

PSYCHIATRY RESIDENCY TRAINING PROGRAM

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

VA



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



David Geffen
School of Medicine





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Welcome from the Program Director

Dear Prospective Residents:

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

Situated on a huge and lovely piece 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.

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 small and friendly program, with enormous options. We look forward to meeting you and showing you what we have to offer!

Warmly,

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



Smitta Patel, MD, MPH
Psychiatry Residency Associate Program Director
VA Greater Los Angeles Healthcare System





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Welcome from the Chief of Psychiatry

Welcome to the 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





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
Acting Deputy Chief of Mental Health
VA Greater Los Angeles Healthcare System





Curriculum

The 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 comfortable 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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VA Block Plan: Based on 13 Blocks (4-weeks each)

PGY-1	Inpatient Medicine	Outpatient Medicine	Inpatient Psychiatry	Inpatient Psychiatry	Emergency Psychiatry	Inpatient Neurology
	GLA-VA	GLA-VA	GLA-VA	UCLA/Semel	GLA-VA	GLA-VA
	2 Blocks	2 Blocks	3 Blocks	2 Blocks	2 Blocks	2 Blocks

PGY-2	Child & Adolescent Psychiatry	Inpatient Psychiatry	Consult & Liaison Psychiatry	Emergency Psychiatry	Inpatient Psychiatry	Geriatric Consults & Clinics
	UCLA/Semel	UCLA/Semel	GLA-VA	GLA-VA	GLA-VA	GLA-VA
	2 Blocks	1 Block	3 Blocks	2 Blocks	3 Blocks	2 Blocks

PGY-3	Elective Outpatient Clinic (HPACT, Mood, Psychosis)	Outpatient Psychotherapy or research	Outpatient Addiction Psychiatry	Elective Outpatient Clinic (Anxiety, Trauma, Forensic)	Women's Mental Health Clinic	Venice Family Clinic & UCLA Student Health Services
	GLA-VA	GLA-VA	GLA-VA	GLA-VA	GLA-VA	Off-Site
	13 blocks	13 blocks	13 Blocks	13 blocks	13 blocks	13 blocks
	20% time	10% time	10% time	20% time	20% time	20% time

PGY-4	ELECTIVES Chief Residency / Research / Teaching / Clinical GLA-VA, UCLA/Semel (50% Time)
	Outpatient Psychiatry GLA-VA (50% Time)



Research Programs & Faculty

Translational Research:

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

Imaging in Dementia: David Sultzer, MD, PhD and 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 and Kate Taylor, PhD

Anxiety Treatment Interventions: Kate Taylor, PhD; Erika Nurmi, MD, PhD; Margaret Distler, 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 is guiding the planning & development of research in our new Center of Excellence that is launching this year—stay tuned!



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Affiliated Institutions & Training Sites

The Greater Los Angeles VA 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.

Primary teaching hospitals for our program include the following sites:

WEST LOS ANGELES VA MEDICAL CENTER

The main training facility is at the West Los Angeles VA Medical Center. 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.

UCLA RESNICK NEUROPSYCHIATRIC HOSPITAL / SEMEL INSTITUTE

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

[West Los Angeles VA Medical Center](#)



[UCLA Resnick Neuropsychiatric Hospital](#)





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VA Psychiatry Residency Training Faculty

Mark Barad, MD, PhD
VA PTSD/Trauma Reovery Clinic

Caryn Bernstein, MD
VA Women's MH Clinic
VA Mental Health Intensive Care Management Clinic

Elizabeth Bromley, MD, PhD
VA Mental Health Intensive Care Management Clinic

Roger Donovick, MD
VA Domiciliary

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

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

Roya Ijadi-Maghsoodi, MD, MSHS
VA Women's MH Clinic
VA Homeless Patient Aligned Care Team Clinic

Sravan Kakani, MD
VA Telemental Health Clinic

Bruce Kagan, MD, PhD
VA PTSD/Trauma Reovery Clinic

Ippolytos Kalofonos, MD
VA Psychosis Clinic
VA Homeless Patient Aligned Care Team Clinic

Andrew Kim, MD, JD
VA Inpatient Psychiatry
VA Forensic Psychiatry Clinic

Larissa Mooney, MD
VA Substance Use Disorders Clinic

Erika Nurmi, MD, PhD
Deputy Chief of GLA VA & Director of Research
VA Anxiety Disorders Clinic

Smitta Patel, MD, MPH
VA Psychiatry Residency Associate Program Director
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
VA Psychiatry Residency Program Director
VA Homeless Patient Aligned Care Team Clinic

David Sultzer, MD
VA Memory Disorders Clinic & Geriatric Psychiatry Clinic

Kate Taylor, PhD
VA Anxiety Disorders 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



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Current Residents



Erica Lubliner, MD, PGY-5
UCLA-Drew University School of Medicine



Armin Hoes, MD, PGY-4
Howard University School of Medicine



Agnes Kwon, DO, PGY-3
Western University of Health Sciences
Program Chief Resident



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Current Residents



Aaron Greene, MD, PGY-3
Jefferson University School of Medicine



Amie Chen, MD, PGY-3
Albany Medical College



Stacie Collins, MD, PGY-3
UCLA-Drew University School of Medicine



Michael Kanell, MD, PGY-3
The Ohio State University School of Medicine



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Current Residents



Samuel Sanders, MD, PGY-3
University of Louisville School of Medicine



Michael Mahgerefteh, MD, PGY-2
UC Irvine Medical School



Anna Zhu, MD, PGY-2
University of Tennessee School of Medicine



Eric Michaels, MD, PGY-2
University of Nevada School of Medicine



How to Apply

For the 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 coordinator & program director for any additional questions.



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Salary & Benefits

Resident Salaries for 2018-19			
Resident PGY-1	Resident PGY-2	Resident PGY-3	Resident PGY-4
Annual: \$57,233	Annual: \$59,130	Annual: \$61,453	Annual: \$63, 879

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. If you choose to use UCLA for your medical benefits, there are no co-payments on office visits and prescriptions from UCLA pharmacies are free of charge.

Voluntary Retirement Savings Account

UC offers its employees a voluntary pre-tax retirement savings account (403(b)). Employees who want to participate in the 403(b) plan designate a portion of their gross salary to be contributed on a pretax basis, thus reducing the participant’s taxable income. Taxes on contributions and any earnings are deferred (that is, postponed) until the participant withdraws the money.

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.



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Psychiatry Fellowship Programs

Addiction Psychiatry

We currently offer a one-year ACGME accredited fellowship in Addiction Psychiatry at the PGY-5 level with training sites primarily within the VA Greater Los Angeles Healthcare System. Rotations include: Inpatient detoxification (including substance such as Alcohol, Opioids and/or Benzodiazepines); Outpatient SUD clinics (including experience with agonist therapy such as Methadone and Suboxone, as well as Naltrexone); Consultative rotations to Inpatient Medicine and Pain Medicine Clinic; Adolescent rotation at UCLA.

Please prepare and submit the following materials: CV, Personal Statement, USMLE score transcript, medical school transcript, 3 LORs, ECFMG certificate (if applicable). Start Date: July 1, 2019. Note: Addiction fellowships do not use a Match and tend to fill up a year in advance. Contact information: Shabnam Balali, M.D., Program Director: shabnam.balali@va.gov

Consultation-Liaison Psychiatry

We currently offer a one-year ACGME accredited fellowship in Consultation-Liaison Psychiatry at the PGY-5 level with training sites at the VA Greater Los Angeles Healthcare System, UCLA, and Cedars Sinai Medical Center. Contact us for more information.



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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:

- [Temescal Canyon](#)
- Santa Monica and Malibu Mountains
- The Beaches: surfing, skate boarding, roller-blading, beach volley-ball, kayaking
- [Griffith Park](#)
- [Catalina Island: camping, hiking, exploring](#)
- [UCLA Sports Center](#)
- [Big Bear Ski resort \(Only 2.5 hours from the Beach!!\)](#)
- [Joshua Tree National Park](#)

For the Music Lover:

- [Coachella Valley Music Festival](#)
- [Twilight Concert Series at Santa Monica Pier](#)
- [Hollywood Bowl \(outdoor concert hall. Los Angeles Philharmonic\)](#)
- [Staples Center](#)
- [Microsoft Theater](#)
- [Walt Disney Concert Hall \(classical music\)](#)
- [GRAMMY Museum](#)



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For the Sport's Enthusiast:

- [Staples Center: LA Lakers \(Basketball\), LA Clippers \(Basketball\), LA Kings \(Hockey\)](#)
- [StuHub Center: Watch the LA Galaxy, Los Angeles' professional soccer team](#)
- [Dodger's Stadium](#)
- [Los Angeles Angels of Anaheim](#)
- [Santa Anita Horse Race Track](#)

For the Kid at Heart:

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

For the Entertainment Guru:

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

For the Culturally Inclined:

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

For the Foodies:

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



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Program Contact Information

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Psychiatry Residency Program Coordinator

VA Greater Los Angeles Healthcare System

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