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LEADERSHIP & ADMINISTRATIVE

Kelly Piacsek, PhD

Vice President of Research



Originally from Rockford, IL, Dr. Piacsek relocated to Southeastern Wisconsin to attend Marquette University where she earned undergraduate degrees in Biomedical and Mechanical Engineering, and later completed her PhD in the Joint Functional Imaging Program at the Medical College of Wisconsin and Marquette University. Dr. Piacsek served 16 years with GE Healthcare, growing in responsibility from a product engineer to a senior executive, leading international product development teams in diagnostic imaging and medical device research. Prior to joining Rogers, was the Vice President of Research for Advocate Aurora Health.

Dr. Piacsek is responsible for building the Rogers Research Center and forming strategic partnerships with hospital systems, payors, academic institutions, professional associations, and major donors and sponsors to develop research and innovation programs across Rogers' national landscape.

As a mother of three active children, and a youth basketball coach, Dr. Piacsek doesn't claim much free time, but loves to play golf with her family, and still enjoys playing guitar.

Abby Daggett

Executive Assistant



Abby Daggett is an Executive Assistant who joined Rogers Behavioral Health in the Summer of 2021. Prior to joining Rogers, she worked in the corporate world for 12 years for a fortune 50 company in Management, Human Resources, and Executive Assistant roles. In addition to supporting Dr. Piacsek, Vice President of Research, she additionally supports Dr. Riemann, Chief Clinical Officer and Chief Operating Officer, Dr. Halverson, Chief Medical Officer and Brian Kramer, Vice President of Human Resources.

Abby received her undergraduate degree in Business Management from Minnesota State University, Mankato where she graduated Summa Cum Laude. In her leisure time, Abby enjoys traveling and spending time outdoors with her husband and three beautiful daughters. She is also an active member in her community volunteering at her local church in the kid's ministry and for an American Heritage Girls troop.

Derek Jirovec

Research Quality & Operations Manager



Born and raised in Wisconsin, Derek graduated from UW-Whitewater where he double majored in Psychology and Sociology. He has over 16 years of experience working in clinical research, beginning his career at the Children's Wisconsin Emergency Department where he worked as a research assistant. His career encompasses varied roles within the world of research, including working in a Pediatric Pain Clinic, serving as a coordinator and voting member of an Institutional Review Board, and in his previous position, negotiating contracts and budgets for clinical trials. As the Research and Quality Operations Manager at Rogers Behavioral Health, Derek firmly believes in upholding the ethical principles of the Belmont report: respect for persons, beneficence, and justice. In his spare time, Derek enjoys travelling with his wife and can often be found with a good book in hand.

Jovana Kuridza, MHA

IRB Coordinator



Jovana Kuridza, MHA is the IRB Coordinator at Rogers Behavioral Health. Jovana has nearly 10 years of experience working in health care with a heavy focus in clinical research. She oversees day-to-day IRB efforts, coordinates organization-wide IRB activities and provides guidance on human subjects research for study investigators. Prior to joining Rogers, she worked with pharmaceutical companies, contract research organizations and other organizations to implement and launch Phase 2 through Phase 4 clinical trials. Jovana holds a Master's degree in Health Care Administration from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee.

Jovana is originally from Serbia and emigrated to the United States with her family in 2001. In her free time, she enjoys being with her nieces and family, traveling, and visiting her homeland.

Kelsey Kerslake

Research Grant Specialist



Kelsey Kerslake is a Research Grant Specialist at Rogers Behavioral Health. In the Research Center, Kelsey's role involves grant prospecting, planning, writing, and tracking. Kelsey's education is in Sociology and Spanish. She has a 13-year diverse background in accounting, case management, behavioral health, as well as grant writing and management. Kelsey brings broad experience and success with both program and research-focused grants from private, public, and government sponsors. In her free time, Kelsey enjoys mountain biking, kayaking, longboarding, fishing, and hiking with her spouse and two rescue pups.

RESEACHERS & SCIENTISTS

Caitlin Pinciotti, PhD

Associate Research Psychologist



Caitlin Pinciotti, PhD, is an Associate Research Psychologist at Rogers Behavioral Health. She earned her Doctorate degree in Clinical Psychology within the Trauma Psychology Focus track at Northern Illinois University and completed her APA-accredited clinical psychology pre-doctoral residency and postdoctoral fellowship at Rogers Behavioral Health in the OCD and Anxiety adult residential treatment program. She has conducted research and specialized clinical work with individuals with trauma and/or OCD at all levels of care ranging from Veterans' Administration and community outpatient centers to residential treatment. Her research primarily focuses on factors that facilitate or impede recovery from trauma, PTSD, and OCD, with a secondary focus on mental health inequities in gender and sexual minorities. Dr. Pinciotti has published over 25 peer-reviewed articles in scientific journals and presented over 25 research projects at regional, national, and international conferences, where she has won four awards based on her research. She serves on the editorial board of Psychiatry Research Communication and is Guest Editor of a special issue in the Journal of Cognitive Psychotherapy on OCD and co-occurring conditions. She is an active member in the OCD and PTSD Comorbidity Consortium alongside other experts in OCD and PTSD across the globe.

Dr. Pinciotti provides trainings and case consultations both within and outside of the Rogers Behavioral Health hospital system on co-occurring OCD and PTSD, and LGBTQ+ intersections with mental health. Dr. Pinciotti also serves as the Equity in Patient Care Team Leader at Rogers Behavioral Health, spearheading and serving on several committees intended to identify and correct identity-based inequities in mental health treatment.

Sheldon Garrison, PhD

Research Scientist



Sheldon Garrison, Ph.D. is a Research Scientist at Rogers Behavioral Health. Dr. Garrison has more than 15 years of experience in health care, the pharmaceutical and life science industries, and academia. His research is focused on understanding genetic involvement in psychiatric disorders and how those genes influence treatment response for affected patients.

Prior to joining Rogers, Dr. Garrison's research focused on developing treatments for rare and genetic diseases, as well as speeding the time to diagnosis. He has published and received National Institutes of Health and foundational funding in the areas of neuroscience, rare disease health care economics, genetics, drug development, pain, Phelan-McDermid Syndrome, scleroderma, cold weather injury, Huntington's disease, trichotillomania, and sickle cell disease. His pioneering research has also resulted in the granting of two U.S. Food and Drug Administration Orphan Drug Designations. Dr. Garrison currently serves as on multiple boards and scientific advisory committees, including the Rare Disease Advisory Council for the State of Wisconsin. In his free time, Dr. Garrison is an Assistant Coach for the Marquette University Brazilian Jiu Jitsu team and is a multi-time champion in the sport.

Nyssa Bulkes, PhD
Data Scientist



Nyssa Bulkes is a data scientist with over 10 years of academic and commercial research experience. Dr. Bulkes specializes in bridging the gap between academia and industry by integrating scientific rigor with the goal-oriented strategy required of a business or organization. Her responsibilities with the Rogers Research Center include cross-team collaboration with stakeholders on hypotheses and research study design; building custom machine learning models to derive insight from clinical datasets; and data mining and analysis to derive insights from large-scale clinical datasets. As a trained cognitive scientist, Dr. Bulkes will oversee the Neuroscience Lab in the Research Center, which will

be equipped with EEG and tES capabilities to integrate insights from cognitive neuroscience with clinical application as the Center seeks to innovate new treatment options. In her spare time, she is an avid reader and hiker, and enjoys teaching Les Mills group fitness classes at the Pabst Farms YMCA.

RESEARCH SUPPORT

Bri Weibye, MS
Research Associate



Brianna is a recent graduate with a Master of Science in Exercise and Rehabilitation Science from Marquette University of Wisconsin. There she spent the last two years working in chronic pain research, as part of a larger study looking at the Functional Characteristics of Long-Term COVID-19 Symptoms. While working on these projects, she was awarded two fellowships and a scholarship at Marquette that funded her work. In her free time, she loves going for walks/runs with her rescue dog Emmit, who has also been her travel companion as they have moved from Minnesota, Florida and back to Wisconsin together. She is the oldest for four and an auntie to five (soon to be seven) nieces and nephews. She loves spending time with her family at sporting

events, concerts, and seasonal festivals

Gregor Horvath, MS
Research Associate



Originally from North Dakota, Gregor Horvath received his undergraduate degree in psychology from North Dakota State University before moving to Indiana for graduate school at Purdue University. There, he was granted the Ross scholarship, and, in May 2020, he earned his Master of Science degree in Human Development and Family Studies, as well as a Graduate Certificate in Psychological Statistics. He joined Rogers as a research associate in September of the same year, where he supports the research center by investigating new avenues for research, providing his statistical analysis and research publication experience, and generally helping to streamline the research process. Outside of work, Gregor is interested in roleplaying games - leading several tabletop roleplaying games each week and working on creating

both his own tabletop RPG system and a separate video game. These games help him keep in touch with his brother and sibling-in-law, who play in a few of the weekly games. An interesting fact about Gregor is that he was originally a double-major in theatre and psychology in undergrad, before dropping the theatre major to a minor. Dance classes, primarily jazz and tap, counted for almost half of his total minor credits.

Prudence Precourt, PhD

Research Associate



A native of Wisconsin, Dr. Precourt has served a wide variety of non-profits in grants management, fundraising and marketing. She earned her fieldwork-based Ph. D. from the University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee. Her research was supported by a competitive grant she won from the National Science Foundation (NSF) to conduct her study in Puebla, Mexico. On completing her doctoral degree, she served as a peer reviewer for NSF. She returned to Wisconsin after serving as Vice President for University Advancement and Executive Director of the KU Foundation for Kutztown University of Pennsylvania.

After retiring from higher education administration, she served Berks Community Health Center (BCHC) as manager of grants and fundraising. While there, she authored a federal grant application that secured almost \$5 million to establish a behavioral health service line. Prue now serves Rogers Research Center as Research Associate.

In her free time, she enjoys traveling overseas and helping the Humane Animal Shelter of Waukesha. She is a certified Special Olympics Equestrian Coach.

Maria Novak

Research Associate



Maria Novak, M.A. received her Bachelor of Arts degree in Psychology from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. She then completed her Master of Arts degree in Clinical Mental Health Counseling from the University of Denver. Maria was admitted to the Neurodevelopmental Research Program, with an opportunity to contribute to a longitudinal investigation, addressing maternal trauma exposure as a predictor for infant psychopathology. Maria is interested in the complexities of trauma within the context of developing including topics such as intergenerational influence, emotion regulation, and stress reactivity. She has facilitated additional research at the University of Denver, conducting structured interviews to assess the neurocognitive and psycho-social consequences of intimate partner abuse (IPA) within the family system. Maria appreciates the

translational value that research has in her clinical training.

Maggie Anderson

Research Assistant



Margaret Anderson is a Clinical Research Assistant; her primary responsibility is operating the biobank with Dr. Garrison. She also works with Dr. Bulkes in the neuroscience lab. Her additional responsibilities include assisting in various study work. Margaret grew up in Hammond, Indiana. She attended the Hammond Academy of Science and Technology for high school and graduated ninth in her class. She then attended Purdue University where she graduated in 2020 with a Bachelor of Science in Biology. Before joining Rogers, she worked in regulated biopharmaceutical research as an analyst. In her leisure time, Margaret enjoys playing video games such as Animal Crossing and The Legend of Zelda. An interesting fact about Margaret is that she loves spicy food- especially spicy sushi!

Timothy Grinwald*Clinical Research Assistant*

Timothy Grinwald is a Clinical Research Assistant with the Rogers Research Center. Tim graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology from the University of Wisconsin – Stout in 2006. During his time at Stout, Tim was a member of a group that conducted research in the field of cognitive neuroscience, including a study using a computer-based test to assess facial recognition and memory. In 2008, Tim joined Rogers Behavioral Health as a member of a direct care team for patients with co-occurring anxiety and eating disorders. In 2011, Tim took on a new role as a Behavioral Specialist on the adult inpatient unit in Oconomowoc, where he developed and facilitated a series of CBT focused skills training groups for depression and anxiety. Since 2016, Tim has been working with a team that has been studying the use of a

cognitive bias modification application designed for use on mobile devices. The team has been assessing the ability of the application to alleviate the symptoms of anxiety and mood disorders. In his free time, Tim enjoys tropical fishkeeping, home remodeling projects and traveling to Disney parks with his wife and children.

Victoria Bonack*Research Assistant*

Victoria Bonack has worked at Rogers since April of 2019. She worked as a Patient Care Associate and Residential Care Specialist in Rogers inpatient and residential levels of care. Shortly after starting as an employee of Rogers, she graduated from Wisconsin Lutheran College with a Bachelor's in Psychology. Victoria supports the Research Center by providing support to the Principal Investigators. For leisure, she reads fantasy/sci-fi, plays videogames, and watches Korean dramas.