Title: Depression and Suicide in Adolescents.

APA-accredited: ____ Yes __X__ No

Site: Brown University DPHB and the Bradley/Hasbro Children’s Research Center

Supervisor(s): Richard Liu, PhD
Anthony Spirito, Ph.D., ABPP

**Description**

The goal of this fellowship is to provide training in the assessment of adolescent psychopathology including depression, suicidality, and non-suicidal self-injury (NSSI). Training Goals will be met by participating in two NIMH-funded studies. The first study aims to better understand processes of risk underlying recurrent adolescent self-harm. This project is an 18 months longitudinal assessment study designed to examine how past and future suicidal behavior relate to intervening stressors, and to determine if behavioral impulsivity is more relevant to these relationships than is cognitive impulsivity. Our central hypothesis is that adolescents with a history of attempted suicide are at higher risk relative to non-suicidal psychiatric peers for future suicidal behavior because they experience more dependent stressors (i.e., stressors at least partly influenced by their behaviors and characteristics). We will examine whether these processes similarly underlie the association between past and future NSSI. The purpose of the second study is to determine whether transcranial direct current stimulation (tDCS) may affect impulsive cognition and behavior in adolescent suicide attempters, in a three-group randomized design, through specific neural pathways (the right inferior frontal gyrus in the case of behavioral impulsivity and the left orbitofrontal cortex in the case of cognitive impulsivity), as assessed with electroencephalography and event-related potentials.

The program is based at the Emma Pendleton Bradley Hospital, the nation's first psychiatric hospital devoted exclusively to children and adolescents. A Lifespan partner and a teaching hospital of the Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University, Bradley Hospital has established itself as a national center for training and research in child and adolescent psychiatry. Each year, Bradley Hospital has over 1,000 inpatient child and adolescent psychiatric admissions and over 10,000 outpatient appointments.

**Fellowship Aims**

- To provide the fellow with training in the laboratory assessment of adolescents presenting with suicidal behavior and/or NSSI.
- To provide the fellow exposure to structured interviewing to derive diagnoses and assess life events. To actively participate in analyzing data, presenting results at national meetings, and writing original peer-reviewed manuscripts.
• To provide the fellow with training in extramural grant writing.

**Fellowship Timeline**
The duration of the fellowship is 2 years, second year is contingent upon satisfactory progress. The anticipated start date is July 1, 2018.

**Research Activity (75%)**
Seventy-five percent of the fellow’s time will be devoted to research, academic/didactic, and professional training experiences. The fellow will participate in the following activities:
- Review of relevant literature: The fellow will review literature in the areas of adolescent suicide, adolescent NSSI, and affective neuroscience for the preparation of manuscripts. 5%
- Study participation: The fellow will participate in the evaluation of adolescents with respect to adolescent suicidal behavior and NSSI. 35%
- Manuscript preparation and submission: The fellow will be encouraged to collaborate on manuscript preparation and poster submissions at national conferences. Individually tailored goals will be established in this area. 30%
- The fellow will be required to participate in weekly research meetings. 5%

**Clinical Activity Plan (15%)**
A total of 15% of the fellow’s time will be devoted to the direct and indirect service to adolescent patients in order to ensure that the fellow receives clinical training in the provision of psychotherapy, specifically CBT. This will include the following activities:
- Treatment services: The fellow will participate in the care of inpatients on the Adolescent Unit at Bradley Hospital. Instruction in an evidence-based CBT protocol will be provided.
- Licensure as a Psychologist: The fellow will be able to work towards successfully negotiating all aspects of the licensure process, and obtain licensure as a psychologist. In order to sit for licensure, the fellow must attend the monthly Clinical Ethics Seminar during the first year of the fellowship.

Path toward licensure: YES _X_ NO ____ The fellow will receive clinical hours toward licensing through both the clinical activity plan as well as clinical research activities (structured clinical assessments of adolescents).

**Didactics Plan (10%)**
Post-Doctoral Seminars: The fellow will be required to participate in the post-doctoral research seminar series through the Brown University Postdoctoral Training Program.

Didactics:
- Core Seminars (1 per month)
- DPHB Academic Grand Rounds (1 per month)
- Clinical Ethics – if intending to sit for licensure (1 per month)
- Relevant Track Seminars
- Academic Friday – Grantsmanship seminars, Special Topics in Statistics.

**Supervision and Evaluation**
Supervision will be provided in the form of one-hour weekly individual research supervision by Drs. Liu & Spirito. The Fellow and supervisors will develop individualized training goals and training objectives at the beginning of the fellowship year. At the conclusion and
midpoint 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:
- Office space:
- A personal desktop computer and project specific software
- Internet access
- Telephone

**Reporting and approval**
This fellowship will be part of the Child Track. The position has been discussed and approved by the Child track faculty in their monthly meeting.

Postdoctoral Fellowship Track Coordinator

Associate Director, Research Fellowship Program

Director, Postdoctoral Fellowship Training Program