Title: Postdoctoral Fellowship in Adolescent Psychopathology

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

APA-accredited: YES

Supervisor(s): Anthony Spirito, PhD, ABPP (Primary Supervisor)
                Jennifer Wolff, PhD
                Richard Liu, PhD

Description
The goal of this fellowship is to provide training in the assessment and treatment of adolescent psychopathology including depression, suicidality, non-suicidal self-injury, and substance use. Training Goals will be met by participating in two different research programs. The first is a clinical research project studying selected characteristics of adolescent patients admitted to an inpatient psychiatric unit, such as symptoms associated with clinical high risk for psychosis and social media behavior as a risk factor for suicidal and nonsuicidal self-injury. This project also tests innovative strategies to improve treatment of adolescents admitted for short stays to inpatient psychiatric care.

The second project is an 18-month 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).

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 exposure to a comprehensive inpatient treatment program for adolescents
- To provide the fellow with training in the clinical and laboratory assessment of adolescents presenting with suicidal behavior, NSSI, and/or substance abuse.
- 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.

**Fellowship Timeline**
The duration of the fellowship is 1 year, with an anticipated start date of 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, substance use, and affective neuroscience for the preparation of manuscripts and grant applications. 5%
- **Study participation:** The fellow will participate in the evaluation of adolescents with respect to adolescent suicidal behavior, substance abuse and NSSI. 15%
- **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. 25%
- **Grant preparation and submission:** The fellow will be required to participate in mentor grant writing and encouraged to write their own grant application. 25%
- **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. Spirito, Wolff, and/or Liu. Additional clinical supervision will be arranged on the Adolescent
Inpatient Unit by Dr. Wolff. 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