



BROWN
Alpert Medical School

**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 the Methods to Improve Diagnostic Assessment and Services (MIDAS) Project

APA-accredited: YES __NO X

Site: Rhode Island Hospital
Outpatient and Partial Hospital Psychiatry Divisions

Supervisor(s): Mark Zimmerman, M.D. (Primary Mentor)
Iwona Chelminski, Ph.D.
Kristy Dalrymple, Ph.D.

Description of Site

Rhode Island Hospital is a private, 719-bed, not-for-profit, acute care hospital and academic medical center founded in 1863. It is the largest of the state's general acute care hospitals, providing comprehensive health services, and serving as a primary teaching hospital for Brown Medical School. The adult outpatient programs have shown steady growth to over 50,000 visits per year. Outpatient Mental Health services are in short supply in our region and we continue to grow to accommodate the needs. Services are delivered by a multidisciplinary group of board certified psychiatrists, psychologists, and social workers. The Acceptance and Mindfulness-Based Partial Hospitalization Program at Rhode Island Hospital serves adults aged 18 years and older who present with a range of psychological problems, including mood and anxiety disorders, substance use disorders, and personality disorders. The program provides six hours of treatment per day, and the average length of stay for patients is 5-10 program days.

Fellowship Aims

1. To provide the fellow with broad post-doctoral training in the area of diagnostic precision and psychiatric comorbidity.
2. To provide the fellow with a strong working knowledge of assessment, clinical scale development, treatment decision-making, and treatment outcome research conducted with adult population presenting with diverse psychiatric problems.
3. To prepare the fellow for a clinical research career by active participation in research projects, grant writing, data collection, data management and analysis, development and implementation of a research proposal, with the goal of presenting research results at national meetings, and writing peer-reviewed manuscripts.
4. To enable the fellow to accrue hours toward Rhode Island licensure through clinical research activities.

Fellowship Timeline

This is a two-year fellowship, renewable after one year contingent upon satisfactory progress. The anticipated start date is July-September, 2021.

The fellowship is primarily a clinical research position: 80% is research work, 10% is didactics, and 10% is clinical work that falls outside of clinical research protocols; and the majority of both occurs in an integrated clinical research context.

Research Activity Plan (77.5%)

The fellow will be exposed to various aspects of clinical and research work related to adult populations. This will be achieved by participation in the following activities:

- **Diagnostic Evaluations:** The fellow will collaborate with the Principal Investigator within the MIDAS project, which has successfully integrated a research program into clinical practice. Psychiatric outpatients, partial hospital patients, and candidates for bariatric surgery are comprehensively evaluated with semi-structured diagnostic interviews including the SCID and SIDP (for personality disorders), family history of psychiatric disorders, and psychosocial functioning. These activities involve approximately 60% time effort. While this effort occurs as part of programmatic research activities, it involves conducting evaluations with a clinical population and is therefore relevant to the clinical activity plan as well.
- **Grant and manuscript writing:** The fellow will be encouraged to develop a grant idea and submit a grant proposal by the end of the fellowship term. The fellow will be encouraged to collaborate on manuscript preparation and poster submissions at national conferences such as ABCT, ACBS, and APA conventions. Individually tailored goals will be established in this area. This will involve approximately 20% of time allocated for grant and manuscript-related activities.

Didactics (10%)

- The fellow will be required to participate in weekly journal club meetings conducted at the West River Building, where recent research findings are discussed and critiqued. The fellow will participate in the weekly postdoctoral research seminars offered through the Brown University Postdoctoral Fellowship Training Program. These include seminars on grant writing and other clinical research topics and will involve approximately 10% effort.

Clinical Activity Plan (12.5%)

- **Treatment and clinical assessment services:**

The fellow will also provide clinical services, including individual and/or group therapy for outpatients presenting for treatment-as-usual, as well as those participating in the Bariatric Surgery Program (12.5% time). These activities are in addition to the clinical research activities described in the Diagnostic Evaluation section above. Therefore it is likely that necessary hours toward clinical licensure will be accrued in one year.

Path toward licensure: YES NO

Supervision and Evaluation

Supervision will be provided for both research and clinical activities. The fellow will have regular individual meetings with Dr. Zimmerman. Research mentoring is also readily available from Dr. Dalrymple. Weekly individual clinical supervision will be provided by Drs. Chelminski and Dalrymple, depending upon which clinical activities are involved.

The Fellow will also have access to several additional forums for direct and indirect supervision through optional participation in regularly scheduled rounds and case conferences.

The Fellow and supervisors will develop fellowship goals and learning objectives early on in the first year. At the conclusion and midpoint of the fellowship, the fellow and the supervisors are requested to 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:

- Private office space
- Free parking
- A personal desktop computer and project specific software
- Internet access
- Library services through Brown Medical School
- Telephone
- Access to copying equipment and fax
- Travel funds for research presentations at the national conferences

Reporting and approval

This fellowship will be part of the RFP. The position has been discussed and approved by the Adult track faculty

Director, Research Fellowship Program (RFP)

Director, Postdoctoral Fellowship Training Program (PFTP)