

## **Dr Christine Peat, PhD**

### **Clinical Psychologist, Associate Professor, & Director, National Center of Excellence for Eating Disorders, *NORTH CAROLINA***

Dr Christine Peat is a Clinical Psychologist and Associate Professor in the Department of Psychiatry, University of North Carolina (UNC) Center of Excellence for Eating Disorders, Chapel Hill. She is also Director of the National Center of Excellence of Eating Disorders (NCEED).

Dr Peat completed her undergraduate training in Psychology at the University of Arizona and earned her Master's degree and Doctorate in Clinical Psychology at the University of North Dakota. Her internship was in behavioral medicine at West Virginia University, after which she completed her post-doctoral fellowship in eating disorders research at UNC under the directorship of Dr. Cynthia Bulik.

Currently, Dr. Peat works as both a researcher and a clinician who focuses on eating pathology across the spectrum, but with a distinct focus on binge-eating disorder. She is particularly interested in the intersection between obesity, bariatric surgery, and eating pathology and investigating physiological comorbidities associated with eating disorders.

Dr. Peat is also a licensed psychologist in North Carolina and as such, treats eating disorders across the spectrum, with a primary focus on binge eating. Given her background in behavioral medicine, she has also established clinical services in the UNC Bariatric Surgery Program, where she conducts presurgical evaluations and provides behavioral medicine interventions to weight loss surgery patients. In addition to her clinical and research responsibilities, Dr. Peat is a clinical supervisor for pre-doctoral psychology interns and psychiatry residents, and she mentors undergraduate students.

Dr Peat acknowledges the importance of the Eating Disorders Genetics Initiative (EDGI) – the world's largest genetic research study of eating disorders ever performed, that aims to identify the hundreds of genes that influence a person's risk of developing anorexia nervosa, bulimia nervosa, and binge-eating disorder, to improve treatment, and ultimately, save lives.

"EDGI will advance our genetic knowledge of eating disorders beyond anorexia nervosa to also include bulimia nervosa and binge-eating disorder, with the goal of understanding more about causes and improving treatments," said Dr Peat.

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