

Erica Duncan, MD

Introduction:

I am a Professor with tenure in the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences. My office and lab are at the Atlanta VA, where I serve as Attending Psychiatrist; Director of Research for our Neuromodulation Program; and Director of my research laboratory, the Psychophysiology and Cognition Laboratory.

Area(s) of expertise:

My research is focused primarily on the discovery of endophenotypes in schizophrenia, posttraumatic stress disorder, and cocaine addiction as tools for discovery of genetic, molecular and immunological underpinnings of these diseases. A secondary focus is on the development of novel treatments for these diseases. I am full-time clinician-researcher in the VA with extensive experience with recruitment of Veterans for studies. I have had continuous funding from VA Merit Review grants along with NIH, foundation, and industry funding for my entire career, and have a track record of extensive collaborations with University partners from a variety of schools and Departments at Emory and elsewhere. I have published extensively on close phenotyping using the acoustic startle reflex and its modulations in concert with cognitive measures. More recent work includes several EEG measures. Additionally, I have run many clinical trials as PI or site PI funded by the VA, NIH, and industry in subjects with schizophrenia and PTSD. My new 6-site study funded by the Department of Defense will test a novel EEG neurofeedback training system for PTSD.

With regard to my clinical work, I have spent years doing inpatient work on acute psychiatric units. I have clinical expertise in psychosis, treatment resistant depression, transcranial magnetic stimulation, IV ketamine, esketamine, and EEG-based neurofeedback for PTSD.

Relevant personal details:

I am an active member and fellow of the American College of Neuropsychopharmacology, the American Psychiatric Association, and a member of the Society of Biological Psychiatry. I raised three children while maintaining full-time VA employment, university faculty status and an active research program. Originally from Canada, I maintain both US and Canadian citizenship.

Approach to mentoring and availability:

I have a flexible approach depending on the needs of the mentee, either for short-term focused mentoring or long-term mentoring. I am happy to focus on scientific mentoring to foster development of a research career (including publishing and grantsmanship), organizational/career mentoring to focus on promotions, or mentoring around the operational challenges of running a research laboratory. Having been a long-term research and clinical employee of the VA, I am very well versed in navigating the challenges and advantages of being a VA faculty. I have mentored many trainees at many levels (undergraduates, graduate students, medical students, postdoctoral fellows, residents, junior faculty, foreign MDs preparatory to residency applications).