



THE WARREN ALPERT
Medical School
BROWN UNIVERSITY

Clinical Psychology Residents 2024-2025



Olivia Bolts

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Internship track: Adult

Graduate School: Colorado State University

Dissertation Title: Effects of a Brief Web-Based Cannabis Intervention and the Role of Protective Behavioral Strategies

Clinical Interests: Culturally-responsive care for substance use and co-occurring disorders across all levels and modalities of care.

Research Interests: Substance use, harm reduction, mechanisms of behavior change, maintenance mechanisms, and advanced statistical techniques.



Ardhys De Leon

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Internship track: Adult

Graduate School: University of Central Florida

Dissertation Title: The Effect of Racial Bias on Alcohol Use Behaviors: An Ecological Momentary Assessment Study Among a National Sample of Hispanic/Latinx Drinkers.

Clinical Interests: Treatment for comorbid trauma and substance use disorders.

Research Interests: The role of sociocultural factors in the development and maintenance of substance use disorders among at-risk and marginalized populations.



Kristina Dickman

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Internship track: Beh Med

Graduate School: University of Pittsburgh

Dissertation Title: Physiological Impacts of a Social Belonging Intervention: Implications for Students with a History of Childhood Stress

Clinical Interests: Utilizing evidenced-based approaches to address psychosocial factors impact on chronic disease risk and management, integrated primary care.

Research Interests: Risk and resilience pathways linking socioeconomic and social stress with cardiometabolic risk across the lifespan.



Kayla Ford

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Internship track: Adult

Graduate School: University of Arkansas - Fayetteville

Dissertation Title: Helping Someone "Off the Hook": Post-Moral Disengagement as an Interpersonal Emotion Regulation Strategy in a Hypothetical Alcohol-Involved Sexual Assault

Clinical Interests: Transdiagnostic and integrative approaches to complex clinical presentations among trauma-exposed and underserved populations.

Research Interests: Intersection of sexual violence victimization/perpetration with alcohol use; improving access to and effectiveness of mental health services in correctional settings (e.g., prison, re-entry programs).



Jamilah George

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Internship track: Beh Med

Graduate School: University of Connecticut

Dissertation Title: Psychedelic Just(Us): The Role of Racial Trauma, Pain Interference, and Stigma on Psychedelic Acceptability among Black Americans

Clinical Interests: Culturally-informed EBTs for comorbid PTSD and/or racial trauma and chronic health conditions, (i.e., insomnia, pain interference, and substance abuse), OCD and anxiety related disorders, neurologically-driven interventions, and plant medicine/psychedelic-assisted therapy to treat these disorders.

Research Interests: Sociocultural and political factors influencing help-seeking behavior and treatment outcomes in trauma and stressor-related and obsessivecompulsive and related disorders, the efficacy of psychedelic medicine for treatment-resistant disorders, and the role of racism in exacerbating health inequities among ethnoracial minoritized individuals.



Rachel Keszycki

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Internship track: Neuro

Graduate School: Northwestern University Feinberg School of Med.

Dissertation Title: Neuropsychiatric Symptoms and the Amygdala in Frontotemporal Lobar Degeneration with Tau Pathology

Clinical Interests: Role of psychology on an interdisciplinary healthcare team and providing interventions to older adults and patients with disabilities and neurological disorders.

Research Interests: Neurodegenerative diseases, specifically biomarkers and postmortem brain pathology and their relationship to neuropsychiatric symptoms and other clinical phenotypes.



Mindy Kibbey
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Internship track: Beh Med

Graduate School: Rutgers University NJ-Piscataway/New Brunswick

Dissertation Title: Measurement of Exercise Avoidance and False Safety Behaviors among Adults in Middle and Older Age

Clinical Interests: Treating anxiety and promoting positive health behaviors in older adults in service of better quality of life and greater values-consistent living, even in the context of continuing health concerns.

Research Interests: Tailoring assessments/interventions for older adults with anxiety and medical conditions by identifying and targeting mechanisms that underpin anxiety and interfere with positive health behaviors (e.g., physical activity) in a way that is relevant and acceptable to older adult patients.



Samantha Klaver
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Internship track: Child (Pedi)

Graduate School: University of Central Florida

Dissertation Title: Youth Self-Injurious Thoughts and Behaviors: The Role of Affect, Interpersonal Stress, and Parenting

Clinical Interests: The use of family-based and trauma-informed treatments for youth and families with co-occurring chronic and acute physical complexities, mental health difficulties, and adversity.

Research Interests: The occurrence of health and health-compromising behaviors as a function of early adversity and unique developmental factors for youth and families within a pediatric health setting.



Ilana Ladis
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Internship track: Adult

Graduate School: University of Virginia

Dissertation Title: Using reappraisal to shift interpretation bias on social media

Clinical Interests: Utilizing evidence-based treatments (e.g., cognitivebehavioral and third-wave approaches) to treat adults struggling with anxiety, depression, and emotion dysregulation.

Research Interests: Leveraging technology to improve suicide risk identification; developing interventions to prevent suicide in vulnerable populations especially during high-risk periods of transition.



Rafael Leite
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Internship track: Beh Med

Graduate School: University of Miami

Dissertation Title: Weight Discrimination and Its Association with Cardiometabolic Health

Clinical Interests: Delivering evidence-based psychosocial interventions to individuals with chronic health conditions.

Research Interests: The prevention and management of chronic health, addressing weight stigma, and disseminating health promotion interventions among systematically marginalized populations.



Alina Lesnovskaya

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Internship track: Neuro

Graduate School: University of Pittsburgh

Dissertation Title: Regional White Matter Hyperintensities, Cardiorespiratory Fitness, and Cognition in Late Adulthood

Clinical Interests: Neuropsychological assessment in populations with complex medical and psychiatric symptoms, along with neuropsychologically-informed interventions.

Research Interests: Early detection of individuals at risk for aging-related cognitive decline and identifying intervention targets to mitigate decline and promote quality of life.



Rachel McDonald

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Internship track: Child (Autism)

Graduate School: Montclair State University

Dissertation Title: Electrophysiological Markers of Emotion Dysregulation in Autism Spectrum Disorder

Clinical Interests: Transdiagnostic treatment targets for co-occurring mental health disorders for autistic people.

Research Interests: Neural mechanisms underlying emotion dysregulation in autistic people and their impact on the development of co-occurring mental health disorders.



Celina McDowell
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Internship track: Neuro
Graduate School: Boston University

Dissertation Title: My dissertation title is "The association of purpose in life, loneliness, and sleep with cognitive decline risk in older adults."

Clinical Interests: Using neuropsychological assessment to diagnose neurocognitive disorders, and implementing evidence-based interventions (e.g., cognitive rehabilitation; psychoeducation; CBT) to ameliorate cognitive, emotional, and well-being difficulties associated with neurocognitive diagnoses.

Research Interests: Investigating modifiable and lifestyle factors (e.g., sleep and circadian rhythms, purpose in life) that can increase or reduce the risk of cognitive decline, and using this knowledge to inform treatment strategies to prevent and mitigate cognitive decline in aging and neurodegenerative diseases.



Lindsey Nichols
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Internship track: Child (Juvi
Graduate School: University of Oregon

Dissertation Title: Post-Substance Use Treatment Trajectories of Adolescent Substance Use Disorders: Examining the Moderating Roles of Mental Health and Social Support

Clinical Interests: Mental health and substance use treatment for adolescents and families.

Research Interests: Understanding variability in substance use and mental health interventions for young people.



Megan Parker

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Internship track: Child (Pedi)

Graduate School: Uniformed Services University

Dissertation Title: Neural Activation Underlying Biased Reward Learning and Loss-of-Control Eating in Adolescent Girls

Clinical Interests: Eating, weight and body image concerns in pediatric populations (e.g., children and adolescents with diabetes, gastrointestinal conditions, endocrine reproductive disorders).

Research Interests: The mechanisms through which puberty increases risk for developing eating disorders, with an emphasis on neurobiology and gonadal hormones.



Emma PeConga

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Internship track: Adult

Graduate School: University of Washington

Dissertation Title: Memory and the #MeToo Movement: Understanding Cognitive Mechanisms of Risk for Post-Traumatic Psychopathology Following Sexual Assault

Clinical Interests: The application of cognitive and behavioral interventions for anxiety disorders (e.g., PTSD, OCD), particularly in individuals with co-morbid mood and substance use disorders.

Research Interests: The cognitive mechanisms (e.g., attention, memory) underlying the etiology and maintenance of distress following trauma, particularly sexual assault, as well as understanding factors that promote recovery.



Alexa Raudales

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Internship track: Adult

Graduate School: University of Rhode Island

Dissertation Title: Opioid Use and Acute Suicide Risk: The Real-time Influence of Trauma Context

Clinical Interests: Trauma related psychopathology; trauma and co-occurring concerns, namely suicide risk and substance use; evidence-based treatment approaches (special interest to do prolonged exposure during internship); diverse populations.

Research Interests: Role of affective mechanisms underlying traumarelated psychopathology (e.g., PTSD) and co occurring concerns, namely suicide and substance use; real-time assessments (e.g., EMA).



Jennifer Schild

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Internship track: Child

Graduate School: Suffolk University

Dissertation Title: Facilitating Shared Decision-Making with Youth with Selective Mutism and Their Families

Clinical Interests: Individualization of evidence-based treatments for youth through the integration of CBT with third wave therapies and client-centered approaches.

Research Interests: Promote collaborative treatment decision-making, tailor treatments to align with youth and family preferences and values, and optimize treatment outcomes for youth anxiety.



Kate Shirley

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Internship track: Beh Med

Graduate School: Oregon Health and Science University

Dissertation Title: Compensatory Cognitive Training Via Telehealth for Veterans with Alcohol Use Disorders

Clinical Interests: Geropsychology; adjustment to aging-related changes, medical conditions, and end of life; care partner support.

Research Interests: Developing and testing behavioral interventions to improve cognition and quality of life in individuals with conditions characterized by cognitive complaints and impairments (e.g., dementia, substance use disorders, chronic diseases).



Jamilah Silver

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Internship track: Child

Graduate School: Stony Brook University

Dissertation Title: Toward validating a measure of tonic and phasic irritability in community and clinical samples

Clinical Interests: Early identification, evaluation, and intervention for children and their families grappling with behavior, development, trauma, mood, and adjustment related concerns, alongside the assessment and dissemination of early interventions for this demographic.

Research Interests: Disentangling the heterogeneity of irritability throughout early childhood and adolescence, investigating the characterization of early childhood depression, and investigating preschool psychopathology with the aim to better understand children's mental health within the context of the environment in which they live.



Jessica Smith

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Internship track: Child

Graduate School: Florida International University

Dissertation Title: "Transdiagnostic Mechanisms of Externalizing Psychopathology from Childhood through Adolescence: A Longitudinal, Person-Centered Approach"

Clinical Interests: Psychological assessment and differential diagnosis of complex presentations in children and adolescents; flexible application of evidence-based approaches for treating internalizing, externalizing, and developmental disorders and their comorbidity.

Research Interests: Cognitive and emotional mechanisms of attention deficit/hyperactivity disorder heterogeneity and its comorbidity with various disorders of youth (e.g., disruptive behavior problems; autism); transdiagnostic constructs relevant to DSM comorbidity (e.g., irritability); measurement of executive function.



Elinor Waite

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Internship track: Adult

Graduate School: University of Massachusetts - Amherst

Dissertation Title: The effects of instructed emotion regulation on reactivity in BPD: Considering psychological characteristics as potential moderators

Clinical Interests: Evidence-based interventions for personality disorders, suicidality/self-injury, emotion dysregulation, trauma disorders, and co-occurring disorders; dialectical behavior therapy for borderline personality disorder.

Research Interests: Developmental trajectory of borderline personality in adolescence and emerging adulthood; protective and risk factors for suicidality/NSSI within the context of borderline personality disorder; mechanisms of change in dialectical behavior therapy and other treatments for borderline personality disorder and suicidality/NSSI.



Sajida Yasmeen

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Internship track: Adult

Graduate School: George Mason University

Dissertation Title: Implications of distinct aspects of religiosity for psychological and behavioral outcomes

Clinical Interests: Using evidence-based approaches to improve treatment outcome for people with substance use disorders and comorbid mental health conditions.

Research Interests: Developing technology-based interventions for prevention and treatment of substance use disorders. Understanding sociocultural and structural factors to improve access and adherence to substance misuse treatment.
