The Jesse Brown VA Medical Center Postdoctoral Fellowship Program is pleased to announce recruitment for two psychology postdoctoral fellowship positions in Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder–Pain–Substance Use Disorder for the 2017-2018 training year.

Program Overview:
The Jesse Brown VAMC is recruiting two fellows for our 1-year postdoctoral program in psychology aimed at providing interprofessional education (IPE) in the treatment and assessment of post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), pain, and substance use disorder (SUD). Fellows develop competencies in clinically addressing these diagnoses using empirically based practices (EBPs), with comorbidity among these diagnoses being a particular emphasis. Multiple healthcare disciplines are leveraged to provide the fellows consultation and didactic experiences on these topics, and collaboration with non-psychologist healthcare providers will be a focus of the training year. The goal of this program is to prepare fellows to emerge from the program fully prepared to independently practice in an interdisciplinary, collaborative care setting in the VHA, with competencies in delivering services using a patient-centered approach.

Rotation Schedule:
Fellows are assigned to half-time clinical training within a PTSD-focused clinic across the training year. Moreover, fellows should be prepared to dedicate at least 4 hours per week throughout the year to deliver telehealth care to our affiliated community-based outpatient clinics (CBOCs), as part of this PTSD-focused training experience or the other activities described below. The remainder of the fellows’ clinical activities is derived from experiences in the Pain Clinic and clinics focused on SUDs—in particular, the Substance Abuse Residential Rehabilitation Treatment Program (SARRTP). Each of these two groups of rotations (pain and SUD) serves as a half-time rotation for a six-month period. However, given the extensive overlap between PTSD, SUD, and pain that exists at our facility, fellows will likely be assigned cases throughout the year that substantially reflect these comorbidities and require collaboration in all three types of clinics simultaneously. The rotation divisions are established to ensure that appropriate time is reserved in each clinic for specialty-focused training. Clinical opportunities include the following: in the PTSD Clinic, conducting PTSD assessments, providing individual Cognitive Processing Therapy and Prolonged Exposure therapy, and facilitating group therapy; in the Pain Clinic, conducting pain assessments and facilitating CBT as well as ACT for Chronic Pain group therapy; and in the Substance Abuse Residential Program, conducting screening assessments and providing both individual and group Motivational Interviewing and CBT for SUD therapy). The opportunity to supervise more junior trainees and to conduct training seminars will likely be integrated into some of these experiences.

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. The medical center includes a 200-bed acute care facility and has four satellite outpatient clinics. JBVAMC serves approximately 51,000 veterans per year and has an operating budget of $445M, with approximately 2600 employees. Many of JBVAMC’s 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 JBV AMC 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 David Cosio, Ph.D., Justin Greenstein, Ph.D., D. Ryan Hooper, Ph.D., and Michael Krage, Psy.D.

Start Date:
On or about September 5, 2017

Stipend and Benefits:
$46,412.80 (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 official 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. Three letters of recommendation, one of which must be from an internship supervisor, 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 vhachspsychologytraining@va.gov using the subject line “PTSD-Pain-SUD 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 “PTSD-Pain SUD Fellowship Letter for [First and last name of applicant].”

Applicants should submit all of their materials by 1/2/17. Failure to adhere to the above instructions may result in delayed consideration or rejection of the application.