



**Mission.** The mission of the Center for the Treatment and Study of Traumatic Stress is to develop and conduct a center of excellence at Summa Health System's Department of Psychiatry in conjunction with Kent State University. The Center is dedicated to the treatment and investigation of traumatic stress and its consequences. Through its work, the Center will have regional, national, and international impact in the advance of the science of traumatic stress and on the well-being of people affected by traumatic events.

**Research**

The Center for the Treatment and Study of Traumatic Stress is involved in research on the nature of traumatic stress and improving the treatment of people who are suffering following exposure to traumatic stress. This research involves the psychological, sociological, and biological aspects of traumatic stress. Research is conducted by scientists and physicians and is integral to doctoral and post-doctoral training.



**Advanced Training**

The Center trains pre- and post-doctoral mental health professionals in psychiatry, psychology, and related disciplines. This training involves both education in treatment and research.



Summa Health System  
 Department of Psychiatry  
 St. Thomas Hospital  
 444 North Main St.  
 Akron, OH 44310

Phone: 330-379-5094

Fax: 330-379-5095

Email: shobfoll@kent.edu

Summa-Kent State  
 Center for the Treatment  
 and Study of  
**Traumatic Stress**





# Treating victims of trauma: The journey to becoming a survivor.

**Definition and scope of traumatic stress:** Traumatic stress is stressful challenge that is extremely intense, often life-threatening, and that may include exposure to grotesque visual, auditory, or olfactory stimuli. It includes the range of events from the threat of death due to heart disease, cancer, and serious motor vehicle accidents, to criminal victimization, rape, and exposure to disaster and terror. Traumatic stress is by definition rare for any given

individual at a given time, but frequent on a community level and in every individual's lifetime experience. For certain professions such as police and firefighters, it can be a common occurrence, but nevertheless carry negative consequences.



**“Traumatic life events often have severe and long-term impact.”**

This means that we must understand and treat traumatic stress across the lifespan.

**Community partnerships and outreach.**

We are interested in ongoing development of partnerships with community agencies, organizations, and businesses. Agency Directors and Business Executives are welcomed to call to discuss partnerships and coordination of efforts. Trauma affects the fabric of the entire community.

**Forensic evaluation of trauma.**

Traumatic stress often occurs in the workplace in the form of industrial accident or work-related injury. The Center can aid in the accurate diagnosis, forensic assessment, and treatment of work-related trauma. This includes also understanding the occasional misdiagnosis of Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder.

**Faculty and Staff**

**Stevan Hobfoll, Ph.D.**, Center Director, has studied traumatic stress treatment throughout the Middle East and the U.S. and specializes in trauma impact on women and families.

**Joseph Varley, M.D.**, is the chairman of Summa's Department of Psychiatry and specializes in integrating psychiatry with other medical and social service specialties.

**Dawn Johnson, Ph.D.**, is Clinic Coordinator. She specializes in the development of interventions for sexually and physically abused women.

**Douglas Delahanty, Ph.D.**, is a health psychologist who specializes in the psycho-neuro-immunological impact of extreme stress.

**Christopher Durner, D.O.**, is director of outpatient services at Summa and studies the interaction of traumatic stress with other psychiatric disorders.

**Todd Ivan, M.D.**, directs consultation and liaison with other areas of medicine. He is particularly interested in trauma related to cancer and life-threatening disease.

**Robert Liebelt, Ph.D., M.D.**, is director of Ignatia Hall, Summa's substance abuse treatment center.

**Victoria Sanelli, M.D.**, is associate medical director of Ignatia Hall and medical director of its Intensive Outpatient Program.

**Anand Chaturvedi, M.D.**, is director of Inpatient Psychiatry Services of Summa.

**Rodney Myerscough, Ph.D.**, is a clinical psychologist involved in consultation and liaison. He is particularly interested in medically related traumatic stress.

**Claire Draucker, R.N., Ph.D.**, is a nurse and a psychologist with special interest in the impact of past child abuse on adult women.

**Center Associates:** clinical and research associates from departments at Kent State University and Summa Health System.

**Staff Trainees:** Psychiatric residents and doctoral students in psychology who are well qualified to deliver traumatic stress services.