



## *Salt Lake City, UT*

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

**Program Description:** Applications are currently being accepted for the VISN 19 MIRECC VA Advanced Fellowship Program in Mental Illness Research and Treatment in the Salt Lake City MIRECC. The Salt Lake City MIRECC Advanced Fellowship Program in Mental Illness Research and Treatment is located at the George E. Wahlen Department of Veterans Affairs Salt Lake City Health Care System (VASLCHCS) in Salt Lake City, Utah. VASLCHCS in Salt Lake City serves a diverse population of Veterans and offers a diverse, responsive set of services, including primary and specialty care, palliative care, rehabilitation, women's health, social work, and a Polytrauma Network Site that provides specialized services for Veterans with traumatic brain injury (TBI), as well as both inpatient and outpatient mental health services and related research. VASLCHCS is closely affiliated with the University of Utah, located less than one mile away.

Applicants must have completed an APA-accredited clinical or counseling psychology doctoral program and APA-accredited predoctoral internship.

This is a two-year position commencing in the summer or fall of 2023. Programmatic emphasis is on research in brain and behavior as they relate to suicide and serious psychiatric disorders.

The mission of the Salt Lake City MIRECC Postdoctoral Fellowship Program is to train psychologists to become outstanding clinical researchers in the high priority area of mental health care for Veterans, specifically in the area of suicide and risk prevention. The clinical and research focus of the VISN 19 MIRECC is the treatment and assessment of individuals with severe psychiatric disorders who are also at risk for suicide. There is an emphasis on the neurobiology of individuals with severe psychiatric disorders who are at risk for suicide.

The Salt Lake City VISN 19 MIRECC postdoctoral fellowship program is consistent with the scientist-practitioner model. Fellows are expected to participate in research and complete at least one project that directly informs clinical activities during their tenure in the position. Other research-related expectations of the fellowship include: writing and submitting a grant for research funding; submitting at least two articles for publication in peer-reviewed journals; and making a local and a national presentation regarding their research/clinical area(s) of interest.

Oversight of all aspects of postdoctoral training (including supervision and licensing requirements, the training process, recruitment and selection of fellows, and administration) is supplied by the Fellowship Director of Training, licensed psychologist, Dr. Deborah Yurgelun-Todd. Additional oversight is provided by the Co-Director of the Fellowship, Dr. Erin McGlade, and by board-certified psychiatrists (Drs. Perry Renshaw and Douglas Kondo). Administrative support is provided by Nicole Davis, the MIRECC's Administrative Officer.

**Core Training:** Experiences include participation in the national hub-site didactic series through the Office of Academic Affiliations, individual and group clinical supervision and research

mentorship, preparation and presentation of abstracts and manuscripts, and other clinical research experiences at local and national events.

Fellows at the Salt Lake City MIRECC also attend local seminars, which in the past have included didactics on magnetic resonance imaging (MRI), functional magnetic resonance imaging (fMRI), and magnetic resonance spectroscopy (MRS).

**Methods of Evaluation:** The VA VISN 19 MIRECC Fellowship program emphasizes continuous evaluation of postdoctoral fellows' acquisition of outlined competency goals and objectives, and constructive feedback aimed at improving these skills. Methods of evaluation include: 1) live observation of fellow-client, fellow-research participant, and/or fellow-staff interactions; 2) review and cosignature of all clinical written material such as progress notes or other additions to the computerized patient medical record; 3) observation of fellow case formulation and case presentation in staff meetings, treatment planning conferences, and other multidisciplinary settings; 4) review of process notes and audiotape recording of psychotherapy and assessment sessions; 5) review of psychological testing protocols and reports; 6) review and discussion of diagnostic impressions and conceptualizations for research participants; and 7) review of proposed research designs, IRB and VA Research and Development paperwork, PowerPoint presentations, grant submissions, statistical analyses, and publications. Supervisors may also receive feedback about the postdoctoral fellows from professionals in other disciplines. Formal feedback is provided to fellows every 6 months and informal feedback is provided on a continuous basis. In the unlikely event that a fellow's performance was ever considered "Unsatisfactory," fellowship faculty and staff exert every effort to support the fellow in improving their performance. Additionally, at the start of the fellowship, each postdoctoral fellow is provided with copies of our policies regarding grievance procedures and problematic postdoctoral fellows to ensure they know all policies and their rights to due process.

**Supervised Practice Requirements and Utah Psychologist Licensure: UT psychologist licensing laws** (Qualifications for licensure by examination or endorsement 58-61-304) require that an applicant has completed a minimum of 4,000 psychology training hours in not less than two years while under the supervision of a psychologist supervisor. An applicant must also show that they have practiced psychology in the Utah jurisdiction for a minimum of 2,000 hours or one year. To be licensed to provide mental health therapy an applicant must show successful completion of a minimum of 1,000 hours of supervised training in mental health therapy after completion of a master's level of education in psychology. Supervised hours spent in the VASLC MIRECC can be applied to these requirements and MIRECC fellows frequently obtain licensure while completing this postdoctoral fellowship.

**Stipend and Benefits:** The stipend for this postdoctoral fellowship is \$46,500 in Year 1 in addition to a VA benefit package.

*For program details, including requirements for application and program graduation, please visit our Web site's Fellowship pages:*

<http://www.mirecc.va.gov/visn19/fellowship/slc.asp>

**Training Director:** Deborah Yurgelun-Todd, Ph.D.

**Assistant Training Director:** Erin McGlade, Ph.D.

***To apply, please send the following:***

1. A letter of interest that identifies career goals, expectations, and the goodness of fit with the mission of the VISN 19 MIRECC
2. A current CV including a summary of prior clinical and research experience
3. Letter of completion or anticipated completion from academic and internship/residency programs
4. Three letters of recommendation
5. Sample de-identified neuro/psychological evaluation report
6. Summary of the number and types of neuro/psychological tests administered and reports written (Some background in neuropsychological assessment is preferred.)

***Please send completed application to:*** [Deborah.Yurgelun-Todd@hsc.utah.edu](mailto:Deborah.Yurgelun-Todd@hsc.utah.edu)  
[Deborah.YurgelunTodd@va.gov](mailto:Deborah.YurgelunTodd@va.gov)

***For more information, please e-mail:*** [Deborah.Yurgelun-Todd@hsc.utah.edu](mailto:Deborah.Yurgelun-Todd@hsc.utah.edu)