



Advanced Fellowship in Mental Illness Research and Treatment
VA VISN 2 Mental Illness Research, Education, and Clinical Center (MIRECC)
Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai

Overview: The Mental Illness Research, Education, and Clinical Center (MIRECC) of the New York/New Jersey Veterans Healthcare Network is accepting applications from psychiatrists for a 2-year Advanced Fellowship Program in Mental Illness Research and Treatment. The fellowship program aims to train psychiatrists to become leading recovery-oriented clinical researchers with a focus on serious mental illness. Our mission is to pursue a discovery-to-recovery approach for serious mental illness by determining causes, identifying predictors, and developing treatments that overcome barriers and enable recovery.

Program Description: The Fellows' primary appointment will be at the James J. Peters VA Medical Center (JJPVAMC) in the Bronx, NY, with a secondary appointment at the affiliate Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai in Manhattan, NY. Training opportunities will reside in the research, clinical, and educational programs at both institutions. Fellows devote approximately 75% of their time to research activities, research-related clinical activities, and educational activities, and 25% to developing advanced clinical skills in direct patient care. Fellows can spend the majority of research time developing their own line of work. Individualized, mentored research and clinical training are combined with a state-of-the-art educational curriculum that emphasizes research methods, statistics, epidemiology, mental health systems, quality improvement methods, education, and service delivery. VA Fellowship sites are linked electronically for didactic, academic, and research efforts. Our interdisciplinary program aims to train physicians to become outstanding clinical researchers in high priority areas of mental health. In collaboration with their mentors, Fellows will develop and implement a research project, publish and present findings, participate in grant writing, and utilize the latest technology for educational activities and clinical service delivery.

Faculty: The JJPVAMC MIRECC faculty is internationally recognized for serious mental illness research in schizophrenia-spectrum disorders, severe affective disorders (e.g., bipolar disorder), and suicide. Research areas of expertise and interest among the faculty include using neuroimaging, psychophysiology, and molecular biological techniques to better understand the neurobiology of serious mental illness; psychosocial and behavioral approaches for the treatment of psychosis (e.g., CBT for psychosis), suicide (e.g., dialectical behavioral therapy), and cognitive impairments associated with schizophrenia, depression, and suicide (e.g., cognitive remediation, aerobic exercise); digital mobile assessment and interventions (MHealth); predictors of neurocognitive and daily functioning (e.g., exercise, sleep); ketamine for treatment-resistant depression; community-based approaches to reduce racial disparities in mental health treatment; and implementation science to promote evidence-based practices. More information about MIRECC Fellowship faculty members and their research interests can be found at <https://www.mirecc.va.gov/visn2/ContactInfo.asp>. Fellows' mentorship can also include other faculty from the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai <https://icahn.mssm.edu/about/departments/psychiatry>.

COVID-19 & Telework: Telework is available although this is not a fully virtual position. Fellows must live within commuting distance to the Bronx, NY. We have adapted training activities to be conducted remotely, when possible, and will collaborate with fellows so that they can safely meet their training needs.

Start Day: The start day is flexible and will begin between July 1st and October 1st, 2024.

Stipend and Benefits: Stipends will be based on years of previously completed residency training accredited by the Accrediting Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME) and index rates approved at the James J. Peters VA Medical Center and the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai.

Eligibility: MD applicants must have completed ACGME-accredited training, be board eligible or board certified, and have an active, unrestricted U.S. license to practice. International medical graduates must also have a current visa and an ECFMG certificate that is valid indefinitely. Applicants on a J-1 visa must also have current ECFMG sponsorship.

Application Due Date: Applications are due **December 15, 2023**.

How to Apply:

Applicants are asked to submit the following documents to Dr. Chi Chan at chi.chan1@va.gov:

1. A letter of interest that includes: (a) career goals and how these align with the mission of the VISN 2 MIRECC; (b) chosen primary research mentor and how the applicant's education, research, and clinical experience aligns well with this mentor's research program**; and (c) the clinical and research skills that the applicant would like to hone during their fellowship
2. A current Curriculum Vitae
3. A signed letter of completion or expected completion from residency program
4. Graduate school transcripts
5. Three letters of recommendation
6. A writing sample
7. (optional) A two-page proposal for the research project the applicant plans to pursue with the guidance of their chosen mentor.

****Please note that applications will only be considered when a specified mentor has been identified in the cover letter.** A close working relationship with an identified mentor allows our Fellows to maximize their productivity and develop a successful career trajectory. Applicants are encouraged to consult with their chosen mentor early in the application process.

Our fellowship is an equal opportunity training program. The VA VISN 2 MIRECC encourages applications from qualified candidates of all backgrounds including but not limited to ethnic and racial minorities, women, sexual minorities, persons with disabilities, and individuals with personal lived experience with serious mental illness.

Please contact the Fellowship Director, Dr. Chi Chan with any questions at chi.chan1@va.gov.

