



# Clinical Health Psychology Post-Doctoral Fellowship Training Program, 2024-2025



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Dear Prospective Candidate,

Congratulations on your pending fulfillment of predoctoral training requirements in professional psychology. On behalf of Wellstar's Clinical Health Psychology training committee, we are thrilled you are considering us for your postdoctoral Fellowship training in Clinical Health Psychology. The largest non-profit healthcare system in Georgia, Wellstar is comprised of 11 hospitals and a large ambulatory footprint with over 25,000 team members. As full members of the Wellstar Medical Staff, our psychologists are proud of the distinction and reputation that we have here, and we're honored to have the opportunity to support you as you consider the next steps in your professional training and journey.

At Wellstar, we have a collegial group of Clinical Health Psychologists who provide world-class care and are also invested in the growth and development of aspiring health psychologists. The shared aim of our training faculty is to provide you with a rich experience that will further develop your competencies and equip you for a fulfilling and successful career. We're committed to offering this experience within a healthy and supportive culture that is a model for work-life integration while also maintaining a no-compromise approach to patient-centered and quality care.

Wellstar's Clinical Health Psychology Fellowship follows a structure that is aligned with the American Psychological Association's Commission on Accreditation standards (SoA). We offer advanced postdoctoral experiences in a recognized sub-specialty of Clinical Health Psychology practice, combined with a framework that prioritizes and cultivates professional identity, ensures preparedness for licensure and board certification, and facilitates a seamless transition into independent practice.

For more than a decade, Wellstar has established one of the richest Clinical Health Psychology programs in Georgia. Our Clinical Health Psychology Fellowship program offers in-depth training experiences in the following areas: Bariatric Medicine; Cardiovascular Behavioral Medicine; Inpatient Consultation-Liaison Psychology; and Primary Care Behavioral Health Integration. In addition to these primary emphases, Fellows might elect to augment their experiences via minor rotations in Metabolic Behavioral Medicine, Psycho-gastroenterology, or other areas as available.

The manual that follows details our offerings and provides an overview of Wellstar's Clinical Health Psychology program structure, policies, and other information relevant to your experience. I want to thank you for your interest in Wellstar. We welcome further inquiries and hope you'll take the next step in formally submitting your cover letter and candidacy.

R. E. Breshears, PhD, ABPP  
Chief Behavioral Health Officer, Wellstar Health System  
Board-Certified Clinical Health Psychologist

## Program Overview

The Fellowship in Clinical Health Psychology at Wellstar Health System is built upon the biopsychosocial model. Training opportunities are available across our Atlanta campuses, with cross-campus training opportunities also available to Fellows.

Our program offers distinct training experiences that are foundationally built on four core domains:

Scientist Practitioner Model: Fellows will develop advanced competencies and skills with regards to evidence-based practice and the profession of effective psychological services through intensive, experiential learning opportunities. Both theory and empirical evidence inform the Fellow's practice that centers on a combination of clinical care, assessment, diagnosis, prevention, clinical intervention, consultation, and evaluation.

Collaborative: Intensive interactions with other disciplines and professions will help the Fellow develop advanced competencies in interdisciplinary and team-based practice where the Fellow will become able to function effectively as a leader in diverse health care settings. Professional identity is supported through the development of supportive relationships that will help Fellows excel professionally while maintaining an appropriate self-work-life balance.

Tailored, Graduated Training: Learning is planned, sequenced, and graded in complexity over the course of the year. Learning is also competency-based with explicit articulation of advanced competencies to be developed and demonstration that those competencies are achieved during the training year.

Acculturation: The Fellowship is designed to ensure that Fellows become fully assimilated into the healthcare setting, understanding the context within which they work (institutionally and at the state and national levels), that they acquire the prerequisite nomenclature to practice effectively within this setting, and that they learn to conduct themselves professionally in a manner that reflects positively on themselves and the Wellstar Behavioral Medicine team.

All Fellows are provided with integrated clinical and research training experiences. Opportunities are provided to focus more on domains that are consistent with the Fellow's career goals.

The breadth of training experiences provides opportunities for Fellows to have a greater balance toward clinical training through direct patient care and interdisciplinary collaboration with opportunities to engage in scientific and scholarly work. While all Fellows are required to engage in clinical practice and research, the opportunity to

create a training plan that focuses on career goals allows flexibility for specialization while preparing for Fellows for licensure and board certification.

## **Description of Fellowship**

As an extension of our Behavioral Medicine program, Wellstar Health System offers advanced specialty training via our Clinical Health Psychology Fellowship program, a program anchored in the biopsychosocial framework and one that leverages the scientist practitioner model of training. Wellstar's Behavioral Medicine program is strongly integrated into the fabric of the health system, offering sub-specialty programming in Cardiovascular Behavioral Medicine (including work with LVAD patients), Bariatric Medicine, and Primary Care Behavioral Health Integration (both adult and pediatric). Minor clinical training opportunities are also available in ambulatory clinics specializing in metabolic disease and psycho-gastroenterology. In addition to these sub-specialty foci, our Behavioral Health services are integrated into the inpatient setting via the Consultation-Liaison Psychology program. This repertoire of sub-specialty clinical offerings in different settings provides Clinical Health Psychology Fellows with ample opportunity to develop both generalist and sub-specialization training prior to independent practice.

Wellstar's Clinical Health Psychology Fellowship is a 1-year program with an optional second year (preference will be given to candidates who express an interest in 2 years of training) with the first year focused predominantly on advanced clinical training (70%) and didactics/supervision (30%). A primary objective of Year 1 is to ensure that Psychology Fellows are fully assimilated into the healthcare culture. Year 1 is also heavily focused on developing a stronger scientific and broader contextual base to inform evidence-based and culturally sensitive assessment, consultation, and interventions.

Achieving psychologist licensure is needed to achieve independent practice, which is a primary goal of the Fellowship program; therefore, we strongly encourage and support our Year 1 Fellows in passing the EPPP, Parts 1 and 2, in their first year. Additionally, we strongly encourage and support our Year 2 Fellows in passing the Georgia Clinical Psychology Oral Examination. Attempting the oral exam after completion of the EPPP will be encouraged to allow time to retake the exam before the end of the second year of Fellowship, if needed. The Fellow may retake as needed inside the two-year program window and as allowed by Georgia state regulations.

To facilitate tailored training and to ensure acquisition of skills, residents will be expected to complete "Milestone" accomplishments at a defined cadence, culminating in an exam. Following completion of the Milestone examination, Fellows will transition into more autonomous clinical practice, while still receiving support and mentorship

around the functional and foundational competencies related to the practice of Clinical Health Psychology. If Fellows enter Year 2, sub-specialty clinical training remains a strong focus (50%), while didactics (20%), the provision of supervision to students/trainees (5%), and research (20%) comprise the remaining allocated time; all time percentage allocations are approximations which shall allow for some flexibility of Fellow schedule.

To support the infrastructure of the Clinical Health Psychology Fellowship, multiple board-certified health psychologists serve as members of the core faculty. Fellowship training is aligned with the functional and foundational competencies that equip Fellows for future licensure and board certification.

## **The Training Programs**

### **Clinical Health Psychology Rotations**

Major rotations (6 months duration, 16-24 hours weekly) are offered in three areas of Health Psychology: Cardiovascular Behavioral Medicine, Obesity Medicine, and Primary Care Behavioral Health Integration offering rich experiences in working with patients with coronary artery disease, congestive heart failure, obesity and associated multi-morbidities, as well as experiences in the fast-paced environment of primary care. Minor rotations (6 months duration, 8 hours weekly) are possible in the areas of Metabolic Behavioral Medicine, Psycho-gastroenterology, and Inpatient Consultation-Liaison Psychology.

### **Cardiovascular Behavioral Medicine Rotation (CVBM)**

Wellstar's Cardiovascular Behavioral Medicine program (CVBM) works with cardiac patients across the spectrum of cardiac diagnoses and functioning levels. This work includes patients diagnosed with congestive heart failure and patients being considered for LVAD implantation. Patients with coronary artery disease, structural heart problems, and recent major adverse cardiac events are seen in ambulatory care with CVBM. This rotation will be based out of a Behavioral Medicine clinic location proximal to the Wellstar Kennestone Regional Medical Center. Wellstar's cardiac service line has an LVAD program, a robust cardiac rehab program, a preventative cardiology program, and a cardiac wellness program, all of which have strong relationships with CVBM. These many clinics provide opportunities for our Fellows in the areas of assessment (particularly in the form of an evaluation for LVAD candidacy), evidence-based individual intervention, prevention strategies, lifestyle modification to mitigate cardiac risk factors, group intervention, and consultation with medical teams. Additionally, patient education opportunities exist in coordination with the cardiac rehab program. Patients receive treatment both in-person and through HIPAA-compliant telehealth platforms. This rotation is available as both a major and a minor rotation.

CVBM Rotation Supervisor: Shawn M. Coyne, PhD, ABPP



### **Clinician Resiliency & Well-Being**

The Clinician Resiliency & Well-Being (CRW) rotation affords Fellows a unique opportunity to step outside of a traditional psychological role, and gain insight into the systemic issues influencing healthcare and the ways in which these macro-level issues impact the well-being of clinicians. The CRW team is focused on leading the way in the scientizing of well-being. We subject our interventions to analytical scrutiny to ensure efficacy. With a focus on translational research, Fellows will have an opportunity to work with a cross-functional team that includes collaboration with a biostatistician, data analyst, lean system consultant, project management, and clinical informaticists. Fellows will have an opportunity to function as a principal investigator and develop a project from inception to publication. In addition to research, Fellows will have an opportunity to provide support to team members following adverse events as part of the Wellstar Cares initiative. Supervision will include focus on clinical consultation, professional development, and research.

Clinician Resiliency & Well-Being Rotation Supervisor: Rebecca Gomez, PsyD

### **Bariatric Psychology/Obesity Medicine Track**

The goal of the Bariatric Psychology/Obesity Medicine rotation is to prepare Fellows for scientist-practitioner roles as clinical health psychologists in medical settings, applying knowledge of bariatric surgery, obesity, weight management, health promotion, eating disorders, and general mental health. This rotation will be based out of a Behavioral Medicine clinic location proximal to the Wellstar Kennestone Regional Medical Center. Fellows will see patients in the outpatient setting by the modalities of in-person visits and telepsychology. Primary clinical responsibilities on this rotation include the following: 1) pre-bariatric surgery psychological evaluations, including a battery of standardized measures assessing domains recommended by The American Society for Metabolic and Bariatric Surgery (ASMBS), a 60-90 minute clinical interview, chart review, and obtaining collateral information from other sources (e.g., weight management and surgery center staff, other mental health providers, caregivers, etc.) when necessary; 2) psychotherapy and health behavior intervention services for patients before and after bariatric surgery, 3) treatment and support group facilitation upon availability; and 4) consultation with multidisciplinary teams at Kennestone and Cobb Hospitals, as well as West Georgia Medical Center. Services are primarily individual in format, but group therapy may be possible depending on Fellow interest and patient needs. Treatment utilizes a cognitive-behavioral therapy framework for addressing diverse presenting problems that may impact success with bariatric surgery, such as binge or other disordered eating, depression, anxiety, insomnia, chronic pain, tobacco/nicotine cessation, alcohol or drug use, adherence, and psychosocial stressors. Fellows will also have the opportunity to learn and apply motivational interviewing and health coaching strategies. Fellows serve as members of multidisciplinary teams through the Bariatric Surgery Programs at Wellstar facilities. This may involve coordination, collaboration, and consultation to surgeons, associated providers and staff, nutritionists, exercise physiologists, and other specialists. Fellows

will be encouraged to engage in innovative development and/or practice (e.g., creation of program materials, virtual programs, etc.). This rotation is available as both a major and a minor rotation.

Bariatric Psychology/Obesity Medicine Rotation Supervisors: Amanda Perkins, PhD, ABPP and Tonette Robinson, PhD

### **Inpatient Consultation-Liaison**

The Clinical Health Psychology track with a focus in Consultation-Liaison Services involves dedicated experiences in the inpatient setting. In this clinic, Fellows will work with attendees building consultation, assessment, brief intervention, and treatment planning skills. Fellows can expect to have experiences in the ICU, CCU, ED, and with the LVAD patient population. The Consultation-Liaison service includes psychiatrists, psychiatric nurse practitioners and social workers along with psychologists. Fellows will round with this team as they build exposure and practice with a range of patient populations and presenting behavioral health needs. This rotation is available as a minor rotation.

Inpatient Consultation-Liaison Rotation Supervisor: Michelle Jesse, PhD

### **Metabolic Behavioral Medicine – Center for Best Health**

The Center for Best Health (CBH) is a customized, medically monitored program offering life-changing results for obesity, diabetes, and hypertension leading to an active, healthier life. Our comprehensive approach includes medical supervision of dietitian services, exercise management, and behavior modification.

The goal of the rotation at the Center for Best Health is to prepare Fellows for scientist-practitioner roles as clinical health psychologists in medical settings, applying knowledge of metabolic disease, obesity, weight management, health promotion, eating disorders, and general mental health. This rotation will be based at the Center for Best Health near Wellstar Kennestone Regional Medical Center. Fellows will be seeing patients in the outpatient setting by the modalities of in-person visits and telepsychology. Primary clinical responsibilities on this rotation include the following: 1) Biopsychosocial evaluations, including assessments appropriate for patient care, a 60 minute clinical interview, chart review, and obtaining collateral information from other sources (e.g., integrative team including the medical provider, dietitian, exercise physiologist, medical assistants, other mental health providers, caregivers, etc.) when necessary; 2) psychotherapy and health behavior intervention (e.g., behavioral modification) services for patients referred by the CBH medical provider 3) treatment and support group facilitation upon availability; and 4) consultation with multidisciplinary teams at CBH sites. Treatment utilizes a cognitive-behavioral therapy framework for addressing diverse presenting problems that may impact success with prevention or reduction of metabolic disease and weight management, such as binge



or other disordered eating, depression, anxiety, insomnia, chronic pain, tobacco/nicotine cessation, alcohol or drug use, adherence, and psychosocial stressors. Fellows will also have the opportunity to learn and apply motivational interviewing and health coaching strategies. Fellows will also have the opportunity to facilitate the CBH Behavioral Health Support Group. Fellows serve as members of multidisciplinary teams through the Center for Best Health at Wellstar facilities. This may involve coordination, collaboration, and consultation with medical providers and staff, registered dietitians, exercise physiologists, and other specialists. Fellows will be encouraged to engage in innovative development and/or practice (e.g., creation of program materials, virtual programs, etc.). Along with these clinical responsibilities, Fellows will have opportunities to shadow and consult with interdisciplinary team, to attend didactics, to attend monthly CBH office meeting, and to meet periodically with office manager to better understand business side of healthcare. This rotation is available as a minor rotation.

Center for Best Health/Metabolic Health Rotation Supervisors:  
Jay Trambadia, PsyD and Quaneecia Rainey, PhD

### **Psychogastroenterology**

This rotation provides specialty training focused on the assessment and treatment of various digestive health conditions, including disorders of gut-brain interaction. Fellows will receive training in comprehensive psychosocial evaluations, the application of evidence-based treatments to specific disease groups, and collaboration with multidisciplinary teams. Fellows who elect to take this minor rotation can expect a 4-5 hour weekly commitment and will see at least 3 outpatient cases carried over the course of 6 months. One hour of weekly individual supervision offered on Mondays will also be required. Specialty-specific didactics may also be included. Additional learning experiences and didactics can be added to fit the Fellow's training goals as needed and when available. Optional additional experience shadowing gastroenterologists and working as part of an integrated member of the GI team may also be available. At the end of the rotation, Fellows should have a general familiarity with presentations commonly seen in a psychogastroenterology practice, the available evidence-based treatments of digestive health conditions, and relevant psychosocial considerations for treating and evaluating patients with digestive health conditions. This rotation is available as a minor rotation.

Psychogastroenerology Rotation Supervisor: Pooja Dave, PhD

### **Research and/or Program Development**

The postdoctoral Fellow will increase their awareness and understanding of program development and program evaluation skills through engagement in scholarly activities for two hours per week. If interested, the Fellow can pursue opportunities to develop

and facilitate a group and/or assist an attending in improving aspects of program care.

Involvement in Clinical Health Psychology research is an integral part of the training year. There are many opportunities to participate in research and program evaluation topics related to behavioral medicine, both within and outside of the Behavioral Medicine Program. Fellows will be encouraged to identify research activities that will expand their current skill set and are expected to devote one to two hours per week to this area. This weekly two-hour block will be part of protected time in the Fellow's schedule and is considered when planning clinical activities throughout the year. Although Fellows may choose to participate in projects led by Behavioral Medicine core attendings, they are also welcome to work with investigators outside of the Behavioral Health Service Line. The program's expectation is that this project is completed by the conclusion of the Fellowship year and the data is shared in the most appropriate format.

Attendings: TBD and based on availability and Fellow interest

### **Development of Supervision Skills**

Year 2 Fellows will also develop competencies in the provision of supervision to junior trainees under the supervision of licensed psychologists. Fellows will have opportunities to learn how to supervise across a wide range of settings with different levels of trainees. Supervision of supervision consists of active review of APA Guidelines for Clinical Supervision in Health Service Psychology, including application of these guidelines within supervisory relationships with junior trainees. Fellows will actively participate in supervision of supervision, reviewing topics such as managing imposter syndrome, maintaining boundaries, managing trainees with competence or behavioral concerns, incorporating diversity, and providing feedback. A licensed psychologist will observe Fellows as they provide supervision to junior trainees throughout the year.

Attendings: TBD and based on availability

# Training Environment

Nationally ranked and locally recognized for our high-quality care, inclusive culture, and exceptional doctors and caregivers, Wellstar Health System is one of the largest and one of the most integrated healthcare systems in Georgia.

<p><b>13</b> hospitals</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A. Wellstar Cobb Medical Center</li> <li>B. Wellstar Douglas Medical Center</li> <li>C. Wellstar Kennestone Regional Medical Center</li> <li>D. Wellstar MCG Health Medical Center / Children's of Georgia</li> <li>E. Wellstar North Fulton Medical Center</li> <li>F. Wellstar Paulding Medical Center</li> <li>G. Wellstar Roosevelt</li> <li>H. Wellstar Spalding Medical Center</li> <li>I. Wellstar Sylvan Grove Medical Center</li> <li>J. Wellstar West Georgia Medical Center</li> <li>K. Wellstar Windy Hill</li> <li>L. Coming in 2026: Wellstar Columbia County Medical Center</li> </ul>					<p><b>10</b> counties</p> <p><small>In which we offer Home Health Services: Cherokee, Cobb, Douglas, Fulton, Paulding, Harris, Heard, Meriwether, Richmond and Troup</small></p>	
	<p><b>5</b> health parks</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Wellstar Acworth Health Park</li> <li>2. Wellstar East Cobb Health Park</li> <li>3. Wellstar Vinings Health Park</li> <li>4. Wellstar Cherokee Health Park</li> <li>5. Wellstar Avalon Health Park</li> </ul>					
<p><b>9</b> pediatric outpatient centers</p>	<p><b>2</b> senior assisted living facilities</p>	<p><b>3</b> inpatient hospice facilities <small>Austin, Marietta, LaGrange</small></p>	<p><b>11</b> cancer centers</p>				
<p><b>19</b> urgent care facilities</p>	<p><b>329+</b> medical office locations</p>	<p><b>35</b> imaging centers</p>	<p><b>91</b> rehabilitation centers</p>	<p><b>2,729</b> licensed hospital beds</p>	<p><b>30,000+</b> team members <small>including 8,000 nurses</small></p>	<p><b>59,000</b> members of Wellstar Accountable Care Organization (ACO), Georgia's largest</p>	



## Locations Across Georgia

<p><b>Wellstar Cobb Medical Center</b> ✓ 382 licensed beds ✓ Level III Trauma Center</p>	<p><b>Wellstar Douglas Medical Center</b> ✓ 108 licensed beds</p>	<p><b>Wellstar Kennestone Regional Medical Center</b> ✓ 833 licensed beds ✓ Level II Trauma Center</p>
<p><b>Wellstar MCG Health Medical Center/Children's of Georgia</b> ✓ 632 licensed beds ✓ Level I Trauma Center</p>	<p><b>Wellstar North Fulton Medical Center</b> ✓ 218 licensed beds ✓ Level II Trauma Center</p>	<p><b>Wellstar Paulding Medical Center</b> ✓ 112 licensed beds ✓ Level IV Trauma Center</p>
<p><b>Wellstar Spalding Medical Center</b> ✓ 160 licensed beds</p>	<p><b>Wellstar Sylvan Grove Medical Center</b> ✓ 25 licensed beds</p>	<p><b>Wellstar West Georgia Medical Center</b> ✓ 276 licensed beds ✓ Level IV Trauma Center</p>
<p><b>Wellstar Windy Hill</b> ✓ 115 licensed beds</p>		

## Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

Wellstar has **Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) councils** for various locations, including the Wellstar Medical Group, that staff and trainees can join. These councils can also serve as a potential resource for Fellows.

**Join a Wellstar Inclusion Council**

Inclusion Councils are available at all Wellstar locations:

Cobb Hospital	Spalding/Sylvan Grove
Douglas Hospital	Wellstar Enterprise System
Kennestone Hospital	Wellstar Medical Group
North Fulton Hospital	West Georgia Medical Center
Paulding Hospital	Windy Hill Hospital
Post-Acute Facilities	

Scan the QR Code or link below to access the Inclusion Council Interest Form:

[links.wellstar.org/BRGDEI](https://links.wellstar.org/BRGDEI)

**Wellstar Diversity, Equity & Inclusion**

The graphic features a diverse group of healthcare professionals in various settings, including a doctor, nurses, and a person in a wheelchair, set against a purple and green background.

Wellstar has various **Business Resource Groups (BRG)**, including **BRAVE** (Black Resources Activating Value & Equity), **DiverseAbility**, **Interfaith**, **Military/Veterans**, **The PRIDE Collective** (LGBTQIA+), **UNIDOS** (Hispanic/Latino), **UP** (Underrepresented Physicians) and **Women's**. These BRGs provide more opportunities for team member engagement, create a deeper sense of belonging and representation, as well as provide insight on health and wellness needs, education, retention, recruitment, and professional development strategies. We are excited about the impact these vital BRG's bring to Wellstar. If you are interested in participating in one of the BRG's, please contact the Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion at [dei@wellstar.org](mailto:dei@wellstar.org). The office will follow up with next steps, including a short form to identify the best ways for you to get involved. Follow the [DEI channel on FirstUp](#), your go-to resource for tools, guidelines, and stories of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion across our System.

## **Living Environment/Cost of Living**

As a large and culturally diverse metropolitan city, Atlanta is a highly desirable location for psychologists and health care professionals. Atlanta is the location of two medical schools and seven colleges or universities, including three graduate training programs in clinical psychology. The State of Georgia itself has four medical schools. For clinical duties, Fellows are strongly encouraged to secure reliable transportation.

With a population of approximately four million, the metropolitan Atlanta area has numerous opportunities for in town entertainment: theater, symphony, ballet, professional baseball, college and professional basketball, college and professional football, and professional soccer. There also is easy access to outdoor recreation; Lake Lanier (45 minutes North), Lake Allatoona (60 minutes North), and the North Georgia mountains, which include the southern end of the Appalachian Trail (80 minutes North). Coastal beaches (Atlantic Coast) are within 5 to 6 hours driving time. There are excellent restaurants that represent the range of ethnic cuisine.

Finally, the four seasons are well represented. Winter temperatures are mild, with an occasional dip below freezing during January or February. Summers are generally hot (80-90 degrees) with a mixture of sunny and cloudy days. For more information, applicants are encouraged to read the following: <https://www.knowatlanta.com/>

## **Hours, Stipend, and Benefits**

The salary for our Fellows is \$58,000 plus benefits including health insurance, federal holidays and other leave (sick leave and annual/vacation leave), in accordance with APA guidelines.

The Clinical Health Psychology Fellowship at Wellstar Health System meets supervision requirements for professional licensure in the State of Georgia as well as all other jurisdictions that fall under the Association of State and Provincial Psychology Boards (ASPPB). Fellows must complete 2080 professional hours (including a minimum of 500 direct clinical contact hours) within the 52-week training year in order to complete the residency. Fellows are required to maintain records of their hours. Accrued paid leave time and authorized absences for professional development activities are counted towards the 2080-hour requirement.

Fellows are eligible for health insurance at a reduced cost. Benefits include 15 days of PTO. These 15 days can be used for your personal use and will include vacation, holidays, and sick days. Wellstar follows 7 holidays in their calendar. Unused leave does not pay out upon conclusion of your residency year. Finally, Fellows are given up to 1 full work week of paid educational leave to attend conferences, major



professional meetings, and symposia, as well as \$5,000 reimbursement per fiscal year for attendance of CME.

### **Compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)**

The Wellstar Health System Fellowship Training Program is required by federal law and health care system policies to ensure the work setting provides reasonable accommodations for employees and trainees with disabilities to participate fully in the application process and perform essential job functions. Applicants are encouraged to contact Beth Guerin, Recruiter for Psychological Services, with any questions they may have ([beth.guerin@wellstar.org](mailto:beth.guerin@wellstar.org)).

### **Eligibility**

Health Professions Trainees are subject to the laws, policies, and guidelines as indicated by the Office of Graduate Medical Education. Applicants are strongly encouraged to review required minimum criteria prior to applying. The following section provides specific information regarding eligibility requirements and information regarding the process of being appointed to a postdoctoral Fellowship position at Wellstar Health System.

Postdoctoral Fellowship applicants must meet the following criteria to be considered for any Fellowship position at Wellstar Health System:

1. Have received a doctorate from an APA or CPA accredited graduate program in Clinical, Counseling, or Combined Psychology program. Persons with a doctoral degree in another area of psychology who meet the APA or CPA criteria for re-specialization training in Clinical, Counseling, or Combined Psychology are also available.
2. Have completed an internship program accredited by APA or CPA or have completed a VA-sponsored internship.
3. Fellows are subject to fingerprinting, background checks, and drug testing; selection decisions are contingent on passing these screenings per institutional policy.
4. Additional criteria that will be considered are goodness-of-fit with respect to personality, work ethic, and values.



## Application Process

All applicants must submit their materials online via APPIC's centralized application service ([APPA CAS](#)). Completed applications must include the following:

1. A cover letter that describes postdoctoral training goals, perceived fit with our program, internship completion date, and clear identification of the focus area(s) to which you are applying. In your letter, please describe your previous educational and clinical experience relevant to the training offered in our program, your assessment of your training needs, and your general career goals. **Please review our brochure thoroughly before applying.**
2. A current **curriculum vitae**.
3. **Three (3) letters of recommendation** from supervisors who are directly familiar with your clinical work. At least one letter must be from the Director of Training at your internship site.
4. **Doctoral Requirement Attestation Form** completed by the **Chair of your University's Clinical Program** confirming that you have completed all requirements for graduation, with the exception of your internship. If you have not yet defended your dissertation, your scheduled dissertation defense date needs to be indicated. The form can be downloaded on the [Wellstar Behavioral Health Training Programs webpage](#).

**Deadlines:** Applications will be received on the APPA CAS system on a rolling basis; the earlier your submission, the better your opportunity for acceptance to the program. The Director of Training and members of the Core Postdoctoral Training Committee will review all submitted applications in detail and will select candidates for interviews. Interviews will be conducted virtually on a rolling basis. All applicants will be notified of their interview status by email at the address provided in the APPA CAS system at least two weeks prior to the interview date. It is the responsibility of the applicant to ensure that corrected and up-to-date contact information is provided in the online application. Applicants who are invited to interview will be informed of any and all interview formats available at the time of notification.

The program will begin extending offers on a rolling basis. Applicants receiving an offer may accept or decline the offer when made, or they may hold an offer until the Common Hold Date (10:00 am EST on February 26, 2024). Applicants may only hold one offer at a time.

**For questions regarding the application process or the training program, please contact Dr. Amanda Perkins, [Amanda.Perkins@wellstar.org](mailto:Amanda.Perkins@wellstar.org).**

## Training Faculty Bios

### Clinical Health Psychology



R.E. Breshears, PhD, ABPP

A native of Georgia, Dr. Breshears completed his doctorate at the University of Georgia, his internship at the Eastern Colorado Health Care System (Denver VA Medical Center), and a clinical-translational research Fellowship at the VISN 19 Mental Illness, Research, Education Clinical Center (MIRECC). Dr. Breshears has extensive experience in healthcare leadership and program development, developing intensive outpatient and partial hospitalization programs, a psychological services division, and a comprehensive clinician wellbeing initiative. In 2014, he was named Wellstar's Chief Behavioral Health Officer and continues to lead Wellstar's Behavioral Health Service Line, which encompasses behavioral health care across Wellstar hospitals and ambulatory clinics. Board-certified in clinical health psychology, Dr. Breshears' clinical interests are organized around consultation/assessment of patients with medically-unexplained symptoms, particularly those with neurological presentations. Outside of work, Dr. Breshears enjoys time with his wife and two children, reading, grilling, playing music, and rooting for the Georgia Bulldogs.



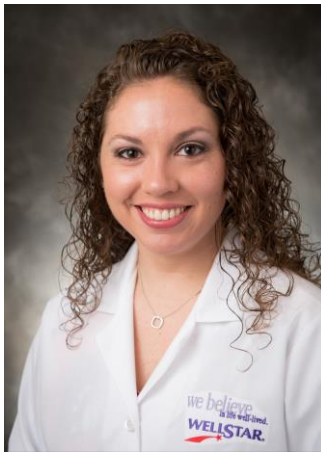
Shawn Coyne, PhD, ABPP

Hailing from the Chicago area originally, Dr. Coyne has been in Georgia for nearly a decade. She completed her undergraduate work at the University of Michigan and received her doctorate in Clinical-Community Psychology from the University of South Carolina. She completed her internship with the South Carolina Department of Mental Health and the University of South Carolina Medical School and followed this with a residency at the Oregon Youth Authority. She is board certified in both Clinical Health and Clinical psychology. Dr. Coyne joined Wellstar in 2017 and developed the current Cardiovascular Behavioral Medicine program. She is now Wellstar's Director of Health Psychology. She places a high value on excellent training and supervision that seeks to create an environment that builds skills, that challenges Fellows to understand their patients as well as themselves better, and that locates life balance within a drive to perform with excellence. When not working, she follows her passion for time with her family and two terriers, reading, cooking, and being outdoors.



**Pooja Dave, PhD**

Dr. Pooja Dave is a clinical health psychologist with the Wellstar Medical Group. She earned her doctorate in clinical psychology from Illinois Institute of Technology and completed her pre-doctoral internship training in adult clinical health psychology at University of Chicago Medical Center. She then completed a two-year Fellowship in clinical health psychology at University of Chicago Medical Center, where she focused on developing primary care behavioral health competencies in addition to an array of health psychology presentations. Dr. Dave provides outpatient assessment and treatment for patients with gastrointestinal conditions and inpatient presurgical evaluations for LVAD candidates.



**Rebecca Gomez, PsyD**

Dr. Gomez received her doctorate in clinical health psychology from the Georgia School of Professional Psychology. She completed her internship at the NFL/SGA VA Medical Center (VAMC) and followed this with a Fellowship with Wellstar. She spent her first few professional years with Gwinnett Medical Center's Center for Weight Management, where she helped develop a behavioral health program to support bariatric and metabolic health programs. She rejoined Wellstar in 2016 as a Neurorehabilitation Psychologist, where she supported patients and their families following neurological injury or illness. In early 2020, Dr. Gomez helped coordinate and develop a comprehensive clinician well-being initiative to support frontline team members during the pandemic. This initiative later became formalized as the Clinician Resiliency & Well-Being program. Her work focuses on developing and implementing programs focused on the many aspects of clinician emotional health and overall well-being. Dr. Gomez enjoys investing in the next generation of psychologists. She is committed to creating a supportive environment in which Fellows will be exposed to a variety of learning and professional development opportunities. Outside of work, she enjoys spending time with her family, being creative, and celebrating all that life brings her way.



**Amanda Perkins, PhD, ABPP**

Dr. Perkins received her PhD from the University of Georgia's Counseling Psychology program. She completed her internship at the NFL/SGA VA Medical Center (VAMC) and Fellowship at the James Quillen VAMC. She initially joined Wellstar in 2017 to develop the Primary Care Behavioral Health Integration program. Later, she provided trauma recovery and health psychology services at the Charlie Norwood VAMC, serving as supervisor in the internship and Fellowship programs at the CNVAMC/Medical College of Georgia. Supervision strengths noted by Fellows include thoroughness, ability to meet Fellow developmental needs, and creation of a supportive space which fosters authenticity

and integration of self into professional identity. Board-certified in clinical health psychology, Dr. Perkins returned to Wellstar in 2022, practicing in Bariatric Behavioral Medicine. She serves as an ABPP mentor for the Academy of Clinical Health Psychology and as Treasurer for the Augusta Area Psychological Association. She enjoys family dance parties, trying new food, and planning gatherings.



**Quaneecia Rainey, PhD**

Dr. Quaneecia Rainey, PhD is a native of Central Louisiana. She earned a doctorate in Counseling Psychology from Washington State University and completed her pre-doctoral internship at the University of Memphis. Dr. Rainey has been practicing as a Clinical Health Psychologist within Wellstar Center for Best Health since its opening in 2017. Dr. Rainey is passionate about helping patients with metabolic diseases address psychosocial barriers to improve overall health and quality of life. Dr. Rainey assumes a developmental and culturally responsive approach to supervision that encourages self-examination, skill development and exploration of professional identity. In her spare time, Dr.

Rainey enjoys listening to true crime podcasts, cooking Cajun food, and attending concerts.





Tonette Robinson, PhD

Dr. Tonette Robinson is a clinical health psychologist who received her doctorate degree from the University of Georgia in Athens, Georgia. Following completion of her doctoral studies, she completed her internship at the University of Delaware and a subsequent Fellowship at the University of Colorado Denver Anschutz Medical Campus. Dr. Robinson joined Wellstar in 2011 and served as practice lead for psychological services from 2017 to 2021. She provides expertise on the psychological aspects of obesity as a member of Wellstar's Comprehensive Bariatric Surgery and Obesity Medicine multidisciplinary team. She serves on the Metabolic and Bariatric Surgical Committee for the Wellstar

Comprehensive Bariatric Service for the Kennestone Regional Medical Center. In her clinical role, Dr. Robinson provides outpatient-based services for patients with obesity, chronic illnesses associated with obesity, and pre-surgical evaluations for metabolic and bariatric surgery. During her tenure at Wellstar, she has been a clinical supervisor for the doctoral practicum training program and post-doctoral Fellowship. Dr. Robinson is committed to providing a safe and supportive environment to facilitate clinical and professional growth. She enjoys spending time with her family and close friends, serving in her church, walking, traveling, and cheering on her favorite sports teams.



Jay Trambadia, PsyD

Originally from New Orleans, Dr. Trambadia attended The University of Georgia for his undergraduate studies and completed his doctorate in clinical psychology from Nova Southeastern University. After graduation, Dr. Trambadia completed internship at the South Florida Consortium- Brown General Medical Center. He then completed a two-year post-doctoral Fellowship at Duke University Medical Center, where he focused on health psychology, pain management, substance use concerns, crisis intervention, and behavior change. Prior to his time at Wellstar, Dr. Trambadia developed a consultation-liaison psychology program at a national cancer center, where he helped integrate psychological services into cancer care. Dr.

Trambadia joined Wellstar in 2019, working primarily at the Center for Best Health, while concentrating on metabolic health and behavior change. He also provides pain management services. During the height of the pandemic in 2020, he co-facilitated a task force to aid healthcare providers and staff with the adjustments and subsequent stressors of the COVID-19 pandemic. His clinical interests include behavioral change, motivational interviewing, pain management, and engaging in multidisciplinary healthcare teams to support patient care. Outside of his professional life, Dr. Trambadia enjoys spending time with his family and friends, cooking, event planning for charities, and coaching football.