

## Post-Doctoral Advanced Fellowship Program in Mental Illness Research and Treatment at the VA Bedford Healthcare System

The Bedford site of the VISN 1 New England Mental Illness Research, Education, and Clinical Center (MIRECC) is seeking applications for a two-year Psychology Post-Doctoral Advanced Fellowship Program in Mental Illness Research and Treatment. The Bedford site of the VISN 1 New England MIRECC is located at the VA Bedford Healthcare System in Bedford, MA. The mission of the VISN 1 New England MIRECC is to improve mental health treatments and access to services for Veterans who have addictions and co-occurring mental health disorders, as well as related issues such as VA-compensated disabilities, homelessness, criminal justice histories, and medical co-morbidities. We aim to:

- Better understand the prevalence and consequences of co-occurring addictions and mental health disorders;
- Improve the treatment of Veterans with addictions and co-occurring mental health disorders by developing innovative new treatments;
- Devise more effective ways to deliver established treatments; and
- Create more effective programs by training VA health care professionals in therapies with proven efficacy.

For more information on the VISN 1 New England MIRECC, please visit:

<https://www.mirecc.va.gov/visn1/>

We will be recruiting for one position to start in September 2021 and ending in August 2023.

Fellows will spend 75% of their time on research and related educational activities and 25% in direct clinical care. Fellows will develop and implement a mentored research project, participate in scientific writing, grant writing, and presentations, as well as contribute to MIRECC educational activities and clinical service delivery, particularly within addictions-related settings. The Bedford Site of the VISN 1 New England MIRECC is formally affiliated with the University of Massachusetts Medical School.

Applicants must have received a doctorate from an APA or CPA accredited graduate program in Clinical, Counseling, or Combined Psychology or PCSAS accredited Clinical Science program. Persons with a doctorate in another area of psychology who meet the APA or CPA criteria for respecialization training in Clinical, Counseling, or Combined Psychology are also eligible. Applicants must have also completed an APA or CPA accredited psychology internship program. Fellows must be U.S. citizens. The current annual postdoctoral fellowship stipend is \$51,257.

To apply, please submit the following required application materials by email to Dr. Megan Kelly at [Megan.Kelly1@va.gov](mailto:Megan.Kelly1@va.gov):

1. A letter of interest that provides information on your research interests, as well as previous experiences in clinical work, education, and research (2 pages). Please provide information on a) how your research and clinical interests align with the mission of the VISN 1 New England MIRECC (see above); b) what you would like to accomplish during your fellowship; c) research mentors you are interested in working with (refer to list of faculty below); and d) your professional goals as a psychologist.
2. A current curriculum vitae

3. A work sample, such as a published or unpublished manuscript on which you are first author or other written product in which you were lead author (e.g., case report, manuals).
4. Graduate school transcripts (unofficial transcripts are acceptable for application but official ones will be required if applicant is selected)
5. Three signed letters of recommendation. Include at least one letter from a research mentor and at least one letter from a clinical supervisor. Letters can be sent directly from the recommender or emailed with the completed application packet.

We are accepting applications on a rolling basis with a priority date for review of January 22, 2021. Please send a completed packet with all application materials to Megan Kelly, Ph.D. at [Megan.Kelly1@va.gov](mailto:Megan.Kelly1@va.gov).

Further information can be obtained by contacting the Psychology Fellowship Directors, Dr. Megan Kelly at [Megan.Kelly1@va.gov](mailto:Megan.Kelly1@va.gov) and Dr. Irene Harris at [Jeanette.Harris2@va.gov](mailto:Jeanette.Harris2@va.gov).

### **Bedford Site, VISN 1 New England MIRECC Fellowship Faculty Interests**

**Victoria Ameral, Ph.D.:** Psychotherapy treatment development for addiction and co-occurring conditions, continuity of addiction treatment and Veteran experiences of care, recovery-oriented outcomes, Acceptance and Commitment Therapy principles in experimental and applied addiction research.

**Nitigna Desai, MD:** Dual diagnosis and pharmacotherapy; developing and validating tools and manuals for addiction assessment and treatment; improving the diagnosis and care of patients with addiction to alcohol, improving treatment options for dual diagnosis patients, specifically SUD – PTSD, and understanding the impact of opioid epidemic.

**Jay Gorman, Ph.D.:** Improving the treatment of Veterans with addictions and co-occurring mental health disorders by enhancing social connection and building support systems.

**J. Irene Harris, Ph.D.:** Developing spiritually integrated, chaplaincy-led approaches to care that reduce stigma and barriers to care, while addressing guilt, shame and spiritual distress that are often co-morbid with addictions. Developing and testing meditative approaches that reduce vulnerabilities to addiction, such as chronic pain, depression, and anxiety.

**Megan M. Kelly, Ph.D.:** Development of mHealth and psychosocial treatment approaches for tobacco use disorder and co-occurring mental health disorders; development of social support approaches using Acceptance and Commitment Therapy applications.

**Mo Modarres, Ph.D.:** Application of neuroimaging and data analysis techniques, particularly using EEG and fNIRS, to characterize and understand the brain mechanisms underlying neuro-psychiatric disorders.

**Lisa Mueller, Ph.D.:** Developing interventions to address employment and education functioning in Veterans with addiction and mental health conditions as well as psychosocial challenges.

**Maureen O'Connor, Psy.D.:** Development of interventions to help improve the lives of Veterans with cognitive dysfunction (due to dementia, TBI, mental health conditions, etc.) and the family members that help care for them.

**Dongchan Park, MD:** Reducing systematic barriers in addressing substance use disorders and cross-cultural influences on the development of behavioral addictions.

**Erin D. Reilly, Ph.D.:** Development and evaluation of technology-delivered interventions (e.g., mobile apps, robotics, and websites) to assist with at-home self-management of chronic, comorbid mental and physical health conditions including (but not limited to) chronic pain, insomnia, PTSD, and depression.

**Steven Shirk, Ph.D.:** Addictive behaviors and co-occurring disorders; neurophysiological biomarkers for predicting relapse among Veterans with AUD using EEG; investigating behavioral addictions among Veterans (e.g., gambling among Veterans who are homeless); RCTs for the implementation of psychotherapies for the treatment of these substance use disorders and problem behaviors.

**Brian Stevenson, Ph.D.:** Employment functioning among individuals with co-occurring addictions and mental health disorders by improving vocational rehabilitation treatment.

**Chris Streeter, MD:** Using yoga to treat depression and PTSD in Veterans using three dependent variables, psychological scales, heart rate variability and brain gamma aminobutyric acid (GABA) levels using magnetic resonance spectroscopy; research on alcohol, cocaine and opioid use disorders and the measurement of brain GABA levels in cocaine use disorder.