



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 Emotion Regulation and Risk Behaviors

APA-accredited: ____ YES __X__ NO

Site: Bradley/Hasbro Children's Research Center

Supervisor(s): Christopher Houck, Ph.D., Primary Supervisor
Clinical supervisors to be determined by clinical interests

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. Research projects also include collaborations with Butler Hospital, the Miriam Hospital, and the Rhode Island Department of Health.

Hasbro Children's Hospital is the Pediatric Division of RI Hospital, the primary teaching hospital of Alpert Medical School, Brown University. Hasbro is a 100-bed pediatric hospital. There are approximately 6,750 admissions each year. The patients range in age from birth to 20 years. Further, 40% of children who reside in the area live in poverty. The pediatric ambulatory services include the Pediatric and Adolescent Primary Care Unit, pediatric specialty clinics (e.g., oncology, sleep disorders, endocrinology, gastroenterology) and the Pediatric Emergency Service. There are approximately 62,500 ambulatory visits each year.

Fellowship Aims

1. To provide the fellow with broad post-doctoral training in the area of emotion regulation in the developmental period of early adolescence.
2. To provide the fellow with a strong working knowledge of research assessing respiratory sinus arrhythmia and other measures of emotion regulation, substance use, and sexual risk behaviors among adolescents.
3. To provide the fellow with research training and experience in preparation for a research career in adolescent risk behaviors.

Fellowship Timeline

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

Research Activity Plan (77.5%)

The context of the fellowship experience will be a longitudinal study of the relationship between respiratory sinus arrhythmia (RSA; a measure of emotion regulation) and adolescent risk behaviors (substance use and sexual risk). The design uses virtual reality and other computerized tasks to elicit emotion and will examine multiple measurements of RSA (baseline, challenge, recovery) in predicting vulnerability to early onset substance use. The population of the study is early adolescents (12-year-olds) who will be assessed every three months for two years. Opportunities also exist to gain exposure to emotion regulation intervention studies occurring in the lab. The fellow will assist in coordinating this study.

In addition to experiences included in the execution of this research project, the fellowship will include development of the fellow's independent program of research (including grant writing and manuscript preparation). The nature of this independent research program will be collaboratively determined by the fellow and supervisor and will result in tangible scientific products (e.g., manuscripts, presentation at national meetings, grant applications). The independent program of research may involve new directions or continued development of the trainee's prior work.

The fellow will be exposed to various aspects of adolescent risk and emotion regulation research via participation in the following activities:

- Study coordination (50%)
 - a. The fellow will collaborate with the PIs (including supervisor Houck) to coordinate a large longitudinal study recently funded by the National Institute on Drug Abuse.
 - b. The fellow will be required to participate in weekly research meetings conducted at the BHCRC.
 - c. The fellow will assist in conducting the experimental protocol and follow-up assessments with participants, as well as train and supervise research assistants in conducting study protocols.
- Independent research (28.5%)
 - a. Grant writing: The fellow will be encouraged to develop a grant idea and submit a grant proposal by the end of the fellowship term.
 - b. 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, and existing data sets in the lab are available for these aims.

Clinical Activity Plan (12.5%)

Opportunities for additional clinical experience will be provided as part of the position through the pediatric psychology rotations at Hasbro Children's Hospital and include a variety of outpatient clinics and inpatient services for children and adolescents with medical and mental health conditions. These clinical activities will be tailored to the fellow's training background and goals.

Path toward licensure: YES NO

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 (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 research supervision (Dr. Houck) and group supervision (project management meetings). Clinical supervision will be provided in the form of weekly individual supervision with the licensed clinical psychologist supervising the selected rotation.

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
- \$1000 travel allowance each year will be provided to attend conferences

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