

CENTRAL STATE HOSPITAL POST-DOCTORAL FELLOWSHIP IN FORENSIC PSYCHOLOGY

The Post-Doctoral Fellowship in Forensic Psychology at Central State Hospital focuses on training in three primary areas:

- Adult Inpatient Forensic Treatment
- Adult Forensic Evaluations
- Research/Scholarly Activity on Topics Relevant to Forensic Psychology

Central State Hospital (CSH), in Petersburg, Virginia, is the site of Virginia's only Maximum Security Forensic Mental Health Unit. This post-doctoral training program provides the Fellow with exposure to the full range of mental disorders typically seen in forensic psychiatric settings.



CSH, Building 39 – Maximum Security Forensic Unit

THE TRAINING PROGRAM

The Fellowship program offers education and supervision in the practice of forensic psychology, a primary goal of which is to prepare the Fellow for the practice of forensic psychology with a seriously mentally ill population. The program is sponsored by Central State Hospital, which provides services to male and female adults with serious mental illnesses, many of whom also have diagnoses of substance abuse disorders and/or Intellectual Disability. Our patient population includes pre- and post-trial forensic patients receiving court-ordered evaluation and treatment, patients who have been adjudicated not guilty by reason of insanity who are receiving evaluation and/or treatment, and non-forensic patients receiving treatment under civil commitment.

The training year begins on August or September 10th and lasts for 12 months. The Fellow spends the first two weeks of the training year engaged in formal orientation and training activities provided by the CSH Training Department. In October of the training year the Fellow attends the Basic Forensic Evaluation training offered by the Institute of Law, Psychiatry, and Public Policy (ILPPP) at the University of Virginia, a one-week intensive workshop covering the basic principles of forensic evaluation. The cost of this program is covered by the hospital.

The training year then continues with the Fellow receiving the following experiences: 80% of their time as a member of the forensic evaluation team conducting forensic evaluations; 20% of their time devoted to research and training. The Fellow is expected to complete an empirical research project or scholarly article suitable for publication during the postdoctoral year. A supervisor for this work should be identified by the Fellow from among hospital staff within the first month of residency, and the Fellow will receive supervision from that individual throughout the year to complete the project. (Fellows with specific ideas for empirical research are encouraged to develop and submit a research proposal to the hospital research committee prior to the beginning of the Fellowship year, to ensure ample time for collection of data.) There are also a number of on-going research projects with which the Fellow may be involved.

Throughout the year, the Fellow receives a minimum of two hours of individual, face-to-face supervision per week with a licensed clinical psychologist, and he or she will have at least two different supervisors during the training year. A weekly case law seminar is provided at Central State Hospital, in which the Fellow plays an integral organizational role and presents regularly. CSH also regularly hosts seminars on special topics in clinical and forensic practice. The Fellow is required to attend and occasionally present at these sessions. In addition to Basic Forensic Evaluation at ILPPP, the Fellow may attend a number of other training seminars offered by the ILPPP, including: Risk Assessment, Evaluating Individuals found Not Guilty by Reason of Insanity, Assessing Individuals Charged with Sex Crimes, and various advanced seminars or symposia. The Fellow is also strongly encouraged to participate in local, state, regional, and national professional organizations relevant to the practice of clinical and forensic psychology.

This Fellowship program is designed to meet all supervision requirements for licensure as a Clinical Psychologist in the state of Virginia. The trainee is responsible for obtaining information on licensure requirements and ensuring that he or she files all necessary forms in a timely manner in order to obtain licensure. The program has also been determined to meet the American Board of Forensic Psychology (ABFP) criteria for the experience waiver.

PHILOSOPHY

Our training philosophy is that learning occurs through exposure, mentoring, and supervised practice with gradually increasing degrees of task complexity and trainee autonomy. Through this process the Fellow is expected to gradually increase his or her clinical proficiency and knowledge of the legal system, and to gradually develop a professional identity in the field of forensic psychology. The core values of the program include ethical clinical practice and an appreciation of the ways in which clinical skills and knowledge are necessary for competently answering psycholegal questions. It is our belief that good forensic psychologists are outstanding clinical psychologists first and foremost. Therefore, Fellows will be expected to demonstrate

competence in the traditional core skills of clinical psychology, including psychodiagnostic testing, clinical interviewing, treatment planning, consultation, and psychotherapy, while concurrently acquiring a knowledge base of the legal issues and precedents that contribute to the competent practice of forensic psychology.

The effective practice of forensic clinical psychology is strongly linked to the scientific origins of psychological science, and therefore Fellows are encouraged to rely upon empirically supported assessment techniques, and to actively seek to link emerging clinical theory and contemporary research with established principles of assessment.

PRIMARY SUPERVISORS

Elizabeth Wheeler, Ph.D., Training Director, Director of the Forensic Evaluation Department (Virginia Commonwealth University; CSH Forensic Evaluator, Licensed Clinical Psychologist)

Maria Sverdlova, Pys.D., Licensed Clinical Psychologist and Member of the Forensic Evaluation Department (Florida Institute of Technology)

Ted Simpson, Psy.D., Licensed Clinical Psychologist and Member of the Forensic Evaluation Department (University of Denver;)

CURRENT FELLOW

Raisa Manejwala, Psy.D.
La Salle University

CENTRAL STATE HOSPITAL AND THE RICHMOND-PETERSBURG AREA

Central State Hospital is located on a beautiful, wooded campus set on the outskirts of the city of Petersburg in rural Dinwiddie County. Petersburg is an historic small city with a newly burgeoning downtown area. It is located about 20 miles south of Richmond, Virginia, a mid-size city that is home to Virginia Commonwealth University and the University of Richmond, as well as a wealth of cultural, sports, and community activities.



Below are links to the website for Central State Hospital and the official websites for the cities of Petersburg and Richmond:

Central State Hospital

<http://www.csh.dbhds.virginia.gov/>

Petersburg, VA

<http://www.petersburg-va.org/>

Richmond, VA

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

ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Calendar

The Fellowship begins on August or September 10th (start date is negotiable related to completion of internship) and terminates 12 calendar months later. The granting of educational leave (beyond the required training workshops to be attended at the Institute for Law, Psychiatry, and Public Policy) shall be at the discretion of the Fellowship Director.

Stipend

The stipend level for the Fellowship is \$42,614.

Professional Liability Insurance

Professional liability insurance covering clinical activities clearly defined within the scope of the Fellowship training program is provided by the hospital at no cost to the Fellow.

Health Insurance and Leave Time

The Fellow will receive health, dental, and disability insurance through the ANTHEM Blue Cross/Blue Shield program offered to all Virginia state employees. The Fellow receives four (4) days per year of family/personal leave, eight (8) days per year of sick leave, and he or she also earns four hours of general leave time per pay period (1 day per month). This is in addition to twelve (12) paid holidays per year.

Pay Periods and Pay Days

The Fellow will receive two monthly paychecks for a total of 24 paychecks per year. Direct deposit is required.

Offices

The Fellow will be assigned office space and individual computer access.

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

One Fellow per year will be accepted into the program. Forensic psychology experience is required. Prior exposure to inpatient populations is strongly preferred. Applicants who have already completed and successfully defended their dissertation are strongly preferred.

Applicants must have completed all requirements for a doctoral degree in clinical or counseling psychology program (APA-accreditation of the academic program and pre-doctoral internship is preferred, but not required). Individuals applying prior to completion of their graduate degree must provide a letter from the Training Directors of their academic and internship programs indicating that they will have completed all requirements for the doctoral degree prior to the start of the postdoctoral year. They will then be required to furnish documentation from their academic program when they have completed these degree requirements. If the selected candidate fails to complete any of their degree requirements by their scheduled start date or fails to provide documentation as such, the offer will be withdrawn and the individual will no longer be eligible to complete Fellowship training at CSH.

Once accepted for the program, the Fellow will be encouraged to register his or her postdoctoral supervision for licensure in Virginia as soon as possible in order to ensure professional licensure at the end of the postdoctoral year.

HOW TO APPLY

All applicants must complete an electronic Virginia state employment application. The website can be accessed at:

<https://virginiajobs.peopleadmin.com/>

Click on Search Jobs, choose Central State Hospital as the agency, then look for “Psychology Associate (Forensic Postdoctoral Fellowship)” position. If there is any doubt about which position to apply for please contact the Training Director for assistance.

In addition to completing the electronic application, candidates must submit the supplemental materials listed below. Hard copies of these documents should be mailed in a single packet or may be sent to Dr. Wheeler via email and include the following items:

- A current curriculum vitae
- Graduate school transcript(s)
- One letter of recommendation from a past supervisor, preferably a supervisor familiar with applicant's past forensic and/or assessment experience.
- A letter of interest outlining your professional and research interests, career goals, and the reasons for your interest in the Fellowship
- Applicants who have not received their degree must also provide letters from the Training Directors of both their academic and internship programs indicating that they will have completed all requirements prior to the start date.
- Applicants should clearly indicate the status of their dissertation in their application packet, either in the letter of interest or on their curriculum vitae.

Applications are currently being accepted for the 2018 - 2019 Fellowship, applications and all materials are due by January 1, 2018. Incomplete applications will not be considered. Interviews will be scheduled for the last week in January and first week in February. Interviews may be conducted in-person or by phone.

Supplemental materials may be submitted electronically via the application website or directly to Dr. Wheeler at Elizabeth.wheeler@dbhds.virginia.gov or by hardcopy. However, the application must be completed online.

Hard copy materials should be sent to:

Dr. Elizabeth Wheeler
Central State Hospital
Building 39
P.O. Box 4030
Petersburg, VA 23803

Selected candidates will be invited to interview. Interview expenses will not be reimbursed.

For any additional questions, please contact Dr. Wheeler at Elizabeth.wheeler@dbhds.virginia.gov