The Jesse Brown VA Medical Center Postdoctoral Fellowship Program in Psychology is pleased to announce recruitment for one postdoctoral fellowship position in clinical psychology with emphasis on Serious Mental Illness (SMI) for the 2018-2019 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 serious mental illness, including schizophrenia-spectrum disorders, severe, chronic mood disorders, and severe, chronic post-traumatic stress disorder. The assessment and treatment of clinical conditions characterized by psychosis will be of particular emphasis. 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 will be a focus of the training year. The goal of this program is to allow the fellow to emerge fully prepared to independently practice in an interdisciplin ary, collaborative care setting in the VHA or elsewhere, with competencies in delivering services to SMI populations using a patient-centered and recovery-oriented approach.

Rotation Schedule:
The fellow is assigned to half-time clinical rotations within the Mental Health Clinic and the Psychosocial Rehabilitation and Recovery Center.

The Mental Health Clinic (MHC) 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 level of 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). In addition, the fellow will serve as liaison to the residential SMI treatment unit, and as part of this role, provide bridge
service in individual and group settings for veterans who may be referred to the PRRC after finishing residential treatment.

Didactics provided with psychology fellows in other programs and advanced addictions psychiatry fellows will also provide substantial training in motivational interviewing, cognitive behavior therapy, and psychopharmacological interventions.

**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. 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 Kenneth A. Lehman, Ph.D. and Margret S. H. Harris, Ph.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:
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. 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 “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 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