fellows, and three MIRECC Psychology Fellows.

### **Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU)**

One of the nation's top research universities, Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU) enrolls more than 32,000 students on two Richmond campuses—the Monroe Park Campus and Medical College of Virginia (MCV) Campus. The VCU Medical Center, including the university's health sciences schools, offers state-of-the-art care in more than 200 specialty areas and serves as the region's only Level 1 Trauma Center. VCU boasts more than \$255 million in sponsored research, bringing together faculty experts and student scholars to collaborate across multiple disciplines.

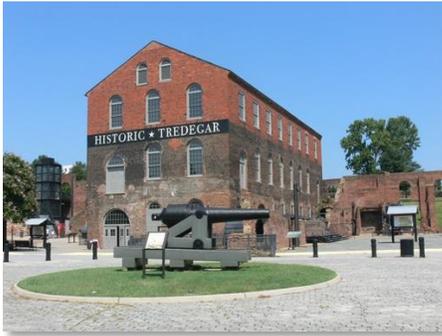


The McGuire VAMC enjoys a strong and mutually beneficial affiliation with VCU. Residency and fellowship programs exist in virtually every general and specialty areas of internal medicine, rehabilitation, surgery, dentistry, psychiatry, and psychology. A majority of our psychology faculty hold affiliate professor appointments either through the VCU Department of Psychology or through the VCU Department of Psychiatry on the VCU medical campus. Historically, fellows have received affiliate faculty appointments in the VCU Psychology Department as well.

### **Library and Information Resources**

The McGuire VAMC medical library offers article retrieval services, online article databases and electronic articles, and interlibrary loan services. In addition, MIRECC Advanced Fellowship Program Fellows will be provided access to library services at our academic affiliate, Virginia Commonwealth University, through an academic appointment.

## Richmond, Virginia



*Tredegar Iron Works*  
Credit: Morgan Riley

Nationally recognized for its vitality and new economy, Richmond's diversified employment base extends from chemical, food and tobacco manufacturing to cutting edge biotechnology, semiconductors and high-tech fiber production. The city consistently ranks among "Best Places to Live and Work in America" in several national publications.

Bisected by the James River, its numerous parks and woodlands offer the chance for solitude in nature as well as outdoor sports such as mountain biking and kayaking even when close to the city center. Richmond annually hosts the XTERRA off road triathlon's East Coast Championship, The SunTrust Richmond Marathon, hosted the 2012 Veteran's Wheelchair Games, and will host the UCI Road World Championship of cycling in 2015. For these reasons and more, it is easy to see why Richmond was recently voted "the best river town in America" by readers of *Outside Magazine* (October, 2012).



*Dominion Riverrock Festival*

Richmond is proud to support several first-class museums, three prominent universities, a symphony, the American Youth Harp Ensemble, professional ballet and opera companies, and numerous theater groups and art galleries. Richmond also hosts the annual Richmond Folk Festival ([www.richmondfolkfestival.org](http://www.richmondfolkfestival.org)), a free festival featuring live performances by some of the world's greatest folk musicians. The Richmond Region is home to exceptional opportunities to learn about [African-American history](#), including the Black History Museum and Cultural Center of Virginia, the Maggie L. Walker National Historic Site, and the Richmond Slave Trail. Richmonders can also enjoy a host of [multicultural events](#) throughout the year.



*The Richmond Folk Festival*

While offering easy access to the Atlantic Ocean and the Chesapeake Bay, Appalachian and Blue Ridge Mountains as well as being only 90 minutes south of Washington, D.C., Richmond features countless pastimes right at home. Trendy boutiques, varied bistros and restaurants, numerous sports and entertainment attractions, outdoor pursuits among one of the nation's

largest river park systems, and a treasure trove of historic landmarks provide opportunities for nearly endless learning and relaxation.

Learn more about the city of Richmond, Virginia at: <http://www.vcu.edu/richmond/> and <http://www2.richmond.com/>

## **Stipend and Benefits**

The Fellowship program offers a full-time stipend of approximately \$43,094 for Fellowship year 1, and approximately \$45,423 for year 2. Stipends are approximated because cost-of-living adjustments have yet to be announced. As a VA Associated Health Fellow you are eligible for health and life insurance and entitled to 10 federal holidays, up to 13 business-days sick leave, up to 5 business days of leave for professional activities, and up to 13 business days of personal leave. Travel funds for training purposes (e.g., attending a professional conference) is available but is not guaranteed. The Federal Tort Claims Act covers professional liability for services provided as a DVA employee. Note that most aspects of the Stipend and Benefits for VA Associated Health Fellows are determined by the VA at a national level and are subject to change.

## **Administrative Policies and Procedures**

This program supports and adheres to Equal Employment Opportunity policies and the Americans with Disabilities Act. Applications from racial, ethnic, and sexual minorities and women are strongly encouraged. No applicant will be discriminated against on the basis of race, color, creed, religion, sex, place of national origin, or age. We do not require self-disclosure.

## **Accreditations**

An application for contingency accreditation was submitted to the Commission on Accreditation (CoA) of the American Psychological Association (APA) in September 2013. An accreditation site visit was conducted in August 2014 and we are on the October 2014 CoA agenda. The APA Office of Program Consultation and Accreditation can be reached at the APA, 750 First St. NE, Washington DC 20002-4242, (202) 336-5979.

## **Memberships**

Our program is a member of the Association of Psychology Postdoctoral and Internship Centers (APPIC).

## Application & Selection Procedures

### Eligibility:

1. United States (U.S.) citizen.
2. Completed all requirements of an APA-Accredited doctoral program in clinical or counseling psychology.
3. Have successfully completed a professional psychology internship training program that has been accredited by APA. Exceptions: (1) new VHA psychology internship programs that are in the process of applying for APA accreditation are acceptable in fulfillment of the internship requirement, provided that such programs were sanctioned by the VHA Central Office Program Director for Psychology and the VHA Central Office of Academic Affiliations at the time that the individual was an intern and (2) VHA facilities who offered full one-year pre-doctoral internships prior to PL 96-151 (pre-1979) are considered to be acceptable in fulfillment of the internship requirement.
4. Meet all VAMC hiring and credentialing requirements.

### Application:

#### How to Apply:

Please contact the training director at the phone number or e-mail below to indicate your intent to submit an application and to receive the "Postdoctoral Fellowship Application Form." A completed application package includes the following components:

1. A completed "Postdoctoral Fellowship Application Form."
2. A cover letter that includes in detail the following elements (3 pp. limit):
  - a. Your research interests, research training goals, and the research program you would like to develop as a Fellow;
  - b. Your clinical orientation, strengths, and clinical training goals;
  - c. Any previous clinical, educational and research experience in post-deployment mental health;
  - d. A description of how your prior training and experiences relate to our program's training emphasis and goals; and
  - e. A description of your career goals and how the training we offer will advance them.
3. Curriculum Vitae
4. Official or unofficial transcripts from graduate program (Official transcripts with PsyD or PhD date of completion will be required if an offer is made).
5. Three letters of recommendation, at least one of which should come from a recent clinical supervisor (within past 3 years) who is familiar with your clinical work. Letters of recommendation can be sent by mail (signed across the sealed envelope) or e-mail (from the writer's institutional or work e-mail address).
6. If you are currently an intern, a letter from your psychology internship director (or e-mail from the writer's institutional or work e-mail address) discussing progress on internship and anticipated completion date.

7. If your dissertation has not yet been defended, include a letter from your dissertation chair (or e-mail from the writer's institutional or work e-mail address) that notes the status of your dissertation and anticipated completion date.
8. A de-identified clinical work sample (integrated psychology assessment, neuropsychological assessment, intake report, etc.).

**Applications for 2015 will be accepted on a rolling basis starting November 10, 2014.** The position(s) will remain open until filled. Electronic submission of materials is appreciated but not required. Letters of reference and transcripts may be sent separately from the rest of the application. Please send all completed application materials (by mail or e-mail) to:

Attn: Scott McDonald, Ph.D.  
Co-Director, VA Advanced Fellowship Program in Mental Health Research and Treatment  
McGuire VA Medical Center (116-B)  
1201 Broad Rock Blvd.  
Richmond, VA 23249  
E-Mail: [Scott.McDonald@va.gov](mailto:Scott.McDonald@va.gov)

Please mark the envelope or e-mail subject line - "MIRECC Fellowship Application Materials"

Application Review and Notification Process:

Applications will be reviewed by the fellowship co-directors, members of the training committee, and potential research mentors. A standardized rating form is used to evaluate applications on experience and fit to the program and potential mentors. Applicants will be notified that they are no longer under consideration or will be contacted for more information and to schedule an interview via teleconferencing (preferred), telephone, or on-site meetings within two weeks of application receipt.

For more information about the MIRECC Psychology Fellowship Program at the McGuire VAMC, please contact Scott McDonald, Ph.D. at 804-675-5000 x3633 or [scott.mcdonald@va.gov](mailto:scott.mcdonald@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.*