

## About Central Arkansas Veterans Healthcare System (CAVHS)



CAVHS is a large and complex VA Medical System that is academically affiliated with the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences (UAMS). CAVHS is located in a metropolitan area of approximately 580,000 people and draws from a primary service area of 275,000 Veterans. The consolidated, tertiary care medical center provides medical, surgical, psychiatric, rehabilitation, and nursing home services, as well as a wide variety of outpatient, specialty and primary care programs at two large medical facilities and several community-based outpatient clinics throughout the state. CAVHS offers a wide range of clinical training opportunities in mental health and serves as a training site for numerous clinical training programs based jointly at CAVHS/UAMS.

CAVHS/UAMS also offers a very rich environment for research training. The researchers working in these settings represent one of the largest and most successful groups of mental health services researchers in the U.S. Also, the SC MIRECC collaborates with investigators at its “anchor sites” in Houston and New Orleans. These resources create an ideal environment for trainees interested in becoming independent research investigators.



Houston ♦ Little Rock  
New Orleans

#### Mailing Address

2200 Fort Roots Drive (16MIR/NLR)  
North Little Rock, AR 72114

#### SC MIRECC

<https://www.mirecc.va.gov/visn16/index.asp>

**VA**



**U.S. Department  
of Veterans Affairs**



## Department of Veterans Affairs

## VA Advanced Fellowship Program in Mental Illness Research and Treatment

**Little Rock, Arkansas**

## Overview

The VA South Central Mental Illness Research, Education and Clinical Center (SC MIRECC) in Little Rock, Arkansas offers two-year advanced fellowships. These interdisciplinary programs aim to train health care practitioners including psychiatrists, psychologists, pharmacists, nurses, and social workers to become outstanding clinical or health services researchers in high priority areas of mental health.

Individualized, mentored research and clinical training are combined with a state-of-the-art curriculum. Fellows will be offered abundant opportunities to increase their experience and knowledge and develop a research career with mentoring from national experts.

The MIRECC fellowship in Little Rock is part of the national VA Special Fellowships Program. Each of the VA MIRECC fellowship sites, which are located across the US, are linked electronically for didactic, academic, and research efforts with didactic research training coordinated through a fellowship hub site located at the Palo Alto VA Medical Center.

In collaboration with their mentors, fellows will:

- Develop and implement a research project
- Publish and present findings
- Participate in grant writing
- Utilize the latest technology for educational activities and clinical service delivery

## Research Focus Areas

- Rural Mental Health or Telemedicine
- Access and Engagement in Evidence-Based Treatment
- Implementation Science
- PTSD and Resilience
- Primary Care Mental Health
- Substance Abuse

## Fellowship Training Goals

1. Provide fellows with excellent training in research (about 75% time) consisting of formal didactics in research design and methods and hands-on research mentoring by VA faculty, most of whom have appointments at the UAMS Department of Psychiatry and College of Public Health. Each fellow will initiate and complete at least one individual research project, including publishing results.
2. Place fellows in clinical settings appropriate to their research interests such that their clinical practice (at least 25% time) will complement and enhance their research training. Fellows will use an evidence-based approach to clinical care, treatment planning, and service delivery.
3. Offer fellows other opportunities to optimize their success in academic settings, such as career mentoring, grant writing and grantsmanship, technical writing, training in research ethics and Institutional Review Board procedures, and opportunities to provide clinical and/or research supervision in their area of focus.

## Fellowship Qualifications

Eligibility requirements for the MIRECC fellowship for non-physicians include:

1. Earned a doctorate in clinical or counseling psychology from an American Psychological Association (APA) or Canadian Psychological Association (CPA) accredited program and completed an APA or CPA accredited internship in clinical or counseling psychology; or (for other health professions) have completed doctoral degrees and equivalent training. Applicants must have the desire to pursue a professional career with a focus on mental health services and research;
2. U.S. citizenship;
3. A male applicant born after 12/31/1959 must have registered for the draft by age 26 to be eligible for any US government employment, including selection as a paid VA trainee;
4. Visit <https://www.mirecc.va.gov/visn16/trainingPrograms.asp> for more detailed information.

### For more information, contact:

Kristin Ward  
South Central MIRECC  
2200 Fort Roots Drive, 16MIR  
N. Little Rock, AR 72114-1706  
Email: [Kristin.Ward2@va.gov](mailto:Kristin.Ward2@va.gov)