2017 Award Recipients

Donald F. Klein Early Career Investigator Award

This award is presented to an early career investigator for the Abest original research paper on neurobiology, psychopharmacology, psychosocial treatments, or experimental psychopathology of anxiety disorders and depression.

This award is named for Donald F. Klein, MD, who revolutionized psychiatric thinking through his discovery in the early 1960s that imipramine, a recently developed psychotropic medication, was effective in blocking panic attacks. Dr. Klein’s early contribution to the development of the DSM in large part gave birth to the modern branch of medical science dealing with the classification of disease of anxiety disorders. His early findings also heralded in the era of childhood anxiety disorders as biochemical disorders when he discovered that imipramine blocked childhood separation anxiety disorders. In later years, Dr. Klein developed a compelling evolutionary-based hypothesis accounting for the etiology of panic disorders, which he terms “the false suffocation alarm theory of panic disorders.” His work remains relevant and topical to the present. Dr. Klein was the recipient of the 2005 ADAA Lifetime Achievement Award.

DONALD F. KLEIN EARLY CAREER INVESTIGATOR AWARD WINNER

Jessica Maples-Keller, PhD
Emory University School of Medicine

Dr. Jessica Maples-Keller is currently a postdoctoral fellow at Emory University School of Medicine in the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences. She works with the Emory Veteran’s Program, with mentorship from Dr. Barbara O. Rothbaum, and at the Grady Trauma Project, with mentorship from Drs. Tanja Jovanovic and Kerry Ressler. Her research interests include investigating factors that confer risk or impact treatment response for PTSD and anxiety disorders, how to understand and maximize the effectiveness of exposure based interventions, and the use of early interventions for secondary prevention of post-traumatic stress disorder and other psychiatric disorders. She is particularly interested in how we can use translational models of fear and anxiety to understand and improve exposure therapy. She received her B.S. from the University of South Carolina and her MS and PhD from the University of Georgia under the direction of Joshua D. Miller, where she focused on conceptualization, assessment, and diagnosis of personality pathology and disorders using general trait model approaches. Dr. Maples-Keller was a finalist for the J.S.Tanaka Personality Dissertation Award for her dissertation investigating insight within narcissism and psychopathy. She has published over forty scientific articles and was selected to participate in the Alies Muskin Career Development Program through Anxiety and Depression Association of America. Dr. Maples-Keller is also a practicing clinician specializing in exposure-based interventions for posttraumatic stress disorder and other anxiety disorders.
DONALD F. KLEIN EARLY CAREER INVESTIGATOR AWARD
FINALIST

Annmarie MacNamara, PhD
Multimethod Affect and Cognition Lab, Texas A&M University

Dr. Annmarie MacNamara is a clinical psychologist, assistant professor of psychology, and the director of the Multimethod Affect and Cognition lab (MAClab) at Texas A&M University. Her research utilizes complementary, layered neurobiological methods (event-related potentials – ERPs, functional magnetic resonance imaging - fMRI, skin conductance response, fear-potentiated eyeblink startle - FPS) to understand emotion dysfunction and its manifestation in disorders like anxiety and depression. Dr. MacNamara is the PI on an NIMH K23 Patient-Oriented Research Career Development Award, in which she uses simultaneously recorded FPS and fMRI blood-oxygen-level dependent (BOLD) response to examine negative emotion generation across the anxiety spectrum. Dr. MacNamara has been the recipient of several awards, including the Society of Biological Psychiatry’s Early Career Investigator Travel Award and Paper of the Year award from the Psychonomic Society. She publishes regularly in leading peer-reviewed medical and scientific journals, and has presented at numerous scientific meetings and international conferences. Dr. MacNamara’s long-term goal is to reduce the suffering and cost associated with depression and anxiety by bringing diagnosis and treatment more in line with underlying pathophysiology.

DONALD F. KLEIN EARLY CAREER INVESTIGATOR AWARD
FINALIST

Danielle R. Miller, PhD
National Center for PTSD, VA Boston Healthcare System

Dr. Miller is a T32 postdoctoral fellow at the National Center for PTSD, VA Boston Healthcare System, Jamaica Plain campus and Boston University School of Medicine. Her research involves the study of the interplay between posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and mild traumatic brain injury (mTBI) and focuses on how multiple biomarkers such as neuroimaging and genetics impact the outcome and recovery of these disorders. This work involves a multi-modal approach that combines behavioral, genetic, functional MRI, and diffusion tensor imaging (DTI) techniques to examine the pathology of mTBI and PTSD. Although both mTBI and PTSD symptom severity may have negative consequences for cognition, my research suggests that these overlapping behavioral consequences are mediated through different neural pathologies. For example, Dr. Miller’s research suggests that mTBI is associated with disruptions in structural connectivity, which in turn, are associated with postconcussion symptoms and cognition, while PTSD is associated with alterations in functional connectivity in resting state networks. However, an important research question that remains to be answered is who may be at increased risk of developing these negative brain and behavior outcomes. To address these questions, she examines how individual differences (e.g., in genetics) influence brain and cognition in individuals with mTBI and PTSD and how this may interact with the neural pathologies of mTBI and PTSD. Dr. Miller’s research to date has provided compelling evidence that genetic factors may influence brain and cognition and place individuals at increased risk for negative brain outcomes associated with mTBI and PTSD.
Alies Muskin Career Development Leadership Program

The Alies Muskin Career Development Leadership Program (CDLP) is an intensive mentoring and professional development opportunity for early career clinicians and researchers. Renamed in her honor after her death in 2015, Alies Muskin began her career at ADAA in 2001, serving as chief operating officer before being named executive director in 2010. She worked tirelessly to offer hope and to improve the quality of life for the millions of children and adults who suffer from anxiety, depression, OCD, PTSD, bipolar, and related disorders.

Alies Muskin Career Development Leadership Program Participants: Basic Neuroscience

Marcelo Camargo Batistuzzo, PhD
USP - University of São Paulo - Institute of Psychiatry

Dr. Batistuzzo is a psychologist from Brazil who is engaged in full time research activities at the Institute of Psychiatry. His research focuses on the neurobiology of obsessive-compulsive disorder (OCD): Dr. Batistuzzo performs brain investigations using structural (cortical thickness and volumetry) and functional (resting state and task-based) magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) and neuropsychological evaluations in OCD patients. One of his main interests is the neuropsychological outcomes of treatment-refractory OCD patients who have submitted to surgical procedures such as gamma knife ventral capsulotomy (GVC) or deep brain stimulation (DBS). Currently, Dr. Batistuzzo is working on his post-doctoral research, involving a new sequence of proton MRI spectroscopy that allows separating glutamate from glutamine signal the ventromedial prefrontal cortex of OCD patients that undergo different modalities of treatments (medication and transcranial direct-current stimulation). He is also responsible for the coordination of the neuropsychological evaluation team in his group, which involves longitudinal assessments with children and adults and he is beginning to be actively involved in supervising graduate students in Brazil. Dr. Batistuzzo has a great interest in both of these areas (neuropsychological and neuroimaging) which he thinks better evaluates brain functioning.
Emily Belleau, PhD  
McLean Hospital, Harvard Medical School

Dr. Belleau’s long-term goal as a clinical scientist is to advance the understanding of neural network abnormalities in major depressive disorder and anxiety disorders with the hope of helping to identify individuals at risk for these disorders and informing treatment outcome. Thus far, she has applied her interest in neural network dysfunction in internalizing disorders, to the study of rumination in major depressive disorder (Belleau, Taubitz, Larson, 2015), impaired safety learning in individuals with dispositional anxiety (Belleau, Pedersen, Miskovich, & Larson, under review), and a longitudinal investigation of risk for PTSD (deRoon-Cassini, Taubitz, Belleau, Cahill, Brasel, & Larson, in prep). In earlier work, Dr. Belleau also investigated executive functioning deficits in youth at familial risk for mood disorders (Belleau, Phillips, Birmaher, Axelson, & Ladouceur, 2013) as well as emotion recognition deficits in dysphoric individuals (Marshall, Sippel, & Belleau, 2011). One of her articles was recently recognized as being one of the top ten most highly cited papers in 2015 at Social, Cognitive, and Affective Neuroscience. Additionally, as a graduate student, Dr. Belleau has had a strong track record of securing research fellowships (Society for Psychophysiological Research Training Fellowship, UWM Clinical and Translational Science Research Assistantship, and UWM Psychology Department Summer Research Fellowship). As a postdoctoral fellow, she is combining her interests in depression, stress, and neural network models. Currently, Dr. Belleau is investigating interactions between early life stress (childhood sexual abuse) and depression on resting state connectivity and structural connectivity examining the white matter integrity connecting brain regions in networks implicated in rumination, cognitive control, and emotion regulation. Given that adolescence is a vulnerable period for the development of emotional problems, she will be expanding her work in neural network abnormalities implicated in stress and depression, to the study of adolescent depression, with the support of a Kaplen Fellowship and Livingston Award through Harvard Medical School. Dr. Belleau is also involved in a longitudinal investigation of neural predictors of risk for adolescent depression. In the long term, this work may lead to the identification of vulnerable individuals and spur the developmental of novel early intervention and preventative efforts.

Stefanie Russman Block, MS  
University of Michigan

Stefanie Block is a 6th year graduate student at the University of Michigan in the Clinical Science area. She has been working in the Psychiatric Neuroimaging Laboratory under the mentorship of Israel Liberzon, MD. Her current research focuses on the neurobiology of anxiety and stress and how cognitive processes, such as attention, may mediate the role between emotion processing and symptomatology. Her dissertation aims to use behavioral and neuroimaging data to better understand how neural networks involved in attention may be affected in Posttraumatic Stress Disorder. Prior to graduate school, she worked as a research coordinator at Massachusetts General Hospital, studying endophenotypes of anxiety disorders using behavioral genetics and developmental neuroimaging techniques with Jordan Smoller, MD, ScD and Carl Schwartz, MD. She received her BA in behavioral neuroscience from Connecticut College in 2008.
Ashley N. Clausen, MA
Laureate Institute for Brain Research, University of Tulsa

Ms. Clausen is currently a fifth year doctoral candidate at the University of Tulsa and Laureate Institute for Brain Research under the mentorship of Dr. Robin Aupperle. During her graduate career, she developed a specific research focus that aims to enhance our understanding of how PTSD impacts physical health, using clinical, behavioral, and neurobiological methods. Given the growing prevalence of combat-PTSD, and the correlation between PTSD and physical health, Ms. Clausen believes this is an important niche that she can help fill within the research field. Through her training, she has been exposed to research conducted in academic and medical settings, and has had the opportunity to be involved in all aspects of research from conception, to comprising protocols and grant applications, data collection and analysis, as well as preparing presentations and publishing manuscripts related to her research projects. Following Ms. Clausen’s graduate training, her long-term goal is to secure a position that allows her to serve in both research and clinical capacities. She hopes to continue investigating the relationship between combat-related PTSD and comorbid health problems in order to optimize psychological treatment to reduce the impact of physical health comorbidities for veteran populations.

Bharathi Gadad, PhD
UT Southwestern Medical Center at Dallas

Dr. Gadad is a trained neuroscientist, who has experience and advanced knowledge on Genomics, Proteomics. She received her PhD in neuroscience, where she worked on the thermodynamics and biophysics of proteins involved in neurodegenerative disorders with Dr. Raghavan Varadarajan, HHMI form Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore and Dr. K.S. Jagannatha Rao. Later Dr. Gadad went on to do her postdoctoral training at a world-renowned laboratory with Dr. Ted Dawson at Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine on the post-mortem human brains, mouse models, cellular models and basic research on Parkinson’s disease. After finishing her post-doc training, Dr. Gadad became an Assistant Instructor at UT Southwestern Medical Center and worked on the biomarker research and human brain neuropathology on Autism, Alzheimer’s, Parkinson’s disorders. Currently, she is working on understanding the pathophysiology of mood disorders with emphasis on antidepressant treatment outcomes in major clinical trial projects like Co-MED, EMBARC and TREAD subjects. Dr. Gadad’s goals are screening putative biomarkers using genomic, proteomic and metabolomics as predictors or moderators that improve treatment outcome.
Sohye Kim, PhD
Baylor College of Medicine

Sohye Kim, PhD is an Assistant Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology, Psychiatry, and Pediatrics at Baylor College of Medicine. She is currently a principal or co-investigator on four grant-funded studies of high-risk mother-infant dyads affected by maternal depression, anxiety, trauma, and addiction. Her research aims to elucidate brain-neuroendocrine-behavior mechanisms, especially those evident early in life, that mediate long-term resilience and risk for psychopathology. In particular, she has intensively investigated the role of oxytocin in development and its potential as a therapeutic agent in mitigating long-term adverse socio-emotional outcomes. As the first and only clinical psychologist in the Division of Reproductive Psychiatry, Texas Children’s Hospital Pavilion for Women, she works in close collaboration with a comprehensive multidisciplinary team of maternal/fetal subspecialists to provide psychological services to expectant and postpartum mothers with depression, anxiety, and/or trauma.

Namik Kirlic, PhD
Laureate Institute for Brain Research, Tulsa, Oklahoma

Dr. Kirlic is currently a postdoctoral fellow at Laureate Institute for Brain Research in Tulsa, OK under the mentorship of Dr. Robin Aupperle. He earned his Bachelor’s degree in Psychology at Middlebury College in Middlebury, VT, and his Doctoral degree in Clinical Psychology at the University of Tulsa in Tulsa, OK under the mentorship of Dr. Elana Newman and Dr. Ruben Alvarez. Notably, Dr. Kirlic’s past research has examined the HPA-axis reactivity in children prenatally exposed to methamphetamine, the impact of war and post-war stress in young adults, and physiological and brain signatures of fear and anxiety in healthy, at-risk, and adults with anxiety and depressive disorders. Under the current mentorship of Dr. Robin Aupperle, Dr. Kirlic is using multiple approaches to examine predictors of treatment response in depressed and anxious individuals aiming to improve individual outcomes. His long-term interests center on the development of novel preventive and therapeutic strategies for individuals who experienced early life adversity, aiming to reverse or compensate for the known neurobiological abnormalities. Throughout his clinical training, Dr. Kirlic has delivered psychological services in inpatient, residential, and outpatient settings and with a diverse patient population. While on clinical internship at the Southwest Consortium in Albuquerque, NM, Dr. Kirlic developed a particular interest in treating patients with significant emotion dysregulation and psychosocial difficulties, complicated by early life adversity and adult stress/trauma exposure and substance abuse.
Natalie Matosin, PhD  
Max Planck Institute of Psychiatry, Munich

Dr. Natalie Matosin is a postdoctoral fellow studying stress-induced psychiatric illnesses currently based at the Max Planck Institute of Psychiatry in Munich with Elisabeth Binder. Matosin uses an integrated omics approach in human postmortem brain tissues to study genetic and epigenetic factors underlying risk and resilience to adverse life events and the development of severe psychiatric disorders.

Juliana Negreiros, PhD  
University of British Columbia

Dr. Juliana Negreiros is a registered psychologist with a background in school psychology who has extensive clinical and research experience working with children and youth with OCD in community, school, and hospital settings. Dr. Negreiros provides individual and group-based family CBT for pediatric OCD, and serves as a consultant for community-based partners, mental health clinicians, and schools. Dr. Negreiros is currently a Postdoctoral Fellow at the B.C. Children's Hospital Provincial OCD Program. One of the main goals of her fellowship is to gather evidence about how students with OCD function at school, and to help improve the support they receive in the school system.

Shariful Syed, MD  
University of Miami

Dr. Syed spent a large part of his life growing up in Weehawken, NJ and Long Island, New York. He studied East Asian philosophy in undergrad, which helped guide his increasing curiosity in the role of mental health in individual quality of life. Particularly the aspect of ‘resilience’, being a personal trainer/gym nut Dr. Syed felt immensely gratified to help people change their behaviors that improved their life trajectory. Having decided on psychiatry, he had the luck of having Jeremy Coplan’s mentoring which fostered his passion in exploring the neurobiological aspect of psychiatric/mood disorders. In residency, Dr. Syed’s goal is to gain the clinical/research skills to help move the field forward, particularly within the domain of resilience/mood disorders. As part of ADAA, Dr. Syed hopes to gain friends/collaborators/mentors with compatible aspirations and enthusiasm to make the most of what he may contribute to this rapidly evolving field.
Katherine Young, DPhil
University of California, Los Angeles

Dr. Young completed her undergraduate and graduate degrees at Oxford University in the UK where she studied experimental psychology and neuroscience. Her thesis looked at adults' neurobehavioral responses to infant vocalizations, with a focus on understanding disrupted responsiveness in postnatal depression. After completing her doctorate, Dr. Young moved to a postdoctoral position at UCLA to work in the Anxiety and Depression Research Center under the mentorship of Dr. Michelle Craske. Her current research focuses on the assessment of threat and reward processing in anxiety and depression at multiple levels of analysis, combining clinical, self-report, behavioral, peripheral psychophysiological and neural measures (utilizing an RDoc approach). Dr. Young is also working on analyzing neuroimaging data from a treatment study of social anxiety disorder to assess changes in neural connectivity associated with psychological treatments (CBT and ACT). In her work to date, Dr. Young has worked with a range of human neuroimaging techniques, including magnetoencephalography (MEG), local field potential (LFP) recordings and fMRI, peripheral psychophysiological recordings (EMG, GSR and ECG) and has experience programming across a range of platforms for stimulus presentation and analysis (matlab, eprime, presentation, SPM, FSL and AFNI).

Career Development Leadership Program Award Winners:
Clinical Research

Cristiano Tschiedel Belem da Silva, MD, PhD
Hospital de Clinicas de Porto Alegre

Cristiano Tschiedel Belem da Silva obtained his Ph.D. in Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences in 2014 at the Federal University of Rio Grande do Sul (UFRGS), Brazil. His Ph.D. research focused on the relationship between panic disorder and atherosclerosis. He began his post-doctorate at the same institution in 2014 and set a partnership with the Federal University of Pelotas (UFPel), Brazil, with whom he extended the studies on the relationship between emotional disorders and atherosclerosis on the 1993 Pelotas Birth Cohort. Dr. da Silva is also involved in an ongoing randomized controlled trial testing the effectiveness of a mindfulness-based intervention for the treatment of generalized anxiety disorder, in which he investigates the effects of the intervention at the serum levels of interleukin 6. He worked as a professor of Pharmacology at UFRGS in 2015 and teaches Cognitive-Behavioral Therapy and Research in Psychiatry for medical trainees since 2015. In April 2017, Dr. da Silva will start as an adjunct professor of Medicine at Universidade do Vale do Rio dos Sinos (UNISINOS), Brazil.
Robert E. Brady, PhD
Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center

Dr. Brady is the Co-Director of the Anxiety Disorders Service in the Department of Psychiatry at Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center and an Assistant Professor of Psychiatry at Geisel School of Medicine at Dartmouth. His clinical service provides cognitive and behavioral therapies for anxiety and related disorders. Dr. Brady conducts clinical research focused on the phenomenology of anxiety and related disorders, with an emphasis on the mechanisms that maintain anxious psychopathology, and the application of cognitive and behavioral interventions to these mechanisms. He is especially interested in the identification of psychological mechanisms that maintain anxiety disorders, and subsequently developing or refining pre-existing evidence-based treatments to more effectively and elegantly target these mechanisms. The aim of this research is to improve dissemination and implementation of evidence-based techniques and treatments through more scalable psychotherapies. Dr. Brady also has an interest in the relation between anxiety disorder and physical health outcomes, and the bidirectional effects of psychotherapy on both. Finally, Dr. Brady serves as the Training Director of the Dartmouth Psychology Internship Program, aspiring psychologists are trained in evidence-based practices delivered in a large academic medical center setting.

Jackie Bullis, PhD
McLean Hospital, Harvard Medical School

Dr. Bullis’s research focuses on transdiagnostic approaches to the classification, treatment, and prevention of emotional disorders. She is currently interested in developing more objective and precise measurements of mechanisms of change in transdiagnostic interventions that will inform future efforts to improve the efficacy and efficiency of these treatments.

Sierra Carter, PhD
Emory University School of Medicine

Dr. Carter’s academic training and research experiences up to this point in her career has denoted her avid commitment to pursuing a career as a clinical scientist committed to reducing racial health disparities. Dr. Carter’s interest in health disparities first developed through her research experiences in Dr. Enrique Neblett’s African American Youth Wellness Lab at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Her research there focused on understanding differences in African American’s responses to racism-related stress and how psychological factors exacerbate or protect against the deleterious health effects of racism experiences. These experiences enhanced Dr. Carter’s interest in resilience and vulnerability, factors that are critical to understanding within-group heterogeneity in adjustment outcomes among diverse populations. In graduate school and as a member of the Culture, Risk, and Resilience Lab under the direction of Dr. Rheeda Walker, Dr. Carter had the opportunity to be a co-investigator on a funded African American community project. Additionally during graduate school training, she was fortunate to be a member of the Center for Family Research Lab under the direction of Dr. Steven Beach where she worked on studies that examined the influence of stress and community characteristics that can influence psychological and physical
Dr. Carter’s long-term goal is to expand her research focus to include utilization of psychophysiological measures and biobehavioral assessments to examine how psychosocial stress can effect development and exacerbation of chronic illnesses and stress-related disorders. Her hope is to implement innovative and integrative approaches to the study of psychosocial stressors and health disparities, which takes into consideration the interconnection of mental and physical health symptoms. To this aim, Dr. Carter is currently gaining multi-faceted research training under the guidance of Dr. Bekh Bradley and Dr. Tanja Jovanovic as a current Emory University Postdoctoral Fellow and research scientist for the Grady Trauma Project, an ongoing study examining risk and resilience to psychopathology in a primarily African American sample of highly traumatized, low socioeconomic status individuals.

Elissa J. Hamlat, MA
Temple University

After a brief career in marketing, Ms. Hamlat entered the Clinical Psychology PhD program at Temple University in 2010 to work with Dr. Lauren Alloy, primarily to work on a prospective, large-scale study of cognitive mechanisms underlying the rise in depression during adolescence. Her pre-doctoral research projects have focused on understanding the effect of pubertal maturation on depression trajectories, the relationships between over general autobiographical memory, stress, and depressive symptoms, the influence of peer victimization on gender differences in depression, and the prevention and treatment of mood disorders during emerging adulthood. The culmination of Ms. Hamlat’s line of work on over general autobiographical memory as a vulnerability for depression was her dissertation, which compared memory specificity training as a brief intervention for depression in young adults against working memory training as a control condition. Ms. Hamlat’s recent emphases have been on cognitive factors (particularly memory-related) that promote resilience to recurrent depressive episodes. Ms. Hamlat is currently completing her clinical internship year at University of Illinois at Chicago, she is completing research on working memory in a remitted depressed sample using imaging and neuropsychology methodologies.

Rachel Hershenberg, PhD
Emory University

Dr. Hershenberg specializes in the research and treatment of depression. She is thrilled to be a licensed clinical psychologist and Assistant Professor at Emory University, where she works within a multi-disciplinary team in the Treatment Resistant Depression (TRD) program. She is building a research infrastructure that will help to identify biomarkers of TRD and to use that information to improve the ability to match patients to the most appropriate treatments. Dr. Hershenberg also has a particular interest in developing and collecting ecologically valid indices of depressive functioning in daily life. Advances in technology can aid in timely and unobtrusive assessments that may be used as feedback for patients in the identification of early warning signs of relapse as well as to signal that treatment is leading to measurable changes in daily life.
Kristina Korte, PhD
Massachusetts General Hospital, Harvard Medical School

Dr. Korte’s research focuses on the prevention and treatment of PTSD, anxiety disorders, and co-occurring substance use disorders. She is particularly interested in examining the trajectories of symptom development (e.g., transition from subclinical to clinical levels) as well as the trajectory of change over the course of treatment (e.g., response and nonresponse to treatment). Further, Dr. Korte’s work has expanded to examining the neural circuitry of anxiety disorders and PTSD and adapting evidence-based treatments for use in low and middle-income countries to increase the implementation of these treatments in diverse settings.

Jennie Kuckertz, MS
San Diego State University, University of California San Diego

Jennie Kuckertz is currently a fifth-year student in the San Diego State University/University of California, San Diego Joint Doctoral Program in Clinical Psychology, working under the supervision of Dr. Nader Amir. Prior to graduate school, Ms. Kuckertz completed post-baccalaureate training at the University of Texas Health Science Center San Antonio Neurobehavioral Research Laboratory and Clinic and the San Diego State University Center for Understanding and Treating Anxiety. Her research and clinical work are primarily in the areas of anxiety and obsessive-compulsive disorders. Broadly, her research interests include the following questions: (1) What are the mechanisms explaining the development and maintenance of anxiety and obsessive compulsive disorders? (2) Among children, what is the role of parents in understanding these mechanisms? (3) Once identified, how do we optimize treatments to target these mechanisms directly? Ms. Kuckertz is currently completing an F31 fellowship awarded by the National Institute of Mental Health to study mechanisms of treatment response for pediatric obsessive-compulsive disorder. Specifically, the goal of this project is to examine automatic (e.g., biases measured via reaction time tasks) versus strategic (e.g., willingness to complete more/harder exposures) changes in approach towards feared situations and their relative contributions towards explaining symptom change. Ms. Kuckertz has first- or co-authored 18 peer-reviewed publications, two book chapters, and 62 national and international conference presentations. In addition, Ms. Kuckertz serves as a board member and officer for the Southern California affiliate of the International OCD Foundation.
Richard LeBeau, PhD
University of California, Los Angeles

Dr. LeBeau is a post-doctoral fellow in the Anxiety and Depression Research Center (ADRC). Dr. LeBeau received his doctorate from UCLA and completed an APA-accredited pre-doctoral internship at the Greater Los Angeles VA Healthcare System. He also completed an APA-accredited post-doctoral fellowship at the Greater Los Angeles VA Healthcare System that focused on implementing evidence-based integrative treatment modalities (e.g., mindfulness-based stress reduction, biofeedback) and enhancing interprofessional collaboration in the medical setting. His research interests include understanding the role of social rejection in the onset and maintenance of anxiety and mood disorders, particularly within marginalized populations, and improving the dissemination of cutting-edge cognitive behavioral therapies into healthcare systems and community settings.

Andrea Niles, PhD
University of California, San Francisco

Dr. Niles received her graduate training at UCLA in Clinical Psychology under the mentorship of Drs. Michelle Craske and Annette Stanton. She completed her clinical internship at the University of Washington and has expertise in administration of cognitive behavioral therapies for the treatment of anxiety, depression, and post-traumatic stress disorder. Her research interests fall into two broad categories. First, she aims to improve the effectiveness of anxiety and trauma-related disorder treatment through identification and experimental manipulation of treatment mechanisms and personalized medicine. Second, she aims to better understand the overlap between psychological and medical illness with a focus on biological mechanisms of anxiety that increase risk for diseases of aging.

Daniel J. Paulus, MA
University of Houston

Mr. Paulus is a 4th year graduate student at the University of Houston. He previously worked with Peter Norton on transdiagnostic group CBT for anxiety and now works with Michael Zvolensky examining the comorbidity of substance and affective problems. Mr. Paulus’s research is focused on transdiagnostic vulnerabilities (e.g., emotion dysregulation) underlying anxiety, depression, and substance use (particularly alcohol and cannabis as maladaptive emotion regulatory strategies). Mr. Paulus is also working with Matthew Gallagher to advance his statistical knowledge in SEM and MLM to be able to answer more complex questions (e.g., treatment outcome and longitudinal mediators/mechanisms of change).
Marilyn Piccirillo, MA  
Washington University in St. Louis

Ms. Piccirillo is primarily interested in elucidating the cognitive-behavioral and interpersonal mechanisms that exacerbate and maintain internalizing disorders. Her research that she will present examines how individuals with SAD and comorbid depressive symptoms both provide and receive support within close friendships. Ms. Piccirillo’s aim is to pursue a career that will allow her to prioritize both high-quality research as well as opportunities for clinical practice. She believes that the personalization of mental health, specifically the examination of which risk factors matter most and for whom, is key to enhancing existing treatments and tailoring prevention efforts to decrease the prevalence and morbidity associated with internalizing disorders. As a future clinical scientist, Ms. Piccirillo aims to prioritize the use of experience sampling methods via mobile technology, as well as advanced statistical modeling (e.g., person-centered analyses) that can be used to develop personalized models of internalizing disorders and inform treatment interventions on the individual level. This line of research cultivates a deep understanding of an individual’s experience in a systematic way, which can advance the knowledge of internalizing disorders and enhance existing treatments.

Lillian Reuman, MA  
University of North Carolina - Chapel Hill

From 2011-2013, Ms. Reuman worked as a clinical research coordinator under the supervision of Dr. Sabine Wilhelm at the Massachusetts General Hospital (MGH) OCD Clinic. In this capacity, she assisted with studies testing CBT for adolescents with BDD and examined attentional biases in body dysmorphic disorder (BDD) using eye-tracking technology. As a graduate student in clinical psychology at UNC-Chapel Hill under the mentorship of Dr. Jonathan Abramowitz, Ms. Reuman examines interpersonal factors as they maintain anxiety disorders and subsequently predict treatment response. In the context of her master’s research, Ms. Reuman conducted clinical interviews with family members of anxious relatives to examine how non-anxious traits predict treatment-interfering behaviors (e.g., accommodation). Ms. Reuman currently oversees two treatment protocols: one harnesses a smartphone app for social anxiety and another utilizes partner support for the treatment of BDD. Through these approaches, Ms. Reuman hopes to improve upon existing treatments by helping to study techniques that facilitate coping among individuals with anxiety disorders and their families.

Jessica Schleider, MA  
Harvard University

Jessica Schleider is a Clinical Psychology doctoral candidate at Harvard University working towards a clinical intervention science career. She graduated with a B.A. from Swarthmore College in 2012, and she previously worked as a middle school math and theater teacher for low-income NYC youth. Her research is driven by a discrepancy in our field: efforts to reduce youth mental health problems have advanced greatly, but they have not reduced overall rates of youth mental illness. Accordingly, the long-term goal of her work is to develop and disseminate scalable, brief, mechanism-targeted interventions for youth internalizing disorders, with the objective of helping to reduce youth anxiety and depression on a broad scale. Supported by grants from the National Institute of Mental Health,
the American Psychological Foundation, and the Harvard Center on the Developing Child, Ms. Schleider’s work has focused on two “targets” that might inform the design of such interventions: familial processes, such as parental mental illness and family functioning, and youth cognitions, such as beliefs about whether personal traits are malleable (versus fixed) by nature. Her research has been published in numerous peer-reviewed journals, including Journal of Consulting and Clinical Psychology, Journal of the American Academy of Child & Adolescent Psychiatry, and Clinical Psychology Review. Ms. Schleider also serves as a peer-reviewer for fifteen academic psychology journals.

Robert Selles, PhD  
University of British Columbia

Dr. Selles received his PhD in Clinical Psychology from the University of South Florida where, working with Dr. Eric Storch, he gained clinical and research experience in assessing and treating obsessive compulsive spectrum, anxiety, and tic, disorders. Dr. Selles attended Brown University for his clinical internship where, working with Dr. Jen Freeman, he gained additional experience in these areas within the OCD partial hospitalization program and Pediatric Anxiety Research Center. Following graduation, Dr. Selles joined the OCD program at BC Children's Hospital as a post-doctoral fellow, where he works under the mentorship of Dr. S. Evelyn Stewart.

Amy Sewart, MA  
University of California, Los Angeles

Ms. Sewart’s research interests lie in advancing human models of fear learning and translating this knowledge to improve evidence-based treatment of anxiety disorders. Ms. Sewart is also interested in cognitive, affective, and behavioral mechanisms that generate and maintain anxiety disorders, such as anxiety sensitivity.

Andrew M. Sherrill, PhD  
Emory University

Andrew M. Sherrill received an M.A. (2013) and Ph.D. (2016) from the clinical psychology program at Northern Illinois University. He completed a predoctoral internship at the Veterans Affairs Puget Sound Health Care System (American Lake Division). He is currently working as a postdoctoral fellow at the Veterans Program at Emory University School of Medicine. Andrew’s research interests include understanding peritraumatic perceptual systems and posttraumatic memory systems. His approach can be viewed as a synthesis of trauma psychology, cognitive science, and contextual behavioral science, which are levels of analysis that can be viewed as complimentary, not contradictory. He is particularly interested in better
understanding the complexity of contextual factors surrounding traumatic events and the inherent perceptual subjectivity of each unique brain. His studies attempt to probe the perspectives of trauma-exposed individuals (armed service members, perpetrators, victims, and third parties) to better understand how minds process the unfolding of a traumatic event and subsequently retrieve encoded information. Currently, Andrew’s research interests have extended from the laboratory to clinical trials. He is particularly interested in using recent insights from the basic research on event cognition and emotion to better understand (a) how evidence-based treatments work and (b) how to best package and deliver "active ingredients." He is currently pursuing studies that aim to better understand mechanisms of change (e.g., psychological flexibility, emotion regulation, and inhibitory learning) within behavioral interventions for trauma-exposed populations (e.g., trauma-focused exposure therapies and third-wave behavior therapies).

Nicole Short, MS
Florida State University

Ms. Short is currently a 4th year graduate student in clinical psychology at Florida State University working with Dr. Brad Schmidt. She graduated from the University of California, Berkeley in 2011 with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Psychology. Following graduation, Ms. Short worked as a research assistant at the VA Palo Alto Health Care System on several projects examining comorbidities between substance abuse and anxiety disorders. Her research interests include the development, maintenance, and treatment of anxiety disorders, with a focus on posttraumatic stress disorder and associated difficulties (e.g., substance use disorders). Specifically, Ms. Short’s research focuses on the bidirectional relationship between sleep disturbances (e.g., insomnia) and anxiety disorders, and the effect of sleep disturbances on affective responding in the context of these disorders. In addition, she is interested in identifying and better understanding transdiagnostic affective, cognitive, and behavioral factors affecting the etiology of both sleep disturbances and anxiety disorders, with the aim of optimizing cognitive behavioral preventions and treatments for these disorders.

Christine Valdez, PhD
California State University, Monterey Bay

Dr. Valdez is a licensed clinical psychologist with interests in psychological trauma and posttraumatic stress. Her clinical expertise are in treating interpersonal violence, and her research interests focus on understanding cognitive and emotional processes that contribute to posttraumatic sequelae, and recovery from trauma. She completed her graduate training at Northern Illinois University under the mentorship of Dr. Michelle Lilly; and her clinical internship and postdoctoral fellowship in the University of California, San Francisco (UCSF) Clinical Psychology Training Program where she was based at the San Francisco General Hospital (SFGH)/UCSF Trauma Recovery Center. Dr. Valdez continues to be an Affiliate of UCSF, conducting research with clients at the UCSF/SFGH Trauma Recovery Center. Currently, she is in her first year as an Assistant Professor in the psychology department at California State University, Monterey Bay where she teaches Psychopathology and mentors undergraduate students in research.
Alies Muskin Career Development Leadership Program Award Participants: Practice

Kelly Nicole Banneyer, PhD
Baylor College of Medicine, Texas Children's Hospital

Dr. Banneyer attended Rice University for undergraduate studies, majoring in psychology and cognitive sciences. After receiving her bachelor's degree, she immediately started graduate school at The University of Texas at Austin. Dr. Banneyer completed the School Psychology Doctoral program with emphases in pediatric and clinical psychology. During graduate school, her research focused on the relation between anxiety in children and parents. Dr. Banneyer’s dissertation focused on this relation during randomized intervention using the Child and Adolescent Anxiety Multimodal Study (CAMS) data. She also managed an intervention study examining the added efficacy of parent training on child anxiety intervention and is looking forward to analyzing the pattern between weekly changes in parent and child anxiety levels throughout the course of treatment. Dr. Banneyer completed most of her practicums at hospitals and outpatient clinical settings. She developed a passion for working with youth and their families. Dr. Banneyer matched for internship for the pediatric/child clinical track at Baylor College of Medicine/Texas Children's Hospital, and decided to stay on for her post-doctoral fellowship. She is currently in her first year of a two-year fellowship and working on licensure. Dr. Banneyer started to become interested in behavioral parent training intervention for preschoolers with anxiety and obsessive-compulsive disorders, in addition to her previous research interests.

Priscilla Cheung, PhD
McLean Hospital

T. Cheung, Ph.D., is a clinical psychologist specializing in the assessment and treatment of anxiety and related disorders using evidence-based psychological treatments. Dr. Cheung has extensive training and experience in implementing cognitive-behavioral therapy and exposure and response prevention. She has worked with children, adolescents, and young adults with various presenting problems in outpatient, inpatient medical, and school settings. Currently, Dr. Cheung is a staff psychologist at the McLean Anxiety Mastery Program, a group-based outpatient program that provides intensive treatment for children and adolescents with anxiety and obsessive compulsive spectrum disorders.
Thea Gallagher, PsyD
University of Pennsylvania

Thea Gallagher, Psy.D., is the clinic coordinator at the Center for the Treatment and Study of Anxiety (CTSA) in the Perelman School of Medicine at the University of Pennsylvania. Dr. Gallagher completed her Psy.D. in Clinical Psychology at Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine. Dr. Gallagher joined the CTSA in 2014 after the completion of her clinical internship at Holcomb Behavioral Health Systems. At the CTSA, Dr. Gallagher currently coordinates the OCD treatment study, and is a study therapist. Dr. Gallagher also serves as the CTSA media coordinator. Clinically, Dr. Gallagher specializes in Prolonged Exposure Therapy (PE) for PTSD, Exposure and Response (Ritual) Prevention (EX/RP) for OCD, and cognitive-behavioral treatments for social anxiety, panic disorder, specific phobias, and generalized anxiety.

Marina Gershkovich, PhD
Columbia University Medical Center, New York State Psychiatric Institute

Clinical research has been the cornerstone of Dr. Gershkovich’s doctoral training and continues to be an integral part of her identity as a psychologist. She has been committed to the integration of science and practice in conducting research focusing on treatment development and novel dissemination methods for anxiety disorders. At the same time while being involved in treatment-outcome investigations, she has received rigorous clinical training. The overall goal of Dr. Gershkovich’s clinical and research career is to improve access to evidence-based treatments for patients with anxiety, obsessive-compulsive disorder (OCD) and related disorders, and to translate research findings into recommendations for front-line clinical practice. In her graduate and postgraduate training, Dr. Gershkovich has built a strong foundation in empirically-supported approaches through extensive experience in the treatment and research of anxiety and mood disorders. Throughout her diverse clinical experiences, she has utilized a wide range of ESTs including traditional cognitive behavior therapy (exposure therapy and behavioral activation) as well as more recent techniques from the field of acceptance and commitment therapy, in varying formats and modalities.

Dr. Gershkovich has been fortunate to have excellent mentors who have helped her develop into a scientist-practitioner with an emerging specialization in anxiety and related disorders. Throughout graduate school, at the Drexel Anxiety Treatment and Research program, she worked as the project coordinator and study therapist for a large randomized controlled trial comparing two variations of CBT for social anxiety disorder for over three years. At the Center for Treatment and Study of Anxiety at University of Pennsylvania, Dr. Gershkovich primarily worked with individuals with anxiety disorders including PTSD, GAD, and OCD, and received intensive training and supervision in delivery of prolonged exposure (PE) and exposure and ritual prevention (EX/RP). Seeking an opportunity to work with veterans, she obtained a practicum position at the Philadelphia VA treating chronic insomnia within the context of comorbid conditions such as depression and anxiety. As a predoctoral intern at the Boston Consortium, Dr. Gershkovich worked with veterans with PTSD providing empirically-supported treatments such as PE and CPT. After receiving her doctoral degree in clinical psychology from Drexel University in 2015, she joined the Anxiety Disorders Clinic at Columbia University Medical Center at the New York State Psychiatric Institute as a postdoctoral fellow and clinical researcher. As a member of the OCD Team, directed by H. Blair Simpson, M.D., Ph.D., Dr. Gershkovich is currently involved in a variety of research studies for OCD and anxiety disorders in adults. After finishing her postdoctoral fellowship and becoming licensed in September 2016, she now serves in a Project Manager role, providing clinical and research supervision to other members on the team including research assistants, postdocs, and externs. Dr. Gershkovich is also beginning a part-time private practice
focusing on anxiety and related disorders. As an earlier career psychologist, Dr. Gershkovich hopes to contribute to the efforts of integrating research and clinical work in our field.

Johanna Kaplan, PhD
Washington Anxiety Center of Capitol Hill

Dr. Johanna Kaplan is the Director of the Washington Anxiety Center of Capitol Hill. She is a licensed clinical psychologist in Washington, DC, Maryland, and Virginia. She earned her Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology from The Catholic University of America in 2010 and her undergraduate degree in Psychology and Communications from American University in Washington, D.C. Prior to opening the Washington Anxiety Center of Capitol Hill, she worked for four years at the Center for Anxiety and Behavior Change in Rockville MD. She also completed 18 months of post-doctoral training at the Institute of Living/Hartford Hospital at the Anxiety Disorders Center/Center for Cognitive Behavioral Therapy under the direct supervision of David Tolin, Ph.D. Additionally, she completed a 2-year post-baccalaureate fellowship and a 6-year pre-doctoral fellowship in the Mood and Anxiety Disorders Program at the National Institute of Mental Health. Dr. Kaplan has received extensive clinical and clinical-research training in anxiety, mood, and obsessive-compulsive spectrum disorders and has completed clinical and research work in private practice, community, counseling center, and hospital-based settings. Together, Dr. Kaplan has over 40 presentations/publications in the domain of clinical anxiety in adult, adolescent, and child populations. She continues to actively pursue her education in evidence-based treatments for anxiety in these populations.

Andrea Millen, PsyD
Stanford University

Andrea Millen, PsyD is a post-doctoral fellow in the OCD and Related Disorders program within the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences at Stanford University. She received her doctorate in clinical psychology from Pacific University School of Professional Psychology. Dr. Millen has extensive experience using Cognitive-Behavioral Therapies (CBT), mindfulness, and acceptance-based interventions with adults, adolescents, and children to treat a variety of anxiety and mood disorders. In the future, Dr. Millen see herself as a director of an anxiety disorders clinic and continuing research that directly impacts clinical interventions and procedures throughout her career. She completed her APA accredited pre-doctoral internship at the Denver VA Medical Center where she specialized in treating veterans presenting with a variety of internalizing and externalizing issues including post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), depression, anxiety, psychosis, suicidality, co-occurring medical conditions, and co-occurring substance use disorders. Her training focused on Health Psychology and Primary Care – Mental Health Integration (PC-MHI). In a variety of interdisciplinary medical settings, she worked with palliative care, chronic pain, and inpatient teams. Additionally, she is trained in Cognitive Processing Therapy (CPT) for PTSD. Her doctoral dissertation examined medical providers and medical student’s knowledge and attitudes towards Hoarding Disorder. Beyond her role as a therapist at Stanford University's Psychosocial Treatment Clinic, part of her postdoctoral fellowship is directed towards evidence-based research focused on improving clinical interventions in OCD and related disorders. She brings experience leading Buried In Treasures (BIT), an evidence-based group treatment for those who struggle with hoarding, and provides individual treatment for Hoarding Disorder and OCD. Dr. Millen serves as the supervisor for the clinical portion of a study on hoarding disorder treatment. Additionally, she is an independent evaluator for a clinical study focused on
understanding how ketamine brings about rapid improvement in OCD symptoms and provides supervision and mentorship for doctoral psychology students. Dr. Millen is a member of the Anxiety and Depression Association of America and the American Psychological Association.

Jeremy Peterman, PhD  
Stanford University

Jeremy Peterman is a postdoctoral fellow at the Stanford University Department of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry. He completed his graduate training in clinical psychology at Temple University under the mentorship of Dr. Philip Kendall and his clinical internship at UC San Diego School of Medicine. Jeremy has experience teaching undergraduates about and supervising trainees in youth anxiety treatment. Dr. Peterman is interested in evidence-based intervention for anxiety across the lifespan, with an emphasis on childhood and adolescence. Dr. Peterman is also interested in dissemination of empirically supported treatments.

Heather Smith-Schrandt, PhD  
University of Missouri - Kansas City (UMKC), Kansas City Center for Anxiety Treatment (KCCAT)

Dr. Smith-Schrandt received her Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology from University of South Florida, with a focus on anxiety and related interpersonal factors. She completed internship at the James A. Haley VA in Tampa, FL, with additional rotations including pediatric health, female psychology, and couples/family therapy. While at USF she also was involved in providing services for school-based interventions, healthy weight/eating disorder clinics, and the selective mutism treatment group. Dr. Smith-Schrandt joined KCCAT in September 2015 following a Postdoctoral Fellowship in the Department of Pediatrics at the USF Rothman Center for Neuropsychiatry. Her formal specialized training includes CBT/ERP, acceptance and commitment therapy (ACT), dialectical behavior therapy (DBT), and comprehensive intervention for tics (CBIT). She provides clinical services to all ages of individual patients, couples, and families.

Stephanie Woodrow, LGPC, NCC  
The Maryland Anxiety Center

Stephanie Woodrow, LGPC, NCC, earned her Master of Science in Counseling from Johns Hopkins University. In 2016, Stephanie became a National Certified Counselor. Ms. Woodrow has worked in the mental health field since 2011 and interned for more than a year at Adventist HealthCare Behavioral Health & Wellness Services Partial Hospitalization Program in Rockville, Maryland. There, she worked with her patients to address various issues including depression, anxiety, obsessive-compulsive disorder and psychosis. In addition to treating patients on an individual basis, Ms. Woodrow led groups from a cognitive behavior perspective. In doing, so, she was able to utilize her comprehensive CBT background to develop specific CBT techniques & exercises to benefit a variety of patient populations. While working toward obtaining her Master’s degree in Counseling, Ms. Woodrow, worked full time managing a private psychiatry practice. There, she gained extensive knowledge &
expertise regarding a variety of psychiatric conditions. Ms. Woodrow joined The Maryland Anxiety Center in March of 2016 to pursue her passion to gain expertise in the treatment of anxiety & related disorders. In addition to providing treatment at The Maryland Anxiety Center, Ms. Woodrow is the Intern Program Coordinator.

Paula Yanes-Lukin, PhD
Columbia University, New York State Psychiatric Institute

Dr. Yanes-Lukin is a clinical psychologist and director of psychology at the Children's Day Unit (CDU) at the Pediatric Anxiety and Mood Research Clinic (PAMRC) at Columbia University Medical Center/New York State Psychiatric Institute. She graduated with a B.A. in Psychology from Amherst College, and received a master’s and Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology from the University at Buffalo, the State University of New York. Dr. Yanes-Lukin completed her internship training at the Hudson River Regional Psychology Internship Consortium, and her postdoctoral training at the New York State Psychiatric Institute. At the CDU/PAMRC, she provided evidenced-based evaluations and treatment to youth and families who present primarily with anxiety and/or depression. As director of the externship program Dr. Yanes-Lukin is responsible for supervising trainees and organizing didactic and training opportunities. She is also a member of the research team at the PAMRC where she is responsible for overseeing the management of treatment study protocols and for providing treatment and assessment to study participants. Dr. Yanes-Lukin’s own research interests focus on novel treatments/treatment applications for depression and anxiety in youth, and her clinical interests are in providing evidence-based treatment for these disorders.