



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 Menstrual Cycle Exacerbation of Borderline Personality Disorder

APA-accredited: ___YES __X__NO

Site: Brown University

Supervisor(s): Jessica Peters, Ph.D., Primary Supervisor
Leslie Brick, Ph.D.

Description of Site

The Department of Psychiatry and Human Behavior (DPHB) within the Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University has a research infrastructure that is designed to facilitate the development and continued success of a structured and comprehensive program of research. The Department has more than 100 academic faculty and about 50 postdoctoral trainees, plus dozens of psychiatry and psychology residents. It has one of the most well-established psychiatry and clinical psychology internship and post-doctoral training programs in the country. Research activities conducted by DPHB faculty include close to 200 ongoing studies funded by more than 50 external sources such as the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH), National Cancer Institute (NCI), National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD), National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA), National Institute of Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (NIAAA), and the National Alliance for Research on Schizophrenia and Depression (NARSAD).

This fellowship will be administered through Brown University and based with the research group of Dr. Jessica Peters, an NIH/NIMH funded investigator with a primary appointment in the DPHB/Brown University. The lab investigates mechanisms of development and exacerbation of borderline personality disorder and related symptoms/behavior in adolescents and adults, including psychological mechanisms such as anger dysregulation, biological factors such as ovarian steroid hormones, and environmental contributors such as minority stressors. The laboratory collaborates with other investigators within the DPHB (including those based at Rhode Island Hospital, Butler Hospital, and Bradley Hospital), as well as outside of the Brown University consortium. Dr. Brick, an additional supervisor for this fellowship, is also faculty in the DPHB as well as the Associate Director of the DBHB Quantitative Sciences Program (QSP). The QSP provides research support and training. Training takes the form of formal workshops, seminars, and individual mentoring in the areas of quantitative methodology. Topic areas include research and experimental design, survey and sampling methods, basic and advanced multivariate data analysis. The QSP actively collaborates with on-going and proposed research at Brown and across the nation and conducts independent and methodologically focused research projects.

Drs. Peters's and Brick's research workspaces, as well as office space for the fellowship, are physically located in Brown University/DPHB-leased space at Butler Hospital. Established in 1844, Butler Hospital is a private Brown University-affiliated psychiatric and substance abuse hospital located in Providence,

RI. Over 6,000 patients are admitted annually. Butler Hospital also has a 24-hour psychiatric emergency department, a Partial Hospitalization Program, and an Outpatient Department.

Fellowship Aims

1. To provide the fellow with research training and experience in preparation for a research career examining biologically-based behavioral mechanisms underlying psychopathology, particularly borderline personality disorder, affective disorders, and emotion dysregulation broadly.
2. To provide the fellow with a strong working knowledge of menstrual cycle research.
3. Promote professional skill development, including scientific program management skills and management/supervision skills.
4. Develop competencies in scientific communication and grant preparation.

Fellowship Timeline

The anticipated duration of the fellowship is 2 years, contingent upon satisfactory progress during the first year. The anticipated start date is July 2022.

Research Activity Plan (77.5%)

The fellow will be exposed to various aspects of research on an NIMH-funded longitudinal study of biologically-based behavioral mechanisms of menstrual cycle exacerbation of borderline personality disorder symptoms (R01 MH126940 “Distinct Steroid Mechanisms in Menstrual Cycle Exacerbation of Psychopathology”) via participation in the following activities:

- Study coordination (55%). The fellow will collaborate with Drs. Peters and Brick, along with other project and staff, with grant-funded research involving:
 - Training in all study protocols in order to both supervise and train research assistants, monitor their work, and step in as needed.
 - Running meetings for fidelity coding for interviews conducted by study staff.
 - Overseeing more complex IRB documentation.
 - Managing NIH/NDA data sharing.
 - Organizing/overseeing databases and data collection/storage procedures
 - Creating data cleaning and analysis pipelines, with supervision/input from supervisors.
- Develop her/his own line of research (20%):
 - 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. Pre-collected data from multiple sources on topics related to the fellowship project (BPD, menstrual cycle, etc) as well as other areas are available.
 - Grant 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 also have opportunities to collaborate with Dr. Peters on joint grant writing efforts if of interest.
- Research group meetings (2.5%):
 - Attend weekly group meetings with study investigators and collaborating labs.

Clinical Activity Plan (12.5%)

- Clinical assessment: conduct suicide risk assessments and baseline diagnostic evaluations as part of the research projects described above. All participants in these research studies have

psychiatric disorders or elevated psychiatric symptoms to the point of impairment, and thus are a clinical population. This should comprise a minimum of 12.5% effort.

Path toward licensure: YES NO

*Sufficient hours for licensure will be accrued if the fellowship is extended for a 2nd year.

Didactics (10%)

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

Mandatory Didactics:

- PFTP Core Seminars (1 per month)
- DPHB Academic Grand Rounds (1 per month)
- Clinical Ethics – if intending to sit for licensure (1 per month)
- RFP Core Seminars – Grantsmanship seminars, Special Topics in Statistics

Supervision and Evaluation

Supervision will be provided in the form of both weekly individual supervision (Dr. Peters) and weekly group supervision (Dr. Peters, Dr. Brick). Clinical supervision will be provided in the form of weekly individual and group supervision (Dr. Peters). Total hours of weekly supervision: 1 hour individual, 1 hour group.

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
- Internet access
- Telephone
- Space for conducting clinical interviews and risk assessments and other study related activities

Reporting and approval

This fellowship will be part of the Research Fellowship Program (RFP). The position has been discussed and approved by the Training Committee.

Associate Director, Research Fellowship Program

Director, Postdoctoral Fellowship Training Program