



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 Implementation Science and Global Mental Health

APA-accredited: ___YES __X__NO

Site: Brown University

Supervisor(s): Alethea Desrosiers, PhD (Primary Supervisor)

Description of Site

The postdoctoral fellowship will be carried out as part of the NIMH funded R01 study entitled, “**Advancing mHealth-supported Adoption and Sustainment of an Evidence-based Mental Health Intervention for Youth in a School-based Delivery Setting in Sierra Leone**”, within the Department of Psychiatry and Human Behavior and the Implementation Science Core, located at Butler Hospital. The DPHB is a department of the Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University. The Implementation Science Core collaborates with other DPHB Cores, the Quantitative Science Program and Qualitative Science and Methods Training Program, to foster the translation, spread, and scale-up of evidence-based practices into routine clinical care.

The Implementation Science Core faculty host regular office hours each week to work with faculty across the six Brown-affiliated hospitals (including Providence VAMC), along with psychiatry residents and clinical psychology interns and fellows, to 1) provide consultation on dissemination and implementation (D&I) science models, theories and frameworks to guide studies, 2) develop qualitative and quantitative methods specific to D&I science research questions (such as formative evaluations, stakeholder engagement methods, implementation strategies, hybrid designs, etc.) and 3) serve as co-investigator on projects as the implementation science expert. In addition to specific consultations, the Implementation Science Core provides: 1) a six-week fundamentals of D&I science series, held each semester; and 2) weekly didactics on D&I science to pre- and post-doctoral trainees.

Description of Research Project

“**Advancing mHealth-supported Adoption and Sustainment of an Evidence-based Mental Health Intervention for Youth in a School-based Delivery Setting in Sierra Leone**”, is an NIMH-funded implementation science research study. The main study objective is to evaluate a new implementation strategy for delivering an evidence-based mental health intervention to youth (aged 14-24) in Sierra Leone’s secondary schools: delivery by teachers receiving mobile-based supervision compared with standard, in person supervision. The study will also compare the effectiveness of the intervention in improving mental health, emotion regulation and daily functioning in youth when delivered by teachers who receive either mobile-based supervision (N=480 youth) vs. those who receive standard supervision (N=480 youth) and conduct a cost-effectiveness and return on investment analysis to evaluate relative costs vs. benefits of the mental health intervention from a broad societal perspective, including educational outcomes. This study involves collaborations between Brown University and several Sierra

Leone-based partners, including Caritas-Freetown, Innovations for Poverty Action, Rising Academies Network, and the Ministry of Basic and Senior Secondary Education in Sierra Leone.

Fellowship Aims

1. To provide the fellow with broad post-doctoral training in the area of implementation science as it pertains to the adoption and sustainment of evidence-based practices within community settings globally to promote mental and behavioral health. The fellow will work on the previously described study, “Advancing mHealth-supported Adoption and Sustainment of an Evidence-based Mental Health Intervention for Youth in a School-based Delivery Setting in Sierra Leone”.
2. To provide the fellow with a strong working knowledge of implementation science research as related to adoption and sustainment evidence-based practices in community settings to promote mental health globally, and particularly in LMICs. Fellows will participate in didactic trainings and workshops to gain implementation science expertise, such as the weekly Implementation Science Core didactics meeting and the Implementation Science Core summer bootcamp.
3. To provide the fellow with research training and experience in preparation for a research career combining implementation science with global mental health. Fellows will participate in the Research Fellow Program Academic Friday workshops, to develop grantsmanship and publication skills.

Fellowship Timeline

The duration of the fellowship is 2 years, 2nd yr is contingent upon satisfactory progress during the first year. The anticipated start date is September 1, 2024.

Research Activity Plan (90%)

- **Involvement in mentors’ research (60%)**: The fellow will work on the NIMH-funded project: “Advancing mHealth-supported Adoption and Sustainment of an Evidence-based Mental Health Intervention for Youth in a School-based Delivery Setting in Sierra Leone”. Primary activities will include data management and analysis (with opportunities to learn implementation science frameworks, methods and study designs); stakeholder engagement activities; mixed methods and qualitative data analytic approaches; manuscript writing; development of dissemination tools and planning dissemination events; and review of recent literature related to implementation of evidence-based mental health interventions in LMICs globally. Some project management (e.g., assistance with maintaining IRB approval, organization and storage of study materials, coordination of multiple investigators at different institutions) and assistance with NIH reporting requirements (e.g., progress reports, data repository requirements) will also be involved. The fellow will also have the opportunity to provide an Implementation Science Core seminar of their choosing in the fall semester.
- There will be opportunities for co-authorship as well as first authorship on journal papers and presentations at national conferences. The fellow will be encouraged to take the lead role on some manuscripts and to collaborate as a coauthor on others.
- The fellow will also attend meetings relevant to the Implementation Science Core’s research.
- **Independent research and grant writing (30%)**: The fellow will perform independent research that may involve publishing dissertation research, collecting pilot data, conducting new projects agreed upon with fellowship mentor, and/or preparing his or her own grant proposal(s). The fellow will work toward at least one scientific manuscript, grant application (e.g., R03/R21, K-award) and presentation at a national meeting. The fellow’s independent

research is expected to include a focus on issues pertaining to implementation of evidence-based practices in community settings to promote mental health. The fellow will also be supported in pursuing a leadership position in a national organization that is appropriate for the level of career development (e.g., Society of Behavioral Medicine, Society for Implementation Research Collaboration).

Didactics (10%)

- Didactics (10%): The fellow will participate in the didactic program sponsored by the psychology fellowship program. Required didactics include core seminars (1 per month), DPHB Academic Grand Rounds (1 per month), RFP Core Seminar (weekly during academic year), and Grant Writing Seminar. Additional didactics may include those related to research methods, statistics, research ethics, cultural sensitivity, and professional development.

Clinical Activity Plan

There is no requirement of clinical work as part of the postdoctoral fellowship, although opportunities may be created under special circumstances. In this case, research effort will be reduced to allow for participation in clinical activities, a primary clinical supervisor will be identified, and attendance at Clinical Ethics will be required.

Path toward licensure: YES _____ NO X _____

Didactics

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)
- Grantsmanship Seminar (1 per week)
- DPHB Academic Grand Rounds (1 per month)

Optional Didactics:

- Clinical Ethics – if intending to sit for licensure (1 per month) Non applied fellows can opt out topics
- Special Topics in Statistics and Alcohol Center seminars.

Supervision and Evaluation

Supervision will be provided in the form of weekly individual supervision with Dr. Alethea Desrosiers. At the midpoint and conclusion of the fellowship, the fellow and the supervisor will provide formal evaluations 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

Reporting and approval

This fellowship will be part of the Research Fellowship Program. The position has been discussed and approved by the Research Fellowship Program Director and Associate Director.

Associate Director, Research Fellowship Program

Director, Postdoctoral Fellowship Training Program