The Jesse Brown VA Medical Center Postdoctoral Fellowship Program in Psychology is pleased to announce recruitment for two postdoctoral fellowship positions in clinical psychology with emphasis on Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder–Pain–Substance Use Disorder for the 2018-2019 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 of 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 allow fellows to emerge fully prepared to independently practice in an interdisciplinary, collaborative care setting in the VHA or elsewhere, 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 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

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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. Over 1800 medical and applied health trainees rotate through the medical center each year, receiving training in medicine, surgery, psychiatry, neurology, dentistry, radiology, orthopedics, psychology, nursing, pharmacy, social work, and audiology, among other areas.

Staff:
The Jesse Brown VAMC has approximately 40 staff psychologist positions in various areas of specialty. The director of training is Kenneth A. Lehman, Ph.D., and the Acting Chief of Psychology is Ivan Budisin, 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 4, 2018

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/Qualifications:
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 (if the candidate is currently in an internship program), sent directly from the letter writers via electronic attachment
5. A letter from the applicant’s 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 materials by 1/2/18. Failure to adhere to the above instructions may result in delayed consideration or rejection of the application.

Interview and Selection Procedure
If, on the basis of the application materials, a candidate is selected for further consideration, the candidate will be invited to a 60-minute interview with the appropriate training staff. This interview can be conducted in person or over telecommunications equipment (videoteleconferencing within VA or by telephone if the candidate does not have access to VA resources). Although the program suggests in-person interviews if possible so that the candidate has a more comprehensive opportunity to observe the training site, the program recognizes that this often is not possible and does not evaluate candidates differently with respect to the interviewing modality that they select. Interviewees should be prepared to address the content of their applications and answer performance-based interview questions.

The program agrees to abide by APPIC guidelines with regard to postdoctoral fellowship selection and the extension of offers. Consequently, it will anticipate making selection offers on the notification date of 2/26/18. If a candidate still under consideration receives a bona fide offer
from another training site and would like to inquire about a reciprocal offer from JBVAMC, the inquiry should be made to the Director of Training (see contact information below).

Please address questions to the director of training:

Kenneth Andrew Lehman, Ph.D.
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http://www.chicago.va.gov/about/psychresidency/psychology.asp