



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 Advanced Quantitative Methods for Trauma, Suicide, and Maladaptive Behaviors

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

**Site:** Brown University and Butler Hospital

**Supervisor(s):** Leslie Brick Ph.D. – Primary Supervisor  
Heather Schatten Ph.D.  
Michael Armey Ph.D.  
Chris Hughes Ph.D.  
Nicole Nugent Ph.D.

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**Description of Site(s)**

Butler Hospital is a 117-bed private Brown University affiliated psychiatric and substance abuse hospital located in Providence, RI. Butler Hospital is one of the earliest psychiatric facilities established in the United States. Butler Hospital has a distinguished reputation, recently being named by U.S. News and World Report as one of the 30 "best" psychiatric facilities in the United States. As a member of the Care New England Health System and affiliated with the Alpert Medical School of Brown University, Butler Hospital is actively engaged in a variety of important research studies, particularly patient-oriented research. Faculty members at Butler Hospital are nationally recognized for conducting treatment research in suicide, addictive behaviors, mood disorders, obsessive-compulsive disorder, and more recently, movement disorders.

The Quantitative Science Program (QSP), based in The Department of Psychiatry and Human Behavior within Butler Hospital, provides research support and training. Training takes the form of individual mentoring, formal workshops, and seminars in the areas of quantitative methodology. Topic areas include (but are not limited to) research and experimental design, survey and sampling methods, basic and advanced multivariate data analysis. The QSP actively collaborates with on-going and proposed research at Brown and across the nation, and conducts independent and methodologically focused research projects. The QSP is directed by Richard N. Jones, ScD and Leslie A. Brick, PhD.

The fellowship will span involvement with programs at Brown and Butler Hospital, with Butler Hospital as the administrative home and employer. This fellowship will include involvement in two research groups:

**The Brick Lab, Brown University.** The Postdoctoral Fellow will collaborate on a NIDA-funded R01 under the direction of Dr. Brick and will work closely with the **Rhode Island Resilience Lab** (lab Director and MPI Dr. Nicole Nugent) and the **Quantitative Science Program**. Dr. Brick is a member of both QSP and the RI Resilience Lab and the postdoctoral fellow will have opportunities across both groups. The overall goal of the study is to examine the interplay between posttraumatic stress symptoms and cannabis use behavior during the period immediately following trauma exposure. The Fellow will

assist with data management, participant recruitment/retention, staff supervision, clinical interview, and learn about integration of EMA and wearable biosensors data. The main goals of this research are to: (a) assess alterations in fear response and physiological reactivity associated with cannabis use, (b) characterize the impact of posttraumatic stress symptoms on cannabis use behaviors, and (c) determine whether early markers of altered physiology and posttraumatic stress symptoms are makers for trajectories of long-term adverse cannabis-related outcomes (i.e., use disorder, problems, chronic/heavy use). The fellow will also have the opportunity to provide mentorship and supervision to research assistants.

**The Cognitions, Emotions, and Life experiences Lab (CELL), Butler Hospital.** The Postdoctoral Fellow will collaborate on a NIMH-funded R01 under the direction of Drs. Schatten, Arney, and Hughes. The Cognitions, Emotions, and Life experiences Lab is located on the second floor of the Blumer Building at Butler Hospital. Drs. Schatten, Hughes, and Arney are all members of the Psychosocial Research Program at Butler Hospital under the direction of Dr. Ivan W. Miller. The Psychosocial Research program is composed of academic psychologists, a psychiatrist, post-doctoral fellows in psychology, masters-level therapists, and research assistants. Research in this group is funded by multiple NIH grants and awards from private foundations. The main goals of the lab are to: (a) identify proximal risk factors for suicide and use intensive longitudinal methods to characterize the relationships among affective and contextual proximal risk factors for suicidal ideation and behavior, and (b) develop and test smartphone-based suicide prevention interventions. The fellow will also have the opportunity to provide mentorship and supervision to research assistants.

### **Fellowship Aims**

1. To provide the fellow with a strong working knowledge of integration of wearable biosensors with ecological momentary assessment, with special emphasis on maladaptive behaviors, suicide, and trauma exposure.
2. To provide the fellow with broad post-doctoral training in the area of advanced quantitative methods, including an emphasis on intensive longitudinal methods.
3. To provide the fellow with research training in preparation for a translational research career and clinical science.

### **Fellowship Timeline**

The duration of the fellowship is 1-2 years, years with the second year contingent upon satisfactory progress during the first year **and** availability of funding.

### **Research Activity Plan (65% Total)**

65% of the Fellow's time will be spent on research activities including collaborating on and conceptualizing research projects; analyzing data; writing scientific manuscripts for publication and presentations. Familiarity with data analysis in R or Mplus and openness to learning novel analyses is preferred. The Fellow will be exposed to various aspects of research in this area through participation in the following activities:

#### **Lab- and Department-Related Research Activities (35% time)**

- **Study Coordination (30%).** Coordinating laboratory, ecological, and clinical data management across Butler, Rhode Island Hospital, and Brown. Specifically, the fellow will assist with two large NIH-funded studies (NIDA, NIMH), providing hands-on exposure to

ecological momentary assessment and treatment development methods, tailored to the research interests of the individual fellow

- **Lab Group Attendance and Related Activities (5%).** The fellow will have the opportunity to attend research meetings and contribute towards ongoing projects in the Psychosocial Research Program and the CELL lab at Butler Hospital, as well as the Brick Lab, including the QSP and the Rhode Island Resilience Lab, at Brown University.

Independent Research Activities (30% time)

- **Independent research activities (15%).** The fellow will be encouraged to collaborate on manuscript preparation and poster submissions at national conferences. Currently available datasets will permit development of first-author manuscripts in the areas of suicide assessment and intervention as well as ecological momentary assessment. Individually tailored goals will be established in this area.
- **Grant writing (15%).** The fellow will be encouraged to develop a grant idea and submit a grant proposal by the end of the fellowship term. Additionally, the fellow will have the opportunity to contribute towards ongoing grant preparation and submission in the Psychosocial Research Program, the QSP, and the RI Resilience Lab.

Clinical Activity Plan (25% Total)

Opportunities for clinical experience will be provided as part of the position. Clinical time will include both individual and group supervision with Drs. Heather Schatten, Chris Hughes, and Nicole Nugent (study PIs and licensed psychologists). The fellow will receive a minimum of one hour of individual supervision by a licensed psychologist weekly.

- **Treatment services (15%).** The fellow will participate in providing treatment as part of intervention studies in the Psychosocial Research Program at Butler Hospital. Fellow caseload will include approximately three patients.
- **Clinical assessment (10%).** The fellow will participate in the clinical assessment activities of NIMH/NIDA-funded suicide and trauma assessment and intervention studies. Clinical activities will involve conducting in-person diagnostic structured interviews (i.e., C-SSRS, SCID, SITBI, CAPS/LEC) with psychiatric patients and community controls at baseline and follow-up. Additionally, the fellow will provide clinical assessments of suicide risk during outpatient follow-up assessments following hospital discharge. These assessments are conducted within the context of clinical assessment research studies and are used to determine study eligibility and to provide ongoing monitoring of clinical symptomatology throughout the study. These assessments will also help identify cases of clinical deterioration and help ensure patient safety.

Path toward licensure: YES  NO

Didactics (10%)

Postdoctoral Seminars: The fellow will participate in the following postdoctoral seminars through the Postdoctoral Fellowship Training Program.

Mandatory Didactics:

- RFP Core Seminar (1 per week)
- Grantwriting Seminar (1 per week)

DPHB Academic Grand Rounds (1 per month)

Optional Didactics:

Academic Friday – Grantsmanship seminars, Special Topics in Statistics (1 per week)

Clinical Ethics – if intending to sit for licensure (1 per month)

Suicide T32 Didactic Series (1 per month)

### **Supervision and Evaluation**

Research-focused supervision will be provided in the form of weekly group supervision (Drs. Brick and Schatten). Clinical supervision will be provided in the form of weekly individual supervision (Dr. Schatten) with additional supervision as needed from Drs. Hughes and Nugent. Individual supervision will be contacted weekly in person or via teleconference technology.

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
- Travel to one conference per year will be supported up to \$1,000

### **Reporting and approval**

This fellowship will be part of the Adult Track Research Fellowship Program. The position has been discussed and approved by the RFP faculty and Training Committee.

Director, Research Fellowship Program

Director, Postdoctoral Fellowship Training Program