Alpert Medical School of Brown University
Clinical Psychology Internship Training Program
Rotation Description

**Rotation Title:** Behavioral Medicine Rotation A *(Chronic Illness and Sexual Health)*

**Location:** The Miriam Hospital

**Rotation Supervisor(s):**
Megan Pinkston-Camp, M.A., Ph.D. (Primary Supervisor)
Abigail Mansfield Marcaccio, Ph.D.
Liz McLaughlin, Ph.D.

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### 1 Overview of the Rotation:

The Chronic Illness and Sexual Health rotation at The Miriam Hospital provides a broad range of training experiences in behavioral medicine. Settings include The Miriam Hospital’s Immunology Clinic and Men’s Health Center and Lifespan’s Spine Center. The rotation emphasizes training in assessment, treatment and consultation skills for psychologists in medical settings. Training provides exposure to individual, as well as group, modalities of intervention and a variety of patient populations. The clinical psychology resident functions on multidisciplinary teams that may include psychology, psychiatry, a variety of medical specialties, clinical social work, nursing, nutrition and exercise physiology.

The **Clinical Behavioral Medicine Service of the Immunology Clinic** at The Miriam Hospital provides clinical services tailored to the individual needs of patients diagnosed with HIV and chronic Hepatitis C virus. The clinic serves 1700 patients and is the largest medical provider of HIV care in the state of Rhode Island. Patients are often diagnosed with co-morbid mental health, substance use, and behavioral medicine concerns. Working with this patient population can offer a rich experience in cultural and clinical diversity among patients who experience significant stigma and barriers to accessing care. As HIV is now viewed as a chronic condition, the population is aging and experiencing health conditions such as obesity, heart disease, chronic pain, diabetes, and cancer similar to that of populations without HIV, and therefore there is a great need to assist patients with living healthy in addition to managing their HIV diagnosis, mental illness, sexual risks, and addictions.

The **Behavioral Pain Management Experience** emphasizes training in assessment, treatment and consultation skills with patients with chronic pain in neck or back and concomitant psychological distress. The experience is within Rhode Island Hospital Spine Center which offers spine-specific physical evaluations, interventional procedures, spine surgeries, and physical and occupational therapy. The Clinical Psychology Resident is part of an integrated multidisciplinary team including physicians, NPs and PAs, nurses, physical therapists, massage therapists, and psychologists.

1. In collaboration with the supervisor, residents conduct brief assessments of patients referred by Spine Center medical providers for evaluation and/or treatment. Chronic pain is frequently the presenting concern but it is necessary to also explore comorbid psychological or social factors, in order to determine disposition.

2. In collaboration with the supervisor, residents conduct assessments of pre-surgical readiness for spinal cord stimulator surgery. The spinal cord stimulator is a medical device designed to relieve chronic pain by stimulating the spinal cord with electricity.
device that may be indicated for certain patients with pain; residents learn about the
device and learn how to carry out this unique type of pre-surgical evaluation.
(3) Residents see individual outpatients for brief psychotherapy, frequently treating
chronic pain but also treating other diagnoses/concerns as relevant.
(4) With the supervisor, residents co-facilitate group chronic pain treatment using an
evidence-based cognitive-behavioral framework (CBT with ACT principles).
(5) Other activities may arise such as exploring outcomes assessment, enhancing our
group offerings, collaborating with the medical team in various ways, etc.

The Men’s Health Center at Miriam Hospital provides outpatient clinical and
psychological care for sexual dysfunction. The clinic treats men, women, transgender, and
gender fluid patients, and provides consultation and treatment for sexual dysfunction,
including low libido, difficulty with orgasm, erectile dysfunction, premature ejaculation,
Peyronie’s disease, and coping with sexual sequelae from treatment for prostate, testicular,
breast, and gynecological cancers. Psychologists at the clinic see both individuals and
couples.

2 Achievement of Competencies:

Ethical and Legal Standards: Competencies in this area will be achieved through the
demonstration of ethical practice within all clinical, research, and administrative/
professional activities, as well as discussion of ethical/legal issues during supervision.
Professionalism and Self-Awareness: Competencies in this area will be developed by
participating as a professional member of the multidisciplinary team, participating in
ongoing educational activities, and reflecting on professional roles and responsibilities
within the context of supervision.
Interpersonal and Communication Skills: Residents will demonstrate competencies in
this area through their participation as a professional member of the multidisciplinary team,
including opportunities to communicate data, ideas, recommendations, and feedback to
others.
Assessment and Diagnosis: Competencies in this area will be developed through
conducting comprehensive assessments of patients presenting in the Men’s Health Center,
Immunology Clinic, and Behavioral Pain Management Program. This may include
formulating differential diagnoses of psychiatric conditions that often accompany chronic or
acute medical problems based on presenting complaints, records review, clinical interview,
and various self-report measures. Specifically, residents will develop their skills in
assessment in integrated behavioral health settings, which tends to be briefer than in
“traditional mental health” settings, while requiring breadth and precise understanding of the
referral question.
Effective Intervention: Competencies in this area will be achieved through conducting
individual therapy with adults in the Immunology Clinic, Behavioral Pain Management
Program, and Men’s Health Center. Residents will also conduct group therapy in the
Behavioral Pain Management Program. Approaches include cognitive-behavioral
framework (CBT or ACT) that can include evidence-based components as well as lifestyle
modification, skills training for management of medical symptoms, self-regulation, and
relapse prevention skills. Treatment goals will be operationalized and evaluated over the
course of individual and group-based treatments, and modifications to treatments made
based on these results.
Consultation: Competencies in this area will be achieved through experiences in the Men’s
Health Center, Immunology Clinic, and Behavioral Pain Management Program responding
to consultation requests from colleagues within each department as well as consult requests
from both within and outside of the hospital system.
Supervision and Teaching: Opportunities may be available for residents to discuss supervision styles, strategies, and important factors in the supervisor/supervisee relationship. The resident typically does not have opportunities to provide direct supervision to others during this rotation.

Research and Scholarly Activities: Residents typically do not have opportunities to develop these skills during this rotation. Residents are encouraged to explore—for instance, through self-study or discussion with supervisors—how science and practice are integrated in medical settings, given that this area of practice is newer within the field of psychology.

Cultural and Individual Diversity: Competencies in this area will be developed through exposure to diverse patients and families, supervision regarding assessment and treatment considerations relevant to work with diverse populations, and directed readings, when appropriate.

Time Commitment:
Rotations are 4 months in duration and the minimum hour requirement is 36 hours per week.

Duties & Responsibilities:
Regular duties and responsibilities include the following:

Immunology Center
If clinical psychology residents have not worked with HIV infected patients, it will be important to first become acquainted with current treatment guidelines, secondary prevention, evidence based treatments and ethical guidelines specific to working with HIV infected populations. Clinical psychology residents play an important role in performing clinical assessments and providing evidence-based, individual therapy for patients of the clinic. Clinical psychology residents will also collaborate with the Immunology Center’s multidisciplinary team of social workers, case managers, nurses, psychiatrists, and primary care physicians to inform diagnostic decisions, treatment plans, and referrals when necessary.

Behavioral Pain Management
Clinical psychology residents are responsible for conducting individual evaluations and individual and group treatment for patients presenting with issues related to chronic pain. Evaluations are conducted collaboratively with rotation supervisors and include intake evaluations as well as surgical candidacy evaluations. Evaluations include a clinical interview and may also include psychological testing and interpretation of results, and consultation with other care providers. Clinical psychology residents collaboratively conduct individual and group outpatient interventions with rotation supervisors using a variety of psychological approaches including CBT and ACT. Clinical psychology residents will also collaboratively conduct with rotation supervisors clinical consultations including emergent cases.

Men’s Health Center
Clinical psychology residents spend 4 hours per week in the clinic, either a morning or an afternoon. They see patients along with the attending psychologist, and learn about sexual dysfunction and couple therapy. Residents should expect to write clinic notes and reports. Psychology residents become familiar with various forms of sexual dysfunction, use a cognitive behavioral framework to approach individual treatment, and learn about the McMaster Approach to couple therapy.
### Rotation Description

| 5 Time Table: | Approximate weekly time table: Evaluation and Treatment of Individual Cases (Behavioral Medicine Clinical Services, Immunology, Behavioral Pain Management, Men’s Health Center—20 hours), Individual supervision (4 hours), Case Conference (1 hour). Additionally the clinical psychology resident has supervision with rotation supervisors throughout the week for each setting which may or may not fall on the day the resident is conducting clinical work in that setting. Oversight of the clinical psychology resident’s time will be the responsibility of the primary supervisor, Megan Pinkston-Camp, M.A., Ph.D. |

| 6 Methods of Teaching: | The primary modalities of teaching include role modeling, feedback, and one-to-one didactic instruction. Reading material is provided on a case-by-case basis, when indicated. |

| 7 Treatment Units of Programs Involved: | Immunology (The Miriam Hospital), Behavioral Pain Management (Rhode Island Hospital), Men’s Health Center (The Miriam Hospital). |

| 8 Supervision: | **Immunology Clinic**  
Clinical psychology residents receive a minimum of one hour of individual supervision with Megan Pinkston-Camp, M.A., Ph.D. Additional supervision will include direct observation in conducting assessments, interventions, and consultations.  

**Behavioral Pain Management**  
Clinical psychology residents receive a minimum of one hour of individual supervision with Liz McLaughlin, Ph.D. Additional supervision will include direct observation in conducting assessments, interventions, and consultations.  

**Men’s Health**  
Clinical psychology residents receive a minimum of one hour of individual supervision with Abigail Mansfield Marcaccio, Ph.D. Additional supervision will include direct observation in conducting assessments, interventions, and consultations. |

| 9 Relationships to Core Programs: | Training in this Rotation reflects the overall philosophy of the Brown Internship Program, which is based on the clinical science model. In addition to the outlined duties and responsibilities specific to the rotation, release time allows for attendance at various seminars, educational opportunities, additional clinical rotations, and a research placement. |

| 10 Designation of Key Liaison Personnel: | Megan Pinkston-Camp, M.A., Ph.D., Primary Supervisor  
Karen Oliver, Ph.D., Health Psychology/Behavioral Medicine Track Coordinator  
Elizabeth McQuaid, Ph.D., ABPP, Director, Clinical Psychology Internship Training Program |

| 11 Criteria for Success: |  |
Successful residents will achieve ratings of “Satisfactory Progress” on all competencies that are available within this rotation. Plans will be made for residents to obtain further training, supervision, and/or remediation to address competencies that are rated as “Needs Improvement” or are otherwise identified as areas that require additional emphasis in training. This rotation will be one of several that is considered in an overall determination of resident "competence" at the completion of the internship period.