



Postdoctoral Fellowship Training Program
Postdoctoral Fellowship Description
CLINICAL FOCUS

Title: Postdoctoral Fellowship in Adolescent Forensic and Addiction Psychology

APA-accredited: Yes

Site/Employer: Rhode Island Hospital (*employer*)
Rhode Island Family Court (RIFC) Mental Health Clinic
Bradley Hospital
Rhode Island Training School/Brown University Health

Supervisor(s): Kathleen Kemp, Ph.D., Primary Supervisor, Mental Health Clinic
Robert Miranda Jr., Ph.D., Primary Supervisor, Bradley Hospital
Melissa Pielech, PhD, Secondary Supervisor, Bradley Hospital
Katelyn Affleck, Ph.D., Primary Supervisor, Rhode Island Training School/Brown University Health

Description of Sites

The Bradley Hasbro Children's Research Center (BHCRC) combines child and adolescent expertise from two of the major teaching hospitals for The Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University, Bradley Hospital and Hasbro Children's Hospital. Bradley Hospital is the nation's first psychiatric hospital devoted to children and adolescents and is a national leader in training and research in child and adolescent psychiatry.

The post-doctoral fellow will be integrally involved in the operations of the Rhode Island Family Court (RIFC) Mental Health Clinic (MHC). The MHC provides the opportunity to develop competency in forensic assessment of children and adolescents. The court clinic population includes juveniles court-ordered by RIFC judges on both the juvenile justice and child welfare calendars to receive comprehensive mental health and/or forensic evaluations (e.g., competency to stand trial, violence risk). Fellows may also have the experience of performing emergency (acute risk) assessments, as well as participating in consultations to the bench. The emphasis of training is on learning procedures of evidence-based forensic mental health and dual diagnosis assessment and writing forensic behavioral health reports, as well as providing testimony related to submitted forensic reports and clinical consultations.

The clinical psychology fellow will also participate in substance use and co-occurring mental health disorders training at the intensive outpatient program (Vista) at Bradley Hospital under the primary supervision of Dr. Robert Miranda; Dr. Melissa Pielech is a secondary supervisor at Vista. At Bradley Hospital, the fellow will gain competency in evidence-based assessment and treatment of adolescent substance use disorders in an intensive outpatient setting. Youth may be court-involved, school-referred, or privately referred. This rotation provides training and exposure to individual, group, and family-based substance abuse treatment. The

multidisciplinary team is comprised of psychologists, psychiatrists, social workers, licensed mental health clinicians, and milieu staff. The clinical psychology fellow will have opportunities to assess adolescents with recent substance use who present with a range of co-occurring issues (including suicidality, non-suicidal self-injury, and behavior problems). The fellow will be responsible for conducting an initial diagnostic assessment and evidence-based individual, group, and family-based treatments. Co-therapy and live supervision will occur. The fellow will participate in and receive supervision (individual and group) in all aspects of the substance use and co-occurring disorder treatment services. Many opportunities for involvement in ongoing research on adolescent substance use are available.

The Rhode Island Training School/Brown University Health (RITS/BUH) Behavioral Health Team provides comprehensive behavioral health assessment and treatment services to youth involved in the Family Court. The fellow will conduct both court-ordered and clinical diagnostic evaluations for children and adolescents in pre-adjudication and post-adjudication status at the Rhode Island Training School (the state's only secure confinement facility for juveniles) or on Temporary Community Placement in one of the court-ordered residential treatment facilities. Supervision will be provided by Dr. Katelyn Affleck, consulting psychologist to the RITS/BUH Team and faculty in the Brown Department of Psychiatry and Human Behavior. Fellows will also have the opportunity to provide tiered supervision to junior trainees (including medical students, forensic psychology interns, and others) as part of this rotation.

Fellowship Aims

1. To provide the fellow with clinical training and experience in preparation for an academic clinical career in adolescent psychopathology and substance use.
2. To provide the fellow with broad post-doctoral training in the area of forensic assessment including comprehensive mental health and substance abuse evaluations.
3. To provide the fellow with a strong working knowledge of research involving adolescent psychopathology, substance use, and adolescent risk prevention.

Fellowship Timeline

The duration of the fellowship is 1 year. The anticipated start date is August/September of the training year.

Clinical Activity Plan (70%)

Activities will be distributed as follows: 70% clinical time (including individual and group supervision), 20% research time (assessments/clinical work in ongoing treatment research studies, data collection and analysis, writing, mentorship), and 10% didactic time 4 hours a week for didactic activities (grand rounds, post doc seminar, Friday research seminars).

In order to ensure that the fellow receives a high level of clinical training in the area of assessment and treatment, the following activities will be required during the fellowship:

- Treatment services: The fellow will conduct evidence-based individual, group, and family therapy. The fellow will also supervise the provision of skills-based groups for patients.

- a. Individual psychotherapy (2 cases/week; 2 teens receive twice weekly therapy, which amounts to 8 sessions/week)
 - b. Family psychotherapy (2 cases/week)
 - c. Group-based psychotherapy (2 groups/week)
 - d. Individual Supervision (0.5 hour/week with Dr. Miranda)
- Clinical assessment: The fellow will conduct clinical and diagnostic evaluations of adolescents in the Mental Health Clinic and the Rhode Island Training School/Brown University Health (RITS/BUH) Behavioral Health Team. Approximately 12 hours/week at the MHC and 8 hours/week at the RITS/BUH will be devoted to forensic mental health/diagnostic evaluations, individual supervision (minimum 1 hour/week with Dr. Kemp and .5 hour/week with Dr. Affleck), and report writing.
 - Clinical administration: The fellow will participate in rounds, staff meetings, group supervision, and will be actively involved in treatment planning and program development activities in addition to completing all required documentation and clinical administrative duties. Up to 4 hours/week will be devoted to team and to clinical administration and program development activities.

Research Activity Plan (20%)

20% of the fellow's time will be spent on research activities focused on the assessment and treatment of adolescents. The fellow will be exposed to various aspects of clinical research work in this area through participation in the following activities:

- Review of relevant literature, diagnostic and clinical assessment of adolescent study participants, evaluating outcomes of implementing empirically based interventions for adolescents and their families, quality improvement projects, and manuscript preparation and submission: The fellow will be encouraged to collaborate on manuscripts and poster submissions at national conferences. Individually tailored goals will be established in this area.

Path toward licensure: YES X NO The fellow will receive clinical hours toward licensing through the clinical activity plan.

Didactics (10%)

The fellow will participate in the following postdoctoral seminars through the Brown Post Doctoral Training Program (for up to 10% of fellow time). The fellow may participate in the weekly postdoctoral research seminars offered through the Postdoctoral Fellowship Training Program.

Didactics:

- CCPSP Core Seminars (1 per week)
- DPHB Academic Grand Rounds (1 per month)
- Forensic Didactic Series (1 per week required, 1 per week optional)
- Clinical Ethics (1 per month)
- Postdoc Core Seminar (1 per month)

Through the Bradley Vista placement, the postdoctoral trainee will provide supervised peer supervision, both in small group and one-on-one contexts. This clinical supervisory experience will be supervised by the primary supervisor, Dr. Robert Miranda, through both direct and indirect supervision.

Supervision and Evaluation

Supervision of both clinical and research duties will be provided in the form of weekly individual supervision (one hour with Dr. Kemp as the primary clinical supervisor at the Mental Health Clinic and ½ hour each with Drs. Affleck at RITS/BUH and Miranda at Bradley Hospital. In total, there will be a minimum of two hours of individual structured supervision per week.

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 appropriate for clinical care
- A computer and project specific software including statistical software
- Internet access
- Telephone

Reporting and approval

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

Director, Clinical Child Psychology Specialty Program (CCPSP)

Director, Postdoctoral Fellowship Training Program (PFTP)