

Postdoctoral Fellowship Training Program

Postdoctoral Fellowship Description

RESEARCH FOCUS

Title: Postdoctoral Fellowship in Suicide Assessment, Intervention, and Technology Research

	Yes	No
APA-accredited:		x
Fellowship primarily allows for Telework:		x
Fellowship primarily allows Telesupervision:		x
Fellowship primarily uses Telehealth:		x

Site/Employer: Butler Hospital

Supervisor(s): Heather Schatten, PhD, Primary Supervisor
Michael Arney, PhD
Christopher Hughes, PhD
Gemma Wallace, PhD

Description of Site

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 Psychosocial Research Program at Butler Hospital, under the direction of Dr. Ivan W. Miller, is located on the third floor of the Potter Building and the second floor of the Blumer Building at Butler Hospital. Drs. Arney, Schatten, Hughes, and Wallace are members of the Psychosocial Research Program. 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. Current research projects involve ecological momentary assessment and digital phenotyping studies of prospective suicide risk, implementation of a suicide intervention, and longitudinal assessment of stress physiology and metabolic contributors to suicide risk, among others.

Fellowship Aims

1. To provide the fellow with broad post-doctoral training in the prediction of suicidal ideation and behavior, prospectively, using intensive longitudinal data collection methods.

2. To provide the fellow with a strong working knowledge of suicide risk assessment and suicide-focused research, with a focus on techniques such as ecological momentary assessment and ecological momentary intervention.
3. To provide the fellow with research training and experience in preparation for a research career in suicide assessment and intervention research.

Fellowship Timeline

The duration of the fellowship is one year. The anticipated start date is July 2026. A second year is possible, contingent upon satisfactory progress and availability of funding.

Research Activity Plan (65% Total)

The fellow will be exposed to various aspects of suicide assessment research via participation in the following activities:

- Study coordination: The fellow will collaborate with the PIs (Drs. Schatten, Arney, Hughes, and Wallace) to coordinate one large assessment study funded by The National Institutes of Mental Health and another intervention study funded by the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention. There may be additional opportunities available in the area of suicide research depending on funding. The fellow will help coordinate research assistant activities and assessment as well as oversee participant recruitment. Additionally, the fellow will have the opportunity for hands-on exposure to ecological momentary assessment and treatment development methods, tailored to the research interests of the individual fellow **(20% time)**.
- Review of suicide assessment and intervention literature: The fellow will be provided with a series of readings in the area of the prospective prediction of suicide risk, suicide intervention, and working with psychiatric patients at risk for suicide. Other topics will focus on the assessment of high-risk behaviors using ecological momentary assessment and laboratory-based methodologies **(5% time)**.
- Grant writing: The fellow will be encouraged to develop a grant idea and submit a grant proposal by the end of the fellowship term **(15% time)**. Additionally, the fellow will have the opportunity to contribute towards ongoing grant preparation and submission in the Psychosocial Research Program **(5% time)**.
- Manuscript preparation and submission: The fellow will be encouraged to collaborate on manuscript preparation and poster submissions at national and international conferences. Currently available datasets will permit development of first-author manuscripts in the areas of suicide assessment and ecological momentary assessment. Individually tailored goals will be established in this area **(15% time)**.
- The fellow will be required to participate in weekly research meetings conducted in the Psychosocial Research Program **(2.5% time)**.
- The fellow may participate in the weekly postdoctoral research seminars offered through the Brown Postdoctoral Fellowship Training Program **(2.5% time)**.

Clinical Activity Plan (25% Total)

Opportunities for additional clinical experience will be provided as part of the position. Clinical time will include both individual and group supervision with Drs. Heather Schatten, Christopher Hughes, and other relevant study PIs.

- Clinical assessment: The fellow will participate in the clinical assessment activities of NIMH- and AFSP-funded studies in our lab. Clinical activities will involve conducting in-person diagnostic structured interviews (i.e., C-SSRS, SCID, SITB-I) with psychiatric patients 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 **(25% time)**.

Path toward licensure: YES X NO _____

Didactics (10% Total)

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

Mandatory Didactics:

- Postdoctoral Core Seminar (1 per month)
- DPHB Academic Grand Rounds (1 per month)
- Research Fellowship Program (RFP) Core Seminars (1 per week)

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)
- Other didactics may be available through mutual agreement of the Postdoctoral fellow and Supervisors.

Supervision and Evaluation

Research-focused supervision will be provided in the form of weekly group supervision (Drs. Schatten, Hughes, Arney, and Wallace). Clinical supervision will be provided in the form of weekly individual supervision (Drs. Schatten, Hughes, and/or Wallace).

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
- Appropriate space for conducting clinical interviews, intervention, and risk assessments

Reporting and approval

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

Associate Director, Research Fellowship Program

Director, Postdoctoral Fellowship Training Program