

Postdoctoral Fellowship Training Program in Professional Psychology

2025-2026 Training Manual



**Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences
Vanderbilt University Medical Center**

Introduction to the Vanderbilt University Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences

The Vanderbilt University Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences is a multifaceted department committed to excellence in clinical service, research, education, and training. Consisting of professionals in the fields of psychiatry, psychology, nursing, social work, and professional counseling, the department is the academic home for faculty, staff, and trainees in a variety of centers and clinics including:

The Vanderbilt Psychiatric Hospital, which provides inpatient, partial hospitalization, and outpatient services for adults, children and adolescents. These services include neuropsychological and psychological assessment and a variety of interventions across disciplines.

The Osher Center for Integrated Health, provides an array of services in health psychology to adolescents and adults. One of only seven Osher Centers for Integrative Medicine in the world, OCIH is committed to improving lives through clinical care, education, and research in integrative medicine. Services include consultation, individual and group therapy, and research/program development with chronic medical conditions, primarily chronic pain.

The Center of Excellence (COE) for Children in State Custody, which is part of a statewide network funded under an agreement with the State of Tennessee to improve the public health by enhancing the quality of services provided to children in or at-risk of entering the Tennessee child welfare or juvenile justice systems.

Vanderbilt Behavioral Health Village at Vanderbilt, provides outpatient psychiatric and psychological services, including psychological and neuropsychological assessment, to children, adolescents, and adults.

Vanderbilt Forensic Psychiatry, which provides forensic mental health evaluations, consultation, and expert witness testimony in criminal and civil contexts (e.g., competency to stand trial, insanity defense, risk assessments of violence, fitness for duty, medical malpractice, personal injury, disability, child custody, etc.).

The Vanderbilt Comprehensive Assessment Program for Professionals (V-CAP), which conducts fitness for duty evaluations primarily for physicians, as well as other professionals to evaluate emotional and behavioral concerns that affect employment.

The Psychiatry Autism Research Team, which provides diagnostic and neuropsychological assessments and treatment opportunities for children, adolescents and adults with autism spectrum disorder.

Training and Education in the Department

The Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences has an extensive array of training programs in multiple disciplines. Programs include an APA-Accredited Doctoral Internship in Professional Psychology; psychiatry clerkship training for students at Vanderbilt Medical School; Psychiatry Residency Program; and Psychiatry Fellowship Programs for physicians in Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, Geriatric Psychiatry, and Psychosomatic Medicine. Various sites throughout the Department also offer practicum training placements for graduate students in psychology, social work, professional counseling, and marriage and family therapy.

The Psychology Division

The Psychology Division in the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences is home to more than 20 clinical and research psychologists. Our faculty members lead federally-funded research programs in psychotic disorders, PTSD and anxiety disorders, and autism. We also lead the Center of Excellence for Children in State Custody, part of a state-wide network funded under an agreement with the State of Tennessee to improve the public health by enhancing the quality of services provided to children in or at-risk of entering the Tennessee child welfare or juvenile justice systems.

Our Division has an extensive array of training programs in psychology including practicums, an APA-accredited clinical psychology internship, and an APPIC-approved postdoctoral fellowship program. Our training is grounded in the scientist-practitioner model and provides experience in intervention, assessment, and research. Training occurs in a variety of settings including child and adolescent psychology, adult psychology, geriatric psychology, forensic psychology, health psychology, and neuropsychology.

Clinical Psychologists in the Psychology Division provide professional services for the diagnosis, assessment, treatment, and prevention of psychological, emotional, psychophysiological, and behavioral disorders across the lifespan. These services are provided in various settings including outpatient psychiatry centers, clinics throughout the medical center, an inpatient psychiatric hospital, a partial hospitalization program, forensic settings, and a state funded agency to improve services for children at risk of entering state's custody. Clinical psychologists provide services directly as well as support and facilitate the provision of services through supervision, teaching, management, administration, advocacy, and consultation.

Structure of the Postdoctoral Fellowship

The Vanderbilt University Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences Postdoctoral Fellowship Training Program in Clinical Psychology offers multiple tracks

within the clinical and research programs affiliated with the Department. The majority of fellows' time is spent at their primary sites, with an average of one-half day per week spent in collective training activities with other members of the Postdoctoral Fellow cohort and/or with advanced trainees and faculty members in other disciplines, such as psychiatry residents and fellows. These combined training activities include didactic presentations, ethics training, research seminars, case conferences, and/or weekly Grand Rounds presentations.

The specific constellation of activities is determined by the primary sites, which are described in further detail within the specific training track sections. However, all tracks include a minimum of two hours of individual weekly supervision provided by a licensed psychologist, a combination of clinical and research activities, and opportunities to specialize in a particular area of intervention.

The following training tracks are available for the 2025-2026 training year:

1. Postdoctoral Fellowship in Autism Spectrum Disorder;
2. Postdoctoral Fellowship in Child Welfare and Trauma-Informed Care at the Vanderbilt Center of Excellence;
3. Postdoctoral Fellowship in Health Psychology at the Osher Center for Integrative Health at Vanderbilt;
4. Postdoctoral Fellowship in Psychotic Disorders.
5. Postdoctoral Fellowship in Forensic Psychology

Training Philosophy

The postdoctoral year marks the transition from the status of "trainee" to licensed professional. The training faculty recognizes this important developmental transition and provides an extensive training experience that both supports and challenges fellows to make meaningful contributions through their direct clinical service, research activities, and consultations with other professionals. While fellows function within a training capacity, they are viewed and approached as valuable members of the department. Great emphasis is placed on assisting fellows in continuing to cultivate their knowledge, skill, and overall professional identity. However, they are also expected to serve as colleagues to the clinical and administrative staff, as well as model professionalism for other trainees.

Postdoctoral Fellow Selection Criteria

Fellows are selected on a competitive basis based upon previous clinical experience, research record, academic accomplishments, recommendations from supervising professionals, and fit between applicants' experience and interests with the emphases of the specific training track.

Prior to the start of the fellowship, all fellows must have completed all clinical psychology doctoral degree requirements from an APA/CPA-accredited graduate program, as well as a doctoral Internship meeting APPIC standards (APA/CPA accreditation is not required for the internship). Fellows are subject to fingerprinting and background checks. Match result and selection decisions are contingent on passing these screens.

Training Objectives

The objectives of the Postdoctoral Fellowship program are aligned with the competencies specified by the APA for practice as a professional psychologist. They include the development of competence in the following areas:

Professionalism: as evidenced in behavior and comportsment that reflects the values and attitudes of psychology.

Individual and Cultural Diversity: Awareness, sensitivity and skills in working professionally with diverse individuals, groups and communities who represent various cultural and personal backgrounds and characteristics.

Ethical Legal Standards and Policy: Application of ethical concepts and awareness of legal issues regarding professional activities with individuals, groups, and organizations.

Reflective Practice/Self-Assessment/Self-Care: Practice conducted with personal and professional self-awareness and reflection; with awareness of competencies; with appropriate self-care.

Relationships: Relate effectively and meaningfully with individuals, groups, and/or communities.

Scientific Knowledge and Methods: Understanding of research, research methodology, techniques of data collection and analysis, biological bases of behavior, cognitive- affective bases of behavior, and development across the lifespan. Respect for scientifically derived knowledge.

Research/Evaluation: Generating research that contributes to the professional knowledge base and/or evaluates the effectiveness of various professional activities.

Evidence-Based Practice: Integration of research and clinical expertise in the context of patient factors.

Assessment: Assessment and diagnosis of problems, capabilities and issues associated with individuals, groups, and/or organizations.

Intervention: Interventions designed to alleviate suffering and to promote health and well-being of individuals, groups, and/or organizations.

Consultation: The ability to provide expert guidance or professional assistance in response to a client's needs or goals.

Teaching: Providing instruction, disseminating knowledge, and evaluating acquisition of knowledge and skill in professional psychology.

Supervision: Supervision and training in the professional knowledge base of enhancing and monitoring the professional functioning of others.

Interdisciplinary Systems: Knowledge of key issues and concepts in related disciplines. Identify and interact with professionals in multiple disciplines.

Management-Administration: Manage the direct delivery of services and/or the administration of organizations, programs, or agencies.

Advocacy: Actions targeting the impact of social, political, economic or cultural factors to promote change at the individual (client), institutional, and/or systems level.

Monitoring & Evaluation of Trainee Progress

All fellows will be monitored and evaluated using a competency-based format that aligns with the stated training objectives and emphasizes acquisition of explicit skills and abilities specific to each fellow's training goals. Clear objective criteria will be applied for evaluation of achievements (e.g., number of patients seen, number of reports written, manuscript submissions).

A needs assessment will be completed with each trainee and their primary supervisor, within the first two weeks of training year. The plan will include an assessment of strengths and weaknesses across different areas, along with a plan for meeting training needs. Progress toward achieving these goals will be reviewed throughout the year. The primary supervisor and Training Director will regularly monitor the plan to ensure that each trainee is on the right path for success. If any trainee lags in meeting their development plan objectives, the primary supervisor and Training Director will identify barriers to success and adjust the mentorship plan accordingly (e.g., hold meetings with primary advisor and trainee, recommend additional development activities). Details on the evaluation process are outlined below.

Evaluation Process

The fellows will be evaluated three times during the year: November, March, and July. The evaluations are conducted between the fellow and each supervisor evaluating

progress toward goals. This evaluation will be sent to the Training Director. Each fellow will also complete an evaluation of his/her supervisors and training sites to the Training Director at the same three intervals.

It is the responsibility of the training faculty to identify any serious problems or deficiencies as early as possible. Feedback should be given in a timely manner. If the problem is of such severity as to call into question the fellow's successful completion of the program, the Training Director will be informed, and a written plan will be developed and implemented, in collaboration with the trainee, to remedy the problems.

Training Faculty

The following individuals are actively involved in the training of postdoctoral fellows as supervisors, mentors, and administrators. In addition to those listed here, additional professionals within Psychiatry and other departments at Vanderbilt University Medical center – including both psychologists and professionals in other disciplines – contribute to the training program through various means such as didactic presentations, group mentorship, and case conference facilitation.

Training Director

Jon S. Ebert, PsyD

Dr. Ebert is a licensed clinical psychologist and Associate Professor in Clinical Psychiatry and Behavioral Health & Associate Professor in Vanderbilt Department of Human & Organizational Development. He has over 20 years experience and expertise in clinical, consultation and training in the assessment and delivery of services to children and families who have experienced traumatic stress and mental health challenges. Dr. Ebert is the Director of the Vanderbilt Center of Excellence for Children in State Custody (COE) which is part of a statewide network funded under an agreement with the State of Tennessee to improve the public health by enhancing the quality of services provided to children in or at-risk of entering the Tennessee child welfare or juvenile justice systems. Dr. Ebert is a certified trainer in Treating Traumatic Stress in Children & Youth; Attachment, Regulation & Competence (ARC). He has national recognition for his training & technical support in Motivational Interviewing, Trauma & Resiliency Informed Care, Working with Problematic Sexual Behaviors in Children & Youth, and Maintaining Wellness While Working in Trauma. Dr. Ebert's research interests include dissemination & implementation science, treatments for childhood traumatic stress, developmental trauma and trauma & resiliency informed care in organizations.

Postdoctoral Program Faculty

Amanda R. Bitting, Ph.D.

Dr. Bitting has been a member of the faculty since 2020. She is a licensed clinical psychologist. Dr. Bitting received her doctoral training in clinical psychology at Sam Houston State University. She completed a predoctoral internship at Utah State Hospital on the forensic track. She then completed a forensic psychology postdoctoral fellowship at Minnesota State Operated Forensic Services. After completion of her training, she worked as a forensic evaluator at Utah State Hospital, where she conducted forensic evaluations and supervised interns and practicum students in forensic assessment. At Vanderbilt, Dr. Bitting conducts court-ordered criminal adult forensic evaluations as well pre-employment evaluations and risk assessments. She also provides psychotherapy and supervises psychology interns in psychotherapy, with particular emphasis in third- wave CBT modalities.

Aaron Brinen, PsyD

Dr. Brinen has been a member of the faculty since 2020. He is a licensed clinical psychologist. Dr. Brinen received his doctoral training from Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine and completed his predoctoral internship at the Coatesville Veterans Administration Hospital in Pennsylvania. He completed an NRSA fellowship at the University of Pennsylvania under Aaron T. Beck, MD. He remained at the University of Pennsylvania and collaborated with Dr. Beck in developing a version of Cognitive Behavioral Therapy for Psychosis targeting negative symptoms, Recovery-Oriented Cognitive Therapy (CT-R). Dr. Brinen has trained and disseminated CT-R throughout the world and co-authored the manual. Before Vanderbilt, Dr. Brinen directed a center at Drexel University where he disseminated, studied, and supervised CT-R. Clinically, Dr. Brinen conducts psychotherapy with patients managing psychotic disorders, in both outpatient and inpatient settings, through individual, group, and family therapy. He is a member of the Navigate First Episode team. Dr. Brinen supervises and teaches residents, postdoctoral fellows, and interns on various CBT interventions.

Carrie E. Brintz, PhD

Dr. Brintz is faculty in the Department of Anesthesiology, Division of Pain Medicine and affiliate faculty of the Osher Center for Integrative Health. She earned her doctoral degree in Clinical Psychology with a specialization in Health Psychology from the University of Miami in 2016. She then completed a 3-year, NIH-funded Postdoctoral Fellowship in Complementary and Integrative Health Research. Dr. Brintz is licensed clinical psychologist who works with adults living with chronic pain, integrating cognitive behavior therapy, acceptance and commitment therapy, mindfulness training and clinical hypnosis to treat and manage pain and comorbid mental health conditions. She has training in the delivery of mindfulness-based interventions from the Osher Center at Vanderbilt and the Centre for Mindfulness Studies in Toronto. Her research focuses on evaluating mindfulness-based and other psychological interventions for adults with chronic and postsurgical pain conditions. Dr. Brintz is currently funded by a NIH career development award to study a telehealth mindfulness intervention for patients with chronic pain recovering from lumbar spine surgery, with the goal of improving long-term pain and functional outcomes after surgery.

Kimberly P. Brown, PhD, ABPP

Dr. Kimberly Brown has been a member of the faculty since 2002. She is a licensed clinical psychologist and is board certified (ABPP) in forensic psychology. Dr. Brown completed her undergraduate degree at Duke University, graduating summa cum laude. She received her Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology with a concentration in law from the University of Alabama. She completed a forensic psychology predoctoral internship at Napa State Hospital and a postdoctoral fellowship in forensic psychology at the University of Washington/Western State Hospital. Dr. Brown is the Director of the

Vanderbilt Forensic Evaluation Team, which provides court-ordered criminal adult and juvenile forensic evaluations for Davidson County, TN. She also conducts civil forensic evaluations (e.g., risk assessments, fitness for duty evaluations of professionals, personal injury) and provides outpatient psychotherapy. She has testified in numerous state and federal cases. She is actively involved in training and supervising psychiatry residents, psychiatry child and adolescent fellows, and psychology trainees in conducting forensic evaluations.

Blythe Corbett, Ph.D.

Dr. Corbett has been a member of the faculty since 2010. She is a licensed clinical psychologist. Dr. Corbett completed her undergraduate degree at California Lutheran University and completed a Ph.D. in clinical psychology with an emphasis in neuropsychology from the California School of Professional Psychology in 1999 following completion of an accredited internship in clinical psychology at University of Minnesota. After obtaining her Ph.D., Dr. Corbett completed a two-year Postdoctoral Fellowship in Neuropsychology in the Department of Pediatric Neurology at University of Minnesota. Dr. Corbett is the recipient of numerous federal and non-federal grants which support her research on the social, emotional and physiological profiles of children, adolescents and adults with autism spectrum disorder (ASD). Dr. Corbett is the Director for the Division of Psychology within the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences. She is also the Director of the Vanderbilt University Medical Center Internship in Professional Psychology (VUMC-IPP) and supervises clinical psychology interns and postdoctoral fellows.

Melissa Cyperski, PhD

Dr. Cyperski has been a member of the faculty since 2017. She is a licensed clinical psychologist and obtained her doctoral degree from Auburn University. Dr. Cyperski provides consultation and evaluation expertise in the Vanderbilt Center of Excellence for Children in State Custody (COE) for at-risk children and youth. Additionally, she provides training in the Tennessee Department of Children's Services Child Protective Services (CPS) Assessment Academy on a variety of trauma informed care topics and interventions.

Tarah M. Kuhn, PhD

Dr. Tarah Kuhn is a licensed clinical psychologist and has been a member of the faculty since 2005. Dr. Kuhn received her doctoral training at Adelphi University. Areas of expertise include juvenile justice, trauma and attachment. She serves as the Clinical Director for the Vanderbilt Center of Excellence for Children in State Custody (COE) providing ongoing consultation, training and dissemination of best practice. The COE is part of a statewide network funded to enhance the quality of services provided to children in or at risk of entering the Tennessee child welfare or juvenile justice systems. Dr. Kuhn's background includes clinical work with children and families with histories of complex trauma. An additional focus has been on multi-systemic collaboration to

improve services and advocate for the clinical needs of children and families. She has published and presented nationally on issues related to child welfare, child and adolescent sexual development, and treatment for youth with disruptive behavior disorders. Dr. Kuhn provides clinical training, supervision and teaching for Child and Adolescent Psychiatry Fellows, Post and Pre-doctoral Psychology interns/fellows and Psychology practicum students.

Lindsey C. McKernan, PhD, MPH

Lindsey Colman McKernan, PhD, MPH, has been a member of the Vanderbilt faculty and Osher Center since 2014. Dr. McKernan received her doctorate in clinical psychology from the University of Tennessee and Master of Public Health in epidemiology from Vanderbilt University School of Medicine. She is a licensed clinical psychologist specializing in the treatment of chronic pain conditions, women's health, and trauma. Dr. McKernan currently works in the Osher Center and in the Department of Urologic Surgery. Dr. McKernan is currently funded by the National Institute of Health to research the psychosocial treatment of pelvic floor and bladder pain disorders. She has strong expertise in clinical hypnosis. Her research interests are in developing treatments for bladder pain disorders, assessing the impact of trauma, early life adversity, and emotion regulation styles on the experience of pain, and in clinical hypnosis for pain control in both group and individual settings.

Julia Sheffield, PhD

Dr. Sheffield has been a member of the faculty since 2019. She is a licensed clinical psychologist. Dr. Sheffield received her doctoral training from Washington University in St. Louis and completed her predoctoral internship through the Vanderbilt-VA Internship Consortium. She is a graduate of the Postdoctoral Fellowship in Psychotic Disorders at Vanderbilt. Clinically, Dr. Sheffield conducts psychotherapy with patients managing psychotic disorders. She is a member of the Navigate First Episode team and provides consultation and assessment for adolescents at risk for psychosis. Dr. Sheffield's research uses intervention, longitudinal, and neuroimaging methods to

understand psychological and neural mechanisms of cognitive impairment and reality distortion in individuals with psychosis.

Karisa Smith, PsyD

Dr. Karisa Smith earned her doctorate from Wheaton Graduate School in clinical psychology in 2017. She completed her predoctoral internship and postdoctoral fellowship in the Vanderbilt Center of Excellence for Children in State Custody. Dr. Smith joined the Department of Psychiatry as an Assistant Professor in 2022 and provides assessment, consultation, and training on trauma in the Vanderbilt Center of Excellence. Dr. Smith has over 15 years of experience working and consulting with child welfare systems in several states. She is currently providing training on infant mental health and safe baby court initiatives.

Elizabeth G. Walsh, PhD

Dr. Elizabeth Walsh earned her doctorate from the University of Texas at Austin, where she received specialized training in family-centered integrated behavioral healthcare. She completed her internship at Aurora Mental Health Center then returned to the University of Texas at Austin for a fellowship focused on developing an integrated primary care training program for doctoral psychology students. Dr. Walsh is a clinical health psychologist and Director of Psychology Training at the Osher Center for Integrative Health. She works with adolescents and adults living with chronic pain and/or illness, integrating cognitive behavioral therapy (CBT), family systems approaches, and interpersonal process therapy. Dr. Walsh also practices clinical hypnosis and EMDR (Eye Movement Desensitization and Reprocessing). She has a particular interest in working with individuals with Ehlers-Danlos Syndrome/joint hypermobility disorders and POTS (postural orthostatic tachycardia syndrome) and is passionate about supporting individuals in integrating movement and physical activity into their lives. Dr. Walsh practices in English and Spanish.

Neil D. Woodward, PhD

Dr. Woodward has been a member of the faculty since 2009. He is a licensed clinical psychologist. Dr. Woodward completed his undergraduate degree at the University of Alberta. Neil received a Ph.D. in clinical psychology from Vanderbilt University in 2007 following completion of an accredited internship in clinical neuropsychology at the Edmonton Consortium Clinical Psychology Residency program. After obtaining his Ph.D., Dr. Woodward completed a Postdoctoral Fellowship in Psychiatric Neuroimaging in the Department of Psychiatry at Vanderbilt University Medical Center. Dr. Woodward is the recipient of numerous federal and non-federal grants which support his research on the neural basis of psychotic and neurodevelopmental disorders. He also routinely conducts neuropsychological evaluations of individuals with psychiatric and neurological disorders. Dr. Woodward supervises clinical psychology interns and postdoctoral fellows.

Due Process Procedure & Policies

At the beginning of the training year, each fellow is provided: (1) a copy of our Due Process policy (see below), which provides a definition of competency standards, a listing of possible sanctions, and an explicit discussion of the due process procedures; and (2) a copy of our grievance procedures policy (see below), which provides guidelines to assist fellow(s) who wish to file complaints against staff members and explains the process if a supervisor has a concern regarding a trainee that does not fall under the competent standards/adequate performance (i.e., Due Process).

General Due Process Guidelines

Due process ensures that decisions made about trainees by the Vanderbilt University Postdoctoral Fellowship Training Program: are not arbitrary or personally based; requires that the Vanderbilt University Postdoctoral Fellowship Training Program identify specific evaluative procedures which are applied to all trainees; and have appropriate appeal procedures available to the trainee so that they may challenge the Vanderbilt University Postdoctoral Fellowship Training Program's action (see Appeals).

General due process guidelines include:

- Presenting trainees in writing with the Vanderbilt University Postdoctoral Fellowship Training Program's expectations related to professional functioning;
- Articulating the various procedures and actions involved in making decisions regarding problems;
- Instituting a remediation plan for identified inadequacies, including a time frame for expected remediation and consequences of not rectifying the inadequacies;
- Ensuring that trainees have enough time to respond to any action taken by the Vanderbilt University Postdoctoral Fellowship Training Program;
- Using input from multiple professional sources when possible for making decisions or recommendations regarding the trainee's performance;
- Documenting to all relevant parties the action taken by the Vanderbilt University Postdoctoral Fellowship Training Program and its rationale.

Definition of inability to perform competency standards

Trainee inability to perform to competency standards is defined broadly as an interference in professional functioning which is reflected in one or more of the following ways:

- An inability and/or unwillingness to acquire and integrate professional standards into one's repertoire of professional behavior;
- An inability to acquire professional skills to reach an acceptable level of competency or;

- An inability to control reactions which interfere with professional functioning.

Problem behaviors are noted when supervisors perceive a trainee's behaviors, attitudes or characteristics as disruptive to the quality of his/her clinical services; ability to comply with appropriate standards of professional behavior; or his/her relationships with supervisors, or other staff. It is a professional judgment as to when a trainee's behavior becomes serious enough (i.e. impaired) to necessitate remediation efforts rather than just behaviors to be not unexpected or excessive for professionals in training. Problems typically become identified as inability to perform to competency standards when they include one or more of the following characteristics:

- The trainee does not acknowledge, understand or address the problem when it is identified;
- The problem is not merely a reflection of a skill deficit which can be rectified by academic or didactic training;
- The quality or quantity of services delivered by the trainee is sufficiently negatively affected;
- The problem is not restricted to one area of professional functioning;
- A disproportionate amount of attention by training personnel is required;
- The trainee's behavior does not change as a function of feedback, remediation, and/or time.

When areas of weakness are observed, the trainee and supervisor will collaboratively address possible avenues of remediation and progress will be monitored and documented regularly. However, should this collaborative effort fail in improving the trainee's performance rating, the procedures listed in the Due Process Procedure/Grievance Policy will be followed and the same consequences will be included as noted in policy.

Due Process Procedure

If a trainee's behavior is deemed problematic and/or the receive a rating of "Unsatisfactory" or "Needs Improvement" from any of the evaluation sources, the following procedures may be initiated:

- The trainee's supervisor will meet with the Training Director no later than 3 weeks after the trainee has been notified of a deficiency and/or problematic behavior to discuss the problematic behavior or inadequate rating and determine what action needs to be taken to address the issues reflected by the problematic behavior or rating;
- The trainee will be notified, in writing, at least one week in advance that such a review is occurring and will have the opportunity to provide a statement related to his/her response to the problematic behavior or rating.

In discussing the problematic behavior or rating and the trainee's response (if available), the Director of Training may adopt any one or more of the following methods:

- a) The first step to address a problematic behavior or rating would be an attempt at informal resolution. The Director of Training may recommend remedial training for the trainee that may include completing additional reading, taking a course pertinent to the problematic area, or preparing a presentation that would require the trainee to consolidate his or her knowledge of the subject matter in question. Other informal remedial actions may also be suggested to address the unique circumstances of the trainee at the discretion of the Director of Training.
- b) If an informal resolution to problematic behavior or rating cannot be achieved, the trainee's direct supervisor, with the approval of the Training Director, will issue an "Acknowledgement Notice" formally acknowledging the following:
 - I. That supervisors are aware of and concerned with the problematic behavior or rating;
 - II. That the problematic behavior or rating has been brought to the attention of the trainee;
 - III. That supervisors will work with the trainee to specify the steps necessary to rectify the problem or skill deficits addressed by the problematic behavior or rating, and:
 - IV. That the problematic behaviors or rating are not significant enough to warrant serious action.
- c) The third course of action is to place the trainee on "Probation" which defines a relationship such that supervisors and the Director of Training actively and systematically monitor, for a specific length of time (up to 6 months), the degree to which the trainee addresses, changes and/or otherwise improves the problematic behavior or conduct associated with the rating. The probation is a written statement to the trainee and includes: The actual problematic behaviors or rating, the specific recommendations for rectifying the problem, the time frame for the probation during which the problem is expected to be remedied, and the procedures designed to ascertain whether the problem has been appropriately rectified. The Probation document will be prepared by the trainee's direct supervisor in collaboration with the Training Committee and will be approved by trainee's direct supervisor and the Training Director.
- d) The Director of Training may also determine that the disposition is to "Take no further action."

The Director of Training will then meet with the trainee to review the action taken. If "Probation," is determined, the trainee may choose to accept the conditions or may choose to challenge the action (see Appeals section below).

Once the Acknowledgment Notice or Probation is issued by the Director of Training, it is expected that the status of the problematic behavior or rating will be reviewed no later than the next formal evaluation period or, in the case of probation, no later than the time limits identified in the probation statement (i.e. up to 6 months). If the problematic behavior or rating has been remedied to the satisfaction of supervisors and the Director of Training, the trainee and other appropriate individuals will be informed and no further action will be taken.

If the trainee is placed on probation and the issue is not satisfactorily resolved during the probationary period, but progress has been achieved, the probationary period may be extended up to an additional three months at the discretion of the trainee's direct supervisor with the approval of the Training Director.

If no progress has been realized during the probationary period, the Training Director may terminate the fellowship after consulting with the Training Committee.

Appeals

Attempts to resolve disagreements will be undertaken immediately as outlined below. If the trainee disagrees with the decision to initiate (or extend) a formal remediation plan approved by the Training Committee, the trainee may appeal in writing to the Training Director within 1 week following the decision to initiate (or extend) the remediation plan. The Director may attempt to mediate the dispute in collaboration with the trainee and their direct supervisor. If the disagreement remains unresolved after mediation, the postdoctoral fellow has the right to appear before the Training Committee at the next scheduled training committee meeting to appeal a decision. The postdoctoral fellow may also solicit additional faculty to present on their behalf during this appeal if desired. After hearing the trainee's appeal in person, the Training Committee will decide if the remediation plan should be altered. The Training Committee will have 1 week to inform the trainee of their decision. If a disagreement remains, and can not be resolved through informal mediation, the trainee may submit a second appeal in writing within 2 weeks of being notified on the Training Committee's decision. The Training Director will appoint a three-person advisory committee consisting of training faculty not directly involved in supervising the trainee to review the appeal. The Appeals Committee will provide a written report delineating the committee's findings and recommendations to the Training Director within 30 days.

Grievance Procedures

1. It is the program's intent to be receptive to all trainees' expression of problems encountered during fellowship training and to make reasonable and timely efforts to resolve any causes of trainee dissatisfaction.
2. Faculty are expected to be candid and to act in good faith in dealing with problems and dissatisfaction expressed by fellows. No faculty member will interfere with a trainee's right to express or file a grievance. Fellows are assured freedom from restraint, discrimination, or reprisal in exercising that right.
3. Unless a fellow has grave reservations about expressing dissatisfaction to his/her immediate supervisors, any problem or dissatisfaction should initially be addressed on the first relevant level, e.g., to the supervisors or the clinic directly involved.
4. If a satisfactory resolution cannot be achieved on that level the issues should be taken to the Training Director (assuming that was not done as part of step #3).
5. Upon receipt of the written grievance, the Training Director or their designee, will convene a Grievance Committee consisting of the Training Director or designee and two other training faculty members.
6. The Grievance Committee will have 30 days to resolve the grievance if possible. If not, the Committee may take any or a combination of the following actions:
 - a. Refer the grievance to the next scheduled Training Committee meeting;
 - b. Call a special Training Committee meeting to consider the grievance;
 - c. Consult with legal counsel;
 - d. Consult with other professional organizations (e.g., APA, APPIC);
 - e. Advise the Training Committee on particular areas of concern in the management of the grievance.
7. The Grievance Committee will maintain minutes of all meetings. The Committee will also retain records of all documentation, such as written summaries.
8. The full Training Committee, upon request of the Grievance Committee, will review and evaluate grievances not resolved at any lower level within 60 days. The decision of the full Training Committee will be determined by majority vote excluding the member(s) involved in the grievance.
9. If the fellow is not satisfied with the decision of the Training Committee, they may consult with the American Psychological Association, the Association of Psychology Postdoctoral and Internship Centers, or consult legal counsel. At any

stage of the process fellows may consult formally or informally with the Training Director, American Psychological Association, the Association of Psychology Postdoctoral and Internship Centers, or legal counsel about their problems, dissatisfactions, or grievances.

Completion of the Program

Upon successful completion of the program, fellows will be awarded a certificate of completion. This certificate will validate that the trainee has successfully completed all the program requirements and has acquired expertise in the field of professional psychology. This certificate will be awarded after final evaluation by the Training Committee.

Licensure

In addition to completing a qualifying internship, the requirements for licensure as a Psychologist with Health Service Provider (HSP) in Tennessee include completion of one (1) year of postdoctoral supervised experience. As described in the Tennessee Board of Examiners Rules for Governing Psychologists, the postdoctoral experience must: 1) include the direct provision of health services in psychology; 2) be completed under the direct supervision of a Psychologist with HSP designation; and 3) include at least one (1) hour per week of individual supervision. The Rules Governing Psychologists in Tennessee can be found here: <https://publications.tnsosfiles.com/rules/1180/1180.htm>. Our training program meets these requirements and, as outlined in Rule 1180-02-.02 of the Rules Governing Psychologists in the State of Tennessee, trainees in an APPIC-listed postdoctoral fellowship training program are exempt from the requirement of holding a provisional license while in trainee status.

Descriptions of the Specific Training Tracks

The remainder of this handbook contains descriptions and guidelines specific to each of the separate tracks offered within the Vanderbilt Postdoctoral Fellowship Program.

Postdoctoral Fellowship in Autism Spectrum Disorder

Introduction

The Postdoctoral Fellowship in Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) provides experiential training in assessment, treatment, and research of children, adolescents and adults with ASD and related neurodevelopmental disorder. The fellowship adheres to the scientist- practitioner training model and is designed to prepare individuals for careers as a clinical psychologist in academic clinical and/or research settings, based on their individual interests and career goals. This is a 1-year fellowship with possible re-appointment for a second year depending on availability of funding and satisfactory progress during the first year of the fellowship.

The fellowship is well-suited for individuals that:

- Have pre-doctoral clinical training in assessment and/or intervention of individuals with ASD and related neurodevelopmental disorders;
- Have a strong record of research experience;
- Are scientist-practitioners intending to pursue a clinical or academic research career in psychology or clinical neuroscience.

Setting

Training is conducted at the Village at Vanderbilt located at 1500 21st Avenue South in Child and Adolescent Psychiatry. The clinical research is conducted with the Psychiatry Autism Research Team (PART) which is comprised of clinical psychologists and neuroscientists conducting research is ASD across the lifespan.

Training Objectives

- Provide training in assessment, intervention, and/or research of individuals with autism spectrum disorder;
- Provide the fellow with experience working in a clinical research environment;
- Enable the fellow to accumulate postdoctoral hours towards licensure as a clinical psychologist in Tennessee through clinical and clinical research activities.

Training Experiences/Structure

The Autism track is designed to promote expertise in assessment, treatment and research of ASD while allowing fellows the flexibility to emphasize one or more of these areas to meet their individual training and career goals.

Psychotherapy and Intervention. The fellowship provides training opportunities in a variety of treatments through individual and group therapy. Fellows can receive training

and become proficient in the implementation and evidence-based interventions for anxiety and depression including cognitive behavior therapy. In addition, fellows will receive training in implementation science through the delivery of treatments in the context of randomized clinical trials.

Clinical Assessment of Autism Spectrum Disorder. Fellows will have the opportunity to receive training and become proficient in the administration of the Autism Diagnostic Observation Schedule and other gold-standard measures with the opportunity to become research-reliable. The Fellow will develop skills in the diagnostic assessment of ASD in children, adolescents and adults.

Neuropsychological Assessment of ASD. Fellows will have the opportunity to receive training and become competent in the administration and interpretation of clinical neuropsychological tests frequently used to assess individuals with ASD and related neurodevelopmental disorders.

Research. Clinical research is a core component of the fellowship. Fellows will have the opportunity to become involved in several on-going, federally funded studies, as well as participate in the design and implementation of new studies. Current areas of investigation include the understanding and treatment of social competence, camouflaging behaviors in ASD, and cross-sectional and longitudinal studies of pubertal development examining physiological, social and biobehavioral changes based on sex, age and diagnosis.

Supervision Plan and Didactics

The fellow will receive at least two hours of individual supervision per week with a licensed clinical psychologist. The fellow will receive an additional 2 hours of group supervision in clinical and research related activities via participation in weekly meetings and lab meetings.

In addition to participating in weekly research lab meetings, the fellow will have the opportunity to attend weekly Psychiatry Grand Rounds. Throughout the Vanderbilt University Medical Center, there are numerous opportunities to attend lectures, case conferences, seminars, and workshops available to the fellow.

Training Experiences/Structure

The Autism track is designed to promote expertise in assessment, treatment, and research of children adolescents and adults with ASD.

Expected Competencies

By the end of the fellowship, the postdoctoral fellow will achieve the following specific competencies:

- Assessment of individuals with ASD diagnosis as demonstrated by:
 - The ability to independently select, implement, and interpret diagnostic and neuropsychological measures commonly used to diagnose and assess individuals with ASD.
 - Effective communication of assessment findings in written and oral reports, and recommendations to various stakeholders, including patients/clients/participants, family members, and multidisciplinary members of the treatment team.

- Intervention: Implementation of interventions for individuals with ASD as demonstrated by:
 - The ability to independently plan interventions, evaluate treatment progress and modify treatment plans appropriately.
 - Implement a manualized treatment protocol while individualizing the specific approaches to best meet the needs of the patient/research participant.

- Research: To use scientific knowledge and methods to understand the biobehavioral profile and treatment of social competence and internalizing symptoms with ASD, including:
 - Demonstrable understanding of the psychological, biological, and social factors involved in the clinical features, development, and treatment of ASD.
 - The ability to independently apply scientific methods to the practice of diagnostic, psychological and neuropsychological assessment, and treatment of individuals with ASD;

Further Information and to Apply

Please contact Blythe Corbett, PhD, at blythe.corbett@vumc.org if you have any questions. To apply for the position, please submit an application, including a CV, letters of interest, and letters of recommendation through APPIC's Centralized Postdoctoral Application System (APPA CAS).

Postdoctoral Fellowship in Child Welfare and Trauma-Informed Care

Introduction

The Postdoctoral Fellowship at the Vanderbilt Center of Excellence for Children in State Custody (COE) is designed to provide advanced training to clinical and counseling psychologists who wish to advance their clinical knowledge, skill, and research with children and families who are in or at-risk of entering the child welfare system in Tennessee. The COE is committed to providing expertise in consultation, assessment, and education services to the state child welfare system and child-serving agencies in the surrounding community and statewide. The Vanderbilt COE is one of five Centers of Excellence, with the other COEs located at University of Tennessee Boling Center of Developmental Disabilities in Memphis, University of Tennessee Knoxville, East Tennessee State University in Johnson City, and Focus Psychiatric Group in Chattanooga. The COEs originated in an effort to establish academic partnerships with the state of Tennessee to improve the child welfare system by having an expert group of mental health professionals provide consultation and guidance to the Department of Children's Services (DCS) to ensure children in or at risk of entering state custody would receive optimal mental health care. Our mission includes disseminating and implementing best practices in child behavioral health care at both local and state levels.

Training Philosophy

The postdoctoral year is one in which the fellow is transitioning from the status of "student in training" to that of that of licensed professional. The COE training staff recognizes this important developmental transition and seeks to provide an extensive training experience that both supports and challenges fellows to make meaningful contributions through their direct clinical service, as well as through consultation, weekly staff meetings, case conference discussions, and dissemination of evidence-based practices. While fellows function within a training capacity, they are viewed and approached as valuable members of the clinical staff. From this perspective, fellows are seen as being early in their career but at an advanced level in terms of training. Thus, while great emphasis is placed on assisting fellows in continuing to cultivate their knowledge, skill, and overall professional identity, they are also expected to serve as colleagues to the clinical and administrative staff, as well as models of professionalism for the practicum students and pre-doctoral interns who train at the COE.

The COE utilizes models such as Trauma Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (TF-CBT); Attachment, Regulation, and Competence (ARC); Child and Adolescent Needs and Strengths (CANS); Family Advocacy and Needs and Support Tool (FAST); and Multidisciplinary Collaborative Consultation for Traumatized Children and Youth. Our faculty considers the interplay between these models and the larger cultural/system context in which they unfold to be of key importance when approaching assessment, diagnosis, and treatment planning for systems serving at-risk children.

Responsibilities and Learning Objectives:

Primary responsibilities associated with the postdoctoral fellowship position include: Refining and advancing clinical skill in child evaluations surrounding trauma issues and developmental functioning, as well as assessment of a range of emotional and behavioral problems evidenced by children who have experienced abuse and neglect; consultation with caregivers, child welfare workers, teachers, Juvenile Justice and other service providers regarding effective interventions; supervision of psychology trainees; opportunities for program development and evaluation; participation in didactic learning experiences and scholarly presentations; opportunities for providing evidence-based treatment, such as TF-CBT, ARC, and treatment for Children with Sexual Behavior Problems (CSBP). The typical population served is diverse in ethnicity/race and geographic location (e.g., urban and rural).

Expected Competencies gained from the postdoctoral fellowship position are:

- Assessment and consultation on issues related to the child welfare system with a number of agencies interacting within that system (e.g., outpatient mental health centers, in-home providers, schools, child welfare staff, Juvenile Justice, etc.)
- Training in the impact of trauma on development in children and evidence-based treatment to target trauma-impacted youth and families
- Establishing oneself as an educator in Trauma and Resiliency Informed Care by providing trainings to providers and other child-serving agencies that work with the child welfare system to disseminate and enhance best practices for children and youth.
- Scholarship in areas that is relevant to trauma screening, assessment, intervention, and dissemination.
- Administrative activities to include program administration with the COE, coordinating case consultations and serving as a liaison to the child welfare system and other child-serving agencies.
- Treatment in a diverse outpatient clinic with opportunities to work with specialists in multiple disciplines (e.g., psychiatrists, social workers, nurses, case managers, family physicians, nurse practitioners, pharmacists).
- Treatment in diverse developmental (early childhood, middle childhood, adolescents, and families) and ethnic (rural counties, African-American, Latino, urban, refugee) populations.
- Advanced understanding and application of professional ethics in child maltreatment cases.
- Develop professional role in the field of child/youth maltreatment and trauma.

Further Information and to Apply

For further information or for informal inquiries, please contact Melissa Cyperski, PhD at melissa.cyperski@vumc.org or (615) 322-8701. To apply for the position, please submit an application, including a CV, letter of interest, and letters of recommendation through APPIC's Centralized Postdoctoral Application System (APPA CAS).

Postdoctoral Fellowship in Health Psychology at the Osher Center for Integrative Health at Vanderbilt

Introduction

The Postdoctoral Fellowship at the Osher Center for Integrative Health at Vanderbilt (OCIH) is designed to provide advanced training to Fellows who wish to build a career that emphasizes a balance of clinical service and clinical research or program development within a dynamic, interdisciplinary integrative medical setting. OCIH is a large and well-utilized integrative medical center that provides services to adults and adolescents with a broad spectrum of complex illnesses. One of only seven Osher Centers for Integrative Medicine in the world, OCIH is committed to improving lives through clinical care, education, and research in integrative medicine and health psychology. The clinic has strong foundations in mindfulness-based and clinical hypnosis services and focuses on a relationship-centered care model with patients, who are often engaged with multiple practitioners from different disciplines simultaneously. The relational care model emphasizes the role of trauma in the expression of illness.

Services include individual and group therapy, clinical research, program development, mindfulness-based interventions and hypnosis for patients with chronic medical conditions. Under the supervision of licensed psychologists, postdoctoral fellows assume many of the functions and responsibilities of center staff and are afforded ongoing opportunities, both formal and informal, for collaboration and consultation with a wide range of providers. Fellows also can receive formal training in mindfulness facilitation and the provision of clinical hypnosis as a part of their training year, as these trainings are offered.

Training Philosophy

The postdoctoral year is one in which the fellow is transitioning from the status of “student in training” to that of that of licensed professional. The Osher training staff recognize this important developmental transition and works to provide an extensive training experience that both supports and challenges fellows to make meaningful contributions through their direct clinical service, as well as through consultation, weekly multidisciplinary meetings, case conference discussions, and research/program development opportunities. While fellows function within a training capacity, they are viewed and approached as valuable members of the clinical staff. From this perspective, fellows are seen as being early in their career but at an advanced level in terms of training. Thus, while great emphasis is placed on assisting fellows in continuing to cultivate their knowledge, skill, and overall professional identity, they are also expected to serve as colleagues to the clinical and administrative staff, as well as models of professionalism for the practicum students and pre-doctoral interns who train at the center.

Responsibilities and Learning Objectives

Clinical: Our focus is on psychological interventions that facilitate self-management of chronic medical conditions (e.g. mindfulness and acceptance-based interventions, hypnosis, self-compassion, use of pacing, sleep management, etc.). We use an integrative approach to pain management including medicine, psychology, PT, nutrition, yoga, Tai Chi, massage, and acupuncture available at the Osher Center, as well as referrals to community providers. The fellow will also have the opportunity to participate in specialized interventions for urologic populations receiving outpatient care and undergoing procedures using pre- and post-procedure intervention techniques. Further, the fellow will have the opportunity to provide vital support in working with under-insured or uninsured patients. The fellow also provides leadership in management of referrals and case assignment to clinicians. Clinical supervision to those in earlier stages of training may also be available based on availability and individual goals and interests.

Scholarly Research/Program Evaluation: The fellow undertakes a clinical research or program evaluation project to be completed during the fellowship year. Within the first month, the fellow will complete mandatory training and will have a plan for a defined research or program evaluation project. This project could include, but is not limited to a literature review, methodology, data collection or review, and conclusions. The results will be presented formally by the fellow at the conclusion of the fellowship year in a suitable format (e.g. grand rounds presentation or to Osher faculty and staff). The fellow may elect to become involved in an ongoing project at the training site, or to develop an investigator-initiated project.

Fellow Goals

This clinical psychology postdoctoral fellowship position requires a full-time commitment inclusive of 3 days of clinical work and 1.5 day of research or program development. The fellow will attend weekly OCIH multidisciplinary team meetings as well as a weekly psychology staffing meeting and supervision. The fellow will see individual cases, and depending on clinic needs, the fellow will also have the opportunity to facilitate group services, co-facilitate group services with other providers, or develop and facilitate their own short-term therapy group. The fellow will communicate and report to non-mental health professionals clearly, both verbally and in writing, and work closely with medical center staff from a variety of disciplines.

By the end of the fellowship, the fellow will:

- Demonstrate knowledge of intervention strategies for the management of chronic health conditions. This will include consulting with staff regarding

- treatment approaches and interventions and patient progress; arranging for special needs to be addressed by the team; providing health psychology interventions via individual and group therapy; and demonstrating the ability to function in the role of an independent psychologist on an interdisciplinary team.
- Demonstrate skills in monitoring and facilitating adherence to medical recommendations.
 - Be skilled in dealing with patient crises as they arise.
 - Demonstrate knowledge and appropriate utilization of non-psychological, integrated pain treatment modalities and observing these treatments when available (e.g., PT, yoga, acupuncture, nutrition, therapeutic massage, etc.).
 - Demonstrate the ability to rapidly integrate and document the medical and psychological information.
 - Demonstrate knowledge of the health psychology literature concerning treatment, classification, and etiology as well as related general medical terms and disorders.
 - Demonstrate competency in diversity issues across a variety of patients.
 - Demonstrate clinical writing skills and professional responsibility by documenting patient care in the Electronic Medical Record.

Competencies:

- Professional Values and Attitudes
- Individual and Cultural Diversity
- Ethical Legal Standards and Policy
- Reflective Practice
- Relationships
- Scientific Knowledge and Methods
- Evidenced-Based Practices
- Intervention
- Teaching
- Interdisciplinary Systems

Further Information and to Apply

For further information or formal inquiries, please contact Elizabeth Walsh, PhD (Elizabeth.g.walsh@vumc.org) or Lindsey McKernan, PhD (lindsey.mckernan@vumc.org). To apply for the position, please submit an application, including a CV, letter of interest, and letters of recommendation through APPIC's Centralized Postdoctoral Application System (APPA CAS).

Postdoctoral Fellowship in Psychotic Disorders

Introduction

The Postdoctoral Fellowship in Psychotic Disorders provides flexible, experiential training in treatment, assessment, and research of individuals with a psychotic illness, especially the early stage of psychosis. The fellowship adheres to the scientist-practitioner training model and is designed to prepare individuals for careers as a clinical psychologist in academic clinical and/or research settings, based on their individual interests and career goals. This is a 1-year fellowship with possible re-appointment for a second year depending on availability of funding and satisfactory progress during the first year of the fellowship. The fellowship is well-suited for individuals that:

- Have pre-doctoral clinical training in assessment and/or intervention of individuals with a psychotic illness;
- Have a strong record of research experience;
- Are scientist-practitioners intending to pursue a clinical or academic research career in psychiatry.

Setting

Training is conducted through the Vanderbilt Psychotic Disorders Program (VPDP) located within the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences. The VPDP consists of the Charlotte and Donald Test Jr. Center at Vanderbilt Psychiatric Hospital, a 14-bed inpatient unit dedicated to patients who voluntarily admit themselves for treatment, diagnosis, and better management of their symptoms through both psychological and medical interventions; a 22-bed inpatient unit; a partial hospitalization program; and an outpatient clinic located within the Vanderbilt Psychiatric Hospital.

The VPDP includes a diverse array of clinicians and researchers who assess, treat, and study patients with a psychotic disorder. The clinical focus of the program is on the acute stabilization of psychotic inpatients at VPH and the implementation of long-term treatment plans through outpatient services within the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences. A significant focus of the VPDP is on the assessment and treatment of individuals experiencing a first psychotic episode. Each year the VPDP provides treatment to approximately 600 patients with a primary psychotic disorder, including over 90 first episode patients. Psychologists in the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences are engaged in all areas of patient care, including inpatient and partial hospitalization programs, and outpatient clinics. The diverse array of faculty and training experiences allows the fellow to create an individualized training program.

Training Objectives

- Provide training in assessment, intervention, and/or research of individuals with a psychotic disorder;
- Provide the fellow with experience working in a multidisciplinary clinical and research environment;
- Enable the fellow to accumulate postdoctoral hours towards licensure as a clinical psychologist in Tennessee through clinical and clinical research activities;

Training Experiences/Structure

The Psychosis track is designed to promote expertise in treatment, assessment and research of psychotic disorders while allowing fellows the flexibility to emphasize one or more of these areas to meet their individual training and career goals. For instance, individuals planning for a clinical career may spend most of their time engaged in relevant clinical work (i.e. psychotherapy and/or assessment), whereas individuals interested in a research-focused career can spend a substantial portion of their time engaged in research. Specific training experiences are described in more detail below.

Psychotherapy. The VPDP provides a variety of psychotherapeutic treatments through the inpatient hospitalization programs and outpatient clinics, including: individual therapy, group therapy, psychoeducation, and family support. Fellows can receive training and become proficient in these areas, especially cognitive behavioral approaches for psychotic disorders. Fellows also can participate in the Navigate First Episode Team, a multidisciplinary team dedicated to delivering comprehensive care to individuals who have recently experienced their first episode of psychosis.

Diagnostic Interviewing and Clinical Assessment of Psychotic Disorders. Fellows will have the opportunity to receive training and become proficient in the administration of semi-structured diagnostic interviews (i.e. SCID); clinical symptom rating scales commonly used in evaluating psychotic disorders (e.g. Positive and Negative Syndrome Scale, Young Mania Rating Scale); and standardized psychometric tests of psychopathology (e.g. MMPI). The Fellow will develop skills in the diagnostic assessment of psychotic disorders adolescents and adults; and oral case presentations for consensus diagnosis and clinical symptom ratings.

Neuropsychological Assessment of Psychotic Disorders. Fellows will have the opportunity to receive training and become competent in the administration and interpretation of clinical neuropsychological tests commonly used to assess individuals with a psychotic disorder.

Research. Clinical research is a core component of the fellowship. Fellows will have the opportunity to become involved in several on-going, federally funded studies, as well as participate in the design and implementation of new studies. Current areas of

investigation include: functional MRI investigations of working memory, attention, and hippocampal functioning; cross-sectional and longitudinal studies of brain structure and brain structure-phenotype correlations; neuroimaging investigations of brain dysconnectivity using resting-state fMRI, task-based fMRI, and diffusion tensor imaging; nosology of psychotic disorders and comorbidity in psychosis; and intervention studies investigating the impact of CBTp on persecutory delusions and associated cognitive processes.

Supervision Plan and Didactics

The fellow will receive at least two hours of individual supervision per week with a licensed clinical psychologist. The fellow will receive an additional 2-3 hours of group supervision in clinical and research related activities via participation in weekly psychosis multidisciplinary meetings and lab meetings.

In addition to participating in weekly research lab meetings, the fellow will be expected to attend weekly Psychiatry Grand Rounds. There is also an abundance of case conferences, colloquia, and workshops available to the fellow, including a weekly seminar in geriatric psychiatry and monthly neurology/neuropsychology case conference.

Further Information and to Apply

Please contact Neil Woodward, PhD, at neil.d.woodward@vumc.org if you have any questions. To apply for the position, please submit an application, including a CV, letters of interest, and letters of recommendation through APPIC's Centralized Postdoctoral Application System (APPA CAS).

Postdoctoral Fellowship in Forensic Psychology

Introduction

The Postdoctoral Fellowship in Forensic Psychology provides flexible, experiential training in treatment, assessment, and research of individuals with involvement in the legal system. The fellowship adheres to the scientist-practitioner training model and is designed to prepare individuals for careers as forensic psychologists. Core clinical training in forensic psychology is supplemented by elective experiences, didactics, intervention, and research. This is a 1-year fellowship with possible re-appointment for a second year depending on availability of funding and satisfactory progress during the first year of the fellowship. The fellowship is well-suited for individuals who:

1. Have had pre-doctoral clinical training and an internship in forensic psychology involving the assessment, treatment, and research of individuals involved in legal matters (criminal, civil, and administrative law),
2. Have experience and knowledge of severe mental illness,
3. Have experience and comfort in conducting assessments with individuals in the legal system.

Setting

Training is conducted through Vanderbilt Forensic Psychiatry, which is housed in the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences. Vanderbilt Forensic Psychiatry was founded in the early 1990s and consists of five full-time faculty members (i.e., three forensic psychologists and two forensic psychiatrists) who are active in clinical work, teaching, forensic assessment and consultation, ethics, expert testimony, and research. The group conducts hundreds of evaluations annually spanning criminal, civil, administrative, juvenile, and family law and are retained by both sides at the local, state, national, and federal levels. The diverse array of faculty and training experiences allows the fellow to create an individualized training program.

Training Objectives

- Provide training in assessment, intervention, and/or research of individuals in a forensic context;
- Consult with attorneys about findings and testify in court when available
- Provide the fellow with experience working in an academic medical center;
- Enable the fellow to accumulate postdoctoral hours towards licensure as a clinical psychologist in Tennessee through clinical and clinical research activities;

Training Experiences/Structure

The Forensic track is designed to promote expertise in treatment, assessment and research in the specialty subfield of forensic psychology. Training can be tailored to the unique needs and interests of the fellow, with greater emphasis in certain areas. Specific training experiences are described in more detail below.

Forensic Assessment. There are a variety of types of forensic assessments available to fellows. These include:

1) *Criminal pretrial forensic evaluations* – Evaluations of individuals who are charged with a criminal offense who have been court ordered to receive a forensic mental health evaluation. Evaluations include assessment of competency to stand trial and mental state at the time of the alleged offense (insanity). There are opportunities for evaluations both with juveniles (which focus more on treatment issues and placement) and with adults. These evaluations provide exposure to severe and acute forms of psychopathology (e.g., psychosis, mood disorders, personality disorders), often in an untreated condition in combination with substance use disorders. The focus of the evaluation is on review and integration of records as well as a semi- structured interview including competency to stand trial assessment measures and at times also malingering assessment or brief neurocognitive assessment. Additional opportunities may exist for more tailored criminal forensic evaluations (e.g., mitigation, psychosexuals, competency to waive Miranda, false confessions) based on the interests of the fellow.

2) *Fitness for duty evaluations* – Evaluation of individuals (mostly physicians) referred to the Vanderbilt Comprehensive Program (VCAP) for evaluation of their fitness to practice. Referrals are based on issues related to disruptive behavior, substance use, prescribing problems, boundary violations, mental illness, and sexual issues. Personality disorders or traits are commonly diagnosed in this otherwise high functioning population. Assessments include a standard battery of personality tests, including MoCA, MMPI-3, PAI, and MCMI.

3) *Pre-employment psychological evaluations* – Evaluation of applicants for a 911 dispatch/operator position at the Department of Emergency Communications in Nashville and/or police officers at the Veteran Affairs Medical Center. As a condition of their employment, such individuals are required to participate in a psychological evaluation to rule out psychopathology or personality issues that would compromise their ability to carry out the job duties safely and effectively.

4) *Civil forensic evaluations* – Evaluations of individuals who are involved in civil litigation. This includes personal injury, workplace discrimination, EEOC claims, sexual harassment, conservatorship, and fitness for duty. Cases are conducted on behalf of the both the plaintiff(s) and the defendant(s).

For additional information please see:

<https://www.vumc.org/forensic-psychiatry/>

<https://www.vanderbilthealth.com/program/behavioral-health-assessment- professionals>

Intervention. Intervention can include a variety of different formats, including individual adult outpatient psychotherapy in the department clinic focused on evidence-based practices, group psychotherapy on an inpatient unit at the Vanderbilt Psychiatric Hospital, and/or competency restoration services to individuals who are incompetent to stand trial, but capable of being restored to competency in jail based or outpatient services. The diversity of patient presentations and related empirical treatment models allows the fellow to tailor their training experiences to meet their specific goals.

Research. The fellow will undertake a clinical research or program evaluation project to be completed during the fellowship year. At the beginning of the training year, the fellow in conjunction with a supervisor, will develop a plan for a defined research project that is aligned with the fellow's research interests and training and is feasible within the constraints of the training year and the resources of the program. The research project will culminate in a presentation at the end of the fellowship year, with the goal of publication in a peer reviewed journal. Additional opportunities for research on existing projects will also be available.

Expected Competencies

By the end of the fellowship, the postdoctoral fellow will achieve the following specific competencies:

- Assessment of individuals in a forensic context:
 - The ability to independently select, implement, and interpret psychological assessment measures, including forensic relevant instruments (FRI) and forensic assessment instruments (FAI) commonly used to diagnose and assess individuals in the forensic system.
 - Integrate multiple sources of data: records, collateral sources, psychological testing, and interview and explain the basis for opinions supported by data
 - Effective communication of assessment findings in written and oral reports, and recommendations to a legal audience.

- Intervention: Implementation of interventions for individuals:
 - The ability to independently plan interventions, evaluate treatment progress and modify treatment plans appropriately.
 - Implement a manualized treatment protocol while individualizing the specific approaches to best meet the needs of the patient/research participant.

- Research: To use scientific knowledge and methods to further the field of forensic psychology, including:
 - Formulate research questions and hypotheses related to an area of inquiry within forensic psychology
 - Propose a data analytic plan to answer proposed research questions
 - Produce a formal work product (i.e., publication, presentation) to explain the theory, research questions, and results of an independent research project

Supervision Plan and Didactics

The fellow will receive at least two hours of individual supervision per week with a licensed clinical psychologist. The fellow will receive an additional 2-3 hours of group supervision in clinical and research related activities via participation in weekly psychosis multidisciplinary meetings and lab meetings.

The fellow will be expected to attend a class at the Vanderbilt Law School each semester. In addition, the fellowship will include a focus on case law, which will require the fellow to brief and present various cases within the area of forensic psychology.

There are also a variety of case conferences, Grand Rounds, colloquia, and workshops available to the fellow.

Further Information and to Apply

Please contact Amanda Bitting, PhD at amanda.r.bitting@vumc.org if you have any questions. To apply for the position, please submit an application, including a CV, letters of interest, and letters of recommendation through APPIC's Centralized Postdoctoral Application System (APPA CAS).