

The University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio (UT Health San Antonio) and the STRONG STAR (South Texas Research Organizational Network Guiding Studies on Trauma And Resilience) Consortium are hiring several positions to support 15 DoD-funded studies investigating new and innovative psychological health treatments for active duty military personnel, veterans, and their families. Projects focus specifically on enhancing resiliency and addressing problems related to suicide risk, posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD), traumatic brain injury (TBI), sleep disorders, chronic pain, substance use disorders, and tinnitus. All positions are housed within the Long School of Medicine, Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences, Division and Behavioral Medicine. UT Health San Antonio offers exceptional health care and retirement benefits.

**Performance Locations:** STRONG STAR has research and clinical training locations in San Antonio, Texas and at Fort Cavazos (formerly titled Fort Hood) in Killeen, Texas. Both locations are supported by licensed clinical psychologists who are faculty members in the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences at UT Health San Antonio to provide clinical supervision to meet licensure requirements for applicants working toward licensure. In San Antonio, clinical locations include UT Health San Antonio, Brooke Army Medical Center, Wilford Hall Ambulatory Surgical Center, and the South Texas Veterans Health Care System. In Killeen, clinical training is located on Fort Cavazos at the Carl R. Darnall Army Medical Center.

**To begin the application process for any of these positions, please send the following to Hannah Tyler, PhD, ABPP, at [TylerH@uthscsa.edu](mailto:TylerH@uthscsa.edu) or Rhonda Stafford at [Staffordr@uthscsa.edu](mailto:Staffordr@uthscsa.edu)**

**(1) CV or resume and (2) Statement of Interest**

**\*\*We are currently accepting applications for the following positions\*\***

### **Professional Counselors and Social Workers**

Professional Counselors and Social Workers will serve as therapists and independent evaluators for randomized clinical trials being conducted with active duty military personnel. They will have the unique opportunity to work with and receive expert training and on-going supervision from leaders in the field located across the country. Applicants must demonstrate the ability to perform the function of therapist to include evaluating, giving diagnostic impressions, and treating individuals and families experiencing behavioral health disorders, emotional stress, or family maladjustments. They will also perform crisis intervention as needed. Masters degree and licensed or under supervision for licensure required (e.g., LCSW, LPC, LMSW).

### **Clinical Research Faculty at our Fort Cavazos (formerly titled Fort Hood) location in Killeen, Texas**

We are seeking to fill two psychology faculty member appointments (Assistant to Associate Professor

level) for full-time faculty positions at our Fort Cavazos location in Killeen, Texas. Applicants must have a doctoral degree in clinical or counseling psychology and be licensed or license eligible as a psychologist in the State of Texas. The doctoral degree and predoctoral internship must be from American Psychological Association-accredited programs. The positions will involve supporting all aspects of clinical research within the Division of Behavioral Medicine and STRONG STAR. These positions will involve serving as a research therapists, clinical supervisor, co-investigators, and educators. As investigators, the faculty members will provide support for ongoing research studies and collaborate on the development and submission of research grant applications as a co-investigator or principal investigator. As educators, the faculty members will assist in the training, supervision, and mentorship of postgraduates, graduate students, interns, residents, postdoctoral fellows, and junior faculty members.

Preferred qualifications include:

- The completion of a two-year postdoctoral fellowship focused on combat-related posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and comorbid conditions (traumatic brain injury, chronic pain, sleep disorders, substance use disorders, suicide, and tinnitus).
- Extensive experience in prolonged exposure therapy, cognitive processing therapy, cognitive behavioral conjoint therapy, writing exposure therapy, cognitive behavioral therapy for insomnia, cognitive behavioral therapy for nightmares, and crisis response planning.
- Experience in delivering the therapies listed above to a high standard of fidelity as a research therapist for randomized clinical trials
- Experience in grant submissions and working on research projects funded through the National Institutes of Health, Department of Defense, Veterans Administration, and private foundations
- A history of publications in peer-reviewed journals and presentations at national scientific conferences

### **Research Assistants**

This position will serve as a vital member of our STRONG STAR team and will receive training in conducting psychological health research including the assessment and treatment of research participants involved in randomized clinical trials. They will interact closely with military personnel, veterans, and their families and support other research staff, clinicians, and investigators.

Responsibilities include community outreach, recruitment of research participants, obtaining research consent from participants, and assisting in clinical assessments of participants from the initial baseline assessment through follow-up. Under general supervision, research assistants provide routine technical assistance in performing assigned and delegated tasks in support of research projects. This is an excellent career position and may also be an opportunity for individuals with a bachelor's or master's degree to obtain research experience to help them gain admission into doctoral programs in psychology and related fields. STRONG STAR has previously supported over 30 research assistants and project coordinators in obtaining admission into graduate programs nationwide.

### **Project Coordinators**

This position will serve as a vital member of our STRONG STAR team and will receive training in conducting psychological health research including the assessment and treatment of research participants involved in randomized clinical trials. Project Coordinators will interact closely with military personnel, veterans, and their families and support other research staff, clinicians, and investigators. Responsibilities include community outreach, recruitment of research participants, obtaining research consent from participants, and assisting in clinical assessments of participants from the initial baseline assessment through follow-up. Under general supervision, project

coordinators provide routine technical assistance in performing assigned and delegated tasks in support of research projects. Responsibilities include assisting or conducting a variety of scientific experiments and research projects of limited complexity, collecting, evaluating, and interpreting data for clinical and diagnostic research. This is an excellent career position and may also be an opportunity for individuals with a bachelor's or master's degree to obtain research experience to help them gain admission into doctoral programs in psychology and related fields. STRONG STAR has previously supported over 30 research assistants and project coordinators in obtaining admission into graduate programs nationwide.

***New and ongoing studies that these positions may support include:***

**Combining Stellate Ganglion Block with Prolonged Exposure For PTSD: A Randomized Clinical Trial; PI: Dr. Alan Peterson, UT Health San Antonio**

This is a randomized clinical trial ( $N = 140$ ) to evaluate the efficacy of (1) a stellate ganglion block (SGB) injection combined with massed Prolonged Exposure (PE; 90-minute PE session once daily for 2 weeks) versus (2) a sham (saline) SGB injection with massed PE for the treatment of PTSD in active duty military personnel. One full-time equivalent (FTE) postdoctoral fellow will support the project at Fort Cavazos and one FTE in San Antonio.

**Randomized Controlled Trial of Intensive Multi-Couple Group Therapy for PTSD Versus Relationship Education in Military Couples; PI: Dr. Steffany Fredman, Pennsylvania State University**

This is a randomized clinical trial to compare the efficacy of (1) Abbreviated, Intensive, Multi-Couple Cognitive Behavioral Couples Therapy (AIM-CBCT) for PTSD to (2) Prevention and Relationship Enhancement Program (PREP) for the treatment of PTSD and the enhancement of relationship functioning in 120 military and veteran couples. One FTE postdoctoral fellow will support the project from in San Antonio, Texas. Recruitment will occur at both Fort Cavazos and San Antonio.

**Targeting Chronic Pain in Military Primary Care Settings Using Internal Behavioral Health Consultants; PIs: Dr. Jeffrey Goodie, Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences, Bethesda, MD, and Dr. Donald McGeary, UT Health San Antonio**

This study is evaluating the effective use of Internal Behavioral Health Consultants in treating chronic pain in primary care settings. The aims are to (1) enhance delivery of chronic pain care in U.S. military primary care clinics by developing a manual and training program for providers in a drug-free pain management therapy that helps to reduce the use of opioid medications, and (2) evaluate the program in a pragmatic clinical trial involving patients with chronic pain.

**Assessment and Treatment of Chronic Anger and Aggression Following Military-Related Interpersonal and Institutional Betrayal: A Pilot Investigation; PIs: Drs. Vanessa Jacoby and Alan Peterson, UT Health San Antonio**

This is a pilot test of Countering Chronic Anger and Aggression Related to Trauma and

Transgressions (CCAARTT), a transdiagnostic, transgression-focused intervention for military personnel who have experienced betrayals. CCAARTT directly targets reducing chronic anger/aggression and improving interpersonal relationships ( $N = 40$ ). One postdoctoral fellow will support the project at Fort Cavazos.

**Written Exposure Therapy for Suicide Prevention (WET-S): A Randomized Clinical Trial; PI: Dr. Brian Marx, Boston University and the National Center for PTSD at the VA Boston Healthcare System**

This is a randomized clinical trial to evaluate the efficacy of Written Exposure Therapy for Suicide Prevention (WET-SP) in reducing the incidence and severity of self-injurious thoughts and behaviors in active duty military service members following a psychiatric hospitalization due to suicidal ideation, suicide plans, or a suicide attempt ( $N = 124$ ). One postdoctoral fellow position will support the project at Fort Cavazos.

**Strong Families Support and Prevention Program; Project Directors: Dr. Vanessa Jacoby, UT Health San Antonio**

The Strong Families Support and Prevention Program is funded by the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services, Division of Prevention and Intervention to provide prevention services and evidence-based PTSD treatment to military service members, veterans, and their families. One postdoctoral fellow supports the project at Fort Cavazos.

**Accelerated Treatment for Co-occurring Insomnia, Nightmares, and PTSD; PI: Dr. Carmen McLean, Stanford University and the National Center for PTSD at the VA Palo Alto Health Care System**

The specific aims of this project are to determine the efficacy of accelerated Cognitive Behavioral Therapy for Insomnia and Nightmares integrated with Written Exposure Therapy (WET) for PTSD among military personnel for improving insomnia symptoms, nightmare symptoms, and PTSD symptoms. One postdoctoral fellow will support this project from San Antonio. Recruitment will be from both Fort Cavazos and San Antonio.

**Project MARCH: Multisite Advancement of Research on Chronic Posttraumatic Headache; PI: Donald McGeary, UT Health San Antonio**

Project MARCH (Multisite Advancement of Research on Chronic Posttraumatic Headache) is a multi-site randomized clinical trial including 4 DoD and 3 VA sites to evaluate the efficacy of Cognitive Behavioral Therapy for Posttraumatic Headache delivered in-person or via telehealth. Fort Cavazos is one of the recruitment sites for Project MARCH and it is supported by one postdoctoral fellow.

**Randomized Controlled Trial of Precision Vestibular Rehabilitation Military Personnel with mTBI; PI: Dr. Anthony Kontos, University of Pittsburgh**

The objective of this multi-site randomized clinical trial is to determine the efficacy of different Targeted Rehabilitation Exercises for Vestibular Symptoms and Impairment (T-REV) intensities and frequencies in military personnel and civilians with mTBI and vestibular symptoms. The Intrepid Spirit Center at Fort Cavazos is one of the recruitment sites for the project.

**Enhancing Resiliency and Optimizing Readiness in Military Personnel; PI: Alan Peterson, UT Health San Antonio**

The purpose of the Resilience and Readiness Optimization/Enhancement (R2OE) translational research award investigation is to develop and evaluate the efficacy of a brief psychological health

intervention based on the principles of Acceptance and Commitment Therapy (ACT) to enhance resiliency and optimize readiness in the United States military personnel.

**Acceptance and Commitment Therapy Integrated Vestibular Rehabilitation (ACTIVE) for mTBI: A Randomized Controlled Trial; PI: Anthony Kontos, University of Pittsburgh**

Our overarching hypothesis is that a combined, brief (< 4 weeks) intervention involving both ACT and integrated vestibular rehabilitation (ACTIVE) will reduce symptoms, impairment, and functional limitations, and accelerate RTA among military SMs and civilians following mTBI with vestibular symptoms/impairment compared to usual care vestibular rehabilitation (VESTIB CONTROL).

**Brain Risk Assessment for Individual Neurological (BRAIN) Health: Understanding and Preventing Long Term Consequences; PI: Anthony Kontos, University of Pittsburgh**

The current proposal aims to establish quantifiable metrics relating dose of repetitive mild traumatic brain injury (rmTBI) and repetitive head impacts (RHI) exposure from Tier 1 weapons systems to Brain Risk Assessment for Individual Neurological (BRAIN) health and identify prognostic biological and clinical markers of acute and chronic consequences from these exposures.

**Implementing and Evaluating a Patient-Centered PTSD Treatment Program for Military Personnel; PIs Alan Peterson and Vanessa Jacoby, UT Health San Antonio**

The primary objective of the project is to evaluate the relationships between patient characteristics, preferences, treatment engagement, and outcomes for active duty services members engaging in a Shared Decision Making pre-intervention followed by evidence-based PTSD treatment. A secondary objective is to evaluate the impact of Shared Decision Making to match patients to evidence-based cognitive behavioral treatments for PTSD.

**Cognitive Behavioral Therapy for Insomnia vs Brief Behavioral Therapy for Insomnia in Military Personnel with Postconcussive Symptoms following Mild TBI; PIs: Kristi Pruiksma and Vincent Mysliwiec, UT Health San Antonio**

The overall objective is to determine if cognitive behavioral therapy for insomnia (CBT-I) and brief behavioral therapy for insomnia (BBT-I) can improve outcomes in service members with prolonged postconcussive symptoms following mild traumatic brain injury (mTBI) and to explore the impact of insomnia treatment (CBT-I or BBT-I) on prolonged postconcussive symptoms and on blood-based brain biomarkers levels of neuronal integrity and neuronal inflammation.

The University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio is an Equal Employment Opportunity / Affirmative Action Employer including protected veterans and persons with disabilities. All Postdoctoral appointments are designated as security sensitive positions. UT Health San Antonio is committed to excellence through diversity.