

Dual Diagnosis

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Location: VA Boston Healthcare System, Brockton Campus

Overview: The Postdoctoral Fellow will develop specialized skills in the assessment and treatment of individuals with co-occurring substance use and psychiatric disorders, including posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD), other anxiety disorders, and mood disorders. The fellow will participate in training experiences in an outpatient Alcohol and Drug Treatment Program (ADTP) and a Mental Health Residential Rehabilitation Treatment Program for homeless veterans. Adjunctive training experiences can also be arranged through the Outpatient PTSD Clinic if this meets the fellow's training interests. These diverse settings provide an excellent opportunity for developing specialized skills in assessment and treatment of dual disorders, as well as program development in this area. The fellow will serve as a critical member of interdisciplinary teams in both the outpatient clinic(s) and residential programs, and will oversee the care of veterans with clinically complex needs. There are opportunities for research collaboration related to psychological interventions offered through state of the art technologies, negative affect and cravings, and treatment for co-occurring posttraumatic stress disorder and substance use. The fellow will work with both male and female veterans of all ages, including a growing cohort of returning veterans.

Number of Fellows: One full-time Fellow is admitted each year.

Length of Training: One year.

Goals: The primary objective of this training year is to gain specialized expertise in applying evidence-based treatments for alcohol and/or drug problems and common co-occurring mental health problems in veterans. The fellow will receive training in Motivational Interviewing, and the delivery of cognitive-behavioral Relapse Prevention, Acceptance and Commitment therapy, Cognitive Processing Therapy, and Prolonged Exposure. There are also opportunities to gain training in behavioral couples/family therapy for addictions. Additional skills developed will be assessment, consultation, and program development.

The primary activities of the fellow in the outpatient clinics will be:

- (1) Comprehensive assessment
- (2) Evidence based individual psychotherapy
- (3) Group psychotherapy

The primary activities of the fellow in the residential program will be:

- (1) Providing group therapy
- (2) Delivering brief individual therapies
- (3) Consultation

Other training activities include:

- (1) Program evaluation and performance improvement activities
- (2) Clinical research

At the completion of their fellowship, fellows will be able to:

- (1) Conduct a comprehensive assessment with patients in treatment for alcohol and/or drug use problems;
- (2) Provide evidence-based group and individual therapy for individuals with alcohol and/or drug problems;
- (3) Provide evidence-based treatment for a range of co-occurring psychiatric disorders with a focus on PTSD and mood disorders;
- (4) Provide consultation for treatment providers outside of mental health on patients with dual disorders.

Teaching Methods: Supervision will be provided by psychologists in the outpatient ADTP and PTSD clinics as well as the residential programs. Fellows will receive training using multiple modalities, including individual and group supervision, didactic trainings (clinic- and track-specific and Fellowship-wide), case conferences, and journal club. The fellow will also meet with the clinical staff in interdisciplinary meetings in both the outpatient and residential settings. Specialized readings are provided to supplement a fellow's training depending on his or her interests and needs. Clinical work, career development, and research issues are addressed during supervision.

Research: Dr. Enggasser has several ongoing projects including research focused on developing new treatment models and methods of treatment delivery for individuals with substance use disorders and PTSD. He is currently involved with clinical trials evaluating: 1) efficacy of a Web-based self-help intervention for returning veterans with problem drinking and trauma symptoms, and 2) efficacy of treatment for SUD/PTSD delivered via video teleconferencing. Opportunities for research connected with these projects will vary depending on a trainee's interest and goals, as well as the status of the project at the time the trainee is available.

Dr. Timothy O'Farrell, a leading researcher in Behavioral Couples Therapy (BCT) for substance use disorders currently has projects on BCT for alcoholism and drug abuse, domestic violence among male and female alcoholic patients, and other aspects of families and addiction. He has a strong interest in collaborating with interns and fellows; over 90 of his publications have been co-authored with former trainees. Fellows are provided the opportunity to join ongoing projects or initiate small-scale projects with existing databases.

Application Procedures

As from above, applicants for postdoctoral fellowships must be graduates of APA-accredited doctoral programs in Clinical or Counseling Psychology and must have **completed APA-accredited internships by 8/31/2013**. All requirements for the doctoral degree must be completed prior to the start of the fellowship year. Applicants must be US citizens. As an equal opportunity training program, the fellowship welcomes and strongly encourages applications from all qualified candidates, regardless of gender, racial, ethnic, sexual orientation, disability, or other minority status.

The VA Boston Psychology Postdoctoral Fellowship Program evaluates the following criteria when selecting applicants:

- Breadth and quality of prior general clinical or counseling training;
- Quality of experience in the specific area of emphasis to which the applicant applies;
- Quality and scope of research productivity;
- Evidence of personal maturity and accomplishments;
- A clear, thoughtful, and meaningful writing style in application materials;
- Goodness of fit between the applicant's professional goals and program training objectives;
- Strength of letters of recommendation.

All applications are reviewed for eligibility after materials are received. Applications are distributed to directors of each area of emphasis (e.g., PTSD) where they are reviewed and evaluated by supervising faculty in the emphasis area. Telephone or in-person interviews are offered to selective candidates. Applicants are extended offers based on their written application materials and interview presentation.

We make every effort to keep our review process timely and to keep candidates well informed of their status throughout the selection period. Applicants are welcome to contact Amy Silberbogen, Ph.D. (amy.silberbogen@va.gov) at any time for updates. We will notify candidates when they are no longer under consideration or when all positions they have applied to have been filled.

Application materials are due by midnight on February 4, 2013, or until positions are filled. Please note that we are only accepting applications for the LGBT and the Dual Diagnosis tracks at this time. We have moved to electronic submission of all application materials. Please read and follow instructions carefully and prepare the following:

1. **A statement of interest: If you are applying to more than one track, you must submit a separate statement of interest for each track.** The statement of interest should contain the following information:
 - a. The history of your interest in the specific area(s) of interest;
 - b. Any educational, clinical and research experiences relevant to the specific area(s) of interest;
 - c. A self-assessment of your training needs;
 - d. Your personal goals for the Fellowship;
 - e. A statement of your career goals.
2. **Postdoctoral Fellowship Information Form** – Available on-line at <http://www.boston.va.gov/psychologytraining/fellowship.asp> and as an attachment to this email announcement.
3. **A detailed Curriculum Vita**
4. **Transcript of graduate work.** This does not need to be an official copy. However, if you are accepted into the Fellowship Program, you will need to provide an official copy at that time.
5. **Three letters of recommendation** - one from a faculty member personally familiar with your graduate school performance and at least one from a primary clinical supervisor during the pre-doctoral internship.

Application Submission Procedure:

- All materials should be emailed to VABostonPsychPostdoc@va.gov. Please do not mail any materials in hard copy form.
- Any text in your transmittal email will not be saved as part of your application (e.g., we will **only** be reviewing attachments.)
- The file name of all attachments must begin with the applicant's last name and include a descriptor of the file content, for example: "Silberbogen_Vita" or "Silberbogen_Statement".
- Letters of recommendation should be emailed to the same address (VABostonPsychPostdoc@va.gov), but should come from the letter writer's university or agency email address (not from personal email addresses). This will be considered an "official" signed copy. We encourage letter writers to send documents as Word or PDF files.

We encourage applicants to be selective and thoughtful when considering submitting applications to multiple areas of emphasis. As indicated above, if you do submit an application for more than one program or area of emphasis, **you should submit a separate statement of interest for each track.**

Please contact track directors with specific questions about training they provide.

***Applicants are reminded that they are welcome to contact the Fellowship Director to discuss any issue of relevance. Please contact Dr. Amy Silberbogen at amy.silberbogen@va.gov or by phone at **(857) 364-4707**. Many of you are likely aware that APPIC sponsored a Postdoctoral Uniform Notification Date with Reciprocal Offer during last year's recruitment season, but are not doing so this year. We are therefore proceeding with recruitment as VA Boston had done in prior years. Each track will identify the applicant(s) that they would like to make an offer to whenever they have concluded their interview process (this time period will range based on when and how distinct tracks coordinate interview days.) We understand that accepting a fellowship is a significant decision in one's professional development and will make every effort to support applicants in making decisions about their candidacy at VA Boston. We will notify applicants when they are no longer under consideration or when **all** positions they have applied to have been filled. Applicants should feel free to be in contact with Dr. Silberbogen if they have questions about their candidacy or are negotiating fellowship/job offers with different deadlines.

IF AN OFFER IS EXTENDED:

Doctoral Degree Requirement: All offers of acceptance for a postdoctoral position within the VA Boston Psychology Postdoctoral Fellowship Program are strictly contingent upon applicants having completed all requirements (clinical, academic, and administrative) for the doctoral degree. In other words, you cannot start a Postdoctoral Fellowship if you are not "postdoctoral".

If an offer is extended, you will be informed that you must provide evidence that you have completed all academic requirements no later than July 1, 2013. This can take the form of a copy of the diploma or a written attestation of such from your University Department Chair. If you have not defended your dissertation by July 1, 2013, we will also accept documentation from your Department Chair or Dissertation Advisor confirming your defense date prior to August 31, 2013.

If you have not completed all your requirements by July 1, you may request an extension. If, at the end of the extension you have not received the doctoral degree, or if the Fellowship does not initially agree to the extension, the offer of acceptance is withdrawn and considered null and void. At such time, the search process may be re-opened and you may re-apply without prejudice. The search will continue until such time as the position is filled or is cancelled.

One exception to this policy is in the case of an applicant who has completed all the requirements (academic and administrative, including dissertation) for the doctoral degree with the exception of an internship ending between July 1 and August 31st. In such case, an extension will be granted.

Fellows have raised the issue of a graduation date that occurs after the start of the Fellowship year. Our policy has been that the completion of all academic (including university acceptance of dissertation), clinical (including internship), and administrative (departmental chair approval) qualifies the candidate to begin the Fellowship. In other words, it is fine if your graduation date occurs after September 1, 2013 as long as you can provide documentation that you have completed all academic, clinical, and administrative responsibilities.