

# PSYCHIATRY RESIDENCY TRAINING PROGRAM

**VA GREATER LOS ANGELES HEALTHCARE SYSTEM  
& UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, LOS ANGELES**

Visit our website at: [semel.ucla.edu/va-prtp](http://semel.ucla.edu/va-prtp)

**VA**



U.S. Department  
of Veterans Affairs  
VA Greater Los Angeles Healthcare System



David Geffen  
School of Medicine





## Welcome from the Program Director

Dear Prospective Residents:

We are delighted to invite you to explore our UCLA/Greater Los Angeles VA Psychiatry Residency Training Program!

Situated on almost 400 acres of land on the west side of Los Angeles, we work with some of the most vulnerable citizens of the community while surrounded by some of the wealthiest parts of Southern California. We offer resources and help for those who have served our country, who are now suffering with substance dependence, recovering from PTSD, or dealing with serious mental illness and homelessness.

With UCLA only a mile away, we have world-class UCLA faculty supervising, teaching and doing research with our residents. Residents have opportunities to work in the community with health services researchers, do quality improvement in clinical settings, and learn interventions like Transcranial Magnetic Stimulation. Residents learn to diagnose and treat psychiatric disorders in the context of specialty clinics using evidence-based psychotherapy and family interventions as well as medication. The focus on whole patient care is experienced in our inter-professional teams, and in our beautiful Integrative Health program, featuring yoga, acupuncture and mindfulness stress reduction training.

Residents also spend part of their time each year at the UCLA Resnick Neuropsychiatric Hospital, learning how to care for children and adults from a variety of socioeconomic backgrounds.

We are a friendly, mid-sized program with enormous options. We look forward to meeting you and showing you what we have to offer!



Warmly,

Margaret L. Stuber, MD  
UCLA/VA GLA Psychiatry Residency Program Director  
VA Greater Los Angeles Healthcare System



Cassidy Zanko, MD  
Associate Program Director  
UCLA/VA GLA Psychiatry  
Residency Program



Erica Lubliner, MD  
Associate Program Director  
UCLA/VA GLA Psychiatry  
Residency Program



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### *Welcome from the Chief of Psychiatry*

Welcome to the UCLA/Greater Los Angeles VA Psychiatry Residency Training Program!

We are committed to service to veterans, to education of future clinicians, and to research to improve the health and well-being of veterans. We would love for you to join us, and learn firsthand how to work with a community focus, to provide service for vulnerable populations, and be skilled and compassionate clinicians.

Our program offers a wealth of specialty clinics and an amazing collection of faculty who are eager to teach. Please look through the rest of the descriptions here on the website, and see the range of opportunities. We think you will find exciting options for learning at the Greater Los Angeles VA Psychiatry Residency Training Program.

Sincerely,

Barry Guze, MD  
Chief of Psychiatry  
Associate Chief of Staff for Mental Health  
VA Greater Los Angeles Healthcare System



(A photo taken by one of our residents at dusk)



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### *Welcome from the Director of Research*

Dear Future Colleagues,

Thank you for your interest in our residency training program! The Greater Los Angeles VA provides extraordinary opportunities for training in mental health research, under the guidance of leaders in clinical, translational, and health services science. Our clinician scientists have joint appointments at UCLA and GLA VA and many have active research programs at both sites. Please see the list of research programs and outstanding research faculty in GLA Mental Health below.

If you are interested in pursuing a research career, please consider applying to our Community and Patient-Oriented Research Track (CPORT), which incorporates research time throughout residency and fellowship training. We also encourage all of our residents to explore research as a component of their future career by offering research electives in the PGY-3 and PGY-4 years. As Research Track Director, I will work with our Research Training Advisory Committee to help you to select a mentor and project that suits your interests and advances your career. Please check the Research Track box in ERAS to indicate your interest in being interviewed for our research track or talk with one of our Research Training Advisory Committee members during your visit to learn more about research training at GLA.

Becoming a leading VA center for mental health research is a central priority for GLA Mental Health leadership and we are currently launching an enriched infrastructure to help support our VA researchers, especially young investigators. Unlike University scientists, VA researchers have access to VA funding streams (including training grants) in addition to NIH, private, and other common funding sources. Additionally, the VA provides many free services to VA-sponsored studies, including labs, imaging, genetics, and many others. The Department of Mental Health sponsors research lunch seminars twice monthly, one for the entire Department that is geared at connecting research and clinical care in Mental Health (UCLA-VA BRIdges in Mental Health) and one for junior clinician-scientists (Forum for Young Investigators). We are also beginning a monthly lunch journal club. We hope that you will consider joining our vibrant community of VA clinician scientists—it's a great time to be beginning a research career in mental health at GLA VA!

Hope to meet with you soon,

Erika L. Nurmi, MD, PhD  
Director of Mental Health Research  
VA Greater Los Angeles Healthcare System





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### Curriculum

The UCLA/Greater Los Angeles VA Psychiatry Residency Training Program is dedicated to preparing residents for the future of psychiatric practice. Residents are provided with a strong foundation in the biologic, dynamic and behavioral aspects of etiology and treatment of psychiatric disorders. In addition, the program provides residents with a grounding in social determinants of health, community-based interventions, and health services research.

Our goal is to train psychiatrists who are able to function in a variety of settings and who are confident in selecting and utilizing the broad spectrum of diagnostic, somatic, and therapeutic interventions within the field. We expect our graduates to be prepared for a choice of various careers in teaching, research, administration, or clinical practice.

Our residents gain experience and training in comprehensive psychiatric services, providing inpatient, outpatient, and community-based care. In addition to a strong set of general experiences in adult, child, and geriatric psychiatry, the program offers subspecialty clinics that allow the residents to develop specific interests and expertise. Residents also have an opportunity to do research, including laboratory, clinical, quality improvement, and community-based health services research projects.

Our program utilizes various measures to gauge the progress of residents and the training experience. Direct observation of work with patients and performance in the didactic curriculum is combined with a review of the written clinical record. Written and verbal feedback from supervisors is standard. All residents take the Psychiatric Resident-In-Training Examination (PRITE) yearly as a measure of their cognitive knowledge based on national norms. Residents take oral examinations yearly to assess competence in clinical assessment, differential diagnosis, case formulation, and treatment plan. A log of psychotherapy cases is maintained to ensure a balanced mix of clinical experience across diagnostic categories, and utilization of the widest possible variety of interventions.



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### **UCLA/GLA VA Psychiatry Residency Program Block Plan:** 13 Blocks (4-weeks each)

<b>PGY-I</b>	Inpatient Psychiatry WLA-VA	Inpatient Psychiatry UCLA/Semel	Outpatient Neurology SAAC-VA	Outpatient Medicine SAAC-VA	Inpatient Geriatric Medicine WLA-VA	Emergency Psychiatry WLA-VA
	3 Blocks	2 Blocks	2 Blocks	3 Blocks	1 Block	2 Blocks

<b>PGY-II</b>	Child & Adolescent Psychiatry UCLA/Semel	Integrative Psychiatry & Pain Management WLA-VA	Inpatient Psychiatry WLA-VA	Detox & Addiction Consultation WLA-VA	Consult & Liaison Psychiatry WLA-VA	HIV Community Psychiatry
	2 Blocks	1 Block	5 Blocks	1 Blocks	3 Blocks	1 Block

<b>PGY-III</b>	Psychotherapy- focused Clinic (Anxiety or Trauma) WLA-VA	Psychopharmacology- focused Clinic (Mood or Psychosis) WLA-VA	General Outpatient Clinic WLA-VA	Women's Mental Health Clinic WLA-VA	Outpatient Geriatric Psychiatry WLA-VA	Outpatient Addiction Psychiatry WLA-VA	Venice Family Clinic/ Student Health UCLA
	13 blocks 20% time	13 blocks 20% time	13 blocks 10% time	13 blocks 10% time	13 blocks 10% time	13 Blocks 10% time	13 blocks 20% time

<b>PGY-I V</b>	<b>ELECTIVES</b> Chief Residency / Research / Teaching / Forensics WLA-VA or UCLA/Semel (50% Time)
	Outpatient Psychiatry and Psychotherapy Clinics WLA-VA (50% Time)

**Abbreviations Used:**

WLA-VA: West Los Angeles-Greater Los Angeles Veterans Administration  
 UCLA/Semel: UCLA Semel Institute  
 SACC-VA: Sepulveda Ambulatory Care Center- Greater Los Angeles Veterans Administration



## Research Programs & Faculty

### Translational Research:

**Imaging in Psychosis:** Michael Green, PhD; Bill Horan, PhD; Yvonne Yang, MD, PhD, Junghee Lee, PhD

**Imaging in Dementia:** Rebecca Melrose, PhD

**Psychiatric Genetics:** Scott Fears, MD, PhD and Erika Nurmi, MD, PhD

### Clinical Research:

**Psychosis Treatment Interventions:** Steve Marder, MD; Michael Green, PhD; Yvonne Yang, MD, PhD; Bill Horan, PhD; Jared Greenberg, MD; Amy Jimenez, PhD; Felice Reddy, PhD; Carol Jahshan, PhD

**Substance Use Disorder Treatment Interventions:** Larissa Mooney, MD

**Anxiety Treatment Interventions:** Erika Nurmi, MD, PhD; and David Willison, MD, PhD

**Trauma Treatment Interventions:** Bill Nash, MD; Hannah Roggenkamp, MD, Mark Barad, MD, PhD

**Therapy Interventions in Geriatric Psychiatry:** Brandon Yarns, MD, MSHS

**Neuromodulation in Mood Disorders:** Walter Dunn, MD, PhD; Marc Heiser, MD, PhD and Nathaniel Ginder, MD, PhD

**Mind-Body Therapies:** Greg Serpa, PhD

**Holistic Wellness Interventions:** Donna Ames, MD

### Health Services Research:

**Community Engagement and Quality Improvement:** Ken Wells, MD, MPH and Pushpa Raja, MD

**Homeless Veterans and Families:** Alex Young, MD, PhD; Sonya Gabreilian, MD and Roya Ijadi-Maghssoodi, MD, MSHS

**Medical Anthropology:** Elizabeth Bromley, MD, PhD and Ippolytos Kalofonos, MD, PhD



## Major Centers for Research

***Mental Illness Research and Education Clinical Center (MIRECC)*** - The mission of the VISN 22 MIRECC is to improve the long-term functional outcomes of veterans with chronic psychotic mental disorders, including schizophrenia, schizoaffective disorder and psychotic mood disorders. The Center, directed by Steve Marder, is structured to encourage translation by addressing functioning in a program that spans basic and clinical science, treatment development, and services research. Education and Clinical programs translate findings into improved care. MIRECC laboratories at GLA include Treatment (Michael Green, Director), Health Services (Alex Young & Amy Cohen, co-Directors) and Data and Methodology (Catherine Sugar, Director) Units. The Education and Dissemination Unit (Chris Reist & Noosha Niv, co-Directors) is in Long Beach and Neuropsychopharmacology (Mark Geyer, Director), Imaging (Greg Brown & Lisa Eyler, co-Directors), and Clinical Neuroscience and Genetics (David Braff & Greg Light, co-Directors) Units in San Diego. The MIRECC offers incredible research training opportunities for young investigators and provides post-residency fellowships that can be combined with a UCLA/VA faculty position.

>> <https://www.mirecc.va.gov/visn22/index.asp>

***Geriatric Research and Education Clinical Center (GRECC)*** - Research on cognitive disorders involves "bench to bedside" research to identify basic molecular processes and biomarkers of Alzheimer's dementia; in addition to work to identify potential therapies and test anti-inflammatory, nutritional and behavioral strategies to slow or reverse dementia and cognitive impairment. Our research on sleep involves clinical and health services research studying sleep in older Veterans living at home and in a variety of healthcare settings. The sleep research includes work developing and testing innovative ways to improve treatment for insomnia, sleep apnea, and other common sleep problems in older Veterans. Finally, our research on vulnerable elders focuses on individuals at risk for physical and/or functional decline, and addresses vulnerabilities commonly associated with aging. This includes research on injury prevention including basic research on bone healing, clinical research on the effects of hormones on diabetes and other important health problems, and health services research to prevent falls and fall-related injuries in clinical and community settings. Additional research includes work to improve access to healthcare for vulnerable elders and special populations such as ethnic minorities and nursing home residents, and clinical research focused on reducing caregiver stress.

>> [https://www.va.gov/GRECC/Greater\\_Los\\_Angeles\\_GRECC2.asp](https://www.va.gov/GRECC/Greater_Los_Angeles_GRECC2.asp)

***Center of Excellence in Homelessness, Mental Illness, and Substance Use Disorder (CoE)*** - Dr. Ken Wells and Dr. Sonya Gabrielian are guiding the planning and development of research in our Center of Excellence. This includes training programs on serious mental illness, a veteran engagement workgroup, evaluation of the new tent encampment (CTRS) for homeless veterans, and several research pilot projects led by junior faculty on approaches to improve outcomes for homeless veterans with behavioral health issues.



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### *Affiliated Institutions & Training Sites*

The UCLA/ VA Greater Los Angeles Psychiatry Residency Training Program is one of four major training programs under the umbrella of the Department of Psychiatry at the UCLA School of Medicine. The others are based at UCLA-Semel Institute, Harbor-UCLA, and Olive View-UCLA. The primary teaching hospitals for our program include the following sites:

#### West Los Angeles VA Medical Center



West Los Angeles VA Medical Center is our main training facility. This VA facility is a premier hospital, ambulatory care & research center. It has a substance abuse treatment and detoxification program, day treatment and vocational rehabilitation programs, a wide range of general and specialty mental health clinics, as well as a psychiatric emergency service, a consultation-liaison service, and an inpatient psychiatry ward.

#### Sepulveda VA Medical Center



Our first year residents complete some of the Internal Medicine/primary care and Neurology rotations at the Sepulveda VA - an outpatient medical center in North Hills, CA.

#### UCLA Resnick Neuropsychiatric Hospital



The UCLA Resnick Neuropsychiatric Hospital, located in Westwood Village, serves as a rotation site for our residents in Adult Inpatient Psychiatry and for Child & Adolescent Psychiatry, as well as some outpatient clinical electives.



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### VA Psychiatry Residency Training Faculty

**Binyamin Amrami, M.D.**

VA Substance Use Disorders Clinic

**Mark Barad, MD, PhD**

VA PTSD/Trauma Recovery Clinic

**Caryn Bernstein, MD**

VA Women's Mental Health Clinic  
VA Mental Health Intensive Care Management Clinic

**Philip Blumenshine, MD**

VA General Outpatient Mental Health Clinic

**Elizabeth Bromley, MD, PhD**

VA Mental Health Intensive Care Management Clinic

**Walter Dunn, MD, PhD**

VA Mood Disorders Clinic & Interventional Psychiatry

**Scott Fears, MD, PhD**

Division Chief of GLA VA for Subspecialty Mental Health  
VA Primary Care Mental Health Integration Clinic

**Denise Feil, MD**

VA Movement Disorders Clinic & Geriatric Psychiatry Clinic

**Nathaniel Ginder, MD, PhD**

VA Inpatient Psychiatry  
VA Mood Disorders Clinic

**Jared Greenberg, MD**

VA Psychosis Clinic

**Barry Guze, MD**

Associate Chief of Staff GLA VA & Chief of Psychiatry  
VA Psychosis Clinic

**Marc Heiser, MD, PhD**

VA Mood Disorders Clinic & Interventional Psychiatry

**Hannah Roggenkamp, MD**

VA Women's Mental Health Clinic

**Roya Ijadi-Maghsoodi, MD, MSHS**

VA Women's Mental Health Clinic  
VA Homeless Patient Aligned Care Team Clinic

**Bruce Kagan, MD, PhD**

VA PTSD/Trauma Recovery Clinic

**Sravan Kakani, MD**

VA Telemental Health Clinic

**Ippolytos Kalofonos, MD**

VA Psychosis Clinic

**Andrew Kim, MD, JD**

Chief, VA Inpatient Psychiatry  
VA Forensic Psychiatry Clinic

**Catherine Lee, MD**

VA Consultation & Liaison Psychiatry  
VA Emergency Psychiatry

**Erica Lubliner, MD**

UCLA/VA GLA Residency Associate Program Director

**Erika Nurmi, MD, PhD**

Deputy Chief of GLA VA & Director of Research  
VA Anxiety Disorders Clinic

**Smita Patel, MD, MPH**

VA HIV Psychiatry Clinic & Mental Health Clinic

**Joseph Pierre, MD**

Division Chief of GLA VA for Hospital Psychiatry  
VA Inpatient Psychiatry

**Preetpal Sandhu, MD**

VA Inpatient Psychiatry

**Dean Sasaki, MD**

VA Primary Care Mental Health Integration Clinic

**Andrew Shaner, MD**

VA Homeless Patient Aligned Care Team Clinic

**Aaron Siani, MD**

VA Inpatient Psychiatry  
VA Emergency Psychiatry

**Margaret Stuber, MD**

UCLA/VA GLA Residency Program Director  
VA Homeless Patient Aligned Care Team Clinic

**Robert Weinstock, MD**

VA Forensic Psychiatry Clinic

**Kenneth Wells, MD, MPH**

VA Homeless Patient Aligned Care Team Clinic

**David Wilson, MD, PhD**

VA ADHD Clinic & Anxiety Disorders Clinic

**Yvonne Yang, MD, PhD**

VA Psychosis Clinic

**Brandon Yarns, MD**

VA Geriatric Psychiatry Clinic

**Cassidy Zanko, MD**

UCLA/VA GLA Residency Associate Program Director  
VA Women's Mental Health Clinic

**Roberta Zanzonico, MD**

VA Consultation & Liaison Psychiatry  
VA Emergency Psychiatry



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### Current Residents



**Eric Michael, MD**  
**PGY-4**  
**Program Chief Resident**  
MD: U. of Nevada SOM  
BA: University of Pennsylvania



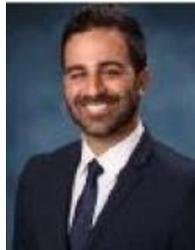
**Namjas Enman, MD, MHS**  
**PGY-4**  
**Program Chief Resident**  
MD: UC Los Angeles DGSOM  
MHS: Johns Hopkins SPH  
BS: UC Los Angeles



**Weei LoAllen, MD, MS**  
**PGY-3**  
**Program Chief Resident**  
MD: Albany Medical College  
MS: Georgetown University  
BS: UC Davis



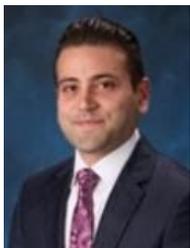
**Anna Zhu, MD**  
**PGY-4**  
MD: U. of Tennessee SOM  
BS: University of Pennsylvania



**Michael Mahgerefteh, MD**  
**PGY-4**  
MD: UC Irvine SOM  
BS: UC Irvine and Cypress College



**Chenghui Su, DO**  
**PGY-4**  
DO: Des Moines University COM  
BS: Florida State University



**Sasha Getty, MD**  
**PGY-3**  
MD: UC Irvine SOM  
BS: UC Los Angeles



**Jordan Cruz-Rivera, MD, MPH**  
**PGY-3**  
MD/MPH: U. of Southern California SOM  
BS: UC Los Angeles



**Felicia Boakye-Dankwah, MD**  
**PGY-3**  
MD: U. of Toledo COM  
BS: The Ohio State University



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**Luis Gonzalez, MD  
PGY-3**

MD: Medical College of Wisconsin  
BS: Yale University



**Joy Jones, MD, MPH, MBA  
PGY-3**

Completed Eisenhower Family Medicine Residency  
MD/MPH: Loma Linda SOM  
MBA: Pepperdine University  
BS: Duke University



**Alex Trofymenko, MD, MEd  
PGY-3**

MD: U. of Arizona COM  
MEd: Arizona State University  
BS: Arizona State University



**Sean Awakuni, MD  
PGY-2**

MD: U. of Hawaii SOM  
BS: Creighton University



**David Carlson, MD  
PGY-2**

MD: UC San Diego SOM  
BS: UC San Diego



**Serop Chalian, MD  
PGY-2**

MD: RFUMS Chicago Medical School  
BS: UC Davis



**Mary Chavarria, MD  
PGY-2**

MD: Washington University SOM  
BS: Duke University



**Karim Farrag, MD, MS  
PGY-2**

MD: Dartmouth SOM  
MS: Northwestern University  
BS: UC Santa Barbara



**Amy (Yu Min) Kang, MD  
PGY-2**

MD: Albert Einstein COM  
BS: Johns Hopkins University



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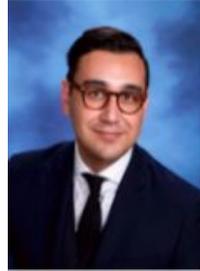
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**Nicole Sfeir, MD  
PGY-2**

MD: University of South  
Florida COM  
BS: UC San Diego



**Jaye Estrada, MD, MPH  
PGY-1**

MD: Indiana University SOM  
MPH: Indiana University SPH  
BS: UC Irvine



**Harinee Maiyuran, MD  
PGY-1**

MD: Icahn SOM Mount  
Sinai  
BS: California Institute of  
Technology



**Aysha Mushtaq, MD  
PGY-1**

MD: Medical University of  
South Carolina  
BS: U. of South Carolina



**Meha Semwal, MD, MPH  
PGY-1**

MD: U. of Colorado SOM  
MPH: Yale SPH  
BS: College of William &  
Mary



**Chan Park, MD, MS  
PGY-1**

MD: UC San Francisco SOM  
MS: UC Berkeley  
BS: UC Los Angeles



**Mani Vahidi, MD, MS  
PGY-1**

MD: UC Los Angeles DGSOM  
MS: Cedars-Sinai MHDS  
BS: UC Irvine



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## Recent Alumni Class of 2020



**Amie Chen, MD**  
Mood Disorders Fellowship



**Aaron Greene, MD**  
Geriatric Psychiatry Fellowship



**Michael Kanell, MD**  
Forensic Psychiatry Fellowship



**Samuel Sanders, MD**  
LA County Dept. of Mental Health  
San Pedro Clinic



**Agnes Kwon Simone, DO**  
Private Practice

## Class of 2019



**Stacie Collins, MD**  
Child and Adolescent Psychiatry  
Fellowship



**Armin Hoes, MD**  
LA County Dept. of Mental Health



**Erica Lubliner, MD**  
Associate Program Director  
UCLA/VA GLA Psychiatry Residency



## How to Apply

For the UCLA/GLA VA General Psychiatry Residency, all prospective applicants must apply through the Electronic Residency Application Service (ERAS). Applicants must also register with the [National Residency Matching Program](#) (NRMP, or "The Match"),

The steps to apply are as follows:

1. Complete the [NRMP](#) match enrollment materials from AAMC
2. Complete the [ERAS](#) application for residencies
3. Arrange for us to receive the following documents:
  - ☐ Dean's letter
  - ☐ Transcript of your medical school grades
  - ☐ Personal statement
  - ☐ Scores obtained on [USMLE](#) examinations
  - ☐ At least three letters of recommendation (at least one from psychiatry is encouraged, but not required)

We review applications on a rolling basis after receiving your dean's letters. Outstanding applicants will be invited to come for personal interviews from October through January. You will be contacted via ERAS e-mail regarding your interview status. All interviews should be scheduled at least two weeks in advance.

The interview day consists of individual interviews with faculty and residents, a program description from the chief residents, and tour of the hospital sites. We will provide you with breakfast and lunch.

Once you are invited for an interview, please specify your choice of dates via ERAS email to Nate McFarland, program coordinator. You will receive an e-mail confirmation via ERAS. All interviews should be scheduled at least two weeks in advance. If for some reason your plans should change and you are unable to keep your scheduled appointment, please be sure to call to cancel as we usually have a waiting list for our interview dates.

### Application Resources:

- ☐ [Find out more about the National Residency Matching Program \(NRMP\)](#)
- ☐ [Go Apply at the Electronic Residency Application Service \(ERAS\) Website](#)
- ☐ [The United States Medical Licensing Examination \(USMLE\)](#)

See our [Contact Info](#) page on how to reach our program director for any additional questions.



## Salary & Benefits

### Resident Salaries for 2020-21

Resident PGY-1	Resident PGY-2	Resident PGY-3	Resident PGY-4
Annual: \$64,379	Annual: \$66,512	Annual: \$69,126	Annual: \$71, 855

#### **Vacation:**

Residents take 4 weeks of vacation a year, scheduled by them with the program director’s consent, and conforming to the following rules: No vacation during 1-block rotations, up to 1-week of vacation for 2 block rotations, up to 2 weeks of vacation for 3-block rotations.

#### **Sick Leave:**

12 days per year.

#### **Medical Benefits**

You and your family will have medical, dental, and vision insurance at no cost to you. In addition, life and long-term disability insurance is provided at no cost.

#### **Funds for Travel for Professional Meetings**

The department makes every effort to underwrite expenses when a resident presents a paper at a national meeting. In addition, the department encourages the involvement of residents in local and national psychiatric organizations and will support such activities as the budget allows.



## Psychiatry Fellowship Programs

### Addiction Psychiatry

Greater Los Angeles VA/UCLA Addiction Psychiatry Residency Program is a fully ACGME accredited one-year program for residents entering their PGY-5 year after completion of a General Psychiatry Residency Program. The predominant mission of the program is to provide psychiatric physicians with advanced training in the knowledge, skills, and clinical judgment necessary for the practice of Addiction Psychiatry to allow them to undertake leadership roles in the field. Clinical training occurs in outpatient, intensive outpatient, and residential treatment programs, consultation to inpatient and pain clinic settings, acute detoxification, and methadone clinic settings. Fellows gain expertise using all FDA approved pharmacotherapies for substance use disorders as well as evidence-based group therapy training. Formal didactics include participation in a weekly seminar series involving collaboration with an interdisciplinary team. Off-site rotations at UCLA and adolescent treatment programs are available.

The primary goals of fellowship training include developing clinical excellence in the diagnosis and treatment of individuals with substance use disorders with or without primary psychiatric diagnoses, broadening scientific knowledge in the field of Addiction Psychiatry, and expanding expertise in teaching Addiction Psychiatry. Closely working with a range of interdisciplinary treatment teams is a major aspect of the fellowship. The faculty consists of a diverse group of psychiatrists and psychologists who have many years of clinical and research experience in the field of substance use disorders.

The Greater Los Angeles VA/UCLA Addiction Psychiatry Residency Program is also closely affiliated with UCLA. The information presented here is intended to give you a brief overview of the program. If you have further questions, please feel free to call or email the Program Director, Shabnam Balali M.D. at [shabnam.balali@va.gov](mailto:shabnam.balali@va.gov). I look forward to hearing from you.





### Addiction Psychiatry Faculty



#### **Shabnam Balali, M.D.**

Dr. Shabnam Balali is the Director, Substance Use Disorder Clinics at Sepulveda VA (SACC VA), Greater Los Angeles, as well as Health Sciences Assistant Clinical Professor, UCLA Dept. of Psychiatry and Biobehavioral Sciences. She is the Program Director, VA Greater Los Angeles/UCLA Addiction Psychiatry Fellowship Program. She is dual board certified in general as well as addiction psychiatry by the American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology. Primary clinical responsibilities include management of outpatient substance use disorder clinics at SACC VA. Her interests include the pharmacotherapy of substance use disorders, and relapse prevention, as well as, system improvement.

#### **Joy Hao, M.D.**

Dr. Joy Hao is an addiction physician with board certification in both internal medicine and addiction medicine (American Board of Addiction Medicine). She is the Associate Program Director of Addiction Psychiatry Fellowship, Associate Director of the West Los Angeles VA Substance Use Disorders Clinic, as well as Assistant Professor of Clinical Health Sciences at UCLA Department of Family Medicine, Center for Behavioral and Addiction Medicine (CBAM). She teaches fellows and residents from a variety of disciplines including psychiatry, Family Medicine, and Pain Management/Anesthesiology in the management of substance use disorders, with emphasis on opioid addiction as it intersects with chronic pain. She has conducted research at UCLA CBAM in two large multi-site NIH studies evaluating the efficacy of extended-release gabapentin Enacarbil for the treatment of alcohol use disorder, and effectiveness of combining bupropion and injectable extended-release naltrexone in treatment of methamphetamine use disorder.



#### **Larissa Mooney, M.D.**

Dr. Larissa Mooney is a board-certified addiction psychiatrist and Associate Clinical Professor of Psychiatry at UCLA. She is the Director of the UCLA Addiction Medicine Clinic and Chief of the Greater Los Angeles Veterans Affairs Substance Use Disorders Section, where she teaches psychiatrists in training in the clinical management of addictive and mental health disorders. Dr. Mooney is the Vice President of the American Academy of Addiction Psychiatry (AAAP). She has conducted research at UCLA Integrated Substance Abuse Programs on pharmacological and behavioral treatment interventions for addictive disorders. She has current funding from the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) to study functional outcomes in cannabis users and to develop a patient decision aid to be tested in clinics providing medication treatment for opioid use disorder.



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### **Katherine Bailey, Ph.D.**

Katherine Bailey, PhD is a licensed clinical psychologist at the W. Los Angeles VA and the Deputy Chief of the SUD Section for the VA Greater Los Angeles Healthcare System. She provides clinical services and supervision in the outpatient SUD and Pain Clinics with a focus on evidence-based therapies. She earned a PhD in clinical psychology from the University of Illinois at Chicago, completed a clinical internship at the WLA VA, and a clinical fellowship in primary care at the San Francisco VA. She is a consultant for the CBT-Chronic Pain evidence based psychotherapy rollout, and is also certified in biofeedback, acceptance and commitment therapy (ACT), and mindfulness. Research interests include chronic pain, SUD and smoking.



### **Jesse Barlow, Ph.D.**

Dr. Jesse Barglow received his Ph.D. in clinical psychology from Fordham University in New York City. He completed his internship and postdoctoral fellowship at the VA West Los Angeles Healthcare Center with an emphasis on integrative and interprofessional treatment of substance use disorders, trauma, and serious mental illness. He now serves as program coordinator and primary psychologist for a 60-bed substance use unit at the Domiciliary Residential Rehabilitation and Treatment Program (DRRTP) at the West LA VA. Dr. Barglow has received specialized training in Acceptance and Commitment Therapy (ACT), mindfulness, and Cognitive Behavior Therapy for Psychosis (CBTp), and he is certified to provide Cognitive Processing Therapy (CPT) and Motivational Interviewing (MI). His research interests include insight and service engagement among patients with serious mental illness and implementation of ACT and emotion-focused psychotherapy in the residential treatment setting.



### **Binyamin Amrami, M.D.**

Dr. Binyamin Amrami is originally from Saint Paul, Minnesota. Prior to his medical career, he completed a Master's Degree in Jewish Law and received his Rabbinical Ordination while living in Israel. Dr. Amrami came back to Minnesota and completed his pre-med requirements at the University of Minnesota, Twin Cities. A graduate of Sackler School of Medicine, Dr. Amrami started his psychiatry residency at St. Vincent's Hospital – Manhattan and completed residency at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center in Los Angeles. He is a board-certified psychiatrist and Assistant Clinical Professor of Psychiatry at UCLA. He is the Medical Director of the Substance Use Disorders Clinic at the West Los Angeles VA. His outside interests include spending time with his family and beekeeping.



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### To Apply for our Addiction fellowship, send the below directly to the Program Coordinator

1. Application including Personal Statement
2. Original transcripts for USMLE I, II, and III required
3. Curriculum Vitae
4. Proof of completion of an ACGME-accredited general psychiatry residency program and Residency Director's Letter
5. ECFMG Certificate, if applicable
6. Medical School Transcripts and Dean's Letter (Original transcripts)
7. 3 (or more) Letters of Recommendation
8. Privacy Act Waiver (please see attached)

### **Shabnam Balali, MD**

#### **Addiction Psychiatry Program Director**

VA Greater Los Angeles Healthcare System  
16111 Plummer Street, North Hills, CA. 91343  
Phone: (818) 891-7711 x31225  
Email: [Shabnam.balali@va.gov](mailto:Shabnam.balali@va.gov)



## Living in Los Angeles



The residency and fellowship programs are located in one of the most exciting cities in the nation. The LA lifestyle has plenty to offer. The food, music, views, outdoor activities, nightlife, and sites are all a part of the advantages of living in beautiful southern California. Los Angeles really does have something for everyone.

We strive to take care of our residents in a way that allows them access to some of the best there is to offer in LA. Here are a few favorite spots!

**For the Active Resident:** In addition to its famous beach culture, Los Angeles offers plenty of beautiful hikes, world-class facilities, and even skiing 2.5 hours from the beach!

- [The Beaches: surfing, skateboarding, kayaking](#)
- [Catalina Island: camping, hiking, exploring](#)
- [Temescal Canyon](#)
- [Santa Monica and Malibu Mountains](#)
- [Big Bear and Snow Summit ski resorts](#)
- [Joshua Tree National Park](#)
- [Griffith Park](#)
- Many others...

**For the Kid at Heart:** Los Angeles offers a wide array of family-friendly amusement parks - popular destinations for friends and families visiting LA.

- [Disneyland](#)
- [La Brea Tar Pits](#)
- [Santa Monica Pier](#)
- [Six Flags Magic Mountain](#)
- [Knott's Berry Farm](#)



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**For the Music Lover:** The biggest city on the west coast, LA hosts a show on almost every artist's west coast tour. The vibrant local music scene has many legendary venues including the Fonda Theatre, Troubadour, Hollywood Bowl, El Rey, Greek Theatre, Hollywood Palladium and the Wiltern. Residents can also see concerts at the Staples Center, Microsoft Theater, classical music at the Walt Disney Concert Hall, and the Twilight Concert Series at the Santa Monica Pier.

- [Coachella Valley Music and Arts Festival](#)
- [Joshua Tree Music Festival](#)
- [Stagecoach Festival](#)
- [Los Angeles Philharmonic](#)
- [Twilight Concerts at Santa Monica Pier](#)
- [Hollywood Bowl](#)
- [Walt Disney Concert Hall](#)
- [Microsoft Theater](#)
- [Staples Center](#)
- [GRAMMY museum](#)

**For the Sports Fan:** LA is home to major professional teams in Basketball (Lakers and Clippers), Baseball (Dodgers and Angels), Football (Rams and Chargers), Hockey (Kings) and Soccer (Galaxy). College fans will find Division I teams in every sport nearby.

- [Los Angeles Coliseum](#)
- [Dodger Stadium](#)
- [Staples Center \(LA Lakers, Clippers, Kings\)](#)
- [Rose Bowl](#)
- [Angel Stadium](#)
- [Stubhub Center \(LA Galaxy\)](#)

**For the Film Buff:** LA is synonymous with film - both movies and TV. Mainstream and independent film lovers will find much to explore throughout the city.

- [LA Film Festival](#)
- [Pantages Theater \(Broadway\)](#)
- [Egyptian Theater and Aero Theater \(independent films\)](#)
- [Movie Premieres](#)
- [Ahmanson Theater \(Live Theater: Drama, Comedies, Musicals\)](#)
- [Summer Movie Series at the Hollywood Forever Cemetery](#)



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**For the Foodie:** The West LA VA is located at the north end of Sawtelle Blvd, which has become one of the most popular dining destinations in LA. Los Angeles truly has it all, from taco trucks to classic American fare to microbreweries and nearly every ethnic food option you can imagine. The possibilities are endless!

- [Dine LA Restaurant Week](#)
- [Food Trucks](#)
- [Burger Tour](#) (Father's office vs Umami vs Hole in the Wall, you decide!)
- [American Food and Wine Festival](#)
- [Wine Tasting in Malibu](#)

**For the Culturally Inclined:** Culture is everywhere in LA, from many designated ethnic neighborhoods to world-class museums and historic sites. Our young program often does wellness trips to sites like the Hammer Museum and Annenberg Beach House.

- [The Getty Center](#)
- [Griffith Observatory](#)
- [LACMA \(Los Angeles County Museum of Art\)](#)
- [Downtown LA Art Walk](#)
- [MOCA](#)
- [Huntington Gardens](#)
- [Museum of Tolerance](#)
- [Natural History Museum of Los Angeles](#)
- [First Fridays in Venice](#)

## Program Contact Information

**Margaret L. Stuber, MD**  
**UCLA/GLA VA Psychiatry Residency Program Director**  
VA Greater Los Angeles Healthcare System

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