The Ph.D. program in Clinical Psychology at USF is committed to the clinical-scientist training mentor model, and this commitment is reflected in our membership in the Academy of Psychological Clinical Science. We are also accredited by the American Psychological Association and the Psychological Clinical Science Accreditation System. Graduate students are actively involved in research throughout their residency in the program. Therefore, it is important for applicants to consider the research opportunities available at USF to ensure that there is a good match between their interests and the research programs of the Clinical faculty.

The research interests of the Clinical faculty are described below. Our faculty members have diverse interests within clinical psychology, and we urge applicants to read the descriptions carefully before deciding whether to apply to our program. In addition to the research foci of the individual faculty members, we would like to highlight a few general areas that cut across faculty, and are therefore particular strengths of the clinical training program at USF. Please note, however, that these general themes do not represent all of the areas of research carried out by our faculty and students.

**Health Psychology**
This is the fastest-growing area within the field of clinical psychology, and it is a clear strength of our department. Areas of health psychology studied by our faculty include, addictive disorders (Bornovalova, Brandon, Goldman, Drobes, Verona), neuropsychology (Cimino), eating disorders (Thompson), and behavioral oncology and risk factors for cancer (Brandon, Jacobsen). Research in health psychology is enhanced by the presence of a medical school and large medical center on campus. Among the hospitals in the medical center are the H. Lee Moffitt Cancer Center and Research Institute and the James A. Haley Veterans Affairs Medical Center. Both of these facilities often serve as sites of clinical research and practicum placements for our students.

**Addictive Behaviors**
Substance abuse is one of the most prevalent behavioral problems today, impacting society in a multitude of ways. It is also an area that has benefited greatly from psychological research. Although mentioned above as a sub area within health psychology, research on addictive behaviors can also be considered a strength of our department in its own right. Clinical faculty conducting research in this area include Mark Goldman (alcohol expectancies), Marina Bornovalova (drug use disorders and comorbidity with Borderline Personality Disorder), and Edelyn Verona (gender differences in pathways to drug use, drug use links to antisociality and psychopathy), Thomas Brandon (tobacco use and cessation), and David Drobes (drug addiction and craving).

**Psychopathology**
The study of mental illness and disordered behaviors continues to serve as a foundation for much of clinical psychology. Faculty whose research falls in this area include Marina Bornovalova (externalizing disorders and behaviors), Edelyn Verona (psychopathy, personality disorders, aggression/violence), Marc Karver (self harm and suicidal behavior), Vicky Phares (developmental psychopathology), Jon Rottenberg (individual differences in the experience of emotions, especially depression), Kevin Thompson (eating disorders), and Eric Storch (childhood anxiety disorders).

**Clinical Child Psychology**
Clinical child psychology has been one of the most popular and expanding areas of study over the past decade. Department research spans the prevention-treatment continuum from studies of etiology, assessment, and treatment of child/adolescent disorders to primary and secondary prevention efforts to reduce rates of disorder and promote healthy functioning.
Clinical faculty conducting research in this general area include Vicky Phares (developmental psychopathology, parenting), Marc Karver (treatment processes and suicidal adolescents), and Eric Storch (childhood anxiety disorders). Research and practicum sites include the USF Psychological Services Center, three local school districts, and the Rothman Center for Pediatric Neuropsychiatry in the USF Department of Pediatrics.

**Clinical Neuropsychology**

Clinical neuropsychology represents one of the more biologically-oriented areas within psychology. Areas of clinical neuropsychology studied by our faculty include recovery of function and neuropsychological effects of alcohol use (Goldman) and degenerative dementias and neuroanatomic substrates of emotion and memory (Cimino). Students seeking training in neuropsychology research have available specified courses and training opportunities in addition to the clinical area core. Research and training sites include the Memory Disorders Clinic at the USF Health Sciences Center, and clinics at the Tampa VA Medical Center, Tampa General Hospital, and the H. Lee Moffitt Cancer Center. USF meets the APA Division 40/INS guidelines for training in clinical neuropsychology.

**Clinical Faculty**

**Marina A. Bornovalova**

(University of Maryland-College Park)

Assistant Professor

Research Interests:

In general, my research focuses on externalizing psychopathology, substance use disorders, and their interrelationship. Additionally, a large part of my work focuses on borderline personality disorder (BPD). I am especially interested in how problems with emotion regulation and inhibitory control (a.k.a. “impulsivity”) underlie the development of these phenomena, and how these vulnerabilities interact with environmental stressors (i.e., childhood trauma). In my research, I use several methods of examining etiology and causal influences. Specifically, I use:

a) correlational studies in clinical populations to identify risk factors associated with externalizing behaviors, substance use, and BPD;

b) Laboratory analogue studies to further “tease out” the nature of underlying vulnerabilities (e.g., tasks tapping emotion dysregulation);

c) treatment development studies to try to alter these vulnerabilities; and

d) investigations of the genetic and environmental contributions to these phenomena (via twin studies, in collaboration with the Minnesota Twin and Family Study).

Representative Publications (* student authors):


Child Disruptive Behavior Disorders. *Psychological Medicine.*


**Cynthia R. Cimino, Ph.D.**  
(University of Florida)  
Associate Professor

Research Interests:  
My research interests fall broadly within the area of human neuropsychology and more specifically in understanding how emotion and cognition are affected in various neurologic disorders. I am particularly interested in how emotional states and affective stimuli influence cognitive processes such as attention and memory and what neuroanatomical systems underlie these influences. Recent interests include examination of how emotional stimuli and emotional states influence biases in memory and performance on incentive based tasks. Other research areas include investigation of the heterogeneity of cognitive symptomatology in degenerative dementias such as Parkinson’s disease, Huntington’s disease and Alzheimer’s disease, the validity and utility of neuropsychological measures in assessing these disorders and the presence and influence of depression, apathy and other psychiatric symptomatology on manifestation of cognitive symptoms in these degenerative diseases.

Representative Publications (* student authors):


Schwartz, S., Cimino, C., & Anderson, M. CPAP or placebo-effect?: Commentary on Kushida et al. (In Press). Effects of continuous positive airway pressure on neurocognitive function in obstructive sleep apnea patients: The apnea positive pressure long-term efficacy study (APPLES) (SP-00706-11). *Sleep.*

**Mark S. Goldman, Ph.D.**  
(Rutgers University)  
Distinguished Research Professor

Research Interests:  
This laboratory investigates the influences of cognitive factors on behavior and physiological responses to addictive drugs. Our specific research area is alcohol expectancies and how they influence alcohol consumption and behavior.
while under the influence. To this end, we develop alcohol expectancy instruments, develop assessment techniques for alcohol related cognitions, and design preventive and therapeutic strategies for undermining the links between cognition and behavior. We are currently funded by grants from the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism.

Representative Publications (* student authors):


Marc Karver, Ph.D.
(Vanderbilt University)

Associate Professor

Research Interests:
My research interests include understanding core treatment processes (e.g. therapeutic alliance) in mental health services research for youths and adolescent suicide risk assessment, prevention, and management. I look at how mental health clinicians make decisions, what treatment techniques they use, and how they form therapeutic relationships. I am interested in learning how to improve the work of experienced clinicians and to discover better ways to train novice clinicians. I am particularly interested in studying the provision of mental health services to “high risk” populations such as suicidal adolescents. I have been involved with several studies of adolescent suicidality. I examined mental health professionals’ ability to evaluate high risk adolescents and make placement decisions. I have examined crisis line counselors’ ability to predict suicide related behaviors. I have also been involved in several studies looking at treatment processes related to engaging depressed and suicidal adolescents. I have had two SAMHSA grants to help develop and evaluate the suicide prevention program of the Albuquerque School district. I currently am working on a second large SAMHSA grant to help disseminate and evaluate suicide prevention efforts in the state of Florida. I also have recently received a SAMHSA grant to develop and implement a campus-wide suicide prevention program at USF.

Representative Publications (* student authors):


**Vicky Phares, Ph.D.**
(University of Vermont)
Professor and Director of Clinical Training

Research Interests:
My research group has explored a variety of issues related to child, adolescent, and family functioning. In particular, we have been interested in exploring the connections between psychopathology in fathers, mothers, and children. A focus of our work remains on gender in relation to parenting, with particular interest in parenting in relation to anxious youth. Projects include the exploration of racial/ethnic differences and similarities in families and mother-blaming. Current work explores fathers’ participation in research and therapy as well as fathers’ and mothers’ involvement with their children.

Representative Publications (* student authors):


**Jonathan Rottenberg, Ph.D.**
(Stanford University)
Associate Professor

Research Interests:
Work in my laboratory is in the area of emotional pathology, particularly as it applies to Major Depressive Disorder. Using both experimental and naturalistic designs, we have been pursuing the hypothesis that a core dysfunction in depression involves a loss of the capacity to respond to changes in stimulus valence, a phenomenon we term emotion context insensitivity (ECI). Recent studies have examined ECI as a function of stimulus meaning in depressed individuals. Other projects in my
laboratory examine biological markers of emotion dysregulation in depression, such as heart rate variability. Our work is funded by the National Institutes of Health. For more information, visit my laboratory website at: http://uweb.cas.usf.edu/mood/

Representative Publications (* student authors):


J. Kevin Thompson, Ph.D.
(University of Georgia)
Professor

Research Interests:
For the past 20 years, my research has focused largely in the area of body image disturbance. Recent interests include a variety of topics related to etiology, assessment and treatment. In addition, I have conducted research in a wide diversity of samples, including adolescents, adults, cosmetic surgery patients, and eating-disordered individuals. Recent interests include sociocultural pressures, especially media influences on body image, and the role of peer/parental feedback in the form of negative commentary, especially teasing, on the development of body satisfaction. Also, in collaboration with Dr. Paul Jacobsen, I have explored body image issues involved in tanning behavior. We received a grant from the National Cancer Institute to investigate this area. Finally, we completed a book on the “muscular ideal” and are exploring this issue in men, boys, and women.

Representative Publications (* student authors):


Edelyn Verona, Ph.D.  
(Florida State University)  
Associate Professor, Director of Clinical Training starting August 2014

Research Interests:
My research considers biological (e.g., genes, neurophysiology) and psychosocial factors (e.g., stress, early adversity) involved in the development and maintenance of externalizing and aggressive behaviors, substance use, personality disorders, as well as different facets of psychopathic personality. This work also involves behavioral and psychophysiological research (e.g., EEG, ERP, startle) conducted in the lab that helps uncover affective and/or cognitive mechanisms in aggressive behavior, externalizing syndromes, and psychopathy. Our lab has focused on using models from affective science to advance understanding of antisocial behavior and aggression and to identify subgroups of offenders. An especially novel feature of this work involves investigating the spectrum of emotional experience and expression at its two extremes in this population: 1) the classic psychopath, in whom emotional reactivity is believed to be blunted or deficient; and 2) highly antisocial individuals who may be at particular risk for affective violence and impulsive suicide, and are more likely to have a history of abuse or adversity. Recent work has dealt with gender differences in the development and manifestations of these syndromes, including distinct genetic and environmental pathways to substance use, violence and psychopathy in women and men.

Representative Publications (* student authors):


Affiliated and Courtesy Faculty

Thomas H. Brandon, Ph.D.  
(University of Wisconsin-Madison)  
Professor

Research Interests:
My general research interest is in health psychology with a focus on addictive behaviors. Tobacco use has the greatest total negative health and economic impact of any addictive substance, so it is the primary focus of our research. Our laboratory uses two convergent research approaches. One is human laboratory research on addiction motivation, focusing on affective and cognitive variables involved in drug use and relapse. Variables studied include affective state, outcome expectancies, task persistence, cue reactivity, and self-efficacy. The second approach involves large-scale treatment-outcome studies in which basic theory and research are applied to smoking cessation and relapse prevention. Treatment strategies investigated include: cue exposure, coping skills training, supportive
counseling, cognitive mood-management therapies, and pharmacotherapies. Recently, we have also been investigating cost-effective minimal interventions for relapse-prevention. We have developed a series of Forever Free booklets that have been found to produce substantial reductions in smoking relapse, and consequently have been adopted by the National Cancer Institute and various health organizations throughout the country. We are now extending this research to special populations at risk for smoking relapse, such as pregnant/postpartum women, telephone quitline callers, and Hispanics. Our laboratory is the Tobacco Research & Intervention Program at the H. Lee Moffitt Cancer Center and Research Institute. Our research has been funded by grants from the National Institute on Drug Abuse, the National Cancer Institute, the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism, the American Cancer Society, the American Heart Association, the American Lung Association, and other foundations.

Representative Publications (* student authors):


David J. Drobes, Ph.D.
(Purdue University)
Professor

Research Interests:
Research in my lab examines affective and attentional processes in addiction, with a long-term goal of translating human laboratory findings into improved interventions for smoking cessation and other forms of drug addiction. More specifically, we have a longstanding interest in cue-elicited drug craving among cigarette smokers, as well as the interaction between smoking and alcohol use. Another line of research is exploring cognitive and affective features of nicotine withdrawal, with an emphasis on how these relate to genetic and other individual differences. A new area of research is concerned with the impact of physical activity on both motivation to smoke and nicotine withdrawal. My laboratory is located within the Tobacco Research and Intervention Program of the Moffitt Cancer Center. Our work has been generously funded over the past fifteen years by federal and institutional grants.

Representative Publications (* student authors):


Over the past few years, my students and I have conducted a number of studies investigating the etiology and management of behavioral side effects of cancer treatment. With funding from the American Cancer Society and the National Cancer Institute, we demonstrated that a brief cognitive-behavioral intervention (stress management training) is effective in improving patients’ quality of life as they undergo cancer chemotherapy treatment. Based on these findings, we are currently evaluating a version of this intervention transcreated for Hispanic/Latina patients receiving chemotherapy and developing a web-based version for English-speaking patients. Current work also focuses on investigating fatigue, one of the most common and distressing symptoms experienced by cancer patients.

Our research has led to the development of tools to measure fatigue, estimates of the prevalence and intensity of fatigue during and following completion of cancer treatment, and identification of clinical and psychological factors that explain individual differences in fatigue severity. We are also involved in studying behavioral aspects of cancer prevention and detection. Along these lines, we are investigating ways to promote cancer screening and prevention behaviors among individuals who are at increased risk for cancer due to a family history of the disease.

Representative Publications (* student authors):


**Eric A. Storch, Ph.D.**
(Columbia University)
All Children's Hospital Guild Endowed Chair and Professor

Research Interests:
My primary research focus is on the treatment of childhood and adult OCD, and childhood anxiety, tic disorders, autism, and trichotillomania. In particular, I am intrigued by the hypothesis that targeting specific neural receptors may facilitate extinction processes central to exposure-based psychotherapy. We are currently conducting an NIMH R01 with Massachusetts General Hospital to examine this possibility. In addition to this, there are a number of other ongoing projects: (1) We are conducting federally funded research on the dissemination of evidence-based child anxiety/OCD treatments, such as computer-assisted treatment for anxiety and stepped care for childhood PTSD (with my colleague Alison Salloum, Ph.D.) (2) We have several NIH and foundation funded studies examining cognitive-behavioral treatment of anxiety in youth with autism spectrum disorders. (3) We are conducting work examining services received by youth with tics, as well as behavioral interventions for pediatric tic disorders. (4) Finally, we have a number of ongoing treatment and phenomenology studies in OCD, including studies on the genetics of OCD (NIMH), psychosocial treatment for young children with OCD (USF Research Foundation), and stepped care of OCD treatment (International OCD Foundation).

We are currently funded by grants from the National Institute of Mental Health, National Institute of Child Health and Development, and Agency for Healthcare Quality and Research.

Representative Publications (* student authors):


