

Houston VA Advanced Fellowship in Research
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 VA Advanced Fellowship in Mental Illness Research and Treatment located at the MEDVAMC in Houston Texas. This MIRECC fellowship is a 2-year research training program (75% time devoted to research; 25% to clinical activities).

The purpose of the SC MIRECC Fellowship is to train professional psychologists for eventual leadership roles in research, education, and clinical services, particularly in academic and medical care settings. 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) or 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 is centered on the areas of:

- implementation of evidence-based mental health treatments
- medical psychology, behavioral medicine
- integration of mental health in primary care
- geropsychology
- anxiety disorders (including panic, GAD, and OCD)
- post-traumatic stress disorder
- rural mental health

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 Innovation (COIN). The Houston COIN 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 25 medical schools in the country. 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 behavioral medicine, PTSD, and geropsychology.

Stipend and Benefits

- Full-time salary (\$52,643 for first year, approx.. \$55,000 for the second year)
- Vacation (13 days per annum); Sick Leave (up to 13 days per annum)
- Eligibility for health, vision, dental, and life insurance

- Authorized leave for professional conferences (travel funds usually available)
- \$7,000 in research start-up funds
- \$1,000 for books and supplies

Requirements

- U.S. citizens who are candidates in or have completed an APA or CPA-accredited doctoral program in clinical/counseling psychology and are enrolled in or completed an APA or CPA-accredited internship OR newly established VA internship
- Doctoral requirements including dissertation must be completed before fellowship
- Anticipated start date is flexible (between July 1 and September 1)

Program Information

Copies of the Houston SC MIRECC Fellowship Training Manual are available by request or via SC MIRECC website at: http://www.mirecc.va.gov/VISN16/docs/HOU_Fellowship_Training_Manual.pdf. The Training Manual contains detailed information about research and clinical training opportunities (including didactics), ongoing research projects, and faculty available for supervision and mentoring.

Application Procedure

- Applications are being accepted on an ongoing basis and will be accepted until the position is filled. For priority consideration, please submit materials by December 15.
- Interested applicants are also encouraged to contact Dr. Hundt directly (see below) for any additional information or questions.
- If you send your application package by mail, please email Dr. Hundt to confirm receipt of materials.

Please submit the following application materials, either through email or regular mail:

- Cover Letter, including research interests, possible projects/research initiatives, and fit with mentors at the SC MIRECC
- Curriculum Vitae
- 3 Letters of Recommendation (preferably emailed directly from the recommender)
- Graduate school transcripts

For Program Information or to Submit Materials:

Dr. Natalie Hundt, Director, Houston SC MIRECC Psychology Fellowship Program
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