Clinical Psychology Training Programs at Brown: A Consortium of the Providence VA Medical Center, Lifespan, and Care New England
Postdoctoral Fellowship Training Program

Postdoctoral Fellowship Description: RESEARCH FOCUS

Title: Postdoctoral Fellowship in Neurobiology of OC Spectrum and Anxiety Disorders

APA-accredited: ____ Yes ___X__ No

Site: Brown University

Supervisor(s): Christina Boisseau, Ph.D., Primary Supervisor
Steven Rasmussen, M.D.
Maria Mancebo, Ph.D.
Daniel Dickstein, M.D.

Description of Site:

Brown University: The Department of Psychiatry and Human Behavior (DPHB) in the Alpert Medical School of Brown University has a well-established history of research excellence, ranked in 2004 as one of the top 5 schools receiving substantial grant funding for psychiatry research by the Association of American Medical Colleges. Within the Brown Medical School, the DPHB participates in joint research and clinical training programs with other Medical School departments, including Family Medicine, Clinical Neurosciences, Medicine, and Pediatrics, as well as the campus-based Departments of Neuroscience, Psychology, Pharmacology and Biotechnology. Numerous forums provide networking opportunities, including Grand Rounds, research day, journal clubs, research seminars, grant writing workshops, special interest groups, and visiting professor luncheons. Research studies conducted by DPHB faculty include testing the efficacy of new therapeutic advances in the treatment of obsessive-compulsive disorder, anxiety and mood disorders, substance abuse, and schizophrenia. One of the greatest strengths of the Department is the collaborative work fostered across disciplines, as well as between clinicians and researchers. Some examples are in biological psychiatry, neuropsychiatry, neuropsychology, behavioral medicine, consultation/liaison psychiatry, and the study of combining pharmacologic and psychosocial treatment modalities. Research activities conducted by DPHB faculty include close to 200 ongoing studies funded by more than 50 external sources such as the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH), National Cancer Institute (NCI), National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD), National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA), National Institute of Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (NIAAA), the National Center for Complementary and Integrative Health (NCCIH) and the National Alliance for Research on Schizophrenia and Depression (NARSAD). Last year, the DPHB received over $50,000,000 in external research funds including direct and indirect costs. Both Brown and DPHB make a strong commitment to support junior faculty to be successful Principal Investigators.

OCD Research Program at Butler Hospital: Under the direction of Dr. Steven Rasmussen, the OCD Research Program maintains a 2,500 contiguous square foot suite at Butler Hospital. Affiliated with Brown Medical School, Butler Hospital is one of the earliest psychiatric facilities established in the United States. Butler Hospital has a distinguished reputation, recently being named by U.S. News and World Report as one of the 30 "best" psychiatric facilities in the United States. The OCD Research group comprises of an interdisciplinary group of investigators and research staff from various professional backgrounds including clinical psychology, psychiatry, neuropsychology and neuroscience. There are 8NIH-funded clinical research studies ongoing in the OCD Research Program.
Fellowship Aims
1. To provide the fellow with broad post-doctoral research and clinical training in the area of OC spectrum and anxiety disorders.
2. To provide the fellow with a strong working knowledge of the neurobiology of OC spectrum and anxiety disorders.
3. To provide the fellow with strong working knowledge of the assessment, treatment, and research conducted with individuals with OC spectrum and anxiety disorders.
4. To actively participate in research, including grant writing, data collection, management and analysis, and development and implementation of research protocols, with the goal of presenting research results at national meetings and writing peer-reviewed manuscripts.

Fellowship Timeline
This is a two-year fellowship, renewable after one year contingent upon satisfactory progress. The anticipated start date is July-September, 2018.

Research Activity Plan
The fellowship is primarily a clinical research position. The fellow will be exposed to various aspects of mood disorders and physical activity research via participation in the following activities:

- Study coordination: The fellow will serve as project coordinator on an NIH-funded study investigating dimensional endophenotypes in OC spectrum and anxiety disorders. Project coordinator responsibilities include coordinating community outreach and subject recruitment, conducting and supervising diagnostic, cognitive affective, and fMRI/DTI assessments, oversight of data management, and supervision of research assistants. The fellow will participate in weekly research meetings focused on research progress, discussion of relevant literature, and ongoing program planning. (50% time)

- Review of the literature on OC spectrum and anxiety disorders: The fellow will be provided with a series of readings to increase his/her general knowledge of this area, with a specific focus on neurobiology. (5% time)

- Grant writing: The fellow will have the opportunity to contribute toward outgoing grant preparation/submissions. The fellow will also be encouraged to develop his/her own grant idea and submit a grant proposal by the end of the fellowship term. (10% time)

- Manuscript preparation and submission: The fellow will be encouraged to collaborate on manuscript preparation and poster submissions at national conferences. A number of datasets are currently available that will facilitate manuscript preparation. Individually tailored goals will be established in this area. (10% time)

Clinical Activity Plan
Opportunities for additional clinical experience will be provided as part of the position and will be determined based on availability and goals of the postdoctoral fellow.

The fellow may be involved in clinical activities as part of our intensive outpatient program (IOP) that provides exposure-based treatment to adults with OCD/anxiety disorders. These clinical activities include individual and/or group therapy, intake evaluations, and discharge planning. The fellow will also have the opportunity to conducted in-person diagnostic assessments (e.g., SCID, ADIS) for NIH-funded clinical research trials. (15% time)
The fellow will receive training in all intake procedures and intervention protocols.

Path toward licensure: YES ___ X___ NO____

**Didactics**
Post-Doctoral Seminars: The fellow will participate in the following post-doctoral seminars through the Brown Post Doctoral Training Program. *(10% time)*

Mandatory Didactics:
- Core Seminars (1 per month)
- DPHB Academic Grand Rounds (1 per month)
- Clinical Ethics – if intending to sit for licensure (1 per month)
  - Track Seminars – Adult Track

Optional Didactics (Mandatory for T32/F32/ and Investigator Funded Fellows):
- Academic Friday – Grantsmanship seminars, Special Topics in Statistics

**Supervision and Evaluation**
Supervision will be provided for both research and clinical activities. The fellow will have weekly individual meetings with Dr. Boisseau. Research mentoring is also readily available from Drs. Rasmussen, Mancebo and Dickstein. Weekly individual clinical supervision will be provided by Drs. Boisseau or Mancebo, depending upon which clinical activities are involved. The fellow will also participate in regularly scheduled study progress meetings.

Every 6 months for the duration of the fellowship, the fellow and the supervisors will provide formal evaluations, and evaluations of the program relative to the goals and learning objectives of the fellowship.

**Resource Requirements**
Fellow will be provided with the following resources:

- Access to space to complete research responsibilities
- A computer and project specific software
- Internet access
- Telephone

**Reporting and approval**
This fellowship will be part of the Adult track. The position has been discussed and approved by the Adult track faculty in their monthly meeting of 10/14/16.

Postdoctoral Fellowship Track Coordinator

Associate Director, Research Fellowship Program

Director, Postdoctoral Fellowship Training Program