

Postdoctoral Fellowships Forensic Psychology

Mendota Mental Health Institute
and
Sand Ridge Secure Treatment Center



WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT
of **HEALTH SERVICES**

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Overview

Three one-year postdoctoral fellowship positions are available.

- One paid fellowship is available in the Mendota Mental Health Institute (MMHI) training track focusing primarily on competency evaluations and other forensic-related evaluations.
- Two paid fellowships are available in the Sand Ridge Secure Treatment Center (SRSTC) and MMHI training track focused on forensic psychology.

Program one: MMHI

This fellowship offers experiences in pretrial competency to stand trial evaluations and treatment. This program provides an opportunity for the fellow to focus on forensic evaluations emphasizing competency, risk assessments, and other related forensic concerns, including treatment and evaluation of individuals adjudicated not guilty by reason of mental disease or defect, with less emphasis on sexual dangerousness evaluation or treatment. There is an opportunity to work with juvenile offenders at the Mendota Juvenile Treatment Center.

Program two: SRSTC and MMHI

The first half of this fellowship offers experiences with the SRSTC patient population, with a focus on violence risk assessment, sexually violent person examinations, and treatment of individuals committed under Wis. Stat. ch. 980, Wisconsin's Sexually Violent Person Law. The second half of this fellowship is at MMHI, where fellows receive experience on pretrial competency to stand trial evaluations and treatment, as well as some other forensic assessments, including evaluations of risk and sexual dangerousness, treatment of individuals deemed incompetent to competency, sexual predator evaluation, and treatment of individuals adjudicated not guilty by reason of mental disease or defect. During the fellowship experience at MMHI, there is an opportunity to work with juvenile offenders at the Mendota Juvenile Treatment Center.

The goal of these fellowships is to produce psychologists with knowledge of the interaction between psychology and law who are capable of assuming positions in a variety of settings. To that end, academic experiences (e.g., seminars, research, and possible forensic trainings off site) are provided in conjunction with the above-mentioned applied forensic work.

The fellowships are designed to satisfy the postdoctoral licensure hours in Wisconsin and most other states. The programs are designed to provide a thorough training experience in forensic psychology consisting of approximately:

- 75% applied clinical forensic experiences
- 10% research or program evaluation
- 15% seminars and educational experiences

Training Programs

The training program is designed as a one-year integrated experience in the practice of forensic psychology. The training program integrates both treatment and assessment experiences into the fellowship.

In program one, the forensic fellowship entails a 12-month rotation at MMHI's competency unit and other similar units with participation in seminars and research or program evaluation.

In program two, the forensic fellowship is composed of two, 12-month rotations: alternating six months at MMHI and six months at SRSTC. A full-day is allotted for seminars and research or program evaluation.

Rotations

Program one: MMHI

MMHI is located in Madison, Wisconsin. It has 13 forensic units encompassing all security levels (i.e., maximum, medium, and minimum). The primary responsibility of the fellow at MMHI will be to conduct forensic evaluations. These evaluations will consist of the following:

- *Competency to Stand Trial Evaluations.* Competency to stand trial referrals include two types of evaluations: 1) initial pretrial evaluation or 2) re-evaluation of competency to stand trial after an initial finding of incompetence. The fellow will become the primary author on evaluations relatively early in the fellowship year.
- *Risk Assessments and Diagnostic Evaluations.* The fellow will be asked to complete psychological evaluations to assist with such issues as malingering or diagnostic clarification as well as risk assessments.
- *Supplemental Mental Exams/Conditional Release Letters.* The fellow will write letters to assist courts in determining the mental health status of patients adjudicated not guilty by reason of mental disease or defect and risks associated with placement/need for treatment or how a patient may be prepared for conditional release.

Clinical evaluations of adolescents placed at Mendota Juvenile Treatment Center (MJTC). MJTC is a secure correctional facility located on the grounds of MMHI. The program provides intensive treatment and evaluation to male adolescents who have been adjudicated delinquent and who are considered to have mental health problems that have affected their adjustment in juvenile correctional institutions. The primary responsibility of the fellow at the MJTC will be to conduct clinical evaluations. These evaluations will consist of the following:

- *Risk Assessments.* The fellow will be asked to evaluate the level of risk associated with a given juvenile. These evaluations will be used in determining if patients are ready for release and/or what conditions should be in place for a patient approaching a release date.
- *Diagnostic Evaluations.* The fellow will be asked to complete psychological evaluations to assist with diagnostic clarification and treatment planning.

Program two: SRSTC and MMHI

SRSTC is located in Mauston, Wisconsin. Its sexually violent person evaluation team is based in an office building on the grounds of MMHI in Madison, Wisconsin. The primary responsibility of the fellow at SRSTC will be to learn about treatment of sexually violent persons committed under Wis. Stat. ch. 980, research on treatment of sexually violent persons, and conducting evaluations for civil commitment of sexually violent persons.

Fellows in this program will participate for six months in the MMHI forensic evaluation opportunities listed in the program one description.

Fellows will engage in a clinical research project of their choosing. Fellows have several choices in how to facilitate this aspect of the training. They can join a current, ongoing study. MMHI and SRSTC have several ongoing research projects, including malingering in competency evaluations, violence risk assessment, and diagnostic issues related to competency to stand trial, as well as treatment outcome measures. They can develop a small research study in a specific area of interest. SRSTC and MMHI have a large amount of archival data that can be used to generate a research study. The ultimate goal of the research project is publication.

Fellows are expected to attend a series of seminars. The seminars entail a significant amount of reading in areas of forensic psychology. In addition, the fellow will be scheduled to conduct two case presentations throughout the training year.

- *Forensic Seminar.* This seminar is held weekly to biweekly for 1.5 to 2 hours where psychologists, psychiatrists, and attorneys who are employed by a variety of public and private agencies will teach on a variety of topics including forensic ethics, competency to stand trial, the insanity defense, and child custody.
- *Landmark Case Seminar.* The seminar is held weekly to biweekly for 90 minutes. The seminar is co-taught by a psychologist and lawyer and provides an in-depth look at both national and state cases that have shaped the practice of forensic psychology. Fellows will prepare brief case summaries to present to the group. By the end of the year the fellow will have a complete summary of each landmark case.
- *Risk Assessment Seminar.* This seminar is conducted by an MMHI forensic psychologist with expertise in Wisconsin on areas of sexual violence, psychopathy, and risk assessment instruments. The seminar is held twice monthly for nine months. Other psychologists with expertise in risk assessments may also participate in training and supervision.
- *Case Presentations.* Each fellow will present a case presentation or participate in a mock testimony as an expert witness during the course of the fellowship year. The case presentation or mock testimony will last for approximately one hour. The presentation or mock testimony will focus on an interesting case the fellow encountered during his/her experience or on a competency and/or a sexually violent person evaluation.

SRSTC and MMHI have active training departments with a number of workshops and training sessions during the course of the year. These sessions are open to the professional community at large for a fee, but all staff and affiliates can attend for free. Depending on the interest of the fellow, additional educational experiences can be arranged. If the fellow is interested in

teaching, they will have the opportunity to conduct a seminar(s) for the predoctoral internship program at MMHI, which is approved by the American Psychological Association.

The fellowship program at SRSTC/MMHI is committed to providing conscientious supervision so the fellow can receive the most from their training experience. The fellow can expect to receive a minimum of three hours of supervision weekly. All reports submitted to the court will be cosigned by the primary supervisor. If the fellow is called to testify, their primary supervisor will accompany them.

Evaluations

Fellows will meet quarterly with the director of the fellowship program and receive both oral and written feedback regarding their performance during that quarter. Fellows will also receive an evaluation at the end of the training year summarizing their experiences.

Stipend

Each fellow receives a stipend of \$62,250. Health insurance is not provided.

Faculty

The following staff manage the fellowship program.

David Lee, Ph.D., J.D.

Director of Psychology and Research, MMHI

Clinical interests: Psychological assessments, individual and group therapy, forensic psychology, and multicultural competency.

Karyn Gust-Brey, Ph.D.

Psychologist Supervisor, MMHI

Clinical interests: Competency evaluation and restoration, individual and group therapy, forensic psychology, patients with developmental disabilities and cognitive/behavioral treatment.

Gregory Van Rybroek, Ph.D., J.D.

Director, MMHI

Clinical interests: Management and treatment of aggressive patients, interrelationship of psychology/psychiatry and law, and antisocial personalities.

Lakshmi (Luck) Subramanian, Ph.D.

Chapter 980 Evaluation Director, SRSTC

Clinical interests: Sexually violent person evaluations and healthy/normal sexuality.

Jason Smith, Psy.D.

Clinical Director, SRSTC

Clinical interests: Treatment of sex offenders, clinical evaluations, and administration of clinical programs.

Douglas Bellile

Director, SRSTC

Clinical interests: Management and treatment of sex offenders, clinical evaluations, and research.

The following staff also are part of the fellowship program.

Michael Caldwell, Psy.D.

Psychologist

Clinical interests: Treatment outcomes evaluation, management and treatment of aggressive patients, and risk analysis.

Caroline Carr, Psy.D, ABPP

Psychologist

Clinical Interest: Forensic evaluations of adult and juveniles

Ana Garcia, Ph.D.

Psychologist

Clinical interests: Individual and group therapy, forensic psychology, risk assessments, and cognitive/behavioral treatment.

Michael Hammer, Ph.D.

Psychologist

Clinical interests: Psychotherapy, assessment, management and treatment of aggressive patients, and competency assessment.

Paul Lane, Ph.D.

Deputy Director, MMHI

Clinical interests: Clinical supervision, psychological assessments, and cognitive/behavioral treatment.

David Marx, Psy.D.

Psychologist

Clinical interests: Individual and group therapy, forensic psychology, and therapy outcome measures.

Adrea McGlynn, Psy.D.

Psychologist

Clinical interests: Psychotherapy; assessment, management, and treatment of aggressive patients; and competency assessment.

Maria Murguia, Ph.D.

Psychologist

Clinical interests: Forensic risk assessment, individual and group therapy, and behavioral programming.

Steve Splittek, Ph.D.

Psychologist

Clinical interests: Individual, group, and family psychotherapy and psychological assessment of adolescents and adults.

Sara Conklin-Weaver, Psy.D.

Psychological Associate

Clinical interests: Individual, group, and family psychotherapy and psychological assessment of adolescents and adults.

Application Requirements

Applicants must have a Ph.D./Psy.D in clinical or counseling psychology. Evidence must be provided that the individual has completed all aspects of their graduate program or will have prior to the onset of the fellowship. In addition, applicants must have completed or be in the process of completing an American Psychological Association approved predoctoral internship.

Previous forensic mental health experience is unnecessary; however, successful applicants typically have had some previous exposure to the field. Experience working with individuals with chronic and severe mental illness is necessary. Experience in psychological assessment is a critical prerequisite.

Direct questions about these fellowships to David Lee, Ph.D., J.D.

- Email: david.lee@dhs.wisconsin.gov
- Phone: 608-301-1047

Applicants should submit the following as part of their fellowship application:

- Full curriculum vitae
- A statement of purpose (1-2 pages) providing the following:
 - Interest in forensic psychology.
 - Reason for applying to the forensic fellowship.
 - Previous experience in forensic psychology.
 - Previous experience working with mentally ill adults.
- Sanitized (all identifying information removed) assessment/forensic evaluation

Arrange to have three letters of recommendation sent to Dr. David Lee (at least one from an internship supervisor).

Materials should be forwarded to:

David C. Lee, Ph.D., J.D.
Director of Psychology and Research
Mendota Mental Health Institute
301 Troy Drive
Madison, WI 53704