



Advanced Fellowship in Mental Illness Research and Treatment at VA VISN 2 Mental Illness Research, Education, and Clinical Center (MIRECC) & Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai

Overview: The Mental Illness Research, Education, and Clinical Center (MIRECC) of the New York/New Jersey Veterans Healthcare Network is accepting applications from psychiatrists for a 2-year Advanced Fellowship Program in Mental Illness Research and Treatment. The fellowship program aims to train psychiatrists to become leading recovery-oriented clinical researchers with a focus on serious mental illness. Our mission is to pursue a discovery-to-recovery approach for serious mental illness by determining causes, identifying predictors, and developing treatments that overcome barriers and enable recovery.

Program Description: The Fellows' primary appointment will be at the James J. Peters VA Medical Center (JJPVAMC) in the Bronx, NY, with a secondary appointment at the affiliate Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai in Manhattan, NY. Training opportunities will reside in the research, clinical, and educational programs at both institutions. Fellows devote approximately 75% of their time to research activities, research-related clinical activities, and educational activities, and 25% to developing advanced clinical skills in direct patient care. Fellows can spend the majority of research time developing their own line of work. In collaboration with their mentors, Fellows will develop and implement a research project, publish and present findings, participate in grant writing, and utilize the latest technology for educational activities and clinical service delivery. Fellows can apply for small grants of up to \$10,000 to collect pilot data through our internal pilot funding program. Individualized, mentored research and clinical training are combined with a state-of-the-art educational curriculum that emphasizes research methods, statistics, epidemiology, mental health systems, quality improvement methods, education, and service delivery. VA Fellowship sites are linked electronically for didactic, academic, and research efforts. Our interdisciplinary program aims to train psychiatrists to become outstanding clinical researchers in high priority areas of mental health.

Faculty: The VISN 2 MIRECC faculty is internationally recognized for research in suicide, psychosis and psychosis risk, and severe affective disorders. The center pursues a discovery-to-recovery approach to determine the causes and develop treatments for suicide and serious mental illness. Research areas of expertise and interest among the faculty include using neuroimaging and molecular biological techniques to investigate the neurobiology of serious mental illness and suicide; identification of suicide and psychosis risk in veterans transitioning out of the military; development and evaluation of behavioral and pharmacological interventions for suicide and serious mental illness; use of artificial intelligence (e.g., natural language processing) to study suicide and psychosis; and implementation science to promote evidence-based practices.

Fellows work closely with a primary research mentor and have opportunities to work with secondary mentors. The following VISN 2 MIRECC faculty are open to serving as primary mentor for fellows applying to start in 2026:

Marianne Goodman, MD: Her research focuses on developing novel treatments for suicide and understanding mechanisms of suicide risk. Her current projects include “Project Life Force” (PLF), a suicide safety planning + skills training virtual group that she developed that is now being disseminated across VA. PLF adaptations currently underway involve lived experience peers and a family/loved ones add-on. Additional funded projects include a study examining gender differences in the impact of TBI on suicide risk and a clinical trial testing the feasibility and preliminary effect of an orexin receptor antagonist to reduce suicide risk in suicidal Veterans. She is also involved in several provider and family based suicide prevention educational projects.

Philip Szeszko, PhD: His main research interests focus on the use of multimodal MRI to identify neurobiological mechanisms that play a role in neuropsychiatric disorders and their functional relevance.

James Murrough, MD, PhD: His research utilizes molecular, neuroimaging, and experimental therapeutics approaches to study the fundamental mechanisms underlying stress-related disorders in humans, including major depressive disorder (MDD), posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and anxiety disorders. The overall goal of this work is to advance the treatment of stress-related disorders through an enhanced understanding of disease pathogenesis and therapeutic mechanisms of action.

David Burstein, PhD: His research leverages electronic health record and genomic data to develop novel computational phenotyping methods for neuropsychiatric disorders using artificial intelligence and machine learning. His research highlights the overlapping and complex nature of neuropsychiatric traits and demonstrates the value of leveraging large biobank data to understand these traits.

Georgios Voloudakis, MD: His research focuses on integrating genetics, multi-omics, and clinical data to uncover mechanisms of neuropsychiatric disorders and to identify therapeutic targets and repurposable compounds.

More information on our MIRECC, the fellowship, and faculty research areas is available by scanning the QR code at the top of page 1 or visiting the [VISN 2 MIRECC website](#). Fellows’ mentorship can also include other faculty from the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai [Department of Psychiatry](#).

Start Date: The start day is flexible and will begin between July 1st and October 1st, 2026. This fellowship is fully in-person.

Stipend and Benefits: Stipends will be based on years of previously completed residency training accredited by the Accrediting Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME) and index rates approved at the James J. Peters VA Medical Center and the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai. Benefits include health insurance, life insurance, 13 paid vacation days and 13 paid sick days per year, 11 paid federal holidays, discounted housing, access to fitness facility, and public transit fare benefit to offset commuting costs.

Eligibility: MD applicants must have completed ACGME-accredited training, be board eligible or board certified, and have an active, unrestricted U.S. license to practice. International medical

graduates must also have a current visa and an ECFMG certificate that is valid indefinitely. Applicants on a J-1 visa must also have current ECFMG sponsorship.

Application Due Date: Applications are due **December 15, 2025**.

How to Apply:

Applicants are asked to submit the following documents to Dr. Chi Chan at chi.chan1@va.gov:

- A letter of interest that includes: (1) career goals and how these align with the mission of the VISN 2 MIRECC; (2) preferred primary research mentor(s) and how the applicant's education, research, and clinical experience aligns well with this mentor's research program (3) the research and clinical skills that applicant would like to hone during Fellowship
- A current curriculum vitae
- A signed letter of completion or expected completion from residency program stating the accreditation status of the program
- Three letters of recommendation
- Medical school transcripts
- 1-2 writing samples (e.g., research papers, grants, and/or clinical report)

Selection Process: The selection process for candidates is based largely on the match between the applicant's research interests and career goals with the research expertise of mentors and opportunities at the VISN 2 MIRECC. A close working relationship with identified mentors allows our Fellows to maximize their productivity and develop a successful career trajectory. Applicants are encouraged to consult with their preferred mentors early in the application process. We have a systematic process for reviewing and ranking applicants.

Our fellowship is an equal opportunity training program. The VA VISN 2 MIRECC encourages applications from qualified candidates of all backgrounds including but not limited to ethnic and racial minorities, women, sexual minorities, persons with disabilities, and individuals with personal lived experience with military service and/or serious mental illness.

Please contact the Fellowship Director, Dr. Chi Chan with any questions at chi.chan1@va.gov.

