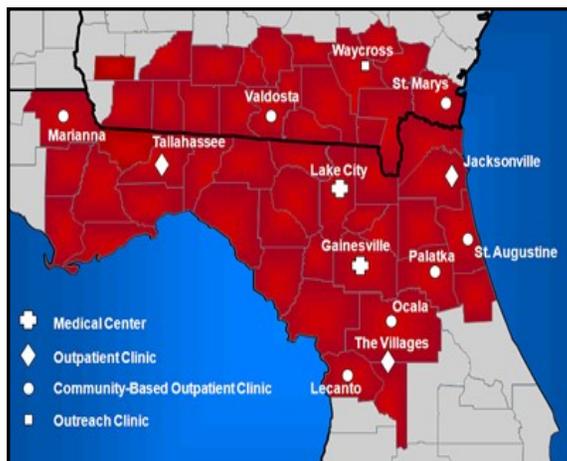


# About NF/SG

The North Florida/South Georgia Veterans Health System is a comprehensive and integrated health care delivery system that provides quality programs and services to Veterans, including primary care services, as well as specialized, technologically advanced clinical care. The system consists of two hospitals, three large satellite outpatient clinics, and eight smaller, community-based outpatient clinics. The System also supports important teaching and research programs through its affiliation with the University of Florida Health Science Center and other colleges and universities.

Though relatively small geographically, the area served by this System reaches across two states and two time zones. Facilities in this System are located in cities with general populations ranging from 6,000 (Lecanto, FL), to over 850,000 (Jacksonville, FL). The Veterans served throughout this System are disparate in terms of both demographics and needs; and resources vary dramatically from rural to urban areas.



# Our Members

## Michelle Smith, Ph.D., Chair

Gainesville VAMC, Medical Psychology  
(352) 376-1611 ext. 10-5760  
Michelle.Smith1@va.gov

## Jacqueline H. Sherman, Ph.D.

Lake City VAMC, PTSD/SUD  
(386) 755-3016 ext. 39-2386  
Jacqueline.Sherman@va.gov

## John Auerbach, Ph.D.

Lake City VAMC, PR RTP  
(386) 755-3016 ext. 39-2454  
John.Auerbach@va.gov

## Amy Voltmer, Psy.D.

Gainesville VAMC, PRRC  
(352) 248-0262  
Amy.Voltmer@va.gov

## Wandamaria Lopez, Ph.D.

GVAMC, NFSG SUD Associate Chief  
(352) 416-0364  
Wandamaria.Lopez@va.gov

## Mattie President, Ph.D.

Gainesville VAMC, PTSD/SUD  
SATT Phone: (352) 416-0567  
Mattie.President@va.gov

## Aixa Long, Psy.D.

The Villages OPC  
352-674-5766 ext. 1314  
Aixa.Long@va.gov

## Kimberly Shaw, Ph.D.

Gainesville VAMC, PMDB, ETAT  
(352) 376-1611 ext. 10-3414  
Kimberly.Shaw1@va.gov

## Elizabeth Dizney, Psy.D.

Gainesville VAMC, Women's Clinic  
(352) 376-1611 ext. 10-5963  
Elizabeth.Dizney@va.gov



## Psychology Service

# Diversity Committee

## For the North Florida / South Georgia VA System



# Our Mission

Established in 2008, the Psychology Service Diversity Committee remains committed to improving educational opportunities for staff and trainees on differences of race, color, gender identity, sexual orientation, religion, national origin, age, disability, culture, and intellectual perspective, as well as the ways in which these differences impact mental and physical health issues and delivery of care.

We believe that cultural curiosity is vital to understanding mental illness and essential to the provision of care. VA psychologists are therefore obligated to ensure that culturally competent services continually evolve, with the aim of better responding to the needs of our increasingly diverse Veteran population.

Over the course of each training year, we endeavor to offer a variety of diversity-related educational opportunities:

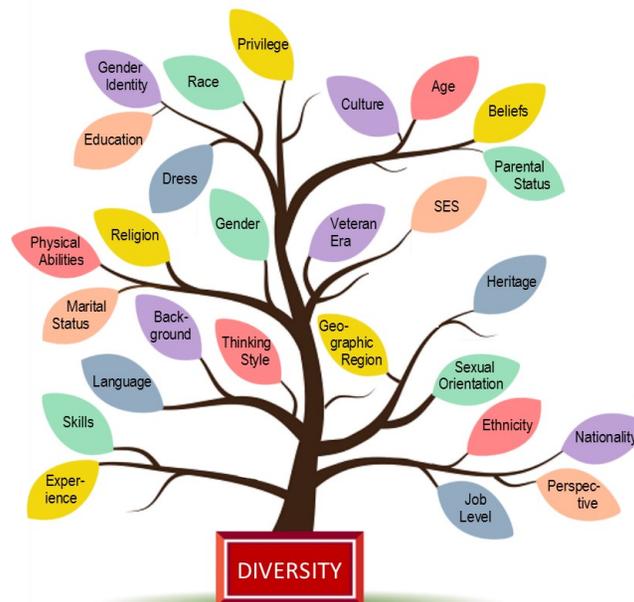
- **Formal Continuing Education for staff and trainees**
- **Quarterly journal discussions of recent, scholarly research**
- **Didactic trainings for Predoctoral Interns and Postdoctoral Residents**
- **Predoctoral Intern *Valuing Diversity Project***
- **Postdoctoral Resident *Cultural Humility Project***

# Our Committee

Our committee members originate from a wide variety of cultural backgrounds, share a commitment that every Veteran receive equitable and clinically validated services in a culturally appropriate manner, and strive to examine racial and ethnic disparities in health and mental health care specific to VA.

Several committee members partner with both the Psychology Training Committee, and the Continuing Education Committee in order to ensure continuous learning via regular training opportunities.

The committee meets quarterly to evaluate and improve the current diversity program, and to discuss recruitment and retention of diverse trainees and staff.



# Recent Offerings

## Formal Continuing Education or Trainee Didactics:

- Creating a Safe and Welcoming Environment for LGBT Veterans
- Impact of Historical Trauma and Microaggressions on African-Americans
- Military Culture
- Ethnicity, Race, and Identity in Psychotherapy
- Hispanic Culture and the Healthcare System
- Comparative Religion for Healthcare Providers
- Women Veterans' Issues
- "Living Aloha:" Pacific Islander Diversity Issues
- Considerations for Working with Rural Veterans
- Providing Affirming Care to Transgender Veterans

## Diversity Journal Discussions:

- Race-Based Stress and Trauma among Veterans of Color
- Veteran Homelessness and Healthcare Utilization
- Cultural Adaptations within Mental Health Treatment
- Benevolent Sexism and Complementary Gender Stereotypes
- Exploration of a Culturally Competent Suicide Risk Assessment
- Transgender Veterans and VA Healthcare Utilization
- Gender Differences in Prescribing Among Veterans Diagnosed with PTSD