



FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM BROCHURE 2013

MIRECC Psychology Postdoctoral Fellowship Program

Hunter Holmes McGuire VA Medical Center
Richmond, Virginia

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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 anticipates one opening for a two-year, clinical or counseling psychology postdoctoral Fellow to begin between July 1st and September 30th. Please refer to the **Application & Selection Procedures** section below for application deadline and selection procedures.

Overview

The primary goal of the VA Advanced Fellowship Program in Mental Illness Research and Treatment is to train physicians, psychologists, and other allied health professionals to become outstanding clinical researchers in high priority areas of VA mental health. The Richmond VAMC's MIRECC Advanced Fellowship is designed to support the development of clinician-researchers in the area of post-deployment mental health, a high priority area within mental health. Fellows devote the majority of their time to patient-oriented research and 25% to direct patient clinical care. Additionally, the fellowship encompasses education and administrative experiences that support the Fellow's professional goals.

The Richmond VAMC offers many unique training opportunities in research. Fellows are involved in research regarding service delivery (e.g., intervention and performance evaluation) as well as archival data analysis and experimental studies. The VISN-6 MIRECC research program includes a multisite registry of over 2000 Iraq and Afghanistan (OEF/OIF) war-era Veterans. This registry contains information regarding mental health diagnoses, TBI, many other data points relating to health and demographic variables. Another MIRECC study investigates neuropsychiatric sequelae associated with Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) and Posttraumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) in OEF/OIF Veterans.

There are manifold opportunities for Fellows to interface with Departments of Psychology, Psychiatry, Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, and the Virginia Institute for Psychiatric and Behavioral Genetics at our academic affiliate, Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU). VCU is an academic medical center with nationally-known researchers in behavioral genetics, rehabilitation, and behavioral health. There are robust possibilities for research collaboration with other on-site centers, including the Defense and Veterans Brain Injury Center (DVBIC) and through the VA Polytrauma System of Care. Supervised clinical activities are available through

the Mental Health Service, which supports more than 35 staff psychologists. Programs supported by the Mental Health Service include the PTSD Program, Mental-Health-Primary Care, Substance Use Disorders, Mental Health Clinic, and areas with a Rehabilitation focus including Spinal Cord Injury, Geriatrics, and TBI/Polytrauma.

For MIRECC Psychology Fellows, individualized, mentored research and clinical training is combined with a curriculum that emphasizes research methods, statistics, epidemiology, mental health systems, quality improvement methods, education, and service delivery. All MIRECC Fellowship sites are linked electronically, and through videoconferencing for a range of didactic, academic, and research involvements. In collaboration with their mentors, MIRECC Psychology 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.

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 clinical scientists who employ scientific methodology in their clinical practice. More information about the MIRECC Advanced Fellowship Program can be found at www.mirecc.va.gov/mirecc-Fellowship.asp and in the following article:

O'Hara, R., et al. (2010). Increasing the Ranks of Academic Researchers in Mental Health: A Multisite Approach to Postdoctoral Fellowship Training. *Academic Medicine*, 85, 41–47.

Individualized Learning Plan

Early in the first year of the Fellowship experience, Fellows develop a written Individualized Learning Plan collaboratively with the Training Director. The Learning Plan contains proposed learning experiences in research, clinical service, and education during each year of the Fellowship based on the Fellowship 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.

Training Goals

The purpose of the MIRECC Fellowship program is to train professional psychologists for eventual leadership roles in clinical services, clinical research, and education-- particularly in 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 seeking treatment for mental health problems associated with military deployment.

We embrace the scientist-practitioner model of training, which emphasizes the integration of science and practice. 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 their readiness for independent practice. Fellows enjoy a structured curriculum in which they receive protected time which is to be devoted towards the development of advanced clinical research skills and the advancement of coherent program of clinical research. Fellows also receive advanced training in clinical psychology through direct clinical care. Fellows are involved in clinical research and clinical training activities that focus on U.S. military post-deployment mental health. As the VA VISN-6 MIRECC's core mission is the conduct of clinically informed research that may be easily and efficiently translated into clinical practice, research activities primarily involve the improvement of service delivery and/or interventions for military veterans seeking care for post-deployment mental health issues.

During protected time for advanced training in the practice of clinical psychology, we emphasize the advanced development of generalized clinical competencies and also offer additional training for the development of specific skills in working with U.S. military Veterans who have been deployed in support of combat operations.

During protected time for clinical research, MIRECC Fellows will:

- Develop awareness of pressing clinical /clinical research priorities within VA.
- Develop competencies in application of clinical research practice in everyday clinical activities.
- 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.
- Learn to navigate the landscape of career development awards.

Fellows are provided with structured didactics that address an array of topics ranging from advanced research methodologies, and professional writing, 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, all 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 competencies are collapsed into the following domains for ease of dissemination and discussion with Fellows.

The specific skills, behaviors and attitudes described below are measured in clinical rotations and clinical research activities using standardized evaluation forms (i.e., the Evaluation of Fellow

General Clinical Competencies form). 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, Veterans using the VHA system for 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 four (4) clinical rotations during the 2-year fellowship program comprising no more than 25% of the Fellow's effort. A rotation in a particular clinic or population can be repeated, given substantial addition to training goals to foster advanced skills. 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, SeRV [OEF/OIF/OND mental health] Clinic, Polytrauma Network Site Clinic).
 - At least 2 hours of direct clinical supervision are provided each week.
 - A full list of available rotations is provided in the **Clinical Rotations** section below.
 - It should be noted that Fellows are encouraged to develop rotations that serve their training needs and interests as well. 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 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 gained by mandatory 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 choose a Research Mentor 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 monthly to discuss progress and trouble-shoot competencies that cannot be fully met by 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 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 are also encouraged to participate in diversity-focused Intern Seminars and the Annual Diversity Conference (inaugural conference will be in 2012).
- **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.

Research Training Activities

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 VISN-6 MIRECC investigators, or VA investigators across the nation. Fellows who develop a mentorship team that combine expertise from researcher-clinicians at the

Richmond VAMC, researcher-clinicians at VCU, and beyond, are especially likely to be successful, as establishing an integrated team maximizes learning opportunities in each venue.

Applicants are encouraged to contact the Fellowship Director prior to applying to learn about faculty members who are currently available to provide primary research mentorship in the applicant's area of interest. Scheduled visits to the Richmond VAMC and VCU to meet with the Training Director, training staff, and potential research mentors prior to the application deadline are welcomed.

The Richmond 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 Richmond VAMC. A particular and notable strength is that the McGuire IRB meets weekly, allowing some proposed studies to be approved within a matter of a weeks. There are ample opportunities to collaborate with other established VA and VCU investigators who focus on specific domains of post-deployment health, such as TBI/Polytrauma, exercise physiology in spinal cord injury, and combat-related PTSD. MIRECC-specific resources include access to SPSS data analysis software, statistical consultation, and archival data from an ongoing post-deployment registry maintained by the VISN-6 MIRECC hub site that, to date, has collected health and psychiatric data on over 2000 Veterans. Fellows traditionally apply for an academic appointment 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.

Clinical Training Activities

Fellows dedicate 25% effort 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 4 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). The "other 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 Richmond VAMC, and is monitored for quality by the Director of Psychology Training, the Psychology Training Committee, and Chief Psychologist. 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 planning to pursue state licensure as a Clinical Psychologist take responsibility for tracking aggregate clinical hours towards residency requirements. 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 will be provided hands-on experience in our Polytrauma Rehabilitation Center as a prerequisite (concurrent experience is acceptable) for the PNS rotation.

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 groups, 3) co-lead PTSD skills and education groups, and 4) conduct individual psychotherapy. Fellows may also participate in the PTSD/Substance Use Disorders sub-rotation (Dr. Meyers), 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., prolonged exposure and group-based CPT), and the delivery of psychoeducation. Fellows are also provided exposure to systems and administrative issues in the management of a VA PTSD Clinic.

Serving Returning Veterans (SeRV) Clinic (formerly the RVOEC Clinic): The SeRV clinic promotes awareness of health issues and health care opportunities and the full spectrum of VA benefits, and is instrumental in providing "Seamless Transition" to VA health care for active duty military service members who are separating from the U.S. Armed Forces. SeRV clinicians also provide mental health services as part of the Primary Care OEF/OIF Health Clinic. Fellows provide individual, family, and group psychotherapy, neuropsychological assessment, and case management for veterans of the Iraq and Afghanistan Wars. Frequent MH needs in this population include PTSD, depression, marital conflict, and alcohol and/or drug abuse.

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 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.

Polytrauma Transitional Rehabilitation Center (PTRP): Fellows provide neuropsychological and rehabilitation psychology services to patients in this 10-bed transitional living facility providing rehabilitation services to post-acute brain-injured residents. Residents live and receive a variety of interdisciplinary therapies on-site and in the community with the goal of the resident's resuming independent living and participation in meaningful roles and life activities. Fellows function as a member of the interdisciplinary team, and participate in psychotherapeutic and behavioral interventions, neuropsychological evaluations, interdisciplinary treatment team meetings, and family conferences. Fellows with limited experience with inpatient rehabilitation of moderate-to-severe TBI will be provided hands-on experience in our Polytrauma Rehabilitation Center as a prerequisite (concurrent experience is acceptable) for the PTRP rotation.

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 activities).

Home Based Primary Care/Geriatrics: Fellows gain knowledge, skills, and experience in providing direct psychological care to older adult veterans in both inpatient and outpatient settings. Delivery of care is based in several areas, including the nursing home, hospice unit, geriatric outpatient clinic, and the GEM/Memory Clinic. Fellows become knowledgeable about the unique psychological and medical issues associated with aging. The Fellow functions as a member of an interdisciplinary team and works to develop consultation skills with other healthcare disciplines. Emphasis is placed on psychotherapy, diagnostic interviewing, behavior management, brief cognitive evaluation, end of life issues, and factors associated with treatment and care of dementia.

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.

Health Psychology and Mental Health Clearance for Medical Treatment: Fellows will enhance knowledge and proficiency in the following areas: Assessment of specific medical patient populations (e.g., patients with chronic pain, psychophysiological disorders, sleep disorders, and being considered for organ transplants); assessment to determine psychological appropriateness of a medical procedure or elective surgery; Assessment of personality, psychopathology, and cognitive processes in relation to health problems; Short-term individual psychotherapy; biofeedback and relaxation therapies; Psychological interventions related to illness adjustment issues, non-adherence to medical regimens, and unhealthy behaviors. The Mental Health Clearance evaluations provide an opportunity for Fellows to develop skills in providing focused consultation to medical services. Other supervised experiences are available for CBT for insomnia (CBTi) and pain management (POWER Pain Management groups).

Mental Health Clinic: Fellows will carry a caseload of short-term psychotherapy patients, lead or co-lead psychotherapy, skills, and psychoeducation 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.

Substance Abuse Treatment Program (availability TBD): Fellows will have the opportunity to gain experience in clinical interviewing, differential diagnosis, individual and group psychotherapy, and referral to other hospital services (e.g. vocational rehab, homeless veteran program, etc.). Fellows will be exposed to case management and psychosocial issues that are common in this population including homelessness, legal issues, and family system difficulties. Fellows will develop skills in motivational interviewing, anger management, and relapse prevention.

Didactics and Additional Training

Fellows have many educational opportunities available to assist in their development as career clinician-researchers. Educational opportunities include not only didactics, but also teaching activities, supervision of junior clinicians and research assistants, and dissemination of research findings. In addition to VA grand rounds and other local opportunities for didactics, a system-wide MIRECC Advanced Fellowship program videoconference seminar series (i.e., "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. Fellows are able to audit graduate courses offered by VCU's Department of Psychology to support each Fellow's learning needs and objectives, for instance, the "Military Culture and Deployment-related Mental Health Concerns Affecting

Veterans and Families” course that is co-taught by VCU and VA instructors (Drs. Steve Danish and Treven Pickett).

Educational activities also include VA and VCU grand rounds, journal clubs, VA online seminars, VA clinical training workshops. Fellows are expected to attend the twice-monthly, 2-hour MIRECC V-Tels. Monthly MIRECC Advanced Fellowship V-Tel biostatistics lectures and interactive grant-writing workshops are optional, but recommended. In total, Fellows participate in at least two hours per week of structured learning activities.

MIRECC Fellowship Seminar Series: The MIRECC Advanced Fellowship program videoconference seminar series ("V-Tels") offers Fellows a broad range of topics including state-of-the-art research methodologies, biostatistics, intervention and services research, quality improvement methods, grant funding, and career development. These twice-monthly seminars are mandatory for Fellows. Other regularly scheduled V-Tels include monthly biostatistics lectures and interactive grant writing workshops.

Staff meetings: Fellows participate as members of the Richmond VAMC's professional community in a variety of ways. Fellows attend the monthly Psychology Service staff meetings (2nd Thursday of each month, 11:00am to 12noon), and if possible, the staff meetings of the unit(s) or services on which they work. 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 Richmond VAMC provides funding for travel and registration for the Fellowship Program Directors and Fellows to attend one combined national mental health research and planning meeting per year. 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 Richmond 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 Training Faculty

*Please note that this is a **partial list** of VA and VCU clinicians and investigators who may serve as clinical supervisors, primary research mentors, and research collaborators. Applicants are*

encouraged to discuss their training goals with the Fellowship Training Director prior to applying to ensure a good match with faculty interests and rotation availability.

Psychologist Training Supervisors

John Benesek, Psy.D., 1999, University of Hartford

Clinical Duties: Director, PTSD Program

Research Interests: Combat-related PTSD; forensic evaluation and treatment; Chemical dependence treatment; general adult psychopathology; treatment of the chronically mentally ill.

Faculty Appointments: Assistant Professor, Department of Psychiatry, Virginia Commonwealth University.

Thomas Campbell, Ph.D., 2008, Virginia Commonwealth University

Clinical Duties: Neuropsychologist, Polytrauma Rehabilitation Center. Dr. Campbell is the Director of the Rehabilitation Fellowship Program, which recently received a 5-year APA accreditation as a specialty program in Rehabilitation Psychology.

Research Interests: TBI and PTSD, effort and negative response bias in neuropsychological assessment, psychological sequelae of torture.

Faculty Appointment: Affiliate Assistant Professor, Department of Psychology, Virginia Commonwealth University.

Sherry Ceperich, Ph.D., 1997, Arizona State University

Clinical Duties: Psychologist for Polytrauma Rehabilitation Center. Provide individual psychotherapy, psychological assessment, family support and therapy. Provide therapy for veterans in Military Sexual Trauma program.

Research Interests: Mechanisms of action in Motivational Interviewing, binge drinking, health psychology/health promotion.

Faculty Appointments: Former Assistant Professor, Departments of Psychiatry and Internal Medicine, Virginia Commonwealth University and Department of Psychiatry University of Virginia.

Leah Farrell-Carnahan, PhD, 2009, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University

Clinical Duties: Dr. Farrell-Carnahan's clinical activities include delivering evidence-based treatments including prolonged exposure therapy and for Veterans presenting with PTSD symptoms. She also conducts evidenced-based treatment for insomnia using cognitive behavioral therapy for insomnia in group and individual formats. Dr. Farrell-Carnahan also conducts pre-heart transplant evaluations.

Research Duties: Dr. Farrell-Carnahan is the site Principal Investigator for the TBI Model Systems database at the Richmond VAMC location and is an investigator on several studies focused on sleep disturbance in veterans. She also facilitates the Writers Task Force to promote efforts of scholarly publication among local researchers and clinicians.

Faculty Appointments: Assistant Professor, Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, Virginia Commonwealth University School of Medicine. Visiting Assistant Professor, Department of Psychiatry and Neurobehavioral Sciences, University of Virginia School of Medicine

Eugene Gourley, Ph.D., 1998, Virginia Commonwealth University

Clinical Duties: Staff Neuropsychologist with clinical responsibilities in the Mental Health SerV program, which spans mental health assessment and treatment of OEF/OIF Veterans. Dr. Gourley also contributes neuropsychological services through the Polytrauma Network Site (PNS) outpatient program.

Faculty Appointments: Adjunct Professor of Psychology, John Tyler Community College

John Lynch, Ph.D., 1988, Virginia Commonwealth University

Clinical Duties: Psychologist, PTSD and Evidence Based Psychotherapy Coordinator

Research Interests: Evidence-based psychotherapy.

Jennifer Menzel Lumpkin, Psy.D., 2005, University: Indiana University of Pennsylvania

Clinical Duties: As the neuropsychologist/rehabilitation psychologist of the Compensated Work Therapy (CWT) and Polytrauma Network Site (PNS) teams, conduct neuropsychological evaluations and provide psychotherapy to individuals with traumatic brain injury. Work with the interdisciplinary team in providing rehabilitation services to both veterans and active duty service members.

Research Interests: Geriatric rehabilitation, depression following traumatic brain injury, dementia.

Faculty Appointments: Adjunct Assistant Professor in Psychology, Virginia Commonwealth University.

Brian L. Meyer, Ph.D., 1990, Duke University

Clinical Duties: SUD/PTSD Specialist. Provide evidence-based individual, family, couples, and group psychotherapies for veterans with substance abuse problems and Posttraumatic Stress Disorder. Work with SUD and PTSD teams to coordinate and integrate treatment for veterans with both sets of difficulties. Also provide clinical consultation, psychoeducation, and patient and staff education.

Research Interests: trauma, child abuse, co-occurring disorders.

Faculty Appointments: Adjunct Assistant Professor, Department of Psychology, Virginia Commonwealth University; Clinical Assistant Professor, Department of Psychiatry, Virginia Commonwealth University.

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

Clinical Duties: Spinal Cord Injury Neuropsychologist at Richmond VAMC.

Neuropsychologist for the Spinal Cord Injury Service at the Richmond VAMC, and recent recipient of a 5-year VA RR&D career development award, which will support a study exploring resilience following physical injury (e.g., spinal cord injury, traumatic amputation, TBI). Dr. McDonald serves as Co-Director for the MIRECC psychology Fellowship program.

Research Interests: PTSD assessment, TBI, and resilience.

Faculty Appointments: Affiliate Assistant Professor, Departments of Psychology and Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, Virginia Commonwealth University.

Treven Pickett, Psy.D., ABPP-Rp, 2001, Virginia Consortium Program in Clinical Psychology.

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

Research Interests: TBI; PTSD; Neuro-rehabilitation.

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

Adjunct Staff/Supervisors

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

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

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

Mark Bender, Ph.D., 2000, Saint Louis University

Clinical Duties: Neuropsychologist for the Polytrauma Transitional Rehabilitation Program.

Duties include assessment, individual and group therapy, and development and implementation of behavioral management programs for residents.

Research Interests: Treatment for TBI & PTSD, TBI rehabilitation, treatment matching.

Faculty Appointment: Affiliate Assistant Professor, Department of Psychology, Virginia Commonwealth University.

Jennifer Cameron, Ph.D., 2008, University of Alabama at Birmingham

Clinical Duties: Primary Care-Mental Health. Dr. Cameron serves as Health Behavior Coordinator for the Richmond VAMC.

Research Interests: Health Psychology.

Faculty Appointment: Affiliate Assistant Professor, Department of Psychology, Virginia Commonwealth University.

Michael Ellwood, Ph.D., 1991, Virginia Commonwealth University

Clinical Duties: Dr. Ellwood provides assessment, psychological testing, psychotherapy, behavioral therapy, and family therapy for newly injured and long-term Spinal Cord Injury patients as part of an interdisciplinary treatment team. He also provides patient and staff education, and assessment and treatment for patients in the SCI outpatient clinic. Dr. Ellwood is the Director of Training for the Psychology Section in the Mental Health Service.

Research Interests: Health Psychology in relation to SCI, depression, pain and smoking.

Faculty appointments: Adjunct Assistant Professor in the Department of Psychology, Virginia Commonwealth University.

Sharon Funari, Ph.D., 2008, Virginia Commonwealth University, Richmond, Virginia

Clinical Duties: Psychologist for the outpatient Polytrauma Network Site. Provide psychotherapy services to individuals and families; Consult with interdisciplinary Polytrauma team in order to provide holistic care to veterans and their families. Provide supervision to doctoral interns and practicum students.

Faculty Appointments: Affiliate Professor in Psychology, Virginia Commonwealth University.

Patricia Jones, Ph.D., 1995, Georgia State University

Clinical Duties: Psychologist on Polytrauma Transitional Rehabilitation Program. Duties include providing diagnostic evaluations to all patients admitted to program, providing individual, family, and marital therapy, provide group psychotherapy, attend IDT meetings and other patient care related meetings (behavioral rounds, family conferences, etc.), participate on steering committee, participate on national conference meetings regarding PTRP, program development, etc.

Research interests: Outcome studies regarding role of family in the recovery process from TBI.

Faculty Appointments: Previous adjunct role at VCU as supervisor affiliated with VCU's Counseling and Psychological Services & Development (CPSD).

Kenneth S. Kendler, M.D., 1977, Stanford University

Positions: Director, Psychiatric Genetics Research Program; Director, Virginia Institute for Psychiatric and Behavioral Genetics.

Research Interests: Genetics of psychiatric and substance abuse disorders.

Faculty Appointments: Rachel Brown Banks Distinguished Professor of Psychiatry, Virginia Commonwealth University; Professor of Human Genetics, Virginia Commonwealth University.

Bruce Rybarczyk, Ph.D., ABPP-Rp, 1988, 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.*

Faculty Appointments: Associate Professor, Department of Psychology, Virginia Commonwealth University.

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

Positions: Co-Director of the Anxiety Clinic of the Center for Psychological Services and Development, Virginia Commonwealth University. He is a Fellow in the International Organization of Psychophysiology.

Research Interests: The study of emotion, especially fear and anxiety, from an information processing and psychophysiological perspective.

Clinical Interests: Intellectual assessment and the assessment and treatment of anxiety disorders.

Faculty Appointments: Professor, Department of Psychology, Virginia Commonwealth University.

Cathy Williams-Sledge, Psy.D., 1997, Virginia consortium Program in clinical Psychology

Position: Clinical Psychologist

Clinical Interests: Responsible for providing evaluation and treatment for a caseload of Spinal Cord Injury inpatients and outpatients as part of an interdisciplinary treatment team. Provide assessment, psychological testing, psychotherapy, behavioral therapy, and family therapy for newly injured and long-term patients. Also provide patient and staff education and student supervision and training. Provide assistance and support for the SCI Peer mentoring program

and work in two additional clinics serving veterans hospital-wide, including Tobacco Cessation and Compensation and Pension clinics.

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. 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. 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).
 - Scores of "2" ("Fellow is progressing well") or higher on all relevant General Clinical Competency and Emphasis Area skills evaluated in year 1; Scores of "3" ("Fellow has developed competency in this area") on all relevant skills in each domain evaluated by completion of year 2, and a score of "4" ("Fellow has developed advanced competency in this area") on competency in post-deployment mental health.
2. Successful completion of research goals (via formal evaluation with by supervisors and Fellowship Director(s)).
 - Minimum of 2 publications by completion of program; one must be as first author.
 - Regular presentations of research at professional conferences (1 per year).
3. Successful completion of required didactics (via formal evaluation by Fellowship Director(s)).
4. Maintenance of consistently professional and ethical conduct in professional setting throughout duration of training (via formal evaluation by supervisors and the Fellowship Director(s)).

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:

- APA's Ethical Principles of Psychologists and Code of Conduct (<http://www.apa.org/ethics/code/index.aspx>)
- Richmond 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 Richmond 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 Richmond 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

Richmond VA Medical Center

The Hunter Holmes McGuire Veterans Affairs Medical Center (VAMC) is a 1-A designated, tertiary care referral center located in Richmond, Virginia. 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 medical center is the host site for several notable specialty clinics and research centers, including:

- Parkinson's Disease Research, Education and Clinical Center (PADRECC)
- Center of Excellence for Seizure Disorders
- Polytrauma Rehabilitation Center
- Spinal Cord Injury and Disorders hub site
- Defense and Veterans Brain Injury Center (DVBIC)
- VISN-6 Mental Illness, Research, Education, and Clinical Center (MIRECC)

Future developments on the RVAMC campus include an expanded specialty clinic area located near the main entrance of the medical center and expansion of the Polytrauma and mental health programs. Learn more about the Richmond VAMC at www.richmond.va.gov.

Research: The RVAMC has a vibrant research program with annual budgetary allocation that consists of approximately seven million dollars. 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 TBI and mental health conditions that frequently present with TBI.

Psychology Section: The Psychology Section has over 35 doctoral level psychology staff with a wide range of specializations and theoretical orientations. In addition to traditional roles in Mental Health, staff psychologists are critical members of the Substance Abuse, PTSD, Polytrauma and TBI, Spinal Cord Injury, Geriatric/Home-based Care, PADRECC and Behavioral Medicine programs.

Psychology Training: Our training program includes an APA-accredited pre-doctoral psychology internship program, an APA-accredited Rehabilitation Psychology fellowship, the MIRECC Advanced Psychology Fellowship Program, and pre-doctoral practicum positions. Currently, we have three psychology interns, three practicum students, two Rehabilitation Psychology Fellows, and one MIRECC Fellow.

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 Richmond 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 Richmond 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



Courtesy of Richmond Metropolitan Convention and Visitors Bureau

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 chemical, food and tobacco manufacturing to cutting edge biotechnology, semiconductors and high-tech fiber production. The city consistently ranks among "Best Places to Live and Work in America" in several national publications.

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 XTERRA off road triathlon's East Coast Championship, The SunTrust Richmond Marathon, hosted the 2012 Veteran's Wheelchair Games, and will host the UCI Road World Championship of cycling in 2015. For these reasons and more, it is easy to see why Richmond was recently 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. For example, the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts is receiving guests from around the nation in Spring 2011 as it is the only museum on the East Coast to host the "Picasso: Masterpieces from the Musée National Picasso, Paris" exhibition as it traveled on a seven-city international tour. Richmond also hosts the annual Richmond Folk Festival (www.richmondfolkfestival.org), a free festival featuring live performances by some of the world's greatest folk musicians.

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 <http://www2.richmond.com/>

Stipend and Benefits

The Fellowship program offers a full-time stipend of approximately \$43,094 for Fellowship year 1, and approximately \$45,423 for year 2. Stipends are approximated because CY-2012 and 2013 cost-of-living adjustments have yet to be announced. Benefits include: 13 days of vacation, up to 13 days of sick leave, authorized, paid leave for conferences, and health insurance. The Federal Tort Claims Act covers professional liability for services provided as a DVA employee.

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

This fellowship program is not APA-accredited. An APA self-study is in progress with an anticipated submission in Fall 2012.

Memberships

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. Completed an APA-Accredited psychology internship or an internship in a Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center currently seeking APA accreditation.
4. Meet all VAMC hiring and credentialing requirements.
5. 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. Any previous clinical, educational and research experience in post-deployment mental health;
 - d. A description of how your prior training and experiences relate to our program's training emphasis and goals; and
 - e. A description of your career goals and how the training we offer will advance them.
6. Curriculum Vitae
 7. Official transcripts from graduate school (including awarding date of doctoral degree). If the doctoral degree has not yet been awarded, we will require an official transcript with awarding date before admission to the Program.
 8. 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.
 9. If you are currently an intern, a letter from your psychology internship director discussing progress on internship and anticipated completion date.
 10. If your dissertation has not yet been defended, include a letter from your dissertation Chair that notes the status of your dissertation and anticipated completion date.
 11. A de-identified clinical work sample.
 12. Dissertation abstract, or copy of another scholarly work.
 13. Federal form: [Application for Associated Health Occupations \(10-2850C\)](#), which may be obtained via the website: <http://vaww4.va.gov/vaforms/medical/pdf/vha-10-2850c-fill.pdf>

All application materials should be received no later than **January 9th, 2013**. Please send all completed application materials (by mail or e-mail) to:

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

Please mark the envelope or e-mail subject line - "MIRECC Fellowship Application Materials"

For more information about the VA VISN-6 MIRECC Psychology Fellowship Program at the Richmond VAMC, please contact Scott McDonald, Ph.D. at 804-675-5000 x3633 or scott.mcdonald@va.gov .