

DEPARTMENT of VETERANS AFFAIRS ADVANCED FELLOWSHIPS in MENTAL ILLNESS RESEARCH and TREATMENT

**South Central VA Mental Illness Research, Education and Clinical Center
and Central Arkansas Veterans Healthcare System**

North Little Rock, Arkansas

Call for Applications 2024-2026—Advanced Psychiatry Fellowship



Overview

Applications are currently being accepted for the SC MIRECC Special Fellowship in Advanced Psychiatry Program located in Little Rock, Arkansas. The SC MIRECC fellowship is a two-year research training program (75% time devoted to research and 25% to advanced clinical training). The purpose of the SC MIRECC Special Fellowship in Advanced Psychiatry is to train psychiatrists for eventual leadership roles in research, education, and clinical services, particularly in academic and medical care settings, such as the Veterans Health Administration. Although many Fellows pursue careers focused predominantly on academic research and education in mental health, successful graduates of the program will also include those who pursue leadership careers that emphasize education and clinical contributions in mental health. By the end of the Fellowship Program, Fellows pursuing academic clinical-research careers should be ready to submit applications for career development awards (such as VA Career Development Awards or NIH K-Awards) towards the end of the fellowship. Fellows should also be ready to pursue entry-level leadership roles which integrate state-of-the-art research, education, and clinical approaches to mental health in the VA healthcare system and other academic institutions.

Research Mentoring

The Little Rock SC MIRECC Fellowship is founded upon a team mentoring approach where each Fellow works with a primary mentor and a team of research and clinical advisors. Senior research faculty and interests include:

[Michael A. Cucciare, PhD](#): Implementation of evidence-based treatments; computer-based technology in mental health treatment; treatments for substance use disorders

[Geoffrey Curran, PhD](#): Implementation science; qualitative methods; substance use disorders

[Ellen Fischer, PhD](#): Rural populations' access to treatment; family involvement in care for PTSD and schizophrenia; outcomes of care

[Teresa Hudson, PhD, PharmD](#): Use of large epidemiologic databases to study access and quality of care; opioid use and risk factors for misuse/abuse; rural/urban disparities in care

[JoAnn Kirchner, MD](#): Implementation science; implementation of evidence-based practices in clinical settings; primary care mental health integration

[Sara Landes, PhD](#): Implementation science; suicide prevention; dialectical behavior therapy

[Richard Owen, MD](#): Schizophrenia; depression; management of antipsychotic drug side effects; implementation science; quality of care

[Jacob Painter, PharmD, MBA, PhD](#): Implementation science; cost effectiveness analysis; treating depression in persons with HIV; improving care for Veterans with complex behavioral health conditions

[Jeffrey Pyne, MD](#): Telemedicine; PTSD; psychophysiological assessment; virtual reality; substance use disorders; cost-effectiveness analyses; mental health-clergy collaboration

[Eva Woodward, PhD](#): Implementation science; health disparities and health equity; mental health evaluations in medical settings; community and patient engagement in research; implementation practice



The North Little Rock campus of Central Arkansas Veterans Healthcare System.

Academic and Cultural Environment

Central Arkansas Veterans Healthcare System (CAVHS) is a large and complex VA Medical System, with two large medical facilities in the Little Rock metropolitan area of about 580,000 people. CAVHS also has community-based outpatient clinics (CBOCs) throughout the state of Arkansas to serve its large rural population of Veterans. In addition to the SC MIRECC, CAVHS hosts three other VA research centers: the HSR&D Center for Mental Healthcare Outcomes Research (CeMHOR), the Behavioral Health Quality Enhancement Research Initiative (BH QUERI), and the Little Rock Geriatric Research, Education, and Clinical Center (GRECC). The academic affiliate is the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences (UAMS). Fellows receive Instructor appointments and are involved in the academic activities of UAMS faculty in the Center for Health Services Research within the Department of Psychiatry.

[Arkansas, “the Natural State,”](#) offers a multitude of scenic landscapes along with natural and cultural resources and programs. [Little Rock,](#) the state capitol, has many excellent restaurants, a thriving cultural community, museums, public golf courses, [Pinnacle Mountain State Park,](#) and the 17-mile [Arkansas River Trail](#) for walking, jogging, and cycling. Arkansas has a large [state park system](#) with campsites, hiking trails, mountain lodges, interpretive events, fall foliage programs, and activities for all seasons.



The Little Rock campus of CAVHS (front center) and the campus of UAMS (rear center).

Clinical Training Opportunities

Working with their mentoring team, each psychiatry fellow will develop a set of practice experiences that best complement their research and career goals. Recent fellows have focused on clinical rotations related to mental health intensive care programs for persons with serious mental illness, trauma recovery, anxiety and depression treatment, women’s health, telemedicine, substance use disorder treatment, and rehabilitation psychology.

Stipend and Benefits

- Full-time stipend of approximately \$54,393 plus benefits for the 1st year, beginning on or before September 1, 2024; stipend amount may change.
- Vacation (13 days per year) and sick leave (13 days per year)
- Benefits as applicable, including eligibility for health insurance
- Authorized leave for professional conferences (limited travel funds usually available)
- Tuition support for courses at UAMS
- \$1,000 in books and supplies
- \$7,000 in research start-up funds

Requirements

- Applicants must have completed an ACGME accredited residency training, be board eligible or board certified, and have an active, unrestricted U.S. license to practice.
- International medical graduates must also have a current visa and an ECFMG certificate that is valid indefinitely. Applicants on a J-1 visa must have current ECFMG sponsorship as well.
- Applications will be reviewed beginning early January 2024; later applications may be accepted until positions are filled (contact program director for exact dates).
- Fellowship preferred start date is flexible (usually between July 1 and September 15)
- Part-time fellowship with at least 50% commitment may be negotiated

Application Procedure

- Cover Letter describing
 - Area(s) of research interest and vision of how this training will advance your career
 - Research training and goals
 - Clinical experience and goals
- Curriculum Vitae
- Three Letters of Recommendation addressed to Dr. Michael Cucciare (from training director, research, and clinical supervisors familiar with your work)
- Two samples of scholarly writing, such as a journal publication or research manuscript, if available
- Specific information about by-invitation interviews will be sent to qualified applications

Note: VA fellows are subject to all employment rules applying to federal employees, including selective service registration, if applicable. The United States Government does not discriminate in employment based on race, color, religion, sex, national origin, political affiliation, sexual orientation, gender identity, marital status, disability and genetic information, age, membership in an employee organization, or other non-merit factor.

Contact Us

Please direct questions about the Advanced Fellowship Programs at CAVHS and application process to Ms. Kristin Ward (see contact information below) or Dr. Michael A. Cucciare (macucciare@uams.edu).

Administrative Contact / Submission of Materials:

Kristin Ward
South Central MIRECC
2200 Fort Roots Drive, 16MIR
N. Little Rock, AR 72114-1706
kristin.ward2@va.gov

Other Information

For more information about SC MIRECC Advanced Fellowship programs visit our website:

<http://www.mirecc.va.gov/visn16/trainingPrograms.asp>

For more information about the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences Center for Health Services Research and faculty, please visit:

<http://psychiatry.uams.edu/research-2/division-of-health-services-research/>

CAVHS also hosts a one-year clinical fellowship program with emphasis areas in psychosocial rehabilitation and recovery and in PTSD. For information about the clinical fellowship, please visit the website:

http://www.littlerock.va.gov/careers/psychology/fellowship/Psychology_Fellowship_Prgram.asp