



National Center for
PTSD
POSTTRAUMATIC STRESS DISORDER

NCPTSD Research Externship

National Center for Post-Traumatic
Stress Disorder –
Dissemination & Training Division
VA Palo Alto Health Care System

2018-2019

Introduction

The National Center for PTSD Dissemination & Training Division (NCPTSD – D&T) at VA Palo Alto Health Care System promotes best practices in treatment of Veterans with PTSD and related problems through training and practice change efforts based on implementation science, and by developing and researching novel interventions to expand access and improve effectiveness of care. Areas of special focus include web-based training; smart phone, internet, and other intervention technologies; evidence-based treatment; and disorders co-occurring with PTSD such as substance use disorders, sleep problems, complex forms of PTSD, military sexual trauma (MST), and disaster mental health.

NCPTSD – D&T division is offering an externship program to students who are seeking research experience. This brochure is designed to outline the externship placements at NCPTSD, and includes a description of the externship and application procedures as well as a list of available mentoring supervisors with whom to work.

Overview of Externship Experience

The goal of the externship is to give the graduate student “hands on” experience in the implementation of scientific, clinical, and practical aspects of research. This may include experiences such as review of a specific literature, lab meetings and discussions, training on specific clinical measures (e.g., evidence-based diagnostic interviews), or exposure to clinical work via recordings or videos, training and experience recruiting participants, entering data into a database, analyzing study data, preparing tables or figures to summarize findings, and other research activities.

The externship is a mentorship-based experience. The extern will work with one NCPTSD mentor or workgroup to develop skills in a specific content area (e.g., sleep problems, military sexual trauma), research paradigm (e.g., implementation science), or technical area (e.g., mobile health).

Research opportunities and Expectation:

Each extern is expected to commit at least 8 hours /week for a training year and is expected to participate actively in their specific project(s) during their training tenure. *Some workgroups might require more than a minimum of 8 hours of commitment.* Please discuss this during the interview with your mentor. Students who contribute and engage more with their mentors tends to benefit the most from this program. Externs may have the opportunity to disseminate research results by participating in preparation of conference presentations and publications for peer-reviewed journals. Participation in local seminars at NCPTSD and affiliated centers

(e.g., Center for Innovation to Implementation) is encouraged. Collaboration with NCPTSD for a dissertation project is an option to be discussed with a selected supervisor. Commitments to externs regarding publication will follow American Psychological Association guidelines (see Appendix 2). Graduate students will participate in the NCPTSD program with the explicit knowledge and agreement of the appropriate administrator in their graduate school program. ***The externship experience is a research experience and cannot count toward clinical hours, unless otherwise specified.*** (see Appendix 3).

Statistics and Methods Specialty Track

A new track, *Statistics and Methods Specialty Track*, is added to the program this year. This track will be focused on providing experience in statistical and methodological aspects of scientific psychological projects.

Drawing on staff in both Social and Clinical Psychology, training in this track will be focused on gaining mastery experiences in statistical and methodological aspects of scientific psychological projects. Specific externship goals, unique to each extern, will be developed at the start of the externship. *Due to the focus on statistical methods, applicants should have completed coursework in advanced statistics (e.g., two courses) by the beginning of the externship.* Training activities may include experiences such as developing digital data collection tools, executing data collection procedures, cleaning and structuring data, analyzing study data, preparing tables or figures to summarize findings, drafting relevant sections of scientific papers, reviewing specific literature, attending lab meetings and discussions, and other research activities. In conjunction with our SJSU Faculty Advisor and NCPTSD Scientist, Dr. Annabel Prins, the Statistics and Methods Specialty Track mentoring supervisors are Drs. Maggi Mackintosh and Beth Jaworski. Descriptions of their research programs are available in Appendix 1.

Lead: *Drs. Maggi Mackintosh and Beth Jaworski*

Number of Slots available: 2-3

Applications: *Statistics and Methods Specialty Track applications should be submitted to Drs. Maggi Mackintosh and Beth Jaworski, at Margaret.Mackintosh@va.gov and Beth.Jaworski@va.gov.*

Didactic Opportunities:

Externs will have the opportunity to participate and/or present in NCPTSD staff meetings, attend National NCPTSD Research and Education Calls, and National Clinical and Inpatient Mental Health Calls, and seminars at NCPTSD and affiliated centers (e.g., Center for Innovation to Implementation).

Evaluation:

Evaluation will be an informal and mutual process between Externs and Mentors. Students are expected to develop an Individual Development Plan (IDP) with their mentors at the start of the Externship year. Mentors and externs are expected to meet on a quarterly basis to exchange feedback and review the Development Plan (IDP). Externs are encouraged to meet with mentors to delineate their learning goals, to evaluate their progress each quarter in terms of those original goals, to modify their goals based on mentor's feedback, and to plan for attaining these goals during the remainder of the externship year. We encourage externs to discuss any training needs, challenges or concerns with their mentoring supervisor if they arise. The evaluation process will be reviewed in detail with externs during the orientation at the start of the year.

Location: National Center for PTSD, Dissemination & Training Division, VA Palo Alto Health Care System, Building 334, Menlo Park Campus, 795 Willow Road, Menlo Park, CA.

Tour of Duty: Possible Days and Hours- Monday – Friday, 8am-4:30pm

Application and Selection Process:

Eligibility:

To be eligible to apply for the Externship program, students must meet the following criteria:

1. Must be enrolled in Doctoral or Master's Level programs in clinical, community, experimental, or developmental psychology.
2. Able to commit a minimum of 8 hours per week (one day or two half days) for either a full calendar (12 months) or academic (8 months) year.
3. ***Statistics and Methods Specialty Track Only:*** Students should have completed coursework in advanced statistics (e.g., two courses) by the beginning of the externship.

Preferred Skills and Qualifications

- Highly self-motivated and detail-oriented
- Excellent spoken and written communication skills
- Strong computer skills (Microsoft Office, general internet and electronic communications)
- Able to prioritize and complete tasks independently and as a member of a team
- Interested in and able to learn about current treatments for PTSD, new educational products, and other trauma-relevant topics

Statistics and Methods Specialty Track: In addition to above

- Experience in using statistical tools such as SPSS, SAS, Mplus
- Ideal candidate has experience in communication technologies such as Slack and Github
- Coursework in advanced statistical methods and multivariate analysis or psychometrics

Responsibilities may include:

- Performing data collection/entry/analysis
 - Preparing printed and electronic documents, including fliers, brochures, and other marketing materials, to aid in outreach and publicity for the Center and our products
 - Assisting staff with the design and maintenance of online surveys, toolkits, and other educational materials
 - Completing literature searches, environmental scans, and other tasks to aid in the preparation of presentations and papers
 - Preparing for, attending, and participating in staff and team meetings
 - Rating audio/videotapes of clinical assessments or therapy sessions
 - Transcribing recordings and handwritten notes
 - Learning to use technology to perform tasks efficiently
- Statistics and Methods Specialty Track:* In addition to above
- Processing data sets in preparation for data analysis
 - Applying descriptive and inferential statistical procedures
 - Helping to develop statistics resources to support quantitative services at NC PTSD

Materials to Submit:

The application is comprised of:

1. Resume/ Curriculum Vitae (CV) identifying relevant work experience
2. Letter of Interest (1-2 pages): Please describe briefly your reasons for applying to the program, research interests and identifying up to three potential supervisors
3. Faculty contact at your graduate school

Submit Application to:

Completed applications should be submitted to Chetali Gupta, Research Program manager, at Chetali.gupta@va.gov. *Statistics and Methods Specialty Track applications should be submitted to Drs. Maggi Mackintosh and Beth Jaworski, at Margaret.Mackintosh@va.gov and Beth.Jaworski@va.gov.*

Deadlines:

Feb 26: Begin accepting applications.

April 15: Now extended! Last date to submit application.

All application materials must be received by us on or before this date. Incomplete application will not be accepted.

Mar 26-Apr 20: Application will be reviewed and interviews will be conducted by selected mentors. Interviews will be conducted in-person or by telephone or skype. Candidates will be contacted via email by the identified supervisors to schedule an interview



- April 25: Acceptance notifications will occur no later than this date. Candidates will be notified of NCPTSD's selections via email
- April 27: Last date to accept externship position. Accepted externs must apply for volunteer status (referred to as "Without Compensation," or WOC) at the Palo Alto VA. *

- ❖ Each mentor has limited number of slots available (see Appendix 1). Extern selection will depend on the fit between the candidate and mentor and availability of mentoring faculty with available research projects.
- ❖ ***WOC appointment:*** All externs are required to have an approved Without Compensation (WOC) appointment with the VA Palo Alto Healthcare System prior to start of the Externship. Obtaining WOC approval may take 12-24 weeks. A background check, fingerprints, initial / annual trainings, health clearance, and TB tests are several of the required components of the WOC appointment. Additional components may be required. NCPTSD cannot guarantee that WOC status will be granted, nor can they guarantee the timeline in which these steps will be completed. **NCPTSD strongly recommends that accepted externs begin the WOC process as early as possible.**

APPENDIX 1: List of Mentors

Marylene Cloitre, Associate Director of Research, NCPTSD Dissemination & Training Division and Clinical Professor (Affiliate) of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences, Stanford University.

Dr. Cloitre is the Director of the Fellowship and Externship Program and is committed to providing an environment that promotes the successful development of young trauma clinicians and researchers. Her primary research involves the evaluation of Skill Training in Affective and Interpersonal Regulation (STAIR), an intervention that focuses on enhancing emotion management and relationship skills in trauma-exposed populations, particularly for those with repeated and chronic trauma histories, such as Veterans who have experienced Military Sexual Trauma (MST). She is adapting STAIR for use in primary care with a focus on matching interventions to patient identified problems. She is also implementing technologies to increase the dissemination of evidence-based treatments. This includes the use of technology that supports home-based services and the development of web-based self-guided interventions, which includes the newly developed webSTAIR program that is being disseminated to rural women Veterans. Dr. Cloitre has received funding from the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH) and other government agencies as well as private foundations. She received her Ph.D. from Columbia University. Before joining NCPTSD, Dr. Cloitre was a Professor of Psychiatry and of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry at the New York University Langone School of Medicine. Dr. Cloitre is a past-president of the International Society for Traumatic Stress Studies (ISTSS) and a member of the WHO ICD-11 Working Group for Trauma and Related Disorders. She is also on the Board of Directors for the Anxiety Disorders Association of America (ADAA) and on the Advisory Board of Tuesday's Children, a grassroots organization of 9/11 families that have lost a parent.

Slots available: 2-3

Adrienne Heinz, Ph.D., Principal Investigator, NCPTSD Dissemination & Training Division

Dr. Adrienne Heinz of the Substance and Anxiety Intervention Laboratory at the Menlo Park VA has an opening for Psy.D. and Ph.D. clinical practicum students with experience with neuropsychological and psychiatric assessment, who are seeking clinical hours and supervised training with trauma and substance use populations.

Dr. Heinz is interested in understanding cognitive and emotional factors that help explain why some individuals experiment with substances but eventually quit or moderate their use, while others go on to develop substance use disorders (SUD). On the other end of the spectrum, she aims to understand how these mechanisms influence addiction treatment outcomes so as to help improve existing empirically supported treatments. Specifically, Dr. Heinz's research examines how impulsivity and disruptions in higher order cognitive functions (executive functions; self-regulation; emotion regulation) predispose individuals to problematic substance use and associated risk behaviors (e.g., aggression and violence) as well as impede recovery. She is also interested in biopsychosocial factors that promote resilient responses to adversity in this population.

Students will conduct psychiatric and neuropsychological assessments and interviews. In addition, the student will participate in research activities, ad-hoc peer-reviewing of manuscripts for journals, and preparation of research products for presentation at scientific conferences. The student will receive

weekly group and individual supervision and is invited to attend lectures and forums at the Center for Innovation to Implementation and the National Center for PTSD.

Slots available: 2-3

Beth Jaworski, Ph.D., Social Psychologist, Mobile App Team, NCPTSD Dissemination & Training Division, Statistics and Methods Specialty Track

Dr. Jaworski is a social psychologist and mobile app specialist. Broadly, her work is focused on developing mobile technology based interventions for Veterans and their families, and she is particularly interested in developing just-in-time interventions tailored to individuals, their mood states, their symptoms of PTSD, and their social and environmental contexts. She splits her time between research and evaluation projects and working with designers and software developers to create both research and publically-available mobile mental health tools. Externs working with Beth will have opportunities to learn about mobile app design (including use of InVision) and development, and learn about mobile health research methodologies and data analysis methods for self-reported and passively collected data. Other experiences may include conducting UX research (interviews or focus groups), market scans, and literature reviews. Externs in the Statistical & Methods Track will focus on statistical analysis, supporting research product development (e.g., publications and presentations), and methodological and statistical tasks aiding investigators in developing their research grants.

Slots available for Statistics and Methods Specialty Track: 2-3

Rachel Kimerling, Ph.D., Psychologist, NCPTSD Dissemination & Training Division

Dr. Kimerling's interdisciplinary research group conducts mental health services research on a wide range of topics pertaining to patient-centered care in the detection and treatment of traumatic stress. They emphasize research with direct clinical and policy applications, and several projects are conducted in collaboration with VA leadership in Mental Health Services and related offices such as Public Health and Women's Health Services. Current studies address: screening for PTSD and military sexual trauma; impact of gender and social inequalities on PTSD; engagement with health care; and development of psychometric measures. Externs can choose to focus on one or more of the following research activities: a) patient interviews and administration of PTSD-related assessment measures in primary care; b) quantitative data management and analysis using R, Stata or SQL; or c) qualitative data analysis. Externs may also participate in dissemination of research through preparation of conference presentations, publications for peer-reviewed journals, and materials for Veteran stakeholders. Weekly supervision is offered and participation in team meetings and local seminars at NCPTSD and the Center for Innovation to Implementation is encouraged. For more information, please contact Dr. Rachel Kimerling (Rachel.kimerling@va.gov).

Slots available: 2-3

Maggi Mackintosh, Ph.D., Data Analyst & Data Core Lead, NCPTSD Dissemination & Training Division

Dr. Mackintosh's work at the Center is multi-faceted, including (a) serving as a statistician and research methodologist, supporting other NCPTSD investigators in the development of research projects and conducting statistical analysis; (b) developing research infrastructure and resources for the Center's Data Core; and (c) developing projects related to her interest in psychotherapy process research and use

of technology to extend the reach of mental health services. Externs working with Maggi will have opportunities to learn data analysis methods while performing statistical analysis for projects with other Center research staff and gaining practical experience in research design and project development through work on grant applications. Other experiences will include working on research infrastructure projects, such as creating electronic libraries for research assessment measures and for statistical code (e.g., SPSS, SAS, R scripts) and helping to develop trainings in basic and advanced statistical methods. Finally, an extern can contribute to the development of a longitudinal research database tracking Veterans' use of VA PTSD services, based on computerized queries of the national VA electronic health record system. Externs in the Statistical & Methods Track will focus on statistical analysis, supporting research product development (e.g., publications and presentations), and methodological and statistical tasks aiding investigators in developing their research grants.

Slots available: 1

Slots available for Statistics and Methods Specialty Track: 2-3

Shannon McCaslin, Ph.D., Clinical and Research Psychologist, National Center for PTSD, Dissemination & Training Division and Clinical Associate Professor (Affiliated), Stanford University.

Dr. McCaslin has been conducting clinical and research work in the area of traumatic stress, primarily among veterans, for over 15 years. Her research has focused on understanding risk and resilience for posttraumatic stress and related conditions and the relationship between posttraumatic stress/associated conditions and functioning in social, academic, and occupational domains. Dr. McCaslin completed a CSR&D Career Development Award in 2012 specifically focused on understanding mediators and moderators of psychosocial functioning among Veterans with PTSD. She has also focused on finding ways to better provide services to veterans, including modification of evidence-based protocols and dissemination of best practices. Current research projects include a study to develop a measure of military acculturation which will allow clinicians and providers to better understand the role of identification with military culture on transition to the civilian setting and mental health outcomes; a study to evaluate and understand how to improve educational tools (i.e. web-based tools and military culture training) for providers in the community that see Veterans for treatment; and to examine the impact of a mobile app for insomnia among Veterans. In addition, Dr. McCaslin has taken the lead on the development of and manages a VA website for behavioral health providers seeing Veterans in their communities (The Community Provider Toolkit; www.mentalhealth.va.gov/communityproviders). There may be opportunity to do CAPS and SCID assessments, depending on the study an extern is working on.

Slots available: 1

Pearl McGee-Vincent, Psy.D., Clinical Psychologist, NCPTSD Dissemination & Training Division

Dr. Pearl McGee-Vincent manages the Practice Based Implementation (PBI) Network, a national collaboration of VA and DoD mental health providers, researchers, and leaders working to evaluate and improve implementation of evidence-based and best practices in mental health care delivery. The PBI Network focuses on projects related to clinical integration of mobile apps and online programs, as well as implementation of other innovative practices. The student will have opportunities to participate in activities which may include: literature reviews, website content development, development of training materials, recruitment, qualitative interviewing, and data entry and analysis. This placement is ideal for

a student with good organizational and writing abilities who is on a clinical track but wants exposure to a research environment.

Slots available: 1

Kile Ortigo, Ph.D., Clinical Psychologist, NCPTSD Dissemination and Training Division

Dr. Ortigo is a clinical psychologist at the National Center for PTSD – Dissemination & Training Division within VA Palo Alto. He is the Program Director for the national webSTAIR implementation efforts funded by the Office of Rural Health. He has worked on multiple STAIR programs and projects, including being a co-creator (alongside Dr. Marylene Cloitre) and primary supervisor for STAIR for Primary Care (STAIR-PC). He also has acted as a subject matter expert for the Mobile Apps Development team and as the PTSD Resource Specialist on a DoD-funded grant looking at clinical practices and burnout within VA, DoD, and community clinicians treating PTSD. In addition, he serves as the National LGBT Health Care Fellowship Didactic Coordinator and has served as an LGBTQ couples consultant and training faculty member of the national roll-outs of the evidence-based couple therapy programs. Dr. Ortigo, has ongoing interest and expertise in personality constructs, conceptualization, and change in adulthood. He also incorporates lifespan developmental models and adult attachment into his work, when possible. Dr. Ortigo's current work largely focuses on using technology to reach people who have barriers to care and to support psychological services in and outside of the therapy room. Extern will assist with creating and reviewing documents and products related to webSTAIR. Examples include various advertisement/recruitment efforts, program manuals, etc. A key aspect of the experience will also be conducting a literature review of web-based therapy programs. Students should have prior experience with document design and advertising/recruiting (Microsoft Word, Powerpoint, Publisher) and should be technologically savvy. Work samples of prior work will be requested. Student must be able to do Wednesdays as their extern day.

Slots available: 1

Jason Owen, Ph.D., Investigator, NCPTSD Dissemination & Training Division

Dr. Owen is a clinical psychologist and works closely with Dr. Beth Jaworski on the mobile apps team to develop, disseminate, and evaluate mobile apps for PTSD and PTSD-related problems. Over the next year, our team is working on a number of exciting projects, including the AWARE study (a Research Kit mobile app designed to collect passive and active mood-related information and provide just-in-time brief interventions tailored to mood state), the Couples Coach pilot (a mobile + mail intervention for couples that include a Veteran with PTSD), MST Coach for Military Sexual Trauma survivors, and PTSD Coach+ (a pilot of automated and professional coaching to supplement self-management of PTSD symptoms using the PTSD Coach app). Our team will also be conducting user experience testing and developing several new apps, including STAIR Coach 2.0 (for Skills Training for Affective & Interpersonal Regulation), VetChange 2.0 (for reduction of alcohol use), and a major upgrade to PTSD Coach. We have a substantial amount of data available for analysis and corresponding opportunities for working on publications. Externs may work on one or more of these projects, depending on interests and skill set.

Slots available: 1

Quyen Q. Tiet, Ph.D., Investigator, NCPTSD Dissemination & Training Division and the Center for Innovation to Implementation (Ci2i)

Dr. Tiet conducts health services research related to co-occurring PTSD and substance use disorders (SUDs) or other psychiatric disorders, and suicide. He is currently involved in multiple studies including a study developing drug screening instruments to be used in the primary care settings, and a study to examine how VA PTSD specialty treatment programs treat patients with SUD. He is currently examining telephone and mobile apps interventions for SUD, PTSD, and depression. Students will involve in all research activities, including quantitative and qualitative data collection (with patients with PTSD, depression, and/or SUDs), quantitative and qualitative analysis, preparation for presentation and publication, and have the opportunities to be co-authors on presentations and publications. Students will receive weekly group and/or individual supervision and will be able to attend research symposiums at the Ci2i and NCPTSD Centers.

Slots available:1-2

Robyn D. Walser, Ph.D., Investigator, NCPTSD Dissemination & Training Division

Robyn Walser, PhD, is invested in developing innovative ways to translate science-into-practice and continues to do research and education on dissemination of Acceptance and Commitment Therapy (ACT), mindfulness and compassion therapies as well as other therapies. ACT is a new model of behavioral treatment that emphasizes acceptance of emotion and thought while maintaining a focus on positive behavior change that is meaningful and consistent with personal values. Dr. Walser's current research activity includes a number of studies related to ACT including ACT and the treatment of PTSD/Substance Use, ACT and Psychosis, ACT and suicide prevention and ACT for moral injury. Volunteers may help with data entry and analyses, literature searches, environmental scans, and related activities.. Assistants may participate in these research and program evaluation activities. They may also have the opportunity to contribute to presentations and papers for peer reviewed journals, depending on interest and time available.

Slots available: 2

Shannon Wiltsey Stirman, Ph.D., Investigator, NCPTSD Dissemination and Training Division

Dr. Wiltsey-Stirman's work focuses on the implementation and long-term use of evidence-based psychotherapies. The NIMH supported study in which an extern would participate involves evaluating different ways in which clinicians learn and adhere to an evidence-based treatment for PTSD, Cognitive Processing Therapy (CPT). Recent research has shown that even after clinicians are trained in this evidence-based treatment, they provide it to relatively few of their clients, and they encounter many challenges to delivering the treatment. The goal of this study is to compare two different strategies to support clinicians and increase the skilled delivery of CPT to individuals with PTSD. She will be collecting data on clinician, patient, and organizational factors that may impact CPT delivery, clinical outcomes, and clinician skill and adherence to the protocol. The research extern would assist with the coding of clinician and administrator interview and consultation data, data entry, and data analysis, with an option of participating in fidelity coding of therapy sessions.

Slots available: 2-3

Steven Woodward, Ph.D., Investigator NCPTSD Dissemination and Training Division

Dr. Woodward employ a range of neurobiological approaches to PTSD, including sleep, cognitive psychophysiology, and structural neuroimaging. His current work focuses on extending low-burden objective measures of autonomic regulation and sleep, such as heart rate, respiration, and activity, into the realm of large-scale observational and clinical trials. Dr. Woodward's current primary funded study is designed to assess the impact of canine companionship on cardiac regulatory tone, social cognition, and social experience in VA inpatients with chronic severe combat-related PTSD. Other unfunded projects involve structural neuroimaging and sleep recording. Dr. Woodward is particularly interested in hosting an advanced student interested in the sleep disturbances associated with suicidality..

Slots available: 1-2

Lindsey Zimmerman, Ph.D, Investigator, NCPTSD Dissemination & Training Division

Dr. Zimmerman completed dual-discipline training in clinical and community psychology at Georgia State University and enlists qualitative and quantitative research methods in her work. Dr. Zimmerman received funding from the National Institute of Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism and the Alcohol and Drug Abuse Institute for her research on PTSD and alcohol use disorders (AUD) while at the University of Washington School of Medicine. At NC-PTSD, Dr. Zimmerman is partnering with VA stakeholders (local leadership, frontline staff, national program offices, and Veteran patients) to use participatory system dynamics modeling to reduce delays and increase the reach of evidence-based psychotherapies and pharmacotherapies in outpatient mental health. This multi-site implementation research is funded by the National Institute of Drug Abuse and the VA, and focuses on PTSD, depression, alcohol use disorder and opioid use disorder patient populations. Dr. Zimmerman has expertise in implementation science, systems science and health care quality improvement methods that use VA administrative and electronic health record data drawn from the enterprise-wide VA health system SQL database. Dr. Zimmerman can provide mentorship in use of the R programming language to conduct statistical analyses, including multi-level and multi-site analytic designs. She is a licensed clinical psychologist with proficiency in PTSD and AUD treatments, including relapse prevention, motivational interviewing, prolonged exposure, cognitive processing therapy, acceptance and commitment therapy and family systems intervention. Dr. Zimmerman's team focuses on participatory research methods to improve the quality of healthcare systems and provides opportunities for implementation facilitation and capacity-building engagement with a wide range of VA stakeholders.

Slots available: 1

APPENDIX 2:

Statement of Understanding Regarding NCPTSD Research

Project Supervisor: _____

The purpose of this statement is to confirm a shared understanding between student collaborators and supervisors regarding procedures and policies related to data collected and clinical methods developed at the NCPTSD. The following outlines a process that promotes fairness and clear expectations about the many opportunities for research involvement and participation in standardized treatment protocols at NCPTSD.

1) Data Ownership

As per VA policy, all data collected in research or program evaluation conducted at the National Center for PTSD belongs solely to the National Center for PTSD and the Department of Veterans Affairs. Use of National Center data for analysis, grants, presentations, manuscripts, or other purposes by researchers or students leaving the VA must be negotiated with the National Center Director and research supervisor.

2) Credit for Work Done

There are a variety of ways that student contributions will be recognized for participation in workgroup activities. First, all student participation in workgroup activities will be acknowledged in relevant manuscripts, i.e., in an acknowledgement section of a paper or manuscript.

Consistent with APA guidelines, being granted authorship on a paper is the result of “scientific or professional contribution” to a project. Inclusion as an author, without having participated in the conception and design of methodology of a study can be negotiated consistent with the level of active participation in a particular workgroup activity. Also consistent with APA policy, participation in data collection, data entry, or database management in a project that has been conceptualized and implemented by others may be considered a minor contribution that does not guarantee any level of authorship on any paper using the collected data. The same holds true for minor writing contributions to a manuscript. Further, involvement in the collection and management of a database gives no additional ownership of the concept, method, or data related to the treatment project or right to authorship on other papers or presentations deriving from the project.

Similarly, authorship of manuscripts or presentations regarding a research method or a treatment protocol is dependent upon whether an individual has participated in the initial conceptualization of the intervention itself.

Authorship, and order of authorship, is negotiated prior to writing and can be renegotiated if actual contribution differs from anticipated contribution upon completion of a project.

NCPTSD and the Department of Veterans Affairs must be formally acknowledged in all products resulting from NCPTSD data.

3) Concept Ownership

Being allowed to give presentations (e.g., posters, symposiums, workshops) or prepare products (e.g., a clinical paper or manual) about a protocol designed by others gives no additional ownership of the concept, method, or data related to the treatment project nor to other papers or presentations deriving from the project.

Future use of a particular treatment protocol designed by others requires permission of the principal designers of the intervention. Preparation of papers or presentations about a particular treatment protocol requires negotiation with the principal authors. Similarly, future use of research data collected as part of a project designed by others requires permission of the principal investigators.

4) Dissertation Projects

NCPTSD attempts to work within APA Ethical Principles (APA, 1992) and Policy Statements (APA Ethics Committee, 1993). In instances where one or more dissertation projects are embedded into a larger study in which NCPTSD has prior conceptual and developmental interest (i.e., project already underway or in development), the student may have a designated first authorship publication project negotiated prior to the dissertation proposal approval. However, the student may not be entitled to first authorship credit for the major publication proceeding from the larger project.

Dissertation projects utilizing archival data specifically requested by the student and not currently in use by NCPTSD staff will usually be designated for student first-authorship, but must be negotiated prior to the dissertation proposal approval.

APPENDIX 3:

LETTER OF AGREEMENT FOR WOC EMPLOYEES AT NCPTSD

To the Director of Training:

This is to confirm that I am aware that the training which I receive while an extern in NCPTSD D&T Division is not to be considered an internship, and that I cannot consider the experience as formal supervised training toward licensure as a psychologist at a later time.

The training and experience may be noted in my vita, and may be considered a Research **Externship** in connection with course work that I am undertaking. I understand that I will be provided individual weekly supervision as well as possible group supervision, and that various training seminars and workshops will be available to me throughout the year.

My schedule for the Externship will be arranged with _____ and will consist of ____ hours per week, during the period starting on _____ and ending on _____.

Finally, I am aware that due to a recent ruling all present and prospective federal employees (paid or unpaid) are subject to random drug screens. I may be selected for such a screen and if so I will need to submit to one in order to maintain my position as a WOC trainee.

SIGNED:

APPROVED:

WOC Externship Student

Name of Researcher

School

NCPTSD Staff