

LACDMH Psychology Training at Harbor-UCLA Medical Center

Behavioral Medicine

Nature of Setting and Population Served

The Behavioral Medicine practicum provides training in treatment delivery to patients presenting with co-morbid medical conditions, particularly HIV/AIDS and complex pregnancy, postpartum, and gynecologic presentations. Opportunities for brief psychodiagnostic evaluation and consultation/liaison experiences may be available based on patient census/need.

Practicum students provide psychological treatments to medical patients presenting with primary psychiatric conditions and/or psychiatric sequelae impacting their medical illnesses; presenting psychiatric conditions range in severity from adjustment disorders to severe and persistent mental illnesses.

The Behavioral Medicine practicum serves safety-net medical patients representing the rich diversity of Los Angeles County. Students will train and provide psychological treatments on a service steeped in the social determinants of health, reproductive justice, and inclusivity, diversity, equity, and accountability.

Direct/Indirect Services

The Behavioral Medicine practicum focuses on delivering outpatient psychotherapy (individual, and group as available) and behavioral medicine treatments. Patients with the following medical conditions may be seen for treatment (dependent on referral pathways and patient needs):

- HIV/AIDS: Patients range in illness from asymptomatic HIV seropositive status to AIDS and complex medical comorbidities. Patients represent the varied population of individuals infected with and affected by HIV/AIDS (e.g., LGBTQ, ethnic minorities, sexual minorities, women, individuals with comorbid substance use disorders, etc.); patients may also represent a broad age range.
- Obstetrics and Gynecology: Prenatal and postpartum patients are referred from the moderate and high risk obstetrics clinics. Gynecology patients with varying medical conditions may also be referred.

Practicum students will complete intake assessments on new and returning patients. The practicum also provides training on comprehensive clinical documentation and case management skills.

Supervision and Training

Primary supervision and training is provided by licensed clinical psychologists with specialties in lifespan patient care, reflective practice, and health psychology among others. Students receive two hours of required weekly supervision, including individual and group. Students will also interact with clinicians from other specialties (psychiatry and social work), and may have the opportunity to collaborate with medical personnel (physicians, nurses and nurse practitioners, public health educators, etc.).

Training is focused on the provision of treatment using empirically informed and researched

modalities; the student's ability to learn, translate, and apply theory is key, as is the engagement of critical thinking and metacompetencies. Required trainings will be announced as they are provided by LACDMH and other training partners.

Required Days

Students are required to be onsite 16 hours per week. Required days are Mondays and Thursdays, 8:30am-4:30pm.

UCLA and USC students: If you are interested in applying and have questions about the required days/hours, please have your Director of Clinical Training contact Dr. Astrid Reina, Training Director of the LACDMH Psychology Training Program at Harbor-UCLA.

Additional Information

Good oral and written communication skills desired. Proof of tuberculosis and other health clearance may be required if there is any interface with the medical clinics/inpatient services on the medical center campus.

Assigned clinical supervisors:

- Lynette Lau, PhD
- Astrid Reina, PhD