

The Jesse Brown VA Medical Center Postdoctoral Fellowship Program is pleased to announce recruitment for one psychology postdoctoral fellowship position in Severe Mental Illness for the 2016-2017 training year.

Program Overview:

The Jesse Brown VAMC is recruiting one fellow for our 1-year postdoctoral program in psychology aimed at providing interprofessional education (IPE) in the assessment and treatment of severe mental illness (SMI), including schizophrenia-spectrum disorders and severe, chronic mood disorders. The fellow will develop competencies in clinically addressing these diagnoses using empirically-based practices (EBPs). Multiple healthcare disciplines are leveraged to provide the fellow consultation and didactic experiences on these topics, and collaboration with non-psychologist healthcare providers is a focus of the training year. The goal of this program is to prepare the fellow to emerge from the program fully prepared to independently practice in an interdisciplinary, collaborative care setting in the VHA, with competencies in delivering services to SMI populations using a patient-centered approach.

Rotation Schedule:

The fellow is assigned to half-time clinical rotations within the Outpatient Psychiatry Clinic and the Psychosocial Rehabilitation and Recovery Center.

The Outpatient Psychiatry Clinic (OPC) rotation consists of many opportunities involving assessment, individual psychotherapy, multi-disciplinary team consultation and treatment planning, and psychoeducation. Although the focal population within this rotation will be veterans with SMI, other diagnostic populations may also be seen to support the fellow's overall training in certain interventions and assessment instruments. Training in specific modalities of treatment (e.g., Cognitive Therapy, Cognitive Processing Therapy for PTSD) will be offered, and fellows are expected to develop flexibility in terms of their orientations toward patient conceptualization. The active management of patients with SMI and escalating the care of patients in crisis are common activities in the OPC. Taking an active role in case management will also be central to the fellow's experience. Finally, fellows are expected to participate in the supervision of interns or externs as part of this rotation.

The Psychosocial Rehabilitation and Recovery Center (PRRC) provides a therapeutic and supportive learning environment for veterans with SMI that is designed to maximize functioning in all domains of recovery. The PRRC serves veterans with schizophrenia, schizoaffective disorder, severe, chronic mood disorder, and severe, chronic PTSD who experience serious psychiatric symptoms or any serious impairment in functioning. The PRRC's services include individual recovery planning, individual psychotherapy, and psychoeducational groups focusing on symptom management, coping skills, and life skills, as well as community reintegration work. During the 12-month rotation in the PRRC, the fellow serves as the primary clinician for assigned PRRC members, providing individual therapy and community reintegration services, as well as group services to all PRRC members. The fellow has the option to receive specialty training in Cognitive Behavioral Therapy for Psychosis (CBTp).

As part of a minor rotation in our inpatient psychiatry services, the fellow may participate in inter-disciplinary treatment planning. Additionally, the fellow will provide individual services to

veterans during their stay on the unit and may facilitate a recovery-focused group, e.g., a Wellness Recovery Action Plan (WRAP) group.

Minors in the Psychiatry Assessment Clinic (the medical center's principal mental health intake center) and the Mental Health Intensive Case Management program may also be available for greater depth of exposure to the assessment of SMI and the continuity of care provided to our veterans. Didactics provided with psychology fellows in other programs and advanced psychiatry fellows will also provide substantial training in motivational interviewing, cognitive behavioral therapy, and psychopharmacological interventions (this last area also being sponsored through the residency program at the University of Illinois at Chicago).

Setting:

The Jesse Brown Veterans Affairs Medical Center (JBVAMC) is located two miles west of the Loop, Chicago's central downtown district. It is part of Chicago's large Illinois Medical District, the nation's largest urban medical district, which also includes Cook County Hospital, Rush University Medical Center and the University of Illinois at Chicago Medical Center. JBVAMC serves the almost one million veterans who reside in its catchment area. Many veterans are eligible for VA health care because they are disabled or economically disadvantaged. JBVAMC is affiliated with the University of Illinois at Chicago College of Medicine and Northwestern University's Feinberg School of Medicine. Approximately 250 medical residents and 300 medical students rotate through the medical center each year, receiving training in medicine, surgery, psychiatry, neurology, dentistry, radiology, orthopedics, and other fields. Additionally, students from affiliated institutions receive training at JBVAMC in disciplines such as psychology, nursing, pharmacy, social work, and audiology.

Staff:

The Jesse Brown VAMC has 40 staff psychologist positions in various areas of specialty. The director of training is Kenneth A. Lehman, Ph.D., and the Chief of Psychology is Mark J. Zerwic, Ph.D. The principal rotation supervisors are Kenneth A. Lehman, Ph.D. and Margret S. H. Harris, Ph.D.

Start Date: On or about September 7, 2015

Stipend and Benefits:

\$46,287 (estimated); Health insurance, 13 days paid vacation, all federal holidays, and up to 13 days of sick leave.

Application Procedure:

Applicants must be U.S. citizens who are candidates in (or have completed) an APA-accredited doctoral program in clinical or counseling psychology. They must have completed an APA-accredited internship program and have earned their Ph.D. or Psy.D. prior to the start date of the fellowship. Additional qualifications are established through VA policy and federal regulations.

To apply, please complete the following:

1. A cover letter outlining career goals and goodness of fit with our program
2. A current curriculum vitae
3. Copies of graduate transcripts to date—please note that if the doctoral degree has not yet been awarded, we may require the delivery of an official transcript (by the start date of the program) showing the degree awarding date before admitting a selectee to the fellowship program
4. Two or three letters of recommendation, one of which must be from an internship supervisor (if the candidate is currently in an internship program), sent directly from the letter writers via electronic attachment
5. Letter from the internship director of training verifying that the applicant is in good standing with his or her program along with the applicant's anticipated completion date of the internship; or a copy of the internship completion certificate, if the candidate has already completed internship

Applicants should send items 1-3 to the director of training at kenneth.lehman@va.gov using the subject line "SMI Fellowship Submission for [First and last name of applicant]." Please limit the size of the email with items 1-3 to 1 Mb. Applicants should have their letters (items 4-5) sent by their letter writers to the same email address using the subject line "SMI Fellowship Letter for [First and last name of applicant]."

Applicants should submit all of their materials by 1/3/16. Failure to adhere to the above instructions may result in delayed consideration or rejection of the application.

Please address questions to the director of training:

Kenneth Andrew Lehman, Ph.D.
Jesse Brown VA Medical Center
MHSL/Psychology (116A-1)
820 South Damen Ave.
Chicago, IL 60612

Office: 312-569-8387 x59206

Email: Kenneth.Lehman@va.gov

<http://www.chicago.va.gov/about/psychresidency/psychology.asp>