



THE WARREN ALPERT  
**Medical School**  
BROWN UNIVERSITY

**Clinical Psychology Training Programs at Brown: A Consortium of the  
Providence VA Medical Center, Lifespan, and Care New England  
Postdoctoral Fellowship Training Program  
Postdoctoral Fellowship Description: RESEARCH FOCUS**

**Title:** Postdoctoral Fellowship in Technology-Assisted Transitions of Care Interventions to Prevent Suicide and Relapse

APA-accredited: \_\_\_ YES \_\_\_ X \_\_\_ NO

**Site:** Butler Hospital

**Supervisor(s):** Brandon Gaudiano, Ph.D., Primary Supervisor  
Ethan Moitra, Ph.D.  
Ivan Miller, Ph.D.

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**Description of Site**

Established in 1844, **Butler Hospital** is a private Brown University-affiliated psychiatric and substance abuse hospital located in Providence, RI. Over 6,000 patients are admitted annually. Butler Hospital also has a 24-hour psychiatric emergency department, a Partial Hospitalization Program, and an Outpatient Department. Butler Hospital is the primary training site for the Department of Psychiatry and Human Behavior at Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University. Psychiatric residents, psychology interns, and psychology post-doctoral fellows work at and receive training at Butler Hospital. Butler Hospital is also the major training site for the Brown University General Residency in Psychiatry, the Geriatric Psychiatry Fellowship, and the Clinical Psychology Training Consortium. The hospital's innovative clinical research programs, premier teaching programs and longstanding reputation for excellent clinical care have earned Butler Hospital recognition as one of the most outstanding psychiatric hospitals in the United States.

Butler Hospital also houses several research groups, with specialty research in mood disorders, substance abuse, and OCD. The **Psychosocial Research Program** at Butler Hospital is comprised of academic psychologists, a psychiatrist, post-doctoral fellows in psychology, masters'-level therapists, project coordinators, and research assistants. Research in this group is funded by multiple NIH grants and awards from private foundations. The vast majority of research in this program centers on psychosocial treatments, particularly telehealth and mHealth interventions, for various psychiatric disorders and comorbid conditions including addiction, and the prevention of suicide. Faculty investigators meet once per week to review and discuss grant proposals, manuscripts, or other scientific projects.

**Fellowship Aims**

1. To provide the fellow with broad post-doctoral training in clinical trials of behavioral health treatments for acute psychiatric conditions, including depressive and bipolar disorders, psychosis, and comorbid substance use disorders.
2. To provide the fellow with a strong working knowledge of research on transitions of care (e.g., inpatient to outpatient transition period).

3. To provide the fellow with research training and experience in preparation for a research career in technology-assisted treatments (e.g., telehealth and mHealth) for mood and psychotic disorders, comorbid substance use, treatment adherence, and suicide prevention.

### **Fellowship Timeline**

The duration of the fellowship is 1 year. The anticipated start date is July 2023. A second year is possible, contingent upon satisfactory progress and availability of funding.

### **Research Activity Plan (77.5%)**

The fellow will be exposed to various aspects of research on clinical trials of behavioral treatments for psychiatric disorders via participation in the following activities:

- Study coordination: The fellow will collaborate with Drs. Gaudiano and Miller, along with other project staff, with grant-funded research involving:
  - Transitions of Care Interventions (PIs: Gaudiano, Miller, and Moitra; total 67.5% effort = 12.5% clinical research activities + 55% research/administrative activities). In NIMH-funded trials, patients with psychiatric disorders are randomly assigned to a technology-assisted hospital aftercare intervention or comparison condition. The goals are to improve psychiatric symptoms, prevent suicidal behaviors, increase treatment engagement, and reduce rehospitalizations.
  - Activities will include:
    - Conducting clinical risk assessments as needed
    - Completing therapist fidelity ratings
    - Serving as a substitute therapist if needed
    - Supervising research staff in conducting assessments
    - Conducting diagnostic and other assessments
    - Other project management tasks as needed
  - Note: Other project staff will assist with projecting directing responsibilities when the fellow is engaged in other activities.
- Develop their own line of research (20% effort)
  - Grant writing: The fellow will be encouraged to develop a grant idea and submit a grant proposal by the end of the fellowship term.
  - Manuscript preparation and submission: The fellow will be encouraged to collaborate on manuscript preparation and poster submissions at national conferences. Individually tailored goals will be established in this area.
- The fellow will be required to participate in weekly research meetings in the Psychosocial Research Program (2.5% effort).

### **Clinical Activity Plan (12.5%)**

- Clinical assessment: conduct suicide risk assessments and baseline diagnostic evaluations for clinical trials as described in the research activity plan above. All participants in these research studies have psychiatric disorders, and thus are a clinical population. This should comprise a minimum of 12.5% effort as part of the scheduled 67.5% total Study Coordination duties as described above.

Path toward licensure: YES X\* NO   

\*Sufficient hours for licensure will be accrued if the fellowship is extended for a 2<sup>nd</sup> year.

### **Didactics (10%)**

Postdoctoral Seminars: The fellow will participate in the following postdoctoral seminars through the Postdoctoral Fellowship Training Program (10% effort).

#### Mandatory Didactics:

- Core Seminars (1 per month)
- DPHB Academic Grand Rounds (1 per month)
- Clinical Ethics – if intending to sit for licensure (1 per month)
- Track Seminars
- Academic Friday – Grantsmanship seminars, Special Topics in Statistics

### **Supervision and Evaluation**

Supervision will be provided in the form of both weekly individual supervision and weekly group supervision. Clinical supervision will be provided in the form of weekly individual (Dr. Gaudiano) and group supervision (Drs. Gaudiano, Moitra, and Miller). Clinical supervision time will be combined with research supervision time. Total hours of weekly supervision: 1 hour individual, 1 hour group.

Every 6 months for the duration of the fellowship, the fellow and the supervisors will provide formal evaluations, and evaluations of the program relative to the goals and learning objectives of the fellowship.

Please visit the [Brown Faculty](#) page to view supervisor profiles.

### **Resource Requirements**

Fellow will be provided with the following resources:

- Access to space to complete research responsibilities
- A computer and project specific software
- Internet access
- Telephone
- Space for conducting clinical interviews and risk assessments

### **Reporting and approval**

This fellowship will be part of the RFP. The position has been discussed and approved by the Adult Track faculty in their monthly meeting.

Associate Director, Research Fellowship Program (RFP)

Director, Postdoctoral Fellowship Training Program (PFTP)