

Meet our Faculty

Carol Brooks – Director of Training and Chronic Pain Supervisor



Carol Brooks has been at the Northern Arizona VA since 2009. She has worked in a variety of roles including Primary Care Mental Health Integration, Health Behavior Coordinator, and now Pain Psychologist. She is married with two adult children and four furry friends (2 dogs and 2 cats). She loves to cook and entertain. Carol also really enjoys the outdoors. She loves hiking with her dogs and riding bikes, both mountain bikes and road bikes. She has also been to all but one state in her travels. Carol really enjoys living in Prescott and working at the VA.

Carin Grzelak – Chief of Psychology/Assistant Service Line Manager Mental Health Behavioral Science, PRRC Supervisor



Carin has been at NAVAHCS since 2008, after spending over seven years at IL State University Counseling Center. Here at the VA, she has worked in the Mental Health Clinic initially on the Walk-In Crisis Team and then as a Staff Psychologist providing therapy services. She became Lead Psychologist in 2017 followed by her new role as Assistant Mental Health Service Line Manager/Chief of Psychology in 2020. Carin also serves as the Police Psychologist for NAVAHCS Police Department. Outside of work, she is active with her family including her husband, two children (a teen and a tween), and 4 furry children. They enjoy traveling, hiking, family game nights, watching football (MSU Spartans & Chicago Bears) and movies.

Chad Ackison – Health Behavior Coordinator -Behavioral Health Supervisor



Dr. Chad Ackison has served as the Health Behavior Coordinator (HBC) here at the Northern Arizona VA Health Care System for approximately one and a half years. Having transferred from the Hershel “Woody” Williams VA Medical Center in Huntington West Virginia where he served as Primary Care Mental Health Integration Psychologist, Dr. Ackison has extensive experience working with Veterans within a Primary Care setting addressing issues such as chronic pain management, tobacco cessation, weight/diabetes management, stress, depressed mood and chronic sleep problems. Historically an avid trail runner, mountain bike enthusiast, cyclist, skier and surfer, Dr. Ackison has incorporated additional practices such as yoga, meditation, routine chiropractic care, spiritual

development, continued education and research in the area of holistic health, as well as attendance at various retreats to broaden his own experience of wellness, elements of which he hopes to continue to share with Veterans and staff alike.

Bethany Bates – Neuropsychologist and Assessment Champion



Bethany Bates has been at the Northern Arizona VA since 2019. Her training focused on Neuropsychology in both private and VA settings, but she found her passion to work with Veterans and feels privileged to serve those who served us first. She is married with 2 children along with 5 canine children. She enjoys spending quite time with her family and friends. During COVID-19 she has found a love for Dungeons and Dragons as another way to spend quality time with her family. She would love to travel the world to learn more about other cultures.

Ashley Burton – Primary Care Mental Health Integration Supervisor



Dr. Ashley Burton completed her doctoral internship training at NAVAHCS and knew early on she wanted to stay due to the positive experiences she had with staff and her love of the local area. Dr. Burton has been with the VA since 2016 and found her passion in Primary Care Mental Health Integration (PCMHI), where she recently became PCMHI Program Lead and Lead Facility Trainer. Dr. Burton enjoys outdoor adventures, including hiking, kayaking, camping, and traveling, and is ready to face her biggest adventure yet – with the help of her partner and pup – as a new mother to a baby girl.

Elizabeth Johnson (LT, United States Public Health Service) – Primary Care Mental Health Integration Supervisor



Elizabeth Johnson has been stationed at the Northern Arizona VA since 2019. She has worked in the VA since 2016 as a Primary Care Mental Health Psychologist. Liz is married, has two children and one fur baby (Sully). She enjoys the outdoors, hiking and travelling. She lives and works from Maryland but loves and misses the countless outdoor experiences in Arizona – she will be returning to continue checking off items on her bucket list.

Thor Johansen – Mental Health Clinic Supervisor



Thor Johansen is a clinical supervisor for the Mental Health Clinic Rotation. He has worked in the VA for five years. Prior to that he worked in an outpatient clinic in Chicago for ten years. Thor's interests are many, but he is particularly interested in OCD and anxiety- and stress-related disorders. When he's not at work Thor spends his time with family and enjoying the outdoors. He is married with three daughters, all of which are enthusiastic gymnasts. Thor is an ultramarathon runner and has a preference for the 100-mile distance. Since moving to Arizona, he makes it a priority to run across the Grand Canyon every summer.

Julie Rosebrook- Mental Health Clinic Supervisor



Julie Rosebrook recently transferred to the Northern Arizona VA in August of 2020 from the Iowa City VA. She and her family are thrilled to be back in Arizona in the warmer climes and closer to family. She has worked previously as a Health Behavior Coordinator and then in the General Mental Health Clinic in Iowa City specializing in PTSD treatment, though offering treatment across the spectrum for all presenting diagnostic concerns. Her greatest passion is in offering EMDR and more recently Written Exposure Therapy for her trauma patients. She also has training in a number of other EBP's. She is married with two wonderful, mostly grown children and two adorable dogs. She enjoys hiking with her family, getting together with friends, gardening, yoga, reading, traveling, and watching mysteries.

Vera Kurzkurt – Mental Health Clinic Supervisor, Research Champion



Vera Kurzkurt has been at the Northern Arizona VA since 2018 and in 2019 her service dog Maxine joined her. Her professional interests include neuroscience in psychotherapy, VR/MH apps/MH technology/Biofeedback, Diagnostics, PTSD/Moral Injury, Measurement Based Care, Neuroscience in Psychotherapy, Organization, Leadership and Development, Environmental impact on MH, SUD, and Transgendered Psychology. She enjoys living in the middle of nowhere with her husband, dog, cat, chickens, and turkeys. She appreciates her time in the garden growing fresh fruits and vegetables.

Jennifer Sigler– PTSD/SUD Psychologist, PTSD Clinical Team Supervisor, Diversity Champion



Originally from Chicago, Jennifer started at the Northern Arizona VA in September 2019, after completing her postdoctoral fellowship in Trauma Recovery at the Memphis VAMC. Her professional interests include treatment of combat-related PTSD, concurrent Substance Use Disorders, Polytrauma, and Moral Injury. She is married and resides with her husband, English bulldog, and sugar glider. Jennifer is an avid equestrian and enjoys trail riding with her 24-year-old Quarter Horse, Wags. She also enjoys running, hiking, traveling, and painting. Her favorite things about living and working in Prescott are the

mountain views, mild climate, outdoor activities, and dedication of the VA staff.

Faculty not pictured:

Dr. Chris Hummel, Domiciliary Supervisor