



**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: CLINICAL FOCUS**

**Title:** Postdoctoral Fellowship in Family Therapy  
APA-accredited:  YES  NO

**Site:** Rhode Island Hospital, East Providence Outpatient Psychiatry

**Supervisor(s):** Abigail Mansfield Marcaccio, Ph.D. (Primary Supervisor)  
Jeniimarie Febres, Ph.D.  
Gabor Keitner, M.D.  
Richard Archambault, EdD

---

**Description of Site**

Lifespan's Family Therapy Program is affiliated with Rhode Island Hospital and is housed at the East Providence Outpatient Psychiatry office at 950 Warren Avenue. The Family Therapy Program treats families of any size and constellation including married couples, cohabitating couples, couples who do not live together, LGBTQAI couples, elderly couples, families with young or adult children, families facing geriatric issues, stepfamilies, and families facing medical illness or psychiatric illness.

The McMaster Approach to evaluating and treating families guides all clinical work. The McMaster Approach is a comprehensive approach to evaluating and treating families and was developed by clinicians and clinical researchers. Over the past 40 years, research has supported both its conceptual framework and its effectiveness. The McMaster Approach to family therapy requires that families participate in a comprehensive assessment to identify ongoing problems and strengths and to identify goals that will guide treatment to resolve them. Once in treatment, family members identify concrete actions they can take to work toward their goals. The program uses a team approach and coordinates care with other mental health providers in the Lifespan health system.

**Fellowship Aims**

1. To provide the fellow with broad post-doctoral training evaluating and treating families using the McMaster Approach.
2. To enable the fellow to gain experience working with a multidisciplinary team by providing family therapy and coordinating care with psychiatrists and individual therapists across the Lifespan psychiatry service line.
3. To provide the fellow with opportunities to participate in research on the effectiveness of the McMaster Approach to family therapy, and with opportunities to explore quantitative data on the assessment of family functioning using validated assessment instruments of the McMaster Model of family functioning.

### **Fellowship Timeline**

The duration of the fellowship is 1 to 2 years, to be negotiated with the fellow after the first 6-9 months. The anticipated start date is 7/15/2022.

### **Clinical Activity Plan (70%)**

In order to ensure that the fellow receives a high level of clinical training in family therapy, the following activities will be required during the fellowship:

- Co-Therapy: the fellow will see families and individuals along with supervisors throughout the week. The fellow will also conduct family assessments with supervisors throughout the week. 20% effort
- Treatment services: the fellow will develop and follow a case load of 6-10 families that the fellow sees and follows from the assessment phase of the McMaster Approach through closure. 40% effort
- Clinical assessment: the fellow will learn how to conduct a McMaster assessment of family functioning in a semi-structured way. The fellow will also learn to conduct a structured interview to assess family functioning. 10% effort

### **Research Activity Plan (20%)**

Abigail Mansfield Marcaccio will supervise the fellow's research. The fellow will be exposed to various aspects of family therapy clinical research. This is achieved via participation in the following activities (20% effort across the following):

- Study coordination: The fellow will assist in coordinating participation in an ongoing effectiveness study which aims to track outcomes in families who receive McMaster style family therapy
- The fellow will be provided with a series of readings on the McMaster Approach to evaluating and treating families
- Literature reviews: The fellow will conduct literature reviews on family therapy outcome studies, family functioning, and family interventions in treating illness
- Manuscript preparation and submission: The fellow will be encouraged to collaborate on manuscript preparation and poster submissions at national conferences. The fellow can explore analyzing a piece of an existing data set in collaboration with the family therapy research team
- The fellow will be required to participate in weekly research meetings conducted through the Family Therapy Program, either in person or by zoom

### **Didactics (10%)**

Postdoctoral Seminars: The fellow will participate in postdoctoral seminars through the Postdoctoral Fellowship Training Program. 10% time.

Mandatory Didactics:

Core Seminars (1 per month).

DPHB Academic Grand Rounds (1 per month).  
Clinical Ethics-If APA approved postdoc and/or if intending to sit for licensure (1 per month).  
CPP Seminar (1 per month)- required for all APA-accredited clinical adult fellowships.

Optional Didactics:

Academic Friday–Grantsmanship, Special Topics in Statistic and Alcohol Center Seminars.

**Supervision and Evaluation**

Supervision will be provided in the form of weekly individual supervision, two hours/week (Drs. Mansfield, Febres and Archambault) and weekly group supervision, 1 hour/week (Drs. Keitner, Archambault, Mansfield, Febres).

At 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 appropriate for clinical care
- A computer and project specific software
- Internet access
- Telephone
- For CPP, CCPSP, and CNSP fellows, individual office space is provided.

**Reporting and approval**

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

Director, Clinical Psychology Program (CPP)

Director, Postdoctoral Fellowship Training Program (PFTP)