



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 Adolescent Mental Health
APA-accredited: ___YES __X__NO

Site: Bradley Hasbro Children's Research Center
Rhode Island Family Court

Supervisor(s): Kathleen Kemp, Ph.D., Primary Supervisor
Elizabeth Thompson, Ph.D., Secondary Supervisor

Description of Site

The Bradley Hasbro Children's Research Center (BHCRC) combines child and adolescent expertise from two of the major teaching hospitals for The Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University, Bradley Hospital and Hasbro Children's Hospital. Bradley Hospital is the nation's first psychiatric hospital devoted to children and adolescents and is a national leader in training and research in child and adolescent psychiatry.

The post-doctoral fellow will be integrally involved in several research projects focused on developing and testing brief interventions for high-risk adolescents within juvenile justice and acute care settings. The fellow's primary placement will be within the Rhode Island Family Court (RIFC), where they will oversee implementation of two NIMH-funded treatment trials focused on suicide risk. Under the supervision of Dr. Kemp, the fellow will oversee research assistant recruitment and follow-up procedures, randomization procedures, assessment and intervention delivery, data management, and IRB regulation adherence and reporting. The fellow's secondary placement will be at Bradley Hospital's Adolescent Inpatient Unit (AIU), a short-term psychiatric unit. Here the fellow will assist Dr. Thompson in the administration of diagnostic and qualitative interviews as part of an intervention development trial focused on suicide risk in early psychosis (funded by the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention [AFSP]).

In the optional second year of the fellowship, the fellow will continue research activities as described above and may choose from a second year at the Mental Health Clinic and/or on the Adolescent Inpatient Unit at Bradley Hospital. Clinical psychology fellows will gain experience working collaboratively with a multidisciplinary treatment team that includes case managers, social workers, training school administrators, psychologists, judges, probation, teachers, and child welfare workers. The postdoctoral fellow will also have ample opportunity to collaborate on manuscripts and grant submissions stemming from these research experiences.

Fellowship Aims

1. To provide the fellow with a strong working knowledge of research involving adolescent psychopathology, adolescent risk prevention, juvenile justice, and mental health.
2. To provide the fellow with research training and experience in preparation for a research career in adolescent psychopathology with youth across high-risk settings (i.e. juvenile justice and psychiatric inpatient settings).

**Alpert Medical School of Brown University
Clinical Psychology Training Consortium
Postdoctoral Fellowship Description: RESEARCH FOCUS**

3. To provide the fellow with specialized training in psychosis assessment with an acute psychiatric population.

Fellowship Timeline

The duration of the fellowship is 1 year. A second year of funding may be possible contingent upon availability of funding and satisfactory progress. The anticipated start date is July 2021. There may be flexibility in the available start date if a suitable candidate is identified before that time.

Research Activity Plan (70%)

The first NIMH-funded research project involves a nonrandomized control design of a brief suicide intervention with court-involved youth (ASPIRE). The study will examine the effectiveness of a safety planning intervention for indicated suicidal youth in reducing suicidal ideation, in reducing suicidal events (suicide attempts as well as emergency evaluations and psychiatric hospitalizations for suicidality), increasing engagement in outpatient mental health treatment, and improving youth motivation for treatment. CINI juveniles, ages 12-17, (N=100 for baseline (historical control) cohort; N=100 for efficacy trial; N=100 for alternative causal design) and a caregiver will be recruited from the juvenile court to participate in the current study. CINI juveniles in the efficacy trial will receive the evidenced-based brief suicide intervention as part of standard of care and will be compared to historical control and alternative causal design. Baseline data will be collected as part of routine care. Youth and a caregiver will be re-assessed at 3 months subsequent to the juvenile's initial court appointment.

The 2-year AFSP study seeks to 1) qualitatively explore co-occurring suicidal thoughts, psychosis-spectrum experiences, and other mental health symptoms among teens psychiatrically hospitalized for acute safety concerns; 2) develop a safety plan template and guidelines specifically tailored to teens at clinical high risk for psychosis based on data collected; and 3) iteratively pilot a psychosis-risk safety plan with the teens and their caregivers to solicit feedback and refine the safety planning tool for a future trial.

The fellow will be exposed to various aspects of research via participation in the following activities:

- Study coordination and implementation (30%): The fellow will collaborate with the PIs (Drs. Kemp and Thompson) to coordinate several clinical research trials funded by NIMH and AFSP.
- Skilled supervised clinical intervention (20%): The fellow will conduct forensic mental health treatment with adolescents referred by the court (Supervisor: Dr. Kemp) and 2) diagnostic interviews conducted on the AIU at Bradley Hospital (Supervisor: Dr. Thompson).
- Review of relevant literature (10%): The fellow will be provided with a series of readings in the area. This review will be matched to fellow training and career goals and can focus on a range of areas such as adolescent psychopathology, suicide risk prevention, juvenile justice and mental health, early psychosis, statistical modeling, and dissemination and implementation science.
- Grant writing (10%): The fellow will collaborate with the PIs (Drs. Kemp and Thompson) to co-write grant proposals throughout the fellowship year.

In addition to experiences included in coordination of the primary research projects described above, at least 20% of the experience will consist of promoting development of the fellow's independent program of research. The nature of this 20% independent research program will be collaboratively determined by the fellow and supervisor(s) and *will involve the production of a traditional scientific product* (e.g., manuscript, presentation at a national professional meeting, grant application, instrument development); the independent program of research may involve new directions taken using resources (i.e., data, research population, etc) provided by the mentorship team and/or may involve continued development of the trainee's prior work (i.e., publication of dissertation). The fellow will also be encouraged to develop a grant idea and submit a grant proposal by the end of a one-year fellowship term

**Alpert Medical School of Brown University
Clinical Psychology Training Consortium
Postdoctoral Fellowship Description: RESEARCH FOCUS**

Clinical Activity Plan (20%)

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 licensure through the Skilled supervised clinical intervention described in the Research Activity Plan above – i.e. The fellow will conduct forensic mental health treatment with adolescents referred by the court and diagnostic interviews conducted on the AIU at Bradley Hospital). A second year of fellowship would be required to accumulate the requisite number of clinical hours for licensure (RI).

Didactics (10%)

The fellow will participate in the following post-doctoral seminars through the Brown Post Doctoral Training Program (for 10% of fellow time). The fellow may participate in the weekly postdoctoral research seminars offered through the Brown Post Doctoral Training Program. Depending on the specific interests and background of the research fellow, additional didactics may be available to the postdoctoral fellow such as the weekly Forensic Psychiatry Seminar.

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 of both research and clinical duties will be provided in the form of weekly individual supervision (one hour each for research and clinical activities, with Dr. Kemp as the primary research and clinical supervisor and Dr. Thompson as the secondary research and clinical supervisor.

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 including statistical software
- Internet access
- Telephone

Reporting and approval

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

Associate Director, Research Fellowship Program (RFP)

Director, Research Fellowship Program (RFP)

Director, Postdoctoral Fellowship Training Program (PFTP)