



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: Diversity Postdoctoral Fellowship in Weight Control

APA-accredited: ___ YES ___ X ___ NO

Site: The Miriam Hospital

Supervisor(s): Rena Wing, PhD
Graham Thomas, PhD
Elissa Jelalian, PhD

Description of Site

The proposed training will be carried out at the **Weight Control and Diabetes Research Center (WCDRC)** at The Miriam Hospital. The WCDRC is directed by Dr. Rena Wing and provides an outstanding environment in terms of both physical resources and intellectual collaboration. The Center is affiliated with The Miriam Hospital and the Alpert Medical School of Brown University. The WCDRC has 11 faculty members, all with their own independent research funding and all studying topics related to behavioral weight control. Additional staff members include postdoctoral fellows, nutritionists, exercise physiologists, and a data manager. Faculty at the WCDRC are currently conducting research related to obesity in a variety of different age groups (children, adolescents, adults), examining dissemination of interventions across a variety of settings (e.g. primary care, federally qualified health center, low-income housing) and testing a variety of different approaches (including early intervention for non-responders and on-line approaches to improving maintenance of weight loss). A number of WCDRC faculty conduct research with an emphasis on better understanding and addressing the needs of populations that are overburdened by obesity and related conditions, as well as those that are under-resourced. The WCDRC is under the umbrella of the Centers for Behavioral and Preventive Medicine. The Centers include additional faculty members with very closely related expertise who add tremendously to the overall scientific environment.

Fellowship Aims

This postdoctoral fellowship is recruiting applicants from NIH defined underrepresented ethnic and racial minorities to complete postdoctoral training in the general area of weight control and obesity treatment and prevention, with emphasis on pediatric or adult populations depending on applicant interest. The fellowship seeks applicants with training in a wide range of disciplines related to obesity, including psychology, epidemiology, dietetics/nutrition, exercise science, and others.

1. To provide the fellow with broad post-doctoral research training related to prevention and treatment of obesity across the lifespan.
2. To provide the fellow with a strong working knowledge of clinical trial methodologies as related to obesity treatment and prevention.

3. To provide the fellow with training in how: obesity differentially impacts disadvantaged populations such as those from low-income backgrounds, racial and ethnic minority groups, and the LGBTQ+ community; obesity is often associated with stigma; and how these and other issues can inform the work of obesity researchers to improve equity, clinical care, and public health impact, for example.
4. To provide the fellow with the opportunity to participate in ongoing research projects disseminating intervention in community and primary care settings.
5. To provide the fellow with the opportunity to participate in all aspects of research including, the development and implementation of research protocols, data collection, data management and analyses, and intervention delivery.
6. To provide the fellow with experience writing scientific manuscripts, abstracts, and grant applications, as both a primary author and co-author in conjunction with mentors.

Fellowship Timeline

The duration of the fellowship is 2 years. The 2nd year is contingent upon satisfactory progress during the first year. The anticipated start date is July 1, 2022.

Research Activity Plan (90%)

- Study coordination (45%): The fellow will actively participate in currently funded research projects. Depending on the fellow's interest, this project might include dissemination of a weight loss intervention to a primary care setting, intervention to decrease risk of Alzheimer's disease, delivery of an evidence-based pediatric weight control intervention to families living in under resourced communities, or other ongoing funded research projects directed by the primary mentors. Responsibilities will include tasks such as coordinating participant recruitment, assisting with development of intervention materials and the research protocol, conducting group or individual level treatment programs, supervising assessment visits, oversight of data management, and supervision of research assistants. The fellow will participate in weekly research meetings focused on research progress, discussion of relevant literature, and ongoing program planning.
- Independent research and grant writing (45%): The fellow will perform independent research that may involve publishing dissertation research, collecting pilot data, conducting new projects agreed upon with the mentors, and/or preparing their own grant proposal(s). The fellow will have the opportunity to contribute to ongoing grant preparation/submissions. The fellow will also be encouraged to develop their own 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. A number of datasets are currently available that will facilitate manuscript preparation. The fellow is encouraged to attend to aspects of diversity, equity, inclusion, and advocacy in their work, but their research is not required to focus on these issues.

Didactics (10%)

- Didactics (10%): The fellow will participate in the didactic program sponsored by the psychology fellowship program. Required didactics include core seminars (1 per month), DPHB Academic Grand Rounds (1 per month), RFP Core Seminar (weekly during academic year), and Grant Writing Seminar. Additional didactics may include those related to research methods, statistics, research ethics, cultural sensitivity and diversity, developing programmatic research, and professional development.

Clinical Activity Plan

There is no requirement of clinical work as part of the postdoctoral fellowship, although opportunities may be created under special circumstances. In this case, research effort will be reduced to allow for participation in clinical activities, a primary clinical supervisor will be identified, and attendance at Clinical Ethics will be required.

Path toward licensure: YES _____ NO X _____

Didactics

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

Mandatory Didactics:

- RFP Core Seminar (1 per week)
- Grantsmanship Seminar (1 per week)
- Core Seminars (1 per month) Non applied psychology fellows can opt out of selected topics
- DPHB Academic Grand Rounds (1 per month)

Optional Didactics and Opportunities:

- Clinical Ethics – if intending to sit for licensure (1 per month) Non applied fellows can opt out topics
- Special Topics in Statistics and Alcohol Center seminars.
- DPHB Diversity Mentoring Program – including opportunities for mentorship from faculty within DPHB conducting work in areas of interest

Supervision and Evaluation

Supervision will be provided in the form of weekly individual research supervision with Drs Wing, Thomas, or Jelalian, depending on training emphasis. At the midpoint and conclusion of the fellowship, the fellow and the supervisor 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
- \$2,000 per year for professional development. This may be used for travel to conferences, professional memberships, and other approved professional expenses.

Reporting and approval

This fellowship will be part of the Research Fellowship Program. The position has been discussed and approved by the Research Fellowship Program Director and Associate Director.

Associate Director, Research Fellowship Program

Director, Postdoctoral Fellowship Training Program