



The Eating Disorders Coalition Welcomes Dr. Avanti Bergquist & Dr. Christine Peat to Board of Directors

WASHINGTON D.C. (December 3, 2021)- The Eating Disorders Coalition for Research, Policy & Action is pleased to announce [Dr. Avanti Bergquist](#), Child, Adolescent, and Adult Psychiatrist at Eating Recovery Center/Pathlight and [Dr. Christine Peat](#), Director of the National Center of Excellence for Eating Disorders (NCEED) as new members of the EDC Board of Directors.

Dr. Avanti Bergquist, MD, MS, FAPA, DFAACAP is a Child, Adolescent, and Adult Psychiatrist at Eating Recovery Center/Pathlight in Bellevue, Washington. She has a Bachelor of Science from Duke University, a Master of Science in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology from the Oregon School of Science and Engineering at OHSU and received her MD from the University of Louisville. Dr. Bergquist is a member of the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry (AACAP) where she serves on both the Advocacy Committee and the Inpatient, Residential, and Partial Hospitalization Committee. She is also a fellow of the American Psychiatric Association (APA).

Dr. Bergquist has many local leadership responsibilities. She is the president as well as advocacy liaison of the Washington State Council of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry (WSCCAP) as well as the WSCCAP alternate delegate to the Washington State Medical Association (WSMA) Behavioral Health Work Group. In addition, she is a member of the Washington State Speaker of the House of Representatives' Mental Health Task Force and a community leader on the boards of Renton Area Youth and Family Services (RAYS) and Friends of Renton Schools and was recently appointed as a Director on the Renton School Board.

"I'm excited to be a part of this important organization, said **Dr. Avanti Bergquist**." "Eating disorders can be deadly, and I feel privileged for this opportunity to amplify the voices of people who are struggling."

Dr. Christine Peat, PhD, FAED, LP is the Director of the National Center of Excellence for Eating Disorders (NCEED) and is an Associate Professor of Psychiatry at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (UNC). She 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 went on to complete 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.

Dr. Peat is also a licensed psychologist in North Carolina and treats eating disorders across the spectrum. Her expertise is working with college students and adults who are seeking outpatient therapy for eating disorders, and she enjoys working with individuals across a diversity of race/ethnicity, sexual orientation, and cultural identity.

"I'm thrilled to be joining the EDC Board of Directors on behalf of NCEED, said **Dr. Christine Peat**." "Given its direct ties to the Anna Westin Act, NCEED's partnership with the EDC is a natural fit and one that will provide many opportunities to create change for those with eating disorders. I look forward to working with the EDC to help expand education and training for healthcare providers and ensuring that no one with an eating disorder goes without the care they need."

"The EDC is delighted to welcome the expertise and experiences of Dr. Christine Peat and Dr. Avanti Bergquist to the EDC Board of Directors," said **EDC Board President Chase Bannister, MDIV, MSW**,

LCSW, CEDS, “Their immense experience in the field will help amplify our voice on Capitol Hill for the eating disorders community and help ensure eating disorders are a public health priority in the United States.”

***The Eating Disorders Coalition for Research, Policy & Action (EDC)** is a Washington, DC-based, federal advocacy organization comprised of advocacy organizations, academics, treatment providers, family/loved ones of children with eating disorders and people experiencing eating disorders nationwide. The EDC advances the recognition of eating disorders as a public health priority throughout the United States. Additional resources can also be found at eatingdisorderscoalition.org.*

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Media Contact: Emily Rosenberg: erosenberg@eatingdisorderscoalition.org