

Psychology Post-Doctoral Advanced Fellowship Program in Mental Illness, Research, and Treatment



VISN 1 New England Mental Illness Research, Education, and Clinical Center (MIRECC) at VA Connecticut Healthcare System

The West Haven site of the VISN 1 New England MIRECC is seeking applications for a two-year Psychology Post-Doctoral Advanced Fellowship Program in Mental Illness Research and Treatment, located at VA Connecticut Healthcare System in West Haven, CT. The mission of the VISN 1 New England MIRECC is to improve the clinical care of Veterans with substance use disorders (SUD) by employing a biopsychosocial approach to SUD and its co-occurring conditions, including mental health and medical conditions and psychosocial issues. The VISN 1 MIRECC develops, evaluates, and disseminates evidence-based interventions, tests scientific theories, and proposes novel clinical programs along the full continuum of SUD care. For more information, please visit <https://www.mirecc.va.gov/visn1/>. For more information on the Post-Doctoral Advanced Fellowship Program in Mental Illness Research and Treatment at the VA Connecticut Healthcare System, please visit: <https://www.mirecc.va.gov/visn1/fellowships.asp>

Fellows will apply to work with a **primary research mentor** who will meet weekly with the fellow for the duration of fellowship. The primary research mentor will supervise the fellow's individualized training plan, including a mentored research project, goals for scientific writing, grant writing, and presentations, educational activities, and clinical service delivery, supervised by two licensed clinical psychologists. Fellows spend 75% of their time on research and educational activities and 25% in clinical care, and are typically eligible for psychologist licensure by the end of first year of fellowship.

In addition to the primary research mentor, fellows may write papers with **collaborating faculty** at MIRECC or other centers at VA Connecticut, including the National Center for PTSD – Clinical Neurosciences Division and Evaluation Division, Pain/ Opioid Consortium of Research, Intimate Partner Violence Center for Implementation, Research, and Evaluation, and faculty affiliated with fellowships on Health Services Research, Informatics, and Women's Health. Finally, fellows may collaborate with faculty at Yale University School of Medicine, where fellows are nominated for postdoctoral fellowship appointments.

We will be recruiting for one position to start between July and September 2026. Applicants must have received a doctorate from an APA or CPA accredited graduate program in Clinical, Counseling, or Combined Psychology or PCSAS accredited Clinical Science program. Persons with a doctorate in another area of psychology who meet the APA or CPA criteria for respecialization training are also eligible. Applicants must have also completed an APA or CPA accredited psychology internship program. Fellows must be U.S. citizens. For the 2026-27 training year, we expect that the postdoctoral fellowship stipend will be no less than \$62,257 for year 1 and \$65,621 in year 2.

To apply, please submit the following application materials by email to Dr. Suzanne Decker at suzanne.decker@va.gov, by 11:59p on November 23, 2025.

1. Document title: Lastname_Cover_letter: Cover letter (2 pages max) specifying: 1) Application to MIRECC fellowship; (2) Your research interests and how they align with the MIRECC mission; (3) Research goals you hope to achieve on fellowship; (4) specific MIRECC faculty of interest as a potential **primary research mentor**; (5) specific MIRECC, National Center for PTSD, or other affiliated faculty of interest as potential **collaborating faculty**; (6) clinical goals for fellowship
2. Document title: Lastname_CV: Curriculum Vitae
3. Document title: Lastname_transcript: Graduate school transcripts (unofficial acceptable, official transcripts required if selected)
4. Document title: Lastname_LOR_research_Letter_writer's_name: Three signed letters of recommendation. Include at least one letter from a research mentor and at least one letter from a clinical supervisor. *Letters can be sent directly from the recommender or emailed with the completed application packet.*

West Haven Site, VISN 1 New England MIRECC Fellowship Faculty Interests (available as Primary Mentors for 2026-2027)

Mehmet Sofuoglu, MD, PhD: medication development and testing for nicotine and cocaine addictions; e-cigarettes; sex differences in tobacco use; genetics research

Steve Martino, PhD: motivational interviewing; SBIRT; implementation science; behavioral clinical trial design

Marc Rosen, MD: social determinants of health and addiction

Ismene Petrakis, MD: pharmacotherapy and other treatments for PTSD and SUD

R. Ross MacLean, PhD: ecological momentary assessment; chronic pain; opioid use disorder; psilocybin

Suzanne Decker, PhD: behavioral treatments for SUD and suicide prevention, including DBT adaptations; perinatal substance use; implementation science

Sarah Meshberg-Cohen, PhD: trauma-focused treatment for comorbid PTSD and SUD; treatment engagement and retention among individuals with psychiatric comorbidities

Joanna Fiszdon, PhD: psychosocial treatment development and validation; cognitive and social cognitive interventions for individuals with serious mental illness

Collaborating Faculty Interests

MacKenzie Peltier, PhD: intersection of substance use and stress-related disorders; sex differences; women's health across the lifespan

Brian Kiluk, PhD: clinical trials of CBT for substance use disorder, including digital interventions

Minnah Farook, PhD: sociodemographic variables and treatment outcomes, particularly racial health disparities

Ashley Martin, PhD: intersection of cannabis use and psychosis; metacognition; neurocognition; simultaneous MEG/EEG

Noah Wolkowicz, PhD: addiction; digital health interventions

Frances Aunon, PhD: suicide prevention; firearm injury prevention; AI-based interventions; implementation science

Applicants may also collaborate with faculty from other centers or fellowships at VA Connecticut and Yale School of Medicine.