



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 psychologists for a 2-year Post-Doctoral Advanced Fellowship Program in Mental Illness Research and Treatment. The Fellowship program is APA accredited* and aims to train psychologists to become leading recovery-oriented clinical researchers with a focus on serious mental illness and suicide. Our mission is to pursue a discovery-to-recovery approach for serious mental illness and suicide 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. 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. 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 psychologists to become outstanding clinical researchers in high priority areas of mental health.

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: neuroimaging, psychophysiology, and molecular biological techniques to better understand the neurobiology of serious mental illness and suicide; 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); early detection and prevention of serious mental illness; computational phenotyping and natural language processing; 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: Annual stipend is \$60,446. Benefits include health insurance, life insurance, 13 paid vacation days and 13 paid sick days per year, 11 paid federal holidays, travel to one conference each year fully paid, and public transit fare benefit to offset commuting costs.

Eligibility: Applicants must be U.S. citizens, hold a doctorate from an APA-accredited program in clinical or counseling psychology, and be enrolled in or have completed an APA-accredited internship in clinical or counseling psychology. Doctoral requirements, including dissertation, must be completed prior to the start of the fellowship.

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

How to Apply: The program is using the APPA CAS (APPIC Psychology Postdoctoral Application) online system. Use this link to be directed to our specific program in APPA CAS:

<https://appicpostdoc.liasoncas.com/applicant-ux/#/deeplink/programSearch/organization/6216548180005009408>

For more information about the application process please go to <https://www.appic.org/Postdocs/APPA-CAS-Postdoc-Application-Information>.

Applicants are asked to submit the following documents:

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 graduate program indicating APA-accreditation status of the graduate program and the doctoral internship
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. We encourage applications from qualified candidates of all backgrounds including but not limited to ethnic/racial minorities, women, sexual minorities, persons with disabilities, and individuals with personal lived experience with serious mental illness.

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

*Accreditation is provided by the APA Office of Program Consultation and Accreditation: 750 First St, NE Washington, DC 20002-4242 / apaaccred@apa.org / (202) 336-5979

