Table of Contents:

Overview 3

Our Psychology Training Program 5

Training Philosophy 5

Setting 5

Community 6

The Application Process 6

Admission Policy 6

1) Applicants for the General Inpatient – SMI Track: 6

2) Applicants for the Forensic Evaluation Track: 7

Applicant Interviews 8

The Fellowship Year 9

Orientation Period 9

Benefits 9

Structure of the Fellowship 10

Adult Inpatient SMI Track 10

Training opportunities: 11

1. Continuing Care Units – six months 11

2. Acute Care/Forensic Units – six months 11

3. Emphasis rotations – twelve months 12

Forensic Evaluation Track 12

Training opportunities: 13

1. Adult Court Clinic Services (District and Superior Courts): 13

2. Worcester Recovery Center and Hospital: 13

Supervision, Didactics, & Research 14

Supervision Opportunities 14

Didactics 14

UMass Chan/WRCH Professional Development Seminar Series 14

UMass Chan/WRCH Action-Learning Social Justice Advocacy Project 15

Research Project 16

UMass Chan Comprehensive Psychology Training Program Leadership 17

Jeffrey Burl, PhD 17

Meredith Ronan, PsyD 17

Heidi Putney, PhD 17

Danielle Rynczak, JD, PsyD, ABPP (Forensic) 18

UMass Chan Comprehensive Psychology Training Program at WRCH

Post-doctoral Fellowships in Serious Mental Illness and Forensic Psychology

# Overview

The UMass Chan Psychology Training Program has a long history of preparing emerging psychologists to assume professional employment within public sector settings that address the needs of people with serious mental illness. The Training Program began in 1922 at the Worcester State Hospital (WSH), and the doctoral psychology internship has been accredited by the American Psychological Association since 1957 and remains one of the oldest continuously funded internships in the country. The Program eventually relocated to the UMass Chan Medical School but maintained its affiliation with WSH (now Worcester Recovery Center and Hospital). In 2023, the Program was awarded funding by the Massachusetts Department of Mental Health (DMH) to develop additional training pathways for psychologists interested in careers in DMH and the public sector system, particularly psychologists of diverse racial, ethnic, and cultural backgrounds. With this new contract from DMH, the Program has implemented an expanded training model, including the doctoral internship, a predoctoral practicum, and the current postdoctoral fellowship. **The new UMass Chan Comprehensive Psychology Training Program at WRCH increases our annual training capacity to 12 trainees (4 predoctoral students, 5 doctoral interns, and 3 postdoctoral fellows) and significantly expands our ability to train future psychologists.**

The Training Program will offer three full-time funded post-doctoral fellowship positions in 2024-2025 that will each carry a stipend of $50,000 per year plus additional benefits. We will have two tracks, and applicants may apply to/will be considered for one track only.

1. **The General Inpatient / Serious Mental Illness track (2 positions)**

The General Inpatient / SMI Track fellowships will include an approximately 70% or greater training experience within DMH Clinical SMI Rotations with optional additional training in five possible emphases:

* Adult Outpatient Psychology
* Addictions Psychology
* Child and Adolescent Psychology
* Positive Behavior Intervention and Supports
* Transitional Age Youth
1. **The Forensic Evaluation track (1 position)**

The current grant includes funding for one fellowship position in a Forensic Evaluation Track. However, this Forensic Evaluation Track fellow will apply through and largely be a part of the previously established UMass Chan Forensic Psychology Residency Program. Please see:

[**https://www.umassmed.edu/forensicpsychology/**](https://www.umassmed.edu/forensicpsychology/)

for more information about the residency and for application details. As explained further on that website, the Forensic Evaluation Track Fellow will primarily be involved in Massachusetts Court Clinic Forensic Evaluations with a rotation in the UMass Chan/WRCH Forensic Evaluation Department. All clinical, didactic, research, and presentation opportunities will be coordinated and supervised through the Forensic Psychology Residency Program, headed by Dr. Ashley Murray.

All fellowship applicants (SMI and Forensic) must be in good standing in an accredited doctoral-level psychology internship at the time of application and must have completed all graduate coursework including their dissertation project by the start of the post-doctoral fellowship. Preference will be given to students from graduate and internship programs accredited by the American Psychological Association.

##### **Questions and requests for information should be addressed to:**

Jeffrey Burl, Ph.D.

Training Director

UMass Chan Comprehensive Psychology Training Program at WRCH

361 Plantation Street

Worcester, MA 01605

jeffrey.burl@mass.gov

***Deadline***: Applications must be received no later than:

**5:00pm EST**

**Thursday, January 11th, 2024**

# Our Psychology Training Program

### Training Philosophy

The overarching aim of the UMass Chan - WRCH post-doctoral fellowship is to equip early career psychologists with the knowledge, skills, and experience relevant to offering professional clinical services to individuals with serious mental illness (SMI). The fellowship is designed to provide training in SMI based on the American Board of Professional Psychology (ABPP) guidelines for Serious Mental Illness Psychology (General-SMI Track) and Forensic Psychology (Forensic Evaluation Track). The program prepares fellows to function professionally in a variety of public sector contexts, including the MA Department of Mental Health and other public sector settings, with the Forensic Evaluation track primarily designed to equip psychologists for careers in forensic mental health assessment.

The UMass Chan Psychology Training Program has a long history of preparing emerging psychologists to assume professional employment within the Department of Mental Health workforce as well as other national public sector roles that address the needs of individuals with serious mental illness. UMass Chan Medical School is committed to providing care for patients in the public sector, especially those with multimorbidity who have the greatest psychosocial challenges. Psychologists are at the forefront of this commitment and are trained to provide excellent, evidence-based clinical services to this population. We have a historic collaboration with Worcester Recovery Center and Hospital (WRCH), and we attract top-quality candidates, many of whom have gone on to work with DMH in clinical and forensic psychology positions as well as in many leadership positions in the state and nationally.

Building on this strong tradition, we developed our new integrated Comprehensive Psychology Training Program to strengthen the pathways for employment within the Commonwealth, particularly the Department of Mental Health and other Massachusetts public sector settings, especially candidates of diverse racial, ethnic, and cultural backgrounds. The aim of the Program is to create future clinical experts and leaders in public sector behavioral health care. Note: All fellows are anticipated to be highly competitive for employment within DMH or other public sector settings following their fellowship year. **Toward this goal, all fellows are expected to pass the EPPP and file for licensure within six to nine months of starting the fellowship year.**

### Setting

The University of Massachusetts Chan Medical School (UMass Chan) campus consists of the University of Massachusetts Chan Medical School and the UMass Memorial Health Care teaching hospital, community clinics, and outpatient services. About forty doctoral-level psychologists are on the UMass Chan staff, many of whom have a role in the Training Program.

Worcester Recovery Center and Hospital (WRCH) is located on the site of a developing health and research biotechnology park. Formerly named Worcester State Hospital, the current facility provides a state-of-the-art, high quality, safe and respectful environment for patients, promoting active rehabilitation as a key component of therapeutic care. The building's plan reflects the stages of recovery: by using familiar environments, ranging from “house” to “neighborhood” to “downtown.” There about ten psychologists on staff. Between 50 and 70% of this population has a co-occurring substance use disorder and significant medical co-morbidities. In addition to the adult admission and continuing care psychiatric units, the hospital has two adolescent long-term treatment units. A forensic service (composed of evaluators from UMass Chan and the Department of Mental Health) provides forensic evaluation services to the hospital. The UMass Chan and WRCH campuses are located within walking distance of each other.

### Community

The University of Massachusetts Chan Medical School and Worcester Recovery Center and Hospital provide services to people living across Massachusetts and nearby states, but also nationally and internationally. The ethnic and cultural populations in central Massachusetts are diverse. As public-sector institutions, the client populations tend to be from lower socioeconomic groups. Census information for Worcester (2020) indicated the community is approximately 54% White, 23% Hispanic or Latinx, 13% Black or African American, and 7% Asian.

#### Diversity Statement

We are making diversity, equity, inclusion and belonging essential components of the missions of UMass Chan Medical School and UMass Memorial Health to advance the health and wellness of our diverse communities throughout Massachusetts and across the world by leading and innovating in education, research, health care delivery and public service.

An important part of preparing tomorrow’s physicians, nurses, and scientists to provide care, cure diseases and, indeed, change the world is to help them learn and grow as active members of a multicultural society. We do this in part by strengthening the cultural competence and empathy of our faculty, staff, students, and caregivers; by committing to an inclusive and welcoming campus where all may thrive; and by fostering an environment where everything we do is strengthened by the richness of understanding that comes from a truly diverse and inclusive environment.

**Discrimination and Bias:**

**Bias**incident – any hurtful, discriminatory or harassing act that targets individuals or groups based on perceived or actual identity. To be considered a bias incident, the act is not required to be a crime under any federal, state or local statutes, nor does it have to violate university policy.

**Discrimination** – is defined by federal and/or state statutes to include unfavorable or unfair treatment of a person or class of persons with membership in a protected class. If you experience discrimination or bias while a learner at UMass Chan Medical School, incidents can be reported to: <https://cm.maxient.com/reportingform.php?UMassMed&layout_id=15>

**Land Acknowledgment Statement:**

To recognize the land is an expression of gratitude and appreciation to those whose territory we reside or build learning communities on, and a way of honoring the Indigenous people who have been living and working on the land from time immemorial. University of Massachusetts Chan Medical School is a community of learners situated within a network of historical and contemporary relationships with Native American tribes, communities, parents, students, and alumni. Worcester Recovery Center and the University of Massachusetts Chan Medical School campus sits on the ancestral lands of the Nipmuc people. Recognized in 1976 by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, the Nipmuc Nation, like all the indigenous tribes of the United States, has dealt with the history and trauma of their lands taken through violence and their personhood denied for generations. The nation was once concentrated on a three-acre plot in Grafton, but the last person to live on that reservation died in 2006. Today, many Nipmuc live and work throughout Central Massachusetts.

# The Application Process

### Admission Policy

Post-doctoral candidates must complete all graduate coursework, including their dissertation project, by the start of the fellowship.

Specific application directions are determined by the fellowship track. Please follow these directions carefully as applications need to be received by the appropriate office in order to be considered for review.

#### Applicants for the General Inpatient – SMI Track:

The Inpatient-SMI Fellowship application includes:

* Three letters of reference:
	+ A letter from your DCT or dissertation chair/advisor indicating your dissertation is either defended or on track to be defended by the start of the fellowship
	+ A letter from your internship director indicating your good standing in the program
	+ A third letter of reference from a faculty member at either your internship or graduate program
* Curriculum vitae
* Graduate Transcripts (Official)\*
* Cover letter stating your interest in SMI psychology; a summary of your relevant preparation, particularly in assessment and intervention; and your career objectives, including a projection of what you would like to be doing professionally during the years following the fellowship. Additionally, if applicable, please describe the emphasis area in which you would like to pursue additional training (e.g., Addictions, Transitional Age Youth, etc.).
* Writing sample of a psychodiagnostic evaluation with psychological testing (deidentified)

Please submit all Inpatient-SMI Fellowship Track Application materials electronically to Dr. Jeffrey Burl at jeffrey.burl@mass.gov.

\*Additionally, Inpatient-SMI Fellowship Track applicants must submit graduate transcripts. Please request that an official copy of your graduate school transcript be mailed or emailed to Dr. Jeffrey Burl at the following address:

Jeffrey Burl, Ph.D.

Forensic Mobile Service

361 Plantation Street

Worcester, MA 01605

jeffrey.burl@mass.gov

#### Applicants for the Forensic Evaluation Track:

Please see <https://www.umassmed.edu/forensicpsychology> for application instructions. As indicated at that site, all application materials for Forensic Evaluation Track applicants must be sent electronically to: Christine.Rainville@umassmed.edu.

The UMass Chan Training Program has historically received many more applications in a given year than the number of available positions. Most candidates are highly qualified, both in terms of academic performance and letters of recommendation, and it is often very difficult to differentiate the candidates on these bases alone. Consequently, our criteria for selection must examine other variables.

One factor to which we pay close attention is whether the training experiences that we provide are consistent with the needs and interests of the candidate, insofar as those needs and interests are expressed in the application. The match between candidates’ interests and the aims of the fellowship are examined carefully. Therefore, in the cover letter, applicants should clearly explain how their goals align with the public sector/severe mental illness mission of the fellowship, and applicants should identify or list their emphasis areas of interest. If it is clear to us that the nature or quantity of certain experiences that a candidate seeks are unlikely to be provided on fellowship, we inform the candidate of this and suggest that their training needs would be better met at a different facility. Frequently this decision is not based on the candidates’ qualifications but rather on their stated professional goals and needs.

Secondly, we believe peer-group learning is an important aspect of the internship training experience. Our experience is that this learning is maximized when the trainees each year come from very different professional backgrounds and represent widely divergent theoretical orientations. The UMass Chan-WRCH fellowship is not committed to a single theoretical position. We believe the issues in clinical psychology can be conceptualized from different theoretical stances, and trainees benefit from having their ideas examined and evaluated from frameworks other than their own. Thus, we attempt to select a heterogeneous trainee group.

Thirdly, **we especially welcome applications from underrepresented and marginalized group members**. While the law of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts expressly prohibits asking for such information, those candidates who wish to self-identify or provide this information will enable us to be consistent with these priorities.

### Applicant Interviews

One goal of the Fellowship Selection Committee is to match the training needs of the applicant with what our program has to offer. The Selection Committee will thoroughly review each completed application and identify those applicants where there is a “goodness of fit.” These applicants will then be contacted and invited to interview with members of the training staff on one of severalinterview dates in January and February. The interview day typically runs from about 9:00am to 3:00pm EST, and will include contact with current post-docs to give the applicant a fellow’s perspective on the program.

**SMI-General Track applicants will be interviewed virtually. The dates of interviews are TBD.**

**Forensic Evaluation Track applicants are directed to the UMass Chan Medical School Post-doctoral Residency Program in Forensic Psychology website:**

**(**[**https://www.umassmed.edu/forensicpsychology**](https://www.umassmed.edu/forensicpsychology)**)**

**for information about the interview dates, or contact the Forensic Evaluation Fellowship Program Director, Ashley Murray, Ph.D. (Ashley.murray@umassmed.edu).**

Additional important information for all applicants: As of August 10, 2021, all faculty and staff employees of UMass Chan Medical School must be fully vaccinated against COVID-19 as a condition of employment; this applies to psychology fellows, who are considered UMass Chan employees. (Employees of WRCH are also required to be fully vaccinated). UMass Chan allows certain exemptions for individuals with approved medical or religious accommodations. If you have questions or would like to learn more about this policy, please contact the UMass Chan-WRCH Training Director. Further, UMass Chan requires all of their employees to receive the annual flu shot. All vaccines are provided free of charge by UMass. If you have received these vaccinations elsewhere, you will be asked to provide proof of vaccination to the Human Resource Department.

# The Fellowship Year

### Orientation Period

The training year begins on or around the first Monday in July, with an orientation period lasting approximately three weeks. During this period, the fellow becomes acquainted with the daily routines of UMass Chan and WRCH, is given a formal introduction to the staff and programs of various departments within these facilities and is systematically introduced to the principal emphases and lines of work within the two psychology departments. As part of their orientation, the fellows may be asked to participate in staff conferences, engage in diagnostic interviewing, observe admission procedures, and attend lectures on administrative and legal aspects of hospital procedures. By the end of the orientation period, fellows will have also met with their major supervisors as well as the training directors to develop goals and a schedule for the year.

### Benefits

Fellows in Psychology are employees of UMass Chan Medical School. Interns receive a stipend of $50,000, a choice of employee health insurance plans (cost varies), and paid vacation and holidays. All fellows are provided with 80 hours (10 days) of vacation time as well as sick time. Additionally, all three fellows are provided a professional stipend of $2,500 to use toward EPPP costs, educational materials, conference travel, or other approved professional needs.

### Structure of the Fellowship

Each fellow engages in training activities in three areas throughout the year:

* Inpatient assessment and/or treatment,
* Supervision, didactics, research, program evaluation
* Additional emphases relevant to chosen track

Each of these training activities are discussed further in the next section below.

# Adult Inpatient SMI Track

All SMI-Inpatient fellows are expected to put approximately 70% (3.5 days) of their time toward their SMI inpatient rotation throughout the year at WRCH. Most individuals hospitalized at WRCH have been ordered for evaluation and treatment under court order. In addition to the admission evaluation units, there are units for continuing care treatment, deaf/hard of hearing patients, and those with complex medical needs. All units are closely connected to the hospital-wide Skills Training and Rehabilitation program which includes therapeutic, vocational, educational, and recreational elements.

The treatment units at WRCH focus on preparing adults from diverse ethnic and socioeconomic backgrounds in the transition process from an inpatient stay to community living. The treatment approach is multidisciplinary in nature and aimed at assisting the individual in engaging in treatment, maintaining adequate behavioral and emotional control, and taking the steps necessary to successfully return to the community. The treatment model incorporates a thorough diagnostic work-up, psychosocial rehabilitation, relapse prevention, motivational interviewing, and Dialectical Behavior Therapy (DBT) / Cognitive Behavior Therapy models. Individuals receiving inpatient care are empowered to understand symptoms associated with mental illness and follow through with strength-based interventions and plans that will maximize adjustment and transition to less restrictive alternatives to hospitalization.

At WRCH, treatment groups are available on all treatment units, with staff having received intensive training in CBT for Psychosis. The psychology SMI fellows participate in all phases of the individual’s hospital course from assessment / psychological testing to providing treatment interventions to helping the individual work through an integrative discharge plan. The staff at WRCH have implemented an Illness Management and Recovery (IMR) treatment program, an evidence-based group and individual treatment protocol to assist individuals in learning more about their psychiatric disorders and effective coping skills. Additionally, WRCH has a robust dual recovery program for people in all stages of change and has developed a relapse prevention model for mental health and substance abuse related issues.

### Training opportunities:

#### 1. Continuing Care Units – six months

WRCH continuing care units include individuals committed to the hospital for a variety of reasons, including those with forensic statuses (e.g., incompetent to stand trial and/or not guilty by reason of insanity) and under civil commitments (e.g., people without criminal charges but found to be a danger to themselves or others due to a mental illness). Fellows will assist with the care and treatment of approximately 26 individuals with severe and persistent mental illness on an identified continuing care unit. Under the supervision of the team psychologist, opportunities may include:

* Conducting admissions assessments.
* Attending Treatment Team Rounds.
* Specialized evaluations for risks of violence, suicide, and fire setting.
* Making referrals to Department of Mental Health risk consultants for individuals with more serious histories of violent crime or sexually problematic behavior.
* Providing individual and group psychotherapy addressing Cognitive Behavior Therapy, Motivational Interviewing, Relapse Prevention Planning, Dual Recovery Treatment, and/ or Cognitive Rehabilitation Therapy.
	+ Attending CBT-P Case Consultation Group Weekly and presenting one to two cases per year.
* Assessment and treatment of first-break psychotic episodes
* Conducting full batteries of cognitive and personality / performance based psychological tests for diagnostic formulation and treatment / discharge planning.
* Supervising interns and practicum students in the UMass Chan Psychology Internship and Practicum Programs.

#### 2. Acute Care/Forensic Units – six months

On the WRCH acute care/forensic units, individuals reside for short-term stays (typically 20-40 days) to undergo different types of forensic evaluations (e.g., competence to stand trial; criminal responsibility). Forensic unit patients are frequently more acutely symptomatic than continuing care patients. Fellows will assist with the care and treatment of approximately 27 individuals with severe and persistent mental illness on an identified acute care/forensic unit. Under the supervision of the team psychologist, opportunities may include:

* Conducting intake admissions assessments to include:
	+ MoCA
	+ Suicide Risk
	+ Violence Risk
	+ Trauma History
	+ Substance Use
* Attending Departmental Meetings
* Providing individual and group psychotherapy addressing different treatment needs, such as:
	+ Competency Restoration
	+ Substance Abuse
	+ Michael's Game (CBT-P)
* Attending Dual Recovery Case Consultation Group Weekly
* Conducting full batteries of cognitive and personality / performance based psychological tests for diagnostic formulation and treatment / discharge planning.
* Supervising interns and practicum students in the UMass Chan Psychology Internship and Practicum Programs.

#### 3. Emphasis rotations – twelve months

As noted above, optional training will be available in five possible emphasis areas for the remaining 20% (one day per week; 8 hours) of time. These options include:

* Adult Outpatient Psychology
* Addictions Psychology
* Child and Adolescent Psychology
* Positive Behavior Intervention and Supports (PBIS)
* Transitional Age Youth at the Student Counseling Center

If an emphasis area is identified as a training goal for the fellowship year, each fellow will work closely with the supervisor of that rotation to determine the appropriate schedule and clinical tasks which will be assigned to the fellow.

# Forensic Evaluation Track

Please see the following for a full description of the Forensic Evaluation Track:

<https://www.umassmed.edu/forensicpsychology/training-activities/>

Briefly, the Forensic Evaluation Track provides specialized forensic training through the following types of weekly activities:

* Applied Forensic Clinical Experience (about 32 hrs./week)
* Weekly Seminars (about 4-5 hrs./week),
* Research Experience (about 4 hrs./week), and
* Supervision and mentorship on career objectives and fellowship progress (1-2 hrs./week).

### Training opportunities:

1. Adult Court Clinic Services (District and Superior Courts):

Court clinic services are provided by specially designated forensic psychologists and psychiatrists. Professionals in these settings provide forensic mental health screening evaluations (e.g., competence to stand trial, criminal responsibility, aid in sentencing, civil commitment, commitment of individuals with substance use disorders), consultation and liaison to judges, court personnel, and community mental health agencies. Supervision of residents in the court clinics will be provided by highly experienced forensic psychologists. We have arrangements with several court clinics in different parts of the Commonwealth to provide placements for our residents. The decision about court clinic placements is a flexible one, taking into account the needs of the courts as well as the geographic preferences of the residents.

#### 2. Worcester Recovery Center and Hospital:

Forensic evaluation services are provided by a team of Forensic Psychologists through a contract with the UMass Chan Law and Psychiatry Program. This team provides the courts pre- and post-trial evaluations (e.g., competence to stand trial, criminal responsibility, aid in sentencing, as well as need for commitment) of defendants, as well as prisoners in need of treatment. Violence risk assessments are also provided to the treatment teams regarding patients with violence histories who are being considered for increased privileges or discharges. Consultations may also be provided to outpatient providers regarding clients with significant histories of violence. In addition, similar services may be provided at other Department of Mental Health facilities.

# Supervision, Didactics, & Research

### Supervision Opportunities

All fellows receive both individual and group supervision throughout the year. The specific number of supervisors will vary somewhat but work is closely supervised by licensed doctoral psychologists. All fellows will also be required to maintain supervision of one to two interns and/or practicum students throughout the fellowship year.

### Didactics

Fellows receive an extensive series of didactics. Didactics will vary depending on Track. Other possible opportunities include a Cultural Humility Processing Group.

Major topics for SMI-Inpatient Fellows include: culturally competency treatment and assessment; professional development; psychopathology and psychopharmacology; social justice advocacy, and psychological treatment modalities with particular emphasis on SMI populations. The seminar series also includes topics such as empirically based treatment interventions, psychosocial rehabilitation, and the importance of integration of ethnic diversity in assessment.

Major topics for Forensic Evaluation Fellows include relevant mental health law concepts, forensic assessment methods, research and practice related to psycholegal issues, and ethical and cultural issues relevant to forensic practice. More information is contained on the Forensic Evaluation Fellowship website (https://www.umassmed.edu/forensicpsychology/seminars/).

Tuesday mornings are reserved throughout the year to provide an opportunity to cover these assessment and intervention topics in some detail. Fellows are also welcome to attend weekly UMass Chan Grand Rounds on a variety of mental health topics, which are held at the Medical School, as well as other regular seminars and workshops (e.g., biweekly UMass Law and Psychiatry Seminars; monthly WRCH Grand Rounds).

###  UMass Chan/WRCH Professional Development Seminar Series

In 2002, the Association of Psychology Postdoctoral and Internship Centers (APPIC) initiated a conference aimed at establishing competencies essential in professional psychology practice and identified Professional Development as a core competency area. According to Elman and colleagues (2005), the definition of professional development created by the APPIC workgroup included:

[Professional development] is the developmental process of acquiring, expanding, refining, and sustaining knowledge, proficiency, skill, and qualifications for competent professional functioning that result in professionalism. It comprises both (a) the internal tasks of clarifying professional objectives, crystallizing professional identity, increasing self-awareness and confidence, and sharpening reasoning, thinking, reflecting, and judgment and (b) the social/contextual dimension of enhancing interpersonal aspects of professional functioning and broadening professional autonomy (pg. 368).

Toward this end, the UMass Chan/WRCH has developed monthly Professional Development Seminar Series aimed to increase career readiness, improve professional quality of life, explore professional identity, and develop a comprehensive understanding of self-care. Each month, three professionals from around the country virtually speak to trainees on important topics such as pathways into private practice careers, wage negotiation skills, barriers for women in psychology, and the business of psychology. Further, some seminars specifically target the area of self-care with a discussion of new research and skills developed on this topic. Informal and personal, the format of this seminar series allows for life-long networking with panelists and various interns from other programs around the country.

For an updated schedule of upcoming Professional Development Seminar topics, please visit: <https://www.umassmed.edu/globalassets/psychiatry/education/psychology-internship/pd-seminar-23-24.pdf>

### UMass Chan/WRCH Action-Learning Social Justice Advocacy Project

The American Psychological Association has indicated the training and expertise in psychology uniquely qualifies psychologists to contribute to the development of policies and programs. Further, working for social justice is part of their mission and vision and the Association of Psychology Postdoctoral and Internship Centers (APPIC) has incorporated understanding research and developing consultative skills when engaging in social service into their core competencies. The UMass Chan/WRCH clinical psychology training program is committed to encouraging social justice advocacy through action-learning strategies. The goal of the social justice advocacy project is to increase program evaluation skills while developing culturally responsible and socially involved psychologists.

During the internship year, fellows (in collaboration with interns) will engage with a local nonprofit agency, build relationships with this agency and the population with whom they work, collaboratively develop and conduct a needs assessment, and begin to develop an intervention plan. The needs assessment may take any form but will focus on helping the agency or community to further its social justice mission. The needs assessments are conducted collaboratively with the agency/community with a final technical report including data (broadly defined) to be provided to the agency. Each need identified through the assessment will correspond to a portion of the intervention plan and with the capability to be able to be evaluated at a future date.

**The 2023-2024 collaborating non-profit organization is:**

YWCA of Central Massachusetts

### Research Project

Supervisor: Heidi Putney, Ph.D.

Research skills with SMI populations are important for any psychologist aiming to work in an inpatient facility or other public sector settings. Although the UMass Chan/WRCH fellowship is a clinical fellowship, each fellow will be required to complete a research project during their fellowship year. Fellows may propose an original idea or use established UMass Chan/WRCH databases. Under the guidance of a supervisor, the fellow will design a study, analyze the resulting data, and present the results to the faculty and trainees to assist in helping everyone with staying up to date in the latest research in our field.

|  |
| --- |
| UMass Chan Psychology Training Program Leadership |

|  |
| --- |
| Jeffrey Burl, PhDDirector of Clinical Training at UMass Chan-WRCH Psychology ProgramAssistant Professor of Psychiatry, University of Massachusetts Chan Medical SchoolDesignated Forensic Psychologist, Worcester Recovery Center and Hospital |
| Education | Drexel University (2012)  |
| Rotation | UMass Forensic Inpatient Rotation  |
| Interests | Forensic mental health assessment; individual psychotherapy; education and training in psychology |

|  |
| --- |
| Meredith Ronan, PsyDCo-Assistant Director of Clinical Training at UMass Chan-WRCH Psychology ProgramAssociate Director of Psychology Department, Worcester Recovery Center and Hospital Assistant Professor of Psychiatry, University of Massachusetts Chan Medical School |
| Education | William James College (formerly Massachusetts School of Professional Psychology, 2015) |
| Rotation | Positive Behavior Interventions and Support (PBS) Consultation Service; WRCH General Psychology Rotation |
| Interests | Positive Behavior Interventions and Support consultation and intervention; assessment and treatment of persons with severe and persistent mental illness; cognitive and psychological/personality assessment; Cognitive Behavior Therapy for Psychosis (CBT-P); program development and evaluation |

|  |
| --- |
| Heidi Putney, PhDCo-Assistant Director of Clinical Training at UMass Chan-WRCH Psychology ProgramAssistant Professor of Psychiatry, University of Massachusetts Chan Medical SchoolDesignated Forensic Psychologist, Worcester Recovery Center and Hospital |
| Education | Central Michigan University (2020) |
| Rotation | Professional Development Panels and Social Justice Advocacy Project |
| Interests | Forensic evaluations, training and education, research in the areas of forensic public policy, professional development, and diversity training |

|  |
| --- |
| Danielle Rynczak, JD, PsyD, ABPP (Forensic)Director of Diversity, Equity, Inclusion & Belonging, UMass-WRCH Psychology ProgramDirector of Legal Education and Training, UMass Chan Law and Psychiatry ProgramAssistant Professor of Psychiatry, University of Massachusetts Chan Medical SchoolForensic Mental Health Supervisor, Worcester Recovery Center and Hospital |
| Education | Chicago School of Professional Psychology (2012) |
| Rotation | UMass Forensic Inpatient Rotation and Diversity Seminar Series |
| Interests | Adult and juvenile forensic evaluations; criminal competencies and responsibility; risk assessment; civil commitment; delinquency; child protection; legal education; anti-racist curriculum; inclusive teaching, supervision, and mentorship practices |