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 Prevention of Obesity in Infants and Toddlers

APA-accredited: ____Yes __X__ No

Site: The Miriam Hospital

Supervisor(s): Elissa Jelalian, Ph.D., Primary Supervisor
Rena Wing, Ph.D.
Whitney Evans, Ph.D.

Description of Site:
The Weight Control and Diabetes Research Center (WCDRC): The WCDRC is directed by Dr. Rena Wing and provides an outstanding environment in terms of both physical resources and intellectual collaboration. The Center is affiliated with The Miriam Hospital and the Alpert Medical School of Brown University. The WCDRC has 8 faculty members, all with their own independent research funding and all studying topics related to behavioral weight control. Additional staff include postdoctoral fellows, nutritionists, exercise physiologists, and a data manager. Dr. Jelalian and colleagues at the WCDRC are currently conducting several NIH and philanthropically funded investigations related to weight gain in infancy and prevention of excess summer weight gain in underserved populations. The WCDRC is under the umbrella of the Centers for Behavioral and Preventive Medicine. The Centers include additional faculty members with very closely related expertise who add tremendously to the overall scientific environment.

The WCDRC is affiliated with the Department of Psychiatry and Human Behavior (DPHB) in the Alpert Medical School of Brown University. 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 Public Health, 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. One of the greatest strengths of the Department is the collaborative work fostered across disciplines, as well as between clinicians and researchers. 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).
Fellowship Aims
1. To provide the fellow with broad post-doctoral research training related to prevention of excess weight gain from infancy through school age, with emphasis on young children.

2. To provide the fellow with a strong working knowledge of observational and clinical trial methodologies as related to obesity prevention in young children.

3. To provide the fellow with strong working knowledge of evidence-based assessment protocols related to diet, physical activity, and anthropometrics in young children.

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 research in the area of pediatric obesity prevention via participation in ongoing investigations of weight gain in infants and toddlers. The fellow will participate in the following activities.

- Study coordination: The fellow will serve as project coordinator on a philanthropically-funded study investigating prevention of excess weight gain in infants and toddlers. Project coordinator responsibilities will include coordinating community outreach and participant recruitment, assisting with development of intervention materials and the research protocol, supervising assessment visits, 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. (55% time)

- Review of the literature on gestational and post-partum weight gain and prevention of excess weight gain in young children: The fellow will be provided with a series of readings to increase his/her general knowledge of this area, with a specific focus on intervention strategies. (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. (15% 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. (15% time)

Clinical Activity Plan
This position is not currently designed to provide sufficient clinical time to support a path toward licensure. However, opportunities for clinical experience will be considered based on availability and goals of the postdoctoral fellow. Should clinical activities be added, they would be in areas that complement fellowship content area – i.e. treatment of children and adolescents with obesity – and would
not exceed 15% time. In this circumstance, the 15% effort would be subtracted from responsibilities outlined as part of the Research Activity Plan.

Path toward licensure: YES_____ NO____X__

**Didactics**
Postdoctoral Seminars: The fellow will participate in the following postdoctoral 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)

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

**Supervision and Evaluation**
The fellow will have weekly individual meetings with Dr. Jelalian. Research mentoring is also readily available from Drs. Wing and Evans. The fellow will also participate in regularly scheduled study progress meetings and in bi-weekly faculty meetings at the Weight Control and Diabetes Research Center.

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 Behavioral Medicine track. The position has been discussed and approved by the Behavioral Medicine track faculty in their monthly meeting on 11/17/17.

Postdoctoral Fellowship Track Coordinator

Associate Director, Research Fellowship Program

Director, Postdoctoral Fellowship Training Program