

**VA Capitol Health Care Network (VISN 5)  
Mental Illness Research, Education and Clinical Center (MIRECC)  
VA Special Fellowship Program in Advanced Psychiatry and Psychology**

The **VISN 5 MIRECC** is part of a nationwide program funded by Congress to improve health care and mental health care for Veterans with mental illness. The research, educational activities, and clinical demonstration projects of the VISN 5 MIRECC are specifically focused on schizophrenia and other serious mental illnesses. Our work includes projects on a range of relevant and important topics, including development, testing, and implementation of new psychosocial rehabilitation treatments, recovery-oriented services, and antipsychotic medications; assessment and treatment of critical domains of functioning including negative symptoms, substance abuse, recovery, and stigma; mental health service systems and health care economics; and mental health services research. In addition, our research program emphasizes research that promotes the translation of research findings into evidence-based practice. The center is based at the Baltimore Division of the Veterans Affairs Maryland Health Care System (VAMHCS). Active research, educational and clinical program links are maintained across VISN 5 facilities including the Perry Point Division of the VAMHCS, the Martinsburg WV VAMC, and the Washington DC VAMC.

The **VISN 5 MIRECC** offers a post-doctoral fellowship in Clinical Psychology and a post-residency fellowship in Psychiatry. The goal of these two-year fellowships is to train psychologists and psychiatrists to become leading clinical researchers in the area of serious mental illness. The fellowship program provides opportunities in an outstanding collaborative and interdisciplinary setting for excellent training in:

- psychosocial treatment development and evaluation
- family and community intervention
- health services research
- dissemination and implementation of evidence based-practices
- recovery oriented rehabilitation services
- neurocognition
- psychopharmacology
- other domains related to basic and clinical psychiatry

MIRECC fellows have access to a range of educational activities and advanced clinical service delivery in a wide range of settings. The program combines individual mentored research and clinical training in the fellow's area of interest with general educational experiences focused on:

- biostatistical methods
- health informatics
- grant writing
- career development
- the latest scientific findings and advances

There are fellows at ten different MIRECC sites around the U.S., and the sites are linked electronically and by two-way interactive videoconference for learning, information sharing, and the development of a national laboratory in advanced psychiatry and psychology. The distribution of the fellow's effort is approximately 75% research and 25% clinical.

The VA Capitol Health Care Network (VISN 5) serves Veterans from the entire state of Maryland, and portions of Virginia, West Virginia, and Pennsylvania, as well as the District of Columbia. Fellows' offices and research activities are housed in the Baltimore VA Medical

Center, located in downtown Baltimore and adjoining the University of Maryland School of Medicine and Medical Center.

### **Clinical Psychology Fellowship Applicants**

Applicants for the psychology fellowship must have graduated from an American Psychological Association (APA) accredited doctoral program in clinical or counseling psychology (or be on track to complete their graduate program prior to beginning the fellowship), must have completed an APA-accredited internship, and must be U.S. citizens. Successful applicants typically have substantial research and clinical experience in the area of adult serious mental illness and plan to pursue a career focused on research. The current stipend rate is \$45,961 for first year fellows.

Applicants are asked to submit a letter/statement of interest, 3 signed reference letters (with at least 2 speaking to applicants research experiences/skills), a Curriculum Vitae, and copy of graduate school transcripts. **Applications will be accepted until positions are filled.**

Individuals interested in applying for the fellowship may send materials electronically to Melanie Bennett, Ph.D. via email at [Melanie.Bennett@va.gov](mailto:Melanie.Bennett@va.gov) or [mbennett@psych.umaryland.edu](mailto:mbennett@psych.umaryland.edu) or via phone at (410) 637-1859. Dr. Bennett can also answer inquiries or questions about the fellowship and provide details about the fellowship's training opportunities.

### **Post-Residency Psychiatry Fellowship Applicants**

Applicants for the post-residency fellowship must have completed Accrediting Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME) or American Osteopathic Association (AOA) accredited residency training, must be either board certified or actively pursuing board certification, and specifically interested in pursuing a clinical research career focused on psychiatric disorders and associated conditions. Applicants must also have an active, unrestricted U.S. license to practice. International medical graduates must also have a current visa and an Educational Commission for Foreign Medical Graduates (ECFMG) certificate that is valid indefinitely. Applicants on a J-1 visa must also have current ECFMG sponsorship. Stipends will be based on years of previously completed residency training accredited by the ACGME and index rates approved at the respective VA facility and affiliated university.

**Applications will be accepted until positions are filled.**

Applicants are asked to submit a letter/statement of interest, 3 signed reference letters (with at least 2 speaking to applicants research experiences/skills), a Curriculum Vitae, and copy of medical school transcripts. Materials may be sent electronically to Seth Himelhoch, MD, MPH, via email at [Seth.Himelhoch@va.gov](mailto:Seth.Himelhoch@va.gov) or [shimelho@psych.umaryland.edu](mailto:shimelho@psych.umaryland.edu) or via phone at (410) 637-1863. Dr. Himelhoch can also answer inquiries or questions about the fellowship and provide details about the fellowship's training opportunities.

Psychology and psychiatry applicants can find more information at the following sites:

More information about the VA Special Fellowship Program in Advanced Psychiatry and Psychology can be found on the national MIRECC website at

<http://www.mirecc.va.gov/mirecc-fellowship.asp>.

More information about the VISN 5 MIRECC, including investigator interests and recent publications, can be found on the VISN 5 MIRECC website at

<http://www.mirecc.va.gov/VISN5/index.asp>.