



**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 Pediatric Weight Control

APA-accredited: \_\_\_ YES \_\_\_ X \_\_\_ NO

**Site:** The Miriam Hospital

**Supervisor(s):** Elissa Jelalian, PhD (primary)  
Whitney Evans, PhD

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**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**

1. To provide the fellow with broad post-doctoral research training related to prevention and treatment of obesity in children and adolescents.
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 the opportunity to participate in ongoing research projects disseminating intervention in community settings.

**Fellowship Timeline**

The duration of the fellowship is 1 year. A second year may be available contingent on successful completion of the first year and availability of funding. The anticipated start date is July 1, 2022.

### **Research Activity Plan (90%)**

- Study coordination (50%): The fellow will actively participate in currently funded research projects. Depending on the fellow's interest, this may include involvement on a clinical trial examining the effectiveness of an intervention that incorporates training in emotion regulation with standard behavioral weight control for adolescents or dissemination of an evidence-based pediatric weight control intervention to families living in under resourced communities. Responsibilities will include tasks such as working with the study PIs to enhance recruitment strategies, assisting with refinement and adaptation of intervention materials, conducting group or individual level treatment programs, supervising assessment visits, providing oversight of data management, and supervising 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 (40%): 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 (weekly during academic year). Additional didactics may include those related to research methods, statistics, research ethics, implementation science, 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 equally from study coordination and independent research activities 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 Dr. Jelalian and biweekly meetings (every other week) with Dr. Evans. 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
- \$1,500 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