

# ADVANCED POSTDOCTORAL FELLOWSHIP IN VETERAN MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE PREVENTION

The Center of Excellence for Suicide Prevention's two-year fellowship program is designed to provide psychologists and physicians with the experience necessary to **become leaders and innovators in suicide prevention research** among Veterans. Consistent with the strategic mission of our Center, our fellowship program puts primary emphasis on **public health approaches to suicide prevention** in a vibrant interdisciplinary setting that fosters rich and creative collaborations.

## Our Research

Fellows collaborate with investigators and clinical supervisors from the fields of psychology, psychiatry, medicine, nursing, social work, epidemiology and health services.

*Meet the investigators currently accepting fellows for the 2021-23 program!*

**Nicholas Allan,  
Ph.D.**



targets brief interventions addressing risk factors for **mood, anxiety, substance use** and **suicide-related outcomes**.

**Tracy Stecker,  
Ph.D.**



aims to increase **help-seeking behavior** and mental health **treatment engagement**.

**Robert Bossarte,  
Ph.D.**



focuses on **predictive modeling** for suicide risk and integration of **big data analytics** into mental health practice.

**Todd Bishop,  
Ph.D.**



examines the **sleep-suicide relationship**, particularly the influence **sleep disturbance** has on suicidal behavior.

**Elizabeth  
Karras-Pilato, Ph.D.**



studies the use of **communication strategies** in public health approaches among at-risk Veterans.

**Lisham  
Ashrafioun, Ph.D.**



conducts overlapping research on **chronic pain management** and **substance use**, particularly **opioid misuse** and mitigation.

## Program Eligibility

Prospective Ph.D. applicants must have completed a doctoral degree program in clinical or counseling psychology, as well as a doctoral internship in psychology.

Prospective MD or DO applicants must have completed a residency and be board certified or board eligible in their medical specialty.

**Applications due  
JANUARY 4, 2021**  
and can be found  
on the CoE website.

## Fellowship Training Directors



**Stephanie Gamble, Ph.D.**  
Director,  
Fellowship Training  
(585) 369-7320  
stephanie.gamble@va.gov

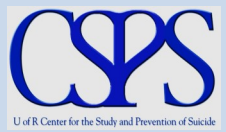


**Todd Bishop, Ph.D.**  
Associate Director,  
Fellowship Training  
(585) 393-7126  
todd.bishop@va.gov



**Suzanne Gillespie, M.D.**  
Medical Director,  
Fellowship Training  
(585) 393-7763  
suzanne.gillespie@va.gov

# VA ADVANCED FELLOWSHIP IN VETERAN MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE PREVENTION



The VA VISN 2 Center of Excellence for Suicide Prevention and the affiliated University of Rochester Center for the Study and Prevention of Suicide (UR-CSPS) is pleased to announce the availability of a postdoctoral fellowship position for a psychologist or physician. The two-year program is supported by the VA Advanced Fellowship Program in Mental Illness Research and Treatment.

**Program Goal:** To prepare the next generation of leaders and innovators in suicide prevention research, education, and clinical care. We offer specialized training focused on suicide prevention strategies, with emphasis on at-risk populations including older Veterans; Veterans with depression, PTSD, or other mental health disorders; Veterans with substance use disorders and comorbid conditions; and Veterans facing health challenges such as chronic pain and sleep disorders. We also offer unique clinical and research opportunities in crisis response strategies and other brief interventions to address suicide risk. The fellowship is associated with (but not identical to) the UR-CSPS NIMH T32 Research Fellowship in Suicide Prevention. Prospective fellows may apply to both fellowships.

**Fellowship Activities:** Participants spend approximately 75% time in research and 25% in related clinical activities, work closely with senior research and education mentors, participate in core didactic offerings of the VA Hub Site and UR-CSPS, obtain advanced clinical training in VA sites matched closely to research interests, prepare at least one paper for publication and one national presentation each year, and complete a suicide prevention education project.

## Training Faculty:

Nicholas P. Allan, PhD  
Lisham Ashrafioun, PhD  
Matthew J. Barry, DO  
Todd M. Bishop, PhD  
Robert M. Bossarte, PhD  
James T. Bridges, PhD  
Peter C. Britton, PhD  
Eric D. Caine, MD  
Kenneth R. Conner, PsyD, MPH  
Yeates Conwell, MD  
Wendi F. Cross, PhD  
Claudiu C. Dumitrescu, PsyD  
Stephanie A. Gamble, PhD  
Suzanne M. Gillespie, MD  
Elizabeth Karras-Pilato, PhD  
Ronald C. Kessler, PhD  
Jill E. Lavigne, PhD, MPH  
Matthew K. Nock, PhD  
Wilfred R. Pigeon, PhD  
Tracy A. Stecker, PhD  
Kimberly A. Van Orden, PhD  
Gary C. Warner, PhD

**Fellowship Director:**  
**Stephanie A. Gamble, PhD**

**Associate Fellowship Director:**  
**Todd M. Bishop, PhD**

**Application:** Send letter of interest, CV, graduate transcripts, and 3 letters of recommendation to:

Stephanie Gamble, PhD c/o  
Tracy Dilcher  
Department of Veterans Affairs  
400 Fort Hill Ave (COE)  
Canandaigua, NY 14424 or  
[tracy.dilcher@va.gov](mailto:tracy.dilcher@va.gov)

## Psychologist Applicants:

- Application Date:** Preferred deadline January 4, 2021
- Start Date:** Flexible July 1 – October 1, 2021
- Salary and Benefits:** Stipend starts at \$47,624 for Year 1. Fellows are eligible for health and life insurance benefits through the Department of Veterans Affairs.
- Requirements:** Entry into the program requires U.S. citizenship and completion of a doctoral degree, including dissertation defense, from an APA-, CPA- or PCSAS-accredited clinical or counseling program prior to the start date of the fellowship. Applications from those participating in new VHA psychology internship programs, in the process of applying for APA accreditation, may be acceptable provided that such programs were sanctioned by the VHA Central Office Program Director for Psychology and VHA Central Office of Academic Affiliations at the time of applicant's enrollment.
- Accreditation Status:** Non-accredited
- For more information:** Visit our website <https://www.mirecc.va.gov/suicideprevention/education/fellowship.asp> or contact Training Director Stephanie Gamble, PhD via Program Coordinator, Tracy Dilcher at [tracy.dilcher@va.gov](mailto:tracy.dilcher@va.gov), (585) 393-7812

## Physician Applicants:

- Application Date:** Preferred deadline January 4, 2021
- Start Date:** Flexible, but preferred July 1, 2021
- Salary and Benefits:** Stipend based on previous years of ACGME-accredited residency or fellowship experience. Opportunities to supplement stipend are available. Fellows are eligible for health and life insurance benefits through the Department of Veterans Affairs. Hiring flexibility is available with potential options of part-time appointments.
- Requirements:** Entry into the program requires that all Physician Applicants complete an Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME) residency and be Board eligible in their specialty at the commencement of the Fellowship. All applicants must document current, unrestricted U.S. medical licensure and the completion of ACGME or American Osteopathic Association (AOA)-accredited specialty and subspecialty residency training. The Physician Component of the Fellowship permits non-citizens of the U.S.
- Accreditation Status:** Non-accredited
- For more information:** Visit our website <https://www.mirecc.va.gov/suicideprevention/education/fellowship.asp> or contact Training Director Stephanie Gamble, PhD via Program Coordinator, Tracy Dilcher at [tracy.dilcher@va.gov](mailto:tracy.dilcher@va.gov), (585) 393-7812

The VA VISN 2 Center of Excellence for Suicide Prevention is committed to promoting and sustaining a culturally and ethnically diverse work environment. The U.S. Government does not discriminate in employment on the basis of race, color, religion, sex (including pregnancy and gender identity), national origin, political affiliation, sexual orientation, marital status, disability, genetic information, age, membership in an employee organization, retaliation, parental status, military service, or other non-merit factor.