2017 FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM BROUCHER

VA MIRECC Psychology Postdoctoral Fellowship Program
Hunter Holmes McGuire VA Medical Center, Richmond, Virginia

Co-Directors: Scott D. McDonald, Ph.D.
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The Hunter Holmes McGuire Veterans Affairs Medical Center’s (VAMC) VISN-6 Mid-Atlantic Mental Illness Research, Education and Clinical Center (MIRECC) Psychology Postdoctoral Fellowship Program (“MIRECC Psychology Fellowship Program”) anticipates one opening for a two-year, clinical or counseling psychology postdoctoral fellowship to begin between July 1st and September 30th, 2017. Please refer to the Application & Selection Procedures section below for application deadline and selection procedures.

Overview

The McGuire VAMC’s MIRECC Psychology Fellowship Program combines individual mentored research and clinical training with state-of-the-art educational experiences to support the professional development of leading clinical researchers in high priority areas of mental health. Over the course of the two-year program, Fellows are trained in VA health systems research and advanced clinical care service delivery in an interdisciplinary setting. The McGuire VAMC’s Advanced Fellowship Program is associated with the VA Mid-Atlantic Mental Illness Research, Education, and Clinical Center (MIRECC), a multisite, specialized mental health center of excellence (MH CoE) that develops and applies scientific knowledge and best practices to enhance post-deployment mental health and wellness for our Nation's Veterans and their families. Within the emphasis area of post-deployment health, the McGuire VA Medical Center’s MIRECC Fellowship Program benefits from a vibrant rehabilitation research environment and collaboration with McGuire’s Postdoctoral Fellowship Program in Rehabilitation Psychology to offer strong research and clinical training in critical post-deployment mental health recovery and rehabilitation needs such as traumatic brain injury (TBI) and posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD). Fellows seeking board certification in Rehabilitation Psychology may develop a training plan that is consistent with the APA Division 22 Guidelines for Postdoctoral Training in Rehabilitation Psychology and fulfills eligibility requirements for board certification in Rehabilitation Psychology by the American Board of Professional Psychology (ABPP).

Fellows spend a minimum of 10-15 hours/week in supervised, direct service delivery and at least 10-20 hours/week in clinical research activities. Additionally, the fellowship encompasses didactics (4 hours/week, including 2 hours of supervision) and administrative experiences (5
hours/week) that support the Fellow’s individual professional goals. In collaboration with research mentors, Fellows are expected to develop and implement a research pilot project, publish and present findings, participate in grant writing, and utilize the latest technology for educational activities and clinical service delivery.

Early in the first year of the fellowship experience, Fellows develop a written Individualized Learning Plan collaboratively with the fellowship directors. The Learning Plan contains organized, experiential, and sequential learning experiences in research, clinical service, and education during each year of the fellowship based on the goals and objectives as outlined below. The Learning Plan allows Fellows to tailor their learning experiences in order to best meet their individual training needs, while also providing sufficient structure to help ensure successful completion of training goals. Through the training plan, the program offers the potential for Fellows to develop expertise in an emphasis area within the scope of post-deployment mental health, such as evaluation of treatment programs for trauma and stress-related disorders (e.g., PTSD), the study of potential outcomes from concussion and mild TBI such as persistent post-concussive symptoms (PPCS), and the exploration of resilience in response to adversity. Opportunities for clinical research training, supervised clinical training, and didactics are outlined separately below.

**Guiding Principles**

The structure and activities of the MIRECC Psychology Fellowship Program are designed to meet the guidelines established by the American Psychological Association and the VA Guidelines for Postdoctoral Programs. Our program is based on a scientist-practitioner model of training and, as such, provides a foundation for our Fellows to develop as independent practitioners who (1) utilize evidence-based psychotherapy (EBP) within the context of evidence-based medicine (EBM), (2) consult the research literature to inform treatment, and (3) employ scientific methodology in their clinical practice. More information about the VA MIRECC Advanced Fellowship Program can be found at [www.mirecc.va.gov/mirecc-Fellowship.asp](http://www.mirecc.va.gov/mirecc-Fellowship.asp) and in the following article:

Training Goals

The purpose of the MIRECC Psychology Fellowship Program is to train professional psychologists for eventual leadership roles in clinical services, clinical research, and education: particularly in VA medical center, public sector, and academic settings. This eventual expected outcome rests on two primary aims of the fellowship program: 1) the development of advanced skills in the foundational and functional competencies of professional psychology (i.e., the APA's G&P Content Areas), and 2) the further development of advanced competencies in working with U.S. military Veterans and their families seeking treatment for mental health problems associated with military deployment.

Our program offers Fellows a two-year, intensive training experience in which they may partake in a rich array of "hands on" experiential training activities that foster advanced clinical competencies for independent practice as a doctoral level clinical or counseling psychologist. Fellows enjoy a thoughtful, individualized, structured curriculum in which they receive protected time to develop advanced clinical research skills, as well as a coherent program of their own clinical research. Fellows receive advanced, supervised training in clinical psychology through direct clinical care experiences in a variety of inpatient, residential, and outpatient settings. Consistent with the emphasis of the VISN 6 MIRECC, McGuire VAMC MIRECC Fellows are encouraged to pursue clinical research and clinical training activities that focus on U.S. military post-deployment mental health. In addition, Fellows seeking board certification in Rehabilitation Psychology may develop a training plan that is consistent with the APA Division 22 Guidelines for Postdoctoral Training in Rehabilitation Psychology and fulfills eligibility requirements for board certification in Rehabilitation Psychology by the American Board of Professional Psychology (ABPP).

During protected time for clinical research, MIRECC Fellows will:

- Develop awareness of pressing clinical /clinical research priorities within VA.
- Develop advanced clinical competencies in the context of military Veterans mental health care.
- Develop advanced skills in mental health research methodology and statistical analyses; scientific writing and presentation; and research ethics in mental health research, in order to understand the best evidence-based approach to clinical research and treatment.
- Develop skills in grant writing.

Fellows are provided with structured didactics that address an array of topics ranging from advanced research methodologies, professional writing, multicultural competency, and clinical research ethics. Fellows are also encouraged to participate in local opportunities for formal presentation of their clinical research findings.

In order to fulfill the goals of fellowship training, Fellows should demonstrate an advanced level of skill and knowledge in the following areas by the completion of the fellowship program, as measured by supervisors' evaluations of the specific competencies. Foundational and functional
The specific skills, behaviors and attitudes described below are assessed regularly across supervised clinical and research activities using standardized evaluation forms. All training experiences are supervised, sequentially organized and designed to follow a logical flow that facilitates the acquisition of increasingly advanced knowledge and skills in the practice of clinical psychology. Moreover, all training experiences are designed around our service population, U.S. military Veterans accessing VA medical and mental health care. Below we briefly characterize our program's goals.

**Goal 1: Assessment, Diagnosis, and Intervention:** Fellows will demonstrate:

- a) independent-practitioner competence in psychological assessment, differential diagnosis, and empirically supported psychological treatments.
- b) specialized, advanced competencies in working with U.S. military veterans presenting with deployment-related mental health problems.

- Fellows are required to complete at least six (6) clinical rotations during the 2-year fellowship program at a minimum of 10-15 hours per week. A rotation in a particular clinic or population can be repeated, given substantial addition to training goals to foster advanced skills. The Fellow must have at least two clinical supervisors per year. At least one of these rotations includes substantial work in psychological assessment and diagnostic interviewing using tools such as structured clinical interviews and/or standardized personality tests. At least one of these rotations includes substantial work in individual and/or group psychotherapy. At least two of the rotations are directly applicable to post-deployment mental health (e.g., PTSD Clinic, Polytrauma Network Site Clinic). Rotations can be extended in order to develop advanced skills (e.g., a second rotation in the PTSD Clinic to complete training in Prolonged Exposure) or to focus on developing new skills (e.g., a neuropsychology rotation followed by an individual psychotherapy rotation in the Polytrauma Network Site clinic).
- At least 2 hours of direct clinical supervision are provided each week.
- A full list of currently available rotations is provided in the Clinical Rotations section below.
- It should be noted that Fellows are encouraged to shape rotations that advance their training needs, while also complementing their research interests. For example, a Fellow who is interested specifically in women’s mental health care may seek supervision to develop a clinic and outreach program specifically targeting women OEF/OIF/OND Veterans.

**Goal 2: Consultation, Supervision, and Teaching:** Fellows will demonstrate independent-practitioner competence in delivering consultation to inter-professional teams, develop skills in the supervision of psychology trainees including interns and practicum students, and gain experience providing psycho-education to patients, family members and providers.
Activities:
- Consultation competencies will primarily be developed and evaluated during mandatory clinical rotations as discussed above.
- Supervision competencies will be strengthened by several optional training opportunities, including supervision of junior psychology trainees and research assistants and participation in a 5-week Supervision Seminar offered in October of each year.
- Teaching competencies will be strengthened by presentation of research findings at a VISN-6 MIRECC videoconference, teaching at least one Intern Seminar, and through a multitude of available other teaching opportunities at the VA, VCU, or through conferences, outreach, or other professional events.

Goal 3: Scholarly Inquiry: Fellows will acquire skills and competencies in several aspects of clinical research and scholarships. Key competency areas are discussed below.

a) Integration of Science and Practice: Fellows will learn to utilize the scientific literature to guide their clinical practice, and will use “lessons learned” from clinical practice to foster and shape their scientific hypotheses. Fellows will learn to use their emerging competencies in clinical science to identify solutions to emerging clinical problems they encounter in practice and will systematically evaluate the effectiveness of their clinical work (e.g., monitoring patient outcomes).

b) Conducting Clinically Informed Research: Fellows will gain advanced skills in conducting clinically focused research pertinent to the mental health needs of today’s veterans.

Activities:
- The Fellow will identify a Research Mentor or a Mentorship Team early in his or her fellowship. This Research Mentor (or alternately, a Mentorship Team) will assist the Fellow in developing a cogent and cohesive research program that is expected to lead to independent functioning as an investigator. The Fellow will meet with the primary Research Mentor at least weekly.
- The Fellow will also meet with the fellowship director(s) at least bi-monthly to discuss progress and address barriers to meeting competencies that cannot be achieved working with the Research Mentor alone. For example, the fellowship director(s) can assist the Fellow in developing a network of collaborators to further his or her training and development of a research program.
- Fellows are expected to produce at least one first-author, peer-reviewed research publication, at least one other peer-reviewed research publication, and a grant submission. These activities conducted under mentorship provide a strong experiential learning environment. Fellows are also encouraged to participate in other professional research activities such as journal and grant reviews. They are also encouraged to take advantage of educational opportunities at our academic affiliate and beyond, such as joining a professional association, attending grand rounds, joining research teams, and taking advanced statistics or research methods.
classes.

**Goal 4: Organization, Management, Administration, and Program Evaluation:** Fellows will gain experience pertinent to organizational management and administration pertinent to the career development of clinical psychologists and scientists. Fellows may choose additional training experiences that facilitate the development of advanced competencies in program evaluation.

**Activities:**
- Fellows will serve on selection committees for Psychology Interns and Fellows. Fellows are encouraged to attend psychology staff meetings as well as staff meetings of other services in which the Fellow performs clinical work (e.g., Polytrauma). Fellows will be assigned readings relevant to VA systems issues (e.g., peer-reviewed articles, VA Directives) by the fellowship director that will be discussed during monthly meetings. Competencies in this area will largely be demonstrated by efficient and autonomous successful navigation of the VA system of care.

**Goal 5: Professional, Ethical, and Legal Issues:** Fellows will become competent (as appropriate for an entry level professional) in professional and collegial conduct, knowledge of the ethical guidelines of clinical psychology, and those ethical guidelines that govern the appropriate conduct of human subjects research. They will also become appropriately familiar with the wide array of legal issues pertinent to the proper conduct of clinical psychology and human subjects related research.

**Activities:**
- These competencies will be observed across all aspects of the Fellow’s professional practice and will be assessed through clinical and research supervisor evaluations.
- Fellows will be encouraged to attend Grand Rounds and training seminars that are focused on clinical and research practice ethics.

**Goal 6: Cultural and Individual Diversity Issues:** Fellows will further develop their awareness and appreciation of cultural and individual differences and will attain cultural competence regarding the delivery of mental health services to a diverse cadre of veterans.

**Activities:**
- Training in cultural and individual diversity is part of every clinical rotation. Fellows are encouraged to take at least one clinical rotation in SCI or Polytrauma, in which disability services are at the forefront of the learning experience. Fellows also attend diversity-focused seminars, and are encouraged to attend the Annual Diversity Conference sponsored by the Multicultural Training Committee within...
• **Goal 7: Confidence and Professional Identity:** Fellows will develop a strong professional identity and confidence and professional demeanor commensurate with their entry-level status in the profession.

Activities:
• These competencies will be observed across all aspects of the Fellow’s professional practice and will be assessed through clinical and research supervisor evaluations.

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**Research Training Activities**

The McGuire VAMC offers many unique training opportunities in research. It has a vibrant research infrastructure, with over 80% of the medical center’s research having a direct impact on patient care in the VA system and in the community. McGuire VAMC MIRECC Fellows are afforded opportunities to become involved in research regarding service delivery (e.g., intervention and performance evaluation) as well as archival data analysis and experimental studies.

Research resources for Fellows include access to data analysis software (e.g., SPSS and AMOS) through the VA’s [VA Informatics and Computing Infrastructure (VINCI)](https://www.va.gov/vinci), statistical consultation, and access to archival data from the PDMH Study. Fellows traditionally apply for and are offered an academic appointment in the Department of Psychology at our academic affiliate, VCU. An academic affiliation provides the Fellow an opportunity to audit select classes, access to library resources and electronic articles via a wide assortment of online databases (e.g., Medline, World of Science, PsycINFO), and the prospect of providing training and research collaboration in the academic community.

All MIRECC Fellows participate in the Mid-Atlantic MIRECC’s multisite Post-Deployment Mental Health (PDMH) Study (Site PI: Scott McDonald, PhD), that includes health, psychiatric, and genetic information for over 3000 Iraq and Afghanistan (OEF/OIF/OND) war-era Veterans. Fellows receive comprehensive training on administration of the Structured Clinical Interview for DSM Disorders (SCID), administer about one a month, and join monthly SCID fidelity calls. Fellows can also participate in other MIRECC-affiliated studies, such as the multi-site “Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) With and Without Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI):
Comorbidity and Longitudinal Course of Recovery study (Site PI: Treven Pickett, PsyD, ABPP-Rp), which investigates neuropsychiatric sequelae associated with TBI and PTSD in OEF/OIF/OND Veterans.

There are robust possibilities for research collaboration with other on-site centers, including the Defense and Veterans Brain Injury Center (DVBIC; Site PI: William Walker, MD), Chronic Effects of Neurotrauma Consortium (CENC; Study 1 PI: William Walker, MD), and the TBI Model Systems (Site PI: Lillian Stevens, PhD). Past Fellows and trainees have also received mentorship or enjoyed collaboration with researchers at our academic affiliate, Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU) in the Departments of Psychology, Psychiatry, Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation; the Virginia Institute for Psychiatric and Behavioral Genetics (VIPBG); and the Center of Researcher Sciences and Engineering (CERSE). Areas of research include substance abuse research (Jim Bjork, PhD), risk and resiliency for traumatic-stress-related conditions (Ananda Amstadter, PhD), psychophysiology and emotion (Scott Vrana, PhD), and insomnia (Bruce Rybarczyk, PhD, ABPP).

Research goals are achieved through mentored research activities, provision of research resources, and didactics. Research mentorship provides Fellows the opportunity to learn from an established local investigator as well as co-mentors from within the local research community, within the network of Mid-Atlantic MIRECC investigators, or VA investigators across the nation. Fellows who develop a mentorship team that combine expertise from researcher-clinicians at the McGuire VAMC, researcher-clinicians at VCU, and beyond, are especially likely to be successful, as establishing an integrated team maximizes learning opportunities in each venue.

A list of potential primary and secondary/co-mentors can be found in the list below. In the past, Fellows have successfully integrated others into the mentorship team to round out research goals.

### Primary Mentors:

**James Bjork, Ph.D.,** 1999, University of Texas-Houston (Biomedical Sciences with a Concentration in Neuroscience)

**Primary Sites:** McGuire VA Medical Center (RICVAMC)(5/8) and Virginia Commonwealth University

**Faculty Joint Appointment:** Associate Professor, Institute for Drug and Alcohol Studies (IDAS) and Departments of Psychiatry, Pharmacology and Toxicology, Virginia Commonwealth University.

**Research Interests:** My interests are centered on using neurobehavioral and neuroeconomics tasks together with functional magnetic resonance imaging (fMRI) to discover the neurobiological underpinnings of impulsivity and risk-taking. I am specifically interested...
in how “impulsive” neurocircuit function relates to each of: risk for suicide, risk for substance use disorder (SUD), consequences of SUD, and individual differences in neurocircuit function that could indicate targeted administration of psychotropic medications for addiction treatment. I am also interested in studying normative development of incentive-motivational and behavior-inhibitory neurocircuit function in human adolescence.

Current Research: At RICVAMC, I am currently applying a spectrum of specialized decision-making and perceptual processing tasks to veterans with and without suicide attempt histories and with and without traumatic brain injury histories, to determine if behavioral tendencies toward facile cognitive processing on these tasks correlate with suicide attempt histories. I am also leveraging MIRECC data to determine how suicide histories relate to neurocognitive measures of fluency and solution-generation. I have applied for funding for clinical trials or acute pharmacological challenge studies of medications that may improve self-control for alcohol and gambling addiction outcomes. At VCU, I am site PI of the new NIH signature Adolescent Brain Cognitive Development (ABCD) longitudinal neuroimaging study of youth. I am also conducting fMRI research on reward, threat, and inhibitory processing in borderline personality disorder, and in individuals with HIV, both with and without chronic opiate use. I am investigating brain signatures of proactive cognitive control in cocaine use disorder.

Role of Fellow: A research fellow would be expected to provide data-collection support, including administration of structured clinical interviews for DSM-IV/5 (SCID; training available at VCU joint appointment laboratory), administration of neurocognitive research tasks, and administration of tasks for fMRI, as well as in identifying suitable veterans for study using astute IRB-approved medical records searches. Fellows may be able to initiate side projects within scope and budgetary constraints of funded projects. Some activities (notably fMRI) may take place at VCU, at the discretion of MIRECC program directors. MIRECC fellows with a bona-fide long-term goal of independent research using fMRI can be trained in design, administration and analysis of fMRI tasks and brain image data. In return, the fellow can expect comprehensive hands on experience in human biobehavioral neuroscience research, with conference presentations and co-authorship or even primary authorship on publications resulting from the research, commensurate with intellectual effort.

Biosketch/CV:  
http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/sites/myncbi/1j9kg7s9ygtQM/bibliography/46566241/public/?sort=descending

Scott D. McDonald, Ph.D., 2006, Virginia Commonwealth University

Primary Site: McGuire VA Medical Center  
Faculty Appointments: Affiliate Assistant Professor, Departments of Psychology and Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, Virginia Commonwealth University.  
Clinical Duties: Neuropsychology consultation for the Spinal Cord Injury Service at the McGuire VAMC. Dr. McDonald serves as Co-Director for the MIRECC Psychology Fellowship program.  
Research Interests: PTSD assessment, rehabilitation outcomes, and resilience.
Current Research: Site-PI for the VA Mid-Atlantic MIRECC Post-Deployment Mental Health Study. Currently funded through a VA RR&D Career Development Award-2 to study resilience following physical injury (e.g., spinal cord injury, amputation, TBI).

Role of Fellow: Fellows will have opportunities to learn about rehabilitation research in VA inpatient and outpatient settings with an emphasis in post-deployment mental health. Fellows will have access several clinical research databases for writing manuscripts and generating research ideas and may propose a pilot study associated with ongoing projects. Fellows will receive training in the administration of the Structured Clinical Interview for DSM Disorders (SCID), participate in manuscript writing and other dissemination projects, attend lab and multi-site research staff meetings, and may have the opportunity to supervise research assistants.

Biosketch/CV: See CV on LinkedIn.


Primary Site: McGuire VA Medical Center

Faculty Appointments: Research Associate Professor, Department of Psychology; Assistant Professor of PM&R and Psychiatry at Virginia Commonwealth University.

Clinical Duties: Associate Chief and Supervisory Clinical Psychologist, Mental Health Service at the McGuire VA Medical Center.

Research Interests: TBI; PTSD; Neuro-rehabilitation.

Current Research: Site-PI for the VA Mid-Atlantic MIRECC Neurocognitive Study of TBI and PTSD.

Role of Fellow: Fellows will learn to administer, score, and interpret an extensive battery of neuropsychological tests aimed towards assessment of cognitive, emotional, and neurobehavioral symptoms secondary to PTSD/TBI. Fellows will learn how to integrate test data with clinical impressions gleaned from clinical interview, as well as how to effectively communicate impressions and recommendations to interdisciplinary teams (if the patient is referred from an interdisciplinary team environment). Fellows will have the opportunity to learn the components of a large dataset for neuropsychological test instruments for PTSD/TBI and to ask questions of those data preparatory to abstract and manuscript submissions.

Secondary/Co-Mentors:

Ananda B. Amstadter, Ph.D., 2008, Auburn University

Primary Site: Virginia Commonwealth University, MCV Campus

Faculty Appointment: Associate Professor, Department of Psychiatry, Virginia Commonwealth University.

Research Interests: Identification of risk and resiliency factors, biologic and psychosocial in nature, for traumatic-stress related conditions.

Role of Fellow: TBD.

Biosketch/CV: http://www.vipbg.vcu.edu/vipbg/dr/AAMSTADTER.shtml
Bruce Rybarczyk, Ph.D., ABPP-Rp, 1988, Virginia Commonwealth University

Primary Site: Virginia Commonwealth University, Monroe Park Campus
Faculty Appointments: Professor, Department of Psychology, Virginia Commonwealth University.

Positions: Director of the Clinical Psychology Program at Virginia Commonwealth University.

He is board certified in Rehabilitation Psychology by the American Board of Professional Psychology. He serves as Associate Editor for the Journal of Clinical Psychology.

Research Interests: Understanding and facilitating the psychological adaptation to chronic medical illness and disability.

Clinical Interests: Clinical health psychology, behavioral sleep medicine, primary care psychology, and clinical geropsychology.

Role of Fellow: Learn assessment and intervention methodology for CBT-I protocols and implement a study at the VA during the training year under supervision of mentor.

Biosketch/CV: http://www.psychology.vcu.edu/people/rybarczyk.shtml

Lillian Flores Stevens, Ph.D., 2010, Virginia Commonwealth University

Primary Site: McGuire VA Medical Center
Faculty Appointments: Affiliate Assistant Professor in Psychology, Virginia Commonwealth University.

Clinical Duties: Research Psychologist, Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation / Mental Health Service. Provides individual, couples, and group therapy to Veterans with Polytrauma / traumatic brain injury (TBI) to address co-occurring posttraumatic stress disorder and impact of Polytrauma / TBI on the family.

Research Interests: Polytrauma / Traumatic Brain Injury, caregivers and families, rehabilitation outcomes, culture, and development of a Polytrauma family intervention.

Current Research: Serves as Site-Principal Investigator for the VA Polytrauma Rehabilitation Center Traumatic Brain Injury Model Systems (VA TBIMS) study; a prospective, longitudinal, multi-site study of TBI, treatment, and outcomes.

Role of Fellow: Fellows will have the opportunity to assist with VA TBIMS data collection, take the lead on data analyses and/or collaborate with national colleagues on other TBIMS studies, collaborate with members of the TBIMS Caregiver and Family Special Interest Group in developing new projects, and collaborate on local development of a Polytrauma family intervention.


Scott Vrana, Ph.D., 1988, University of Florida

Primary Site: Virginia Commonwealth University, Monroe Park Campus
Faculty Appointments: Professor, Departments of Psychology and Psychiatry, Virginia Commonwealth University.

Positions: Professor, Departments of Psychology and Psychiatry, Virginia Commonwealth University. Co-Director of the Anxiety Clinic of the Center for Psychological Services and Development, Virginia Commonwealth University.
Research Interests: The study of emotion, especially fear and anxiety, from an information processing and psychophysiologic perspective.
Role of Fellow: The fellow can fit into projects at any level, from directing or developing new research to analyzing archival data.
Biosketch/CV: [http://www.psychology.vcu.edu/people/vrana.shtml](http://www.psychology.vcu.edu/people/vrana.shtml)

William Walker, M.D., 1987, Virginia Commonwealth University

Primary Site: Virginia Commonwealth University, Medical College of Virginia
Faculty Appointments: Professor, Department of PM&R, Virginia Commonwealth University.
Positions: Ernst and Helga Prosser Professor and Vice Chairman of Clinical Care in Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation. Principal Investigator for the Defense and Veterans Brain Injury Center (DVBIC) in Richmond.
Research Interests: Traumatic brain injury and pain assessment.
Clinical Interests: Brain injury, concussion, neuro-rehabilitation, and spasticity.
Role of Fellow: TBD.
Biosketch/CV: A component center within the Defense Centers of Excellence (DCoE) for Psychological Health and TBI, DVBIC has several ongoing studies associated with TBI epidemiology, recovery, and rehabilitation. Dr. Walker is also an investigator for the Chronic Effects of Neurotrauma Consortium (CENC), a consortium of universities, VAs, and other partners to study effects of mild TBIs/concussions that is funded through a $62 million VA/Department of Defense grant to VCU.

Clinical Training Activities

Fellows dedicate a minimum 10-15 hours/week to direct patient care. Fellows have the opportunity to be involved in inpatient, outpatient and specialty care settings to provide them with opportunities to build clinical specialization in post-deployment mental health. Fellows complete six, 4-month clinical rotations in their two year fellowship, reflective of their interests, training needs, and availability. At least 2 of these 6 rotations must be in rotations that provide experience in post-deployment mental health (see below). Multiple rotations may be completed within one clinic as long as the learning experiences are cumulative and graduated in complexity. Regarding the post-deployment mental health rotations, Fellows will generally select a focus for the rotation in collaboration with the clinic director or primary supervisor when developing a rotation training plan (e.g., intake assessment, psychotherapy, or neuropsychological assessment). Although the core rotations have been consistently available for several years, available clinical rotations may change annually depending on clinical needs, patient flow, and availability of supervision.

The clinical supervision structure has been established through the development of the psychology practicum, internship, and fellowship programs at McGuire VAMC, and is monitored for quality by the Director of Psychology Training, the Psychology Training Committee, and Associate Chief and Supervisory Clinical Psychologist (Research and
Education), Mental Health Service. Fellows receive at least two hours per week of individual, face-to-face, regularly scheduled supervision, conducted by licensed psychologists with expertise in the areas being supervised. Fellows receive supervision from at least two psychologists during each training year. Supervision provided is relevant to the actual clinical services rendered by the Fellow. Fellows receive guidance for how to track aggregate clinical hours towards VA state licensure requirements for clinical psychologists. Fellows are expected to request approval to begin a residency from the state of Virginia prior to initiation of clinical activities.

Available Clinical Rotations

Post-Deployment Mental Health Clinical Rotations:

Polytrauma Network Site (PNS): Fellows provide a variety of psychological and neuropsychological services to outpatients in the Polytrauma outpatient program including psychological assessment, comprehensive neuropsychological evaluations, treatment planning, psychotherapy, family counseling, suicide and violence risk assessment, as well as provide behavioral health and pain management interventions. PNS patients include a large percentage of OEF/OIF Veterans with complex needs for conditions such as traumatic brain injury (TBI), limb amputation, post-concussion syndrome (PCS), PTSD, and chronic pain. Fellows participate as part of an interdisciplinary outpatient team involving medical, rehabilitation, and mental health providers assessing and treating PCS, PTSD, pain, and other comorbid problems. Fellows with limited experience with inpatient rehabilitation of moderate-to-severe TBI may request hands-on experience in our Polytrauma Rehabilitation Center as a prerequisite (concurrent experience is acceptable) to learn more about a patient’s transition from inpatient to outpatient care. The Fellow generally chooses an emphasis area prior to the rotation such as neuropsychology, CPT/PE for PTSD psychotherapy, or individual and family psychotherapy (Supervisors: Drs. Eugene Gourley, PhD, Sharon Funari, PhD, and Treven Pickett, PsyD, ABPP-Rp).

PTSD Clinical Team (PCT): The PTSD Clinic accepts patients with military-related PTSD, although psychiatric comorbidity, medical issues, and challenging psychosocial issues are also common. Fellows have the opportunity to: 1) administer program intake interviews, 2) co-lead PTSD process and cognitive-behavioral groups, 3) co-lead PTSD skills and education groups, and 4) conduct individual psychotherapy. Periodically, Fellows may also participate in the PTSD/Substance Use Disorders sub-rotation (Dr. Meyer) that involves co-leading treatment using the evidence-based "Seeking Safety" program. Fellows are also encouraged to attend PTSD Treatment Team meetings. Through these opportunities, Fellows are provided the opportunity to hone their skills in clinical interviewing, differential diagnosis, evidence-based psychotherapy (EBP) for PTSD (e.g., individual and group-based CPT), and the delivery of psycho-education. Fellows are also provided exposure to systems and administrative issues in the management of a VA PTSD Clinic. (Supervisors: Drs. John Benesek, PsyD, Allen Grove, PhD, and Brian Meyer, PhD)

Other Available Clinical Rotations:
Polytrauma Rehabilitation Center (PRC): Fellows provide neuropsychological and rehabilitation psychology services to inpatients on the 16-bed, CARF-accredited acute inpatient brain injury (TBI) rehabilitation program. This program admits Veterans with acute combat and non-combat injuries including TBI. These patients require a comprehensive, interdisciplinary rehabilitation program to optimally treat the complex medical, psychological, rehabilitation, and prosthetic needs of these individuals. Fellows participate in psychotherapeutic and behavioral interventions, neuropsychological evaluations, interdisciplinary rounds and meetings, and family conferences. Fellows participate in providing interventions to patients and family members, who often stay in a special residence on grounds for the duration of the inpatient rehabilitation stay. (Supervisors: Drs. Thomas Campbell, PhD, ABPP-Rp and Kathryn Wilder-Schaaf, PhD)

Spinal Cord Injury: RVAMC is one of twenty-four VAMC specialty care center for Spinal Cord Injury. This eight-bed, CARF accredited program provides fellows with knowledge, skills and abilities in the following areas: Understanding of the basic physiologic changes which occur with various levels and degrees of spinal cord injury and the physical medicine, pharmacological and adaptive/assistive equipment available; Participation on a multidisciplinary rehabilitation team; assessment of personality, emotional, and cognitive functioning in relation to veterans successful participation in rehabilitation; Provision of individual, family and group therapies to address psychosocial, sexual, vocational and pain problems arising from spinal cord injury; and understanding of basic interventions to assist with adopting healthier lifestyles (e.g., smoking cessation, substance use, weight management, recreational activates). (Supervisors: Drs. Brian Mutchler, PsyD and Cathy Williams-Sledge, PhD)

Mental Health Diagnostic Clinic: Fellows provide neuropsychological assessment services to a diverse range of patients in both inpatient and outpatient settings. Fellows will enhance both brief and comprehensive neuropsychological consultation and evaluation skills while working with a wide variety of neurological and psychological disorders such as various dementias, Parkinson's disease, stroke, MS, and seizure disorders, and for clarification of medically unexplained symptoms. (Supervisor: Jennifer Lumpkin, PsyD, ABPP-Rp)

Mental Health Clinic: Fellows will carry a caseload of short-term psychotherapy patients, lead or co-lead psychotherapy, skills, and psycho-education groups, and administer intake interviews. The Fellow will be exposed to a wide range of presenting problems including acute crisis stabilization, severe mental illness, and personality disorders. Fellows will be exposed to evidence-based treatments, interdisciplinary treatment planning, and consultation. (Supervisor: TBD)

Substance Abuse: A new opportunity for Fellows, the substance abuse rotation provides opportunities for supervised clinical training in inpatient, outpatient, and residential settings. (Supervisor: Jarrod Reisweber, PhD)

Other clinical rotations are periodically available, including the Polytrauma Transitional Rehabilitation Center (PTRP), pain management, mental health clearance (e.g., organ
transplant and spinal cord stimulator), primary care mental health, home-based primary care and geriatrics, women’s health, geriatrics, and inpatient psychiatry. In the past, Fellows have also developed clinical rotations with eligible supervisors in areas of interest.

Didactics and Additional Training

Mentored research and supervised clinical training are enhanced with a progression of didactic opportunities including research methods, statistics, epidemiology, grant writing, mental health systems, quality improvement methods, and evidence based clinical assessment and intervention. Educational opportunities include not only didactics, but also mentored research training, training in evidence based psychotherapies (EBPs), supervised supervision of junior clinicians and research assistants, teaching activities, and opportunities to hone their research presentation skills. The core, mandatory didactics include a national didactics seminar series featuring nationally renowned presenters, a local seminar series focused on post-deployment health, and a diversity seminar. The system-wide MIRECC Advanced Fellowship Program videoconference seminar series ("V-Tels") offers Fellows a broad range of topics including those covering state-of-the-art research methodologies, biostatistics, intervention and services research, quality improvement methods, grant funding, and career development. The monthly MIRECC Fellowship Post-Deployment Mental Health (PDMH) Seminar Series includes offerings which may include local and remote speakers, visits to a local military bases, article review with integrative summary, as well as on-line trainings that have been previously viewed (and highly rated) by previous Fellows. In addition to organized learning activities, flexibility in the PDMH Seminar Series allows for Fellows to choose content based an individual Fellow’s identified learning interests and needs. Finally, the diversity seminar offers structured training in awareness of individual differences and cultural competence. Fellows are also expected to attend the annual Diversity Conference, a one-day meeting hosted by the McGuire VAMC. In total, Fellows participate in at least two hours per week of structured learning activities beyond clinical supervision and research mentorship.

Additionally, Fellows have a host of other optional training and educational opportunities available to them, including:

- Auditing of graduate courses offered by VCU's Department of Psychology to support each Fellow’s specific learning needs and objectives.
- VA (local and national) and VCU grand rounds.
- VA journal clubs and seminars.
- Online trainings in leadership, clinical proficiencies, and personal growth through the VA Learning University (VALU).
- Clinical training in evidence-based psychotherapies (EBPs).
- Participation in the Psychology Section’s Diversity Lunch-and-Learn series.
- Monthly MIRECC Advanced Fellowship V-Tel biostatistics lectures and interactive grant-writing workshops.
Several other learning activities foster development across professional competencies. These include:

- **Staff meetings:** Fellows participate as members of the McGuire VAMC's professional community in a variety of ways. Fellows attend the monthly Psychology Section staff meetings, the monthly Mental Health Service staff meetings, and if possible, the staff meetings of the unit(s) or services on which they provide clinical service. Staff meetings provide Fellows with an opportunity to learn about pragmatic issues of professional relationships in a complex organization. They are exposed to systems-level considerations that affect healthcare delivery systems, work conditions, and the discipline of psychology.

- **Professional meetings:** Fellows are encouraged to attend professional meetings and conventions of their choice as a means of participating in the larger professional world, and of pursuing individual professional interests. The McGuire VAMC provides funding for travel and registration for MIRECC Fellows to attend one combined national mental health research and planning meeting per year (*NOTE: all travel funding is subject to VA-wide travel approvals and cannot be guaranteed*). Authorized absence may be granted for such activities in an amount comparable to other Psychology staff. Absences for such meetings must be negotiated with the supervisor and submitted electronically to the supervisor for approval.

- **Instruction and supervision of other trainees:** Fellows are able to be involved in training more junior psychology trainees at McGuire VAMC through lecturing, mentoring, and clinical supervision.

- **Professional presentations:** Fellows are expected to present at least once for the MIRECC Advanced Fellowship video teleconference seminar series, and once for a local grand rounds, in-service, or other appropriate venue. Fellows are also expected to present research data (e.g., poster, oral presentation, symposiums) at a national or international professional meeting or conference.

### MIRECC Fellowship Program Training Committee Members

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Degree/Year</th>
<th>Institution</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>John Benesek, Psy.D.</td>
<td>1999</td>
<td>University of Hartford</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thomas Campbell, Ph.D., ABPP-Rp</td>
<td>2008</td>
<td>Virginia Commonwealth University</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Michael Ellwood, Ph.D.</td>
<td>1991</td>
<td>Virginia Commonwealth University</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eugene Gourley, PhD.</td>
<td>1998</td>
<td>Virginia Commonwealth University</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brian L. Meyer, Ph.D.</td>
<td>1990</td>
<td>Duke University</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scott McDonald, Ph.D. (Co-Director)</td>
<td>2006</td>
<td>Virginia Commonwealth University</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Christopher “Topher” Murphy, Psy.D.</td>
<td>2008</td>
<td>Regent University</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Treven Pickett, Psy.D., ABPP-Rp (Co-Director)</td>
<td>2001</td>
<td>Virginia Consortium Program in Clinical Psychology.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Current and Former Fellows**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Years</th>
<th>Current Position</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NiVonne Thompson, LCSW, Ph.D.</td>
<td>2009-2011</td>
<td>Neuropsychologist, VA Northern Indiana Healthcare System</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kelcey Stratton, Ph.D.</td>
<td>2011-2013</td>
<td>Regional Mental Health Officer, US Peace Corps</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lillian Stevens, Ph.D.</td>
<td>2012-2014</td>
<td>Research Psychologist, McGuire VA Medical Center</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Christina Sheerin, Ph.D.</td>
<td>2013-2015</td>
<td>Postdoctoral Scholar, Virginia Institute of Psychiatric and Behavioral Genetics, Virginia Commonwealth University</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thomas Burroughs, Ph.D.</td>
<td>2015-present</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Erin Kurtz, Ph.D.</td>
<td>2016-present</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Evaluation Procedures**

**Program's Evaluation of Fellow**

Core training goals and objectives will be discussed with the Fellow at the beginning of the fellowship training period and an individualized learning plan will be collaboratively drafted. Fellows are encouraged to work with the fellowship director(s) and research mentors to individualize goals and objectives that are consonant with his or her research program and career plan within the structure of the goals and training activities noted above.

Clinical rotation supervisors and research supervisors complete standardized evaluation at the mid-point and at the end of each 4-month rotation using the "Supervisor's Evaluation of Postdoctoral Fellow General Clinical Competencies" form. Feedback is expected to be as specific as possible, and communicated in a respectful manner. The supervisor and Fellow discuss the formal evaluation and both sign it before it is placed in the Fellow's training file. The Training Director(s) and the fellow will meet and collaboratively assess progress toward achieving goals and objectives in the next rating period and revise or remediate as needed.

Rotation evaluations are key contributors to the "Fellowship Director’s Overall Summary of Areas of Competence," which is completed by the supervisor and discussed with the Fellow. In addition, the Fellows are asked to complete a self-assessment that summarizes key activities and achievements during the rating period. The fellowship director's summary is written feedback, structured to match the competencies on the supervisor ratings forms as well as feedback and tracking of the individualized learning goals and requirements for fellowship completion. The fellowship director's summary is based on written feedback from clinical supervisors, research
mentors, fellowship director's observations, and other available information. The supervisor and Fellow discuss the formal evaluation and both sign it before it is placed in the Fellow's training file. The fellowship director(s) and the Fellow also use this meeting to collaboratively assess progress toward achieving goals and objectives and modify the training plan as needed.

Because feedback and instruction are most valuable when immediate and specific, supervisors, training directors, and Fellows are expected to exchange feedback routinely as a normal part of their daily interactions.

**Fellow's Evaluation of Program**

A formal system of evaluation is used for Fellows to provide feedback on Fellow's clinical supervisory, mentorship, and overall fellowship program experience. The Fellows complete formal rating scales of their experience in clinical rotations at the end of each rotation and in the overall fellowship every six months and at the end of the training program to indicate their satisfaction with the training experiences, outcomes, quality of supervision provided, didactic experiences, research involvement, and facilities and resources available. However, keeping in mind that feedback is most useful when it is immediate and specific; Fellows are encouraged to provide informal input and feedback as a routine part of the supervision process, in their weekly meetings with their research mentor(s), and in monthly meetings with the fellowship director. Clinical supervision evaluations are to be discussed and signed by the Fellow and supervisor/mentor prior to being submitted to the fellowship director. A copy is provided to the fellowship director as a means of monitoring program quality. The fellowship director and Fellow will review the Fellows’ ratings and work collaboratively to address any areas of concern. Fellows receive a copy of the Fellowship Training Manual which provides additional detail about due process procedures in the event of trainee grievance.

**Requirements for Completion**

In order for Fellows to successfully complete the program, they must successfully meet or exceed expectations in competencies set based on the goals of the fellowship. Core objectives and goals for our program, associated competencies, and methods for evaluation are delineated above. Applicants may request a copy of the program’s competency evaluation forms for more information. Below we outline the minimum requirements for successful completion of our program. These requirements are consistent with the overall mandate from the VA Office of Academic Affiliations of the national program.

**Minimum Requirements for Successful Completion of our Program Include:**

1. Successful completion (via formal evaluation with supervisors and reflected in the "Fellowship Director's Overall Summary of Competence") of assigned training activities in clinical psychology.
   - Completion of requisite hours (4160 hours).
   - Successfully met or surpassed expectations for developing competencies based on goals of the fellowship as described above via formal evaluation by supervisors and fellowship director(s).
2. Successful completion of research goals (via formal evaluation by supervisors, research mentors, and fellowship director(s)).
   - Completion of a Fellow-generated clinical research project.
   - Minimum of 2 publications by completion of program; one must be as first author.
   - Regular presentations of research at professional conferences (1 per year).
   - Demonstration of grant writing skills though writing a career development award grant proposal (e.g., VA CDA-2, NIH K-series) OR writing and submitting a grant proposal as principal investigator or co-investigator to fund a Veteran-oriented clinical research project.
3. Successful completion of required didactics.
4. Maintenance of consistently professional and ethical conduct in professional setting throughout duration of training.

**Additional Suggested Benchmarks:**

1. Licensure (or at least successful completion of EPPP).
2. Job market preparation (successful submission of grant and/or completion of job search).

Finally, our expectations of Fellows (and staff) extend beyond performance and achievement. We expect Fellows to consistently behave in a fully professional and ethical manner consistent with guidelines, laws, and regulations of the APA, VA, and the State of Virginia:

- McGuire VAMC's Behavioral Code of Conduct
- Laws and Regulations of the State of Virginia (http://www.dhp.state.va.us/psychology)

Fellows are expected to adhere to all relevant McGuire VAMC policies regarding the diagnosis, treatment and clinical management of patients and the appropriate conduct of research. Fellows are to ensure patient privacy and confidentiality by adhering to HIPAA guidelines and McGuire VAMC policies regarding the secure storage of clinical research data, etc.

Upon fulfillment of these requirements, a Certificate of Completion is awarded, verifying the Fellow’s completion of a postdoctoral training program.

**Location and Resources**

**McGuire VA Medical Center**

The McGuire VAMC is a 1A designated, tertiary care referral center located in Richmond, Virginia with a training and research infrastructure shared with our Academic Affiliate, Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU). The medical center offers a full range of health care services including comprehensive outpatient care to complex inpatient services. The medical center has 427
operating beds, which includes internal medicine, surgery, neurology, physical and rehabilitation medicine, intermediate care, acute and sustaining spinal cord injury, skilled nursing home care, palliative care, and primary and secondary levels of psychology and psychiatric care programs. There are approximately 53,000 Veterans enrolled at the RVAMC, including 5,600 female Veterans. About 44,000 Veteran patients were served in calendar year 2009.

The McGuire VAMC is the host site for several notable specialized clinical and research centers in addition to the VA Mid-Atlantic MIRECC, including:

- Polytrauma Rehabilitation Centers (PRC)
- VA Parkinson's Disease Research, Education and Clinical Center (PADRECC)
- VA Epilepsy Center of Excellence (ECOE)
- Spinal Cord Injury and Disorders regional center
- VA Amputation System of Care (ASoC) regional center
- Defense and Veterans Brain Injury Center (DVBIC)
- Chronic Effects of Neurotrauma Consortium (CENC)

Learn more about the McGuire VAMC at [www.richmond.va.gov](http://www.richmond.va.gov).

Research: The RVAMC has a vibrant research program with annual budgetary allocation that consists of approximately seven million dollars. The McGuire VAMC has a sound research infrastructure including an onsite institutional review board (McGuire IRB) and the McGuire Research Institute, a non-profit organization that supports grant management and other research activities at the McGuire VAMC. Over 80% of the medical center’s research has a direct impact on patient care, studies in the VA system, and in the community. Seventy-five investigators conduct over 300 research studies with clinical research focus areas that include Hepatitis C, Diabetes Lipid Disorders, as well as in areas of Polytrauma, TBI, and mental health conditions that frequently present with TBI.

Psychology Section: More than 50 psychologists provide assessment and treatment services at the McGuire VAMC, which also supports three community-based outpatient clinics (CBOCs) in Emporia, Fredericksburg, and Charlottesville, Virginia. Psychological assessment and treatment services are often provided in the context of interdisciplinary teams in specialty clinics such as the PTSD Clinic, Substance Abuse and Disorders Clinic, Polytrauma Rehabilitation Center, Primary Care, the Spinal Cord Injury & Disorders Service, and Geriatrics. Psychologists also provide consultation & liaison assessment services across the medical center including those for spinal cord stimulator placement, transplant (heart, liver, kidney, and lung), pre-surgical assessments for bariatric and other conditions, mental health evaluations, neuropsychological assessment for a spectrum of neurologic conditions, pain management classes, and CBT for insomnia.
Psychology Training: Our training program includes an APA-accredited pre-doctoral psychology internship program, an APA specialty-accredited Rehabilitation Psychology fellowship, the APA contingent-accredited MIRECC Psychology Fellowship Program, and pre-doctoral practicum positions. Currently, we have five Psychology Interns, two Rehabilitation Psychology Fellows, two MIRECC Psychology Fellows, and several research and clinical practicum students.

Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU)
One of the nation's top research universities, Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU) enrolls more than 32,000 students on two Richmond campuses—the Monroe Park Campus and Medical College of Virginia (MCV) Campus. The VCU Medical Center, including the university's health sciences schools, offers state-of-the-art care in more than 200 specialty areas and serves as the region's only Level 1 Trauma Center. VCU boasts more than $255 million in sponsored research, bringing together faculty experts and student scholars to collaborate across multiple disciplines.

The McGuire VAMC enjoys a strong and mutually beneficial affiliation with VCU. Residency and fellowship programs exist in virtually every general and specialty areas of internal medicine, rehabilitation, surgery, dentistry, psychiatry, and psychology. A majority of our psychology faculty hold affiliate professor appointments either through the VCU Department of Psychology or through the VCU Department of Psychiatry on the VCU medical campus. Historically, fellows have received affiliate faculty appointments in the VCU Psychology Department as well.

Library and Information Resources
The McGuire VAMC medical library offers article retrieval services, online article databases and electronic articles, and interlibrary loan services. In addition, MIRECC Advanced Fellowship Program Fellows will be provided access to library services at our academic affiliate, Virginia Commonwealth University, through an academic appointment.

Richmond, Virginia

An historic city and Virginia’s capital, Richmond offers an attractive array of leisure, cultural, and social opportunities not usually found in mid-sized cities. Beautiful neighborhoods juxtaposed to modern high rises with striking architecture set the stage for the numerous cultural, educational and recreational events befitting its nearly 200,000 citizens (approximately 1,000,000 in the metro area).

Nationally recognized for its vitality and new economy, Richmond’s diversified employment base extends from

Tredegar Iron Works
Credit: Morgan Riley
chemical, food and tobacco manufacturing to cutting edge biotechnology, semiconductors and high-tech fiber production. The city consistently ranks among “Best Places in America” to live, work, and visit in several national publications (Frommers, Niche.com, Huffington Post, Men's Journal).

Bisected by the James River, its numerous parks and woodlands offer the chance for solitude in nature as well as outdoor sports such as mountain biking and kayaking even when close to the city center. Richmond annually hosts the Dominion Riverrock Festival, the SunTrust Richmond Marathon, the UCI America Tour Commonwealth Cycling Classic (starting 2017), and the nationally renowned Ukrop’s Monument 10k. Richmond also hosted the 2012 Veteran's Wheelchair Games and the 2015 UCI Road World Championship of cycling. For these reasons and more, it is easy to see why Richmond was voted “the best river town in America” by readers of Outside Magazine (October, 2012).

Richmond is proud to support several first-class museums, three prominent universities, a symphony, the American Youth Harp Ensemble, professional ballet and opera companies, and numerous theater groups and art galleries. Richmond also hosts the annual Richmond Folk Festival, a free festival featuring live performances by some of the world’s greatest folk musicians. The Richmond Region is home to exceptional opportunities to learn about African-American history, including the Black History Museum and Cultural Center of Virginia, the Maggie L. Walker National Historic Site, and the Richmond Slave Trail.

While offering easy access to the Atlantic Ocean and the Chesapeake Bay, Appalachian and Blue Ridge Mountains as well as being only 90 minutes south of Washington, D.C., Richmond features countless pastimes right at home. Trendy boutiques, varied bistros and restaurants, numerous sports and entertainment attractions, outdoor pursuits among one of the nation’s largest river park systems, and a treasure trove of historic landmarks provide opportunities for nearly endless learning and relaxation.

Learn more about the city of Richmond, Virginia at: http://www.vcu.edu/richmond/ and https://www.visitrichmondva.com/.

**Stipend and Benefits**

The Fellowship program offers a full-time stipend of approximately $43,201 for Fellowship year 1, and approximately $45,536 for year 2. Stipends are approximated because cost-of-living adjustments have yet to be announced. As a VA Associated Health Fellow you are eligible for health and life insurance and entitled to 10 federal holidays, up to 13 business-days sick leave, up to 5 business days of leave for professional activities, and up to 13 business days of personal...
leave. Travel funds for training purposes (e.g., attending a professional conference) is available but is not guaranteed. The Federal Tort Claims Act covers professional liability for services provided as a DVA employee. Note that most aspects of the Stipend and Benefits for VA Associated Health Fellows are determined by the VA at a national level and are subject to change.

**Administrative Policies and Procedures**

This program supports and adheres to Equal Employment Opportunity policies and the Americans with Disabilities Act. Applications from racial, ethnic, and sexual minorities and women are strongly encouraged. No applicant will be discriminated against on the basis of race, color, creed, religion, sex, place of national origin, or age. We do not require self-disclosure.

**Accreditations and Memberships**

The MIRECC Psychology Fellowship at the Richmond VA Medical Center holds contingent accreditation by the Commission on Accreditation of the American Psychological Association (APA). The next site visit is expected in 2019. Questions related to the program’s accreditation status should be directed to the Commission on Accreditation at the Office of Program Consultation and Accreditation, American Psychological Association, 750 1st Street, NE, Washington, DC 20002-4242, (202) 336-5979.

Our program is a member of the Association of Psychology Postdoctoral and Internship Centers (APPIC).

**Application & Selection Procedures**

**Eligibility:**

1. United States (U.S.) citizen.
2. Completed all requirements of an APA-Accredited doctoral program in clinical or counseling psychology.
3. Have successfully completed a professional psychology internship training program that has been accredited by APA. Exceptions: (1) new VHA psychology internship programs that are in the process of applying for APA accreditation are acceptable in fulfillment of the internship requirement, provided that such programs were sanctioned by the VHA Central Office Program Director for Psychology and the VHA Central Office of Academic Affiliations at the time that the individual was an intern and (2) VHA facilities who offered full one-year pre-doctoral internships prior to PL 96-151 (pre-1979) are considered to be acceptable in fulfillment of the internship requirement.
4. Meet all VAMC hiring and credentialing requirements.
Application:

Applicants are encouraged to contact the fellowship director(s) prior to applying to learn about faculty members who are currently available to provide research mentorship in the applicant's area of interest. Scheduled visits to the McGuire VAMC and VCU to meet with the fellowship directors, training staff, and potential research mentors prior to the application deadline are welcomed.

How to Apply:
Please contact the training director at the phone number or e-mail below to indicate your intent to submit an application and to receive the "Postdoctoral Fellowship Application Form." A completed application package includes the following components:

1. A completed "Postdoctoral Fellowship Application Form."
2. A cover letter that includes in detail the following elements (3 pp. limit):
   a. Your research interests, research training goals, and the research program you would like to develop as a Fellow;
   b. Your clinical orientation, strengths, and clinical training goals;
   c. Previous clinical, educational and research experience that makes you a strong candidate for this fellowship; and
   d. A description of your career goals and how the training we offer will advance them.
3. Curriculum Vitae
4. Official or unofficial transcripts from graduate program (Official transcripts with PsyD or PhD date of completion will be required if an offer is made).
5. Three letters of recommendation, at least one of which should come from a recent clinical supervisor (within past 3 years) who is familiar with your clinical work. Letters of recommendation can be sent by mail (signed across the sealed envelope) or e-mail (from the writer's institutional or work e-mail address).
6. If you are currently an intern, a letter from your psychology internship director (or e-mail from the writer’s institutional or work e-mail address) discussing progress on internship and anticipated completion date.
7. If your dissertation has not yet been defended, include a letter from your dissertation chair (or e-mail from the writer’s institutional or work e-mail address) that notes the status of your dissertation and anticipated completion date.
8. A de-identified clinical work sample (integrated psychology assessment, neuropsychological assessment, intake report, etc.).

The deadline for applications is December 15, 2016. The position(s) will remain open until filled. Electronic submission of materials is appreciated but not required. Please send all completed application materials (by mail or e-mail) to:

Submission by E-Mail:
Please mark the e-mail subject line or envelope - "MIRECC Fellowship Application Materials" and send it to scott.mcdonald@va.gov. Letters of reference should be sent
separately from the rest of the application by e-mail (from the writer’s institutional e-mail address) or mail. The transcript may be sent separately by e-mail or mail.

**Submission by Mail:**
Scott McDonald, Ph.D.
Co-Director, VA Advanced Fellowship Program in Mental Health Research and Treatment
McGuire VA Medical Center (116-B)
1201 Broad Rock Blvd.
Richmond, VA 23249

**Application Review and Notification Process:**
Applications will be reviewed by the fellowship co-directors, members of the training committee, and potential research mentors. A standardized rating form is used to evaluate applications on experience and fit to the program and potential mentors. Applicants will be contacted for interviews or notified that they are no longer under consideration at the beginning of January 2017.

For more information about the MIRECC Psychology Fellowship Program at the McGuire VAMC, please contact Scott McDonald, Ph.D. at 804-675-5000 x3633 or scott.mcdonald@va.gov.

This document can be found online at [http://www.richmond.va.gov/services/Psychology.asp](http://www.richmond.va.gov/services/Psychology.asp)

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