

VA Advanced Fellowship Program in Mental Illness Research and Treatment
South Central Mental Illness Research, Education, and Clinical Center (SC MIRECC)
Michael E. DeBakey VA Medical Center (MEDVAMC; Houston)

Applications are currently being accepted for the SC MIRECC Special Fellowship in Advanced Psychology Program located at the MEDVAMC in Houston Texas. The SC MIRECC fellowship is a 2-year research training program (75% time devoted to research; 25% to clinical activities).

The purpose of the SC MIRECC Special Fellowship in Advanced Psychology is to train professional psychologists for eventual leadership roles in research, education, and clinical services, particularly in academic and medical care settings (e.g., the VA). Although many Fellows pursue careers focused predominantly upon academic research and education in mental health, successful graduates of the program also will include those who pursue leadership careers that emphasize education and clinical contributions in the field of 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 (e.g., VA career development award or National Institutes of Health [NIH] K-Award). 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 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. Research mentoring for the SC MIRECC psychology fellowship includes the following expertise / focal areas:

- medical psychology / primary care
- geropsychology
- health services research
- implementation science
- outcomes research (including intervention development and clinical trials)
- post-traumatic stress disorder
- other anxiety disorders (including panic and generalized anxiety disorder)

Ongoing projects include (but are not limited to):

- VA HSR&D Multisite clinical trial examining the implementation and effectiveness of an evidence-based cognitive behavioral therapy for medically ill patients with depression and/or anxiety. This study is closely aligned with the VA Primary Care Mental Health Initiative.
- NIMH Clinical trial examining the application and effectiveness of an evidence-based cognitive behavioral therapy for primary care patients with generalized anxiety disorder
- Development of computer-aided training applications to improve the implementation and dissemination of cognitive-behavioral therapy in the primary care setting
- VA HSR&D clinical trial examining cognitive and behavioral strategies for preventing aggression in Veterans with dementia.
- NIMH clinical trial examining the effectiveness of a peer-mentoring intervention to improve retention in care for patients with HIV infection
- NIMH Development Grant for a cognitive behavior therapy for anxiety in patients with dementia
- Intervention development study incorporating religion and spirituality into cognitive behavioral therapy for depressed and anxious older adults

Academic Environment

The MEDVAMC is one of the largest clinical care facilities in the VA and is host to one of 14 VA Health Services Research and Development Centers of Excellence (CoE). The Houston CoE houses over 30 research investigators and 150 research staff from disciplines including medicine, psychology, psychiatry, epidemiology, and statistics/methodology. The academic affiliate for the MEDVAMC is Baylor College of Medicine (BCM), one of the top medical schools in the country for research funding. Upon acceptance, incoming fellows are appointed at the level of Instructor at BCM within the Menninger Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences.

Training Opportunities

Working with their mentoring team, each 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 trauma recovery, behavioral medicine and geropsychology.

Stipend and Benefits

- Full-time salary (approx. \$46,000 for first year)
- Vacation (13 days per annum); Sick Leave (13 days per annum)
- Benefits as applicable including eligibility for health insurance and retirement
- Authorized leave for professional conferences (travel funds usually available)
- Funding for attendance at the annual MIRECC and VA Mental Health conferences
- \$5,000 in research start-up funds and \$1,000 for tuition and book costs

Requirements

- U.S. citizens who are candidates in or have completed an APA-accredited doctoral program in clinical/counseling psychology and are enrolled or completed an APA-accredited internship
- Doctoral requirements must be completed before fellowship
- Applications should be received by January for full consideration (contact program directly for specific dates)
- Anticipated start date is flexible (between July 1 and September 1)

Application Procedure

Please submit the following application materials:

- Cover Letter
- Curriculum Vitae
- 3 Letters of Recommendation
- Official graduate school transcripts (sent directly by your university)

Administrative Contact / Submission of Materials

Ms. Brenda Schubert
VA Special Fellowship Program in Advanced Psychology
2450 Holcombe Blvd. Suite 01Y
Houston, TX 77021
713.794.8612
Brenda.Schubert@va.gov

Program Information

Copies of the Houston SC MIRECC Fellowship Training Manual are available by request or via the Baylor College of Medicine Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences website at:

<http://www.bcm.edu/psychiatry/index.cfm?PMID=15069>.

The Training Manual contains detailed information about research and clinical training opportunities (including didactics), ongoing research projects, and faculty available for supervision and mentoring.

Interested applicants are also encouraged to contact Dr. Cully directly (see below) for any additional information.

Jeffrey A. Cully, PhD
Director, SC MIRECC Psychology Fellowship Program
jcully@bcm.edu
713.794.8526