Welcome New AFWH Fellows

Another academic year begins and once again we extend a warm welcome to the new fellows joining us in Boston—Kimberly Arditte Hall, PhD; Los Angeles—Rebecca Gitlin, PhD & Emily Scibetta, MD; Madison—Mary Wyman, PhD & Kristen Pecanac, PhD, RN; Pittsburgh—Andrea Carter, MD, Rachel Vanderberg, MD & Janice McCall, PhD; San Diego—Jesse Bashem, PhD & Jennifer Crawford, PhD; San Francisco—Dmitri Young, PhD; and West Haven—Galina Portnoy, PhD. We look forward to supporting you along your fellowship journey! Additionally, we send our graduating fellows best wishes and congratulations. (see page 3 for list of 2016 graduates)

AFWH went to the SGIM 2016 Annual Meeting . . .

VA AFWH community members were out in force at the annual meeting in Hollywood, FL this past spring with fellows, alums and directors representing most of our sites. We proudly share a few unofficial poster pics. From our Pittsburgh site, current fellows Sarah Merriam, MD (left) and Amy Farkas, MD (right) present medical education posters focused on effective leadership and women’s health residency respectively. Recent graduate Laura Hallett, MD, MEd (below) from our Boston site, presents her mixed methods poster on developing women’s health curriculum for residents. Our Madison site recent graduate, Melissa Dattalo, MD, MPH (below right) represents her interdisciplinary research group poster showing how listening to older adults affects health care trajectories. Madison site alum, Kristen Berg, MD (below left) presents her research on disparities on tobacco treatment invitations. What a joy to see the culmination of our AFWH community members hard work.

The AFWH National Coordinating Center HUB represented by Director Christine Kolehmainen, MD, MS and Education Director Anne Stahr, MS (below) talked to potential applicants, reconnected with past alums and promoted the fellowship with a table at the career fair. Additionally, the entire AFWH community was the focus of a multi-author poster (including site directors and VACO) about developing a community of practice (Wenger, 1998) among the fellowship sites.

Introducing our new San Diego AFWH Director . . .

We would like to welcome Meredith Barnes, MD, PhD as the new Director at our San Diego AFWH site. We wish to recognize and thank Robin Moyer, MD for her time and service as the previous AFWH Director.

Call for Abstracts . . .

Women’s Health 2017: 25th Anniversary Congress Abstract Submission
Researchers and clinicians at all levels are encouraged to submit abstracts on current and emerging issues in women’s health and sex differences including basic, clinical, translational, behavioral, epidemiologic, disparities, and health services research. Abstracts will be welcomed for innovations in education and career development for health researchers and innovations in health education and career development. The abstracts will be published in the Journal of Women’s Health. Deadline for submission: November 15, 2016.
FEATURED FELLOW

Name: Andrea Garroway, PhD
Location: VA Connecticut Healthcare System, West Haven, CT
Fellowship Started: July, 2015
Specialty: Clinical Health Psychology

Career Direction and Desires: Dr. Garroway has a long-standing interest in primary care psychology and the role for mental health integration in primary care settings. She aims to continue with this focus in her clinical work and conduct research on how interprofessional and interdisciplinary training can improve the patient healthcare experience.

Career Focus, Education and Research Interests and Projects: In line with Dr. Garroway’s interests in interdisciplinary training and primary care mental health integration, she has developed a pilot project training medical residents in trauma-sensitive care in a women Veteran’s primary care clinic. She is also interested in patient-provider communication and how these interactions affect the inpatient hospitalization experience for female Veterans. She is leading a project conducting qualitative interviews with female patients who enter into the VA for inpatient care.

Background: Dr. Garroway completed her bachelor’s degree from Cornell University, Ithaca, NY, majoring in human development with a concentration in gerontology. She earned her master’s and doctoral degrees in clinical psychology from Virginia Commonwealth University, Richmond, VA. Her dissertation focused on psychological resilience in Parkinson’s disease. She completed a predoctoral internship in clinical health psychology at VA Connecticut Healthcare System in 2015 and started her fellowship in Women’s Health in 2015.

Recent Presentations and Publications:

Friendly Fellowship Tips From San Francisco Alum Juno Obedin-Maliver, MD, MPH, MAS

1. Fellowship goes by quickly! Make sure to start early planning what you will do and meet with mentors regularly to stay on track!
2. Find other fellows to collaborate with and bounce ideas off. I participated in works-in-progress with other fellows and ran papers and presentations by others fellows and it was great to get their perspectives, which was different from attendings or mentors.
3. Find good mentors. I started with one great mentor but worked to develop relationships with others throughout the course of fellowship and now feel like I have a strong team to support me going forward.

Have you heard...?

...Two new TMS courses on providing trauma-sensitive care to women Veterans are available. Choose the 60 minute (TMS #27681) or 5 Minute Overview (TMS #27680) versions. Click here for TMS sign in.

...Women’s Health Primary Care Inter-Professional Monthly Webinars presents Menopause Update at 12:00 & 3:00 pm EST on 11/15/2016. Pre-registration in TMS is required for CEU/CME. Dial 1-800-767-1750 #84848 for audio, and click here to join during the session. Also visit VA WHS SharePoint site.

...Women’s Mental Health Monthly Teleconference series is held the 2nd Thursday of each month, 3-4pm EST. Click here to register in TMS.

...HSR&D Cyberseminar Spotlight on Women’s Health offers the archived topics: Does Trauma-Focused Treatment Make PTSD Symptoms Worse? Examining Symptom Exacerbations and Outcomes in Two Clinical Samples and The Importance of Stakeholder Engagement in Implementation Research: Examples from VA Women’s Health Research. Click the links to see the presentations.

...Women’s Health Primary Care Mini Residency Lectures are available via TMS. Topics include: Chronic Pelvic Pain; Gyn Emergencies; Interpersonal Violence; Menopause; Contraception; and etc. For more information visit the intranet WHS SharePoint site.

...Women’s Health Topics are available via TMS On Demand such as Caring for Women Veterans—For All Employees # 15876. For more information visit the intranet WHS SharePoint site.

...Making the Right Moves (2006) books are still available for anyone interested. Send an email and we will mail you a book.

...Please send an email if you have events you would like to share.

Life is not measured by the number of breaths we take, but by the moments that take our breath away.
~ Maya Angelou
FEATURED SITE: LOS ANGELES, CA

Currently seeking physician and psychologist fellowship applicants for 2017!

Location: VA Greater Los Angeles Healthcare System (VA GLAHs), 16111 Plummer Street Sepulveda, CA

Fellowship Site Established: 1992

Academic Affiliations: University of California (UCLA) - Los Angeles, Schools of Public Health and Medicine

Fellowship Site Focus: To train creative, independent, ethical and productive leaders in health services research and related fields.

Fellowship Site Goal: The goal is to provide a program with enough structure and resources to enable fellows to progress in multiple areas while recognizing they are independent adults whose interests and goals will primarily determine the path they will follow. The aim is to produce outstanding practitioners (proficient as researchers, clinicians, and educators) for academic VA positions in the area of women’s health, in order to advance and improve VA women’s healthcare as well as the VA women’s healthcare delivery system.

Director: Lisa Altman, MD
Associate Chief of Staff for Healthcare Transformation and Innovation, VA Greater Los Angeles Healthcare System
Associate Professor of Medicine, UCLA

Co-Director: Donna Washington, MD, MPH
VA Health Services Research & Development (HSR&D) Center for the Study of Healthcare Innovation, Implementation and Policy (CSHIIP), VA Greater Los Angeles Healthcare System
Professor of Medicine, UCLA

Co-Director: Elizabeth Yano, PhD, MSPH
Director, VA HSR&D Center for the Study of Healthcare Innovation, Implementation and Policy (CSHIIP), VA Greater Los Angeles Healthcare System
Adjunct Professor of Health Policy & Management, UCLA Fielding School of Public Health

Faculty: Elizabeth Yano, PhD, MSPH; Donna Washington, MD, MPH; Lisa Altman, MD; Bevanne Bean-Mayberry, MD, MHS; Fatma Batuman, MD; Lisa Rubenstein, MD, MSPH; Alison Hamilton, PhD; Kristina Cordasco, MD, MPH.

Fellows: Roya Ijadi-Maghsoodi, MD, MS(HS) (graduating 2016), Amanda Schweizer, PhD, Emily Scibetta, MD and Rebecca Gitlin, PhD

Fellowship Site Research Foci:

The site's mission is to develop and test innovations for improving the effectiveness and value of VA healthcare. The Center’s focused areas of research include primary care (including research on VA’s PCMH model and PACTs), women Veterans’ health care, and vulnerable populations (including serious mental illness, older adults, palliative care, and homelessness). While the majority of the Center’s research is within these focused areas, the Center has fostered development of several areas of research that reflect important innovations (e.g., clinical genetics, integrative medicine), build on areas of existing expertise (e.g., infectious diseases), or treat novel ground in HSR&D (e.g., emergency management). Research in CSHIIP’s emerging areas is framed around the same emphasis on examining determinants of variations, developing and testing interventions to improve care, and evaluating approaches to accelerating implementation and spread of high-value innovations.

Activities and Projects:

CSHIIP is home to the HSR&D-funded Women’s Health CREATE, a 5-project partnered research collaboration designed to use research to accelerate implementation of comprehensive care for women Veterans. The Center also serves as one of the five national VA Patient Aligned Care Teams (PACT) Demonstration Laboratories funded by the VA Primary Care Program Office. A few examples of other scholarly activities include the VA Women’s Health Research Network consisting of the Women’s Health Research Consortium and the Women’s Health Practice Based Research Network (PBPRN), Evidence Synthesis Reports in Women Veterans Health, Enhancing Mental Health Practice Based Wellness Centers.

Publications and Presentations:


Laura Hallett, MD MEd
VA Boston Healthcare System
Boston, MA
July, 2016

Roya Ijadi-Maghsoodi, MD, MSHPM
VA Greater Los Angeles Healthcare System
Los Angeles, CA
July, 2016

Melissa Dattalo, MD, MPH
Wm. S. Middleton Memorial Veterans Hospital
Madison, WI
July, 2016

Andrea Gilmore-Bykovskyi, PhD, RN
Wm. S. Middleton Memorial Veterans Hospital
Madison, WI
September, 2016

Brielle Spataro, MD, MS
VA Pittsburgh Healthcare System
Pittsburgh, PA
July 2016

Jennifer Rusiecki, MD, MS
VA Pittsburgh Healthcare System
Pittsburgh, PA
July 2016

Juno Obedin-Maliver, MD, MPH, MAS
VA San Francisco Healthcare System
San Francisco, CA
July 2016

Claire Hebenstreit, PhD
VA San Francisco Healthcare System
San Francisco, CA
September 2016

Lindsey Hopkins, PhD
VA San Francisco Healthcare System
San Francisco, CA
August 2016

Welcome to the ranks of our VA AFWH alumni!