

**Yeshiva University**  
**Ferkauf Graduate School of Psychology**  
**Adult Clinical Psychology (PsyD)**  
**Ferkauf Older Adult Program**

**Parnes Clinic Gero-Psychology Training: Information for Students**

Overview

Older adults (age 60+) referred to the Parnes Clinic may receive diagnostic evaluation, and individual, couples/marital, or family psychotherapy. Referrals are carefully screened so that older patients accepted into this program have various psychological problems of a scope and severity amenable to outpatient psychotherapeutic intervention. Examples of such problems include adjustment, mood, or anxiety disorders reactive to stressors common to later life (e.g., care-giving for an ill family member; managing developmental transitions common to later life; coping with medical illness, etc). Patients inappropriate for this program would include those with acute/ severe psychiatric illness, a primary diagnosis of dementia, or those who are seeking case management services; in such cases, referral to appropriate service providers will be sought. Psychiatric consultations for older adult patients are available on a bi-monthly basis, and may be arranged by contacting the clinic director. The Parnes Clinic Gero-Psychology Program has also formed a linkage with the [Central Control of Mobility in Aging Study \(CCMA\)](#) staff (so that elderly CCMA participants can be referred for mental health services when needed) and with the Montefiore Medical Center Division of Geriatric Psychiatry.

Gero-Psychology Program Training within the Parnes Clinic

*Geriatric Psychology Externs* (students who are participating in the specialized externship in clinical gero-psychology) are responsible for diagnostic evaluations (intakes) of older adults, on a rotating basis, throughout their externship year. Externs will typically treat a caseload of two to four older adult patients in the Parnes Clinic.

*Other Students* seeking a trial experience regarding psychotherapeutic treatment of older adults may elect to treat an older patient. Such students should make this preference known to the Parnes Clinic Director and Dr. Zweig early in the training year.

*Supervision:* All students treating older adult patients will be supervised by faculty with expertise in clinical Gero-psychology (see list of Gero-psychology faculty). Should clinical gero-psychology faculty not be available, students are advised to consult with the Director of the Ferkauf Older Adult Program (Dr. Zweig) and the Director of the Parnes Clinic before choosing an alternate supervisor.