DELL MEDICAL SCHOOL/DELL CHILDREN'S MEDICAL CENTER PSYCHOLOGY POSTDOCTORAL FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM

This postdoctoral fellowship is a collaboration between The University of Texas at Austin Dell Medical School (Dell Med) and Dell Children's Medical Center (DCMC). The training program was formerly known as Texas Child Study Center (TCSC), which has now become a clinic within the larger training program.

This fellowship program primarily provides services at DCMC and is housed within the Division of Psychology in the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences at the University of Texas at Austin Dell Medical School. This fellowship aims to train clinicians to provide assessment and evidence-based treatment for children and adolescents with emotional, behavioral, and developmental disabilities, ranging from adjustment difficulties to more chronic medical and psychiatric conditions. Patients come from diverse socioeconomic strata, ethnic, and racial backgrounds. Clinicians evaluate the impact of treatment on patients' symptoms and functioning using standardized assessment measures and provide feedback to patients and families on their progress. Clinicians and trainees also collaborate with many medical services and clinics both within DCMC and in the community. Within these programs, services can include but are not limited to: assessment and treatment for patients presenting a range of acute and chronic medical conditions to address co-occurring mental health issues, difficulty adjusting to a new medical diagnosis, neurodevelopmental differences, and general psychosocial and mental health concerns. Clinicians may also provide ongoing consultation to medical providers as part of interprofessional care teams that include social work, pediatrics, psychiatry, nursing, physical therapy, nutrition, among other disciplines. Since youth are embedded within many social contexts, clinicians work with multiple systems, including families, schools, and communities.

Philosophy and Training Model

The Fellowship is organized so that training activities are provided within a programmatic structure that will satisfy all the clinical, supervisory, and educational requirements necessary to achieve license eligibility upon completion. Emphasis is placed on achieving independence across the 9 profession-wide competencies outlined by the American Psychological Association's Commission on Accreditation, while also providing more depth of training for fellows to develop emerging expertise within their primary areas of clinical concentration. Specific to the fields of pediatric health and clinical child and adolescent psychology, the Fellowship Program aims to prepare fellows for licensure.

Fellows are also encouraged to engage in clinical supervision, teaching, and scholarly productivity, as available, engaging them in a role that emulates their next career steps as clinician-educators within healthcare settings. Fellows are expected to lead at least two pediatric and clinical child/adolescent psychology seminars for the internship class during the year. They are also invited to teach short-courses in evidence-based interventions to first- and second-year psychiatry fellows throughout the year. Fellows are encouraged to develop small quality improvement projects, pilot research studies, and/or educational curricula during their training year. Fellows are required to present one of these projects, or another with prior approval, at a department sponsored research day occurring 8-9 months into the academic year.

Fellowship Training Goals

In completing this postdoctoral fellowship, Fellows will:

1. Develop advanced skills in the assessment and treatment of children and adolescents presenting with acute and chronic behavioral and mental health related needs.
2. Develop a depth of knowledge, experience, and relative expertise within a focused subspecialty area of integrated behavioral health, pediatric psychology, and /or clinical child and adolescent psychology.
3. Learn effective skills for clinical and/or didactic instruction, disseminating knowledge, and evaluating acquisition of knowledge and skills in preparation to become a clinician-educator within a patient care setting.
4. Develop and apply empirically based scholarly inquiry to clinical work, research projects, and/or program development and evaluation.
5. Apply ethical concepts and awareness of legal issues regarding professional activities with individuals, groups, and organizations in increasingly complex situations with developing independence.
6. Demonstrate awareness, sensitivity, and skills in working professionally with diverse individuals, groups and communities who represent various cultural and personal backgrounds and characteristics.
7. Demonstrate professional behavior and comportment that reflect the values and attitudes of psychology.
8. Demonstrate effective communication and engage in productive interpersonal interactions with others.
9. Develop a conceptual foundation and demonstrate emerging professional competencies for clinical supervision.
10. Provide consultation, guidance, or professional assistance to other systems (e.g., medical team, community program, schools) in response to patient needs or goals.

Postdoctoral Fellowship Program Structure

Clinical training, supervision, and teaching for the program are provided by a growing departmental faculty of licensed psychologists and numerous program training partners consisting of licensed psychologists, psychiatrists, clinical social workers, professional counselors, and nurse practitioners. The program is led by the Director of Psychology Training (Sasha Jaquez, PhD, ABPP), who is a licensed psychologist. Dell Med/DCMC Fellowships are full-time, 12-month, clinically focused positions with a minimum of 25% of the Fellow's time spent in patient care; however, most training opportunities for fellows include 50% or more of time dedicated to patient care. Fellows must complete a minimum of 2,000 hours of training and patient-oriented care within the 12-month fellowship period. At least 1,500 of those hours to be completed within the first 9-months, consistent with state license eligibility requirements for Texas and others nationwide. Training experiences are spread across four primary domains. Training experiences are allocated with at least 60% of the fellow's full-time equivalency (FTE) dedicated to a major clinical concentration or rotation. This yearlong experience within the major rotation is intended to build upon the fellow's competence with more personalized mentoring and opportunities to develop independence and an emerging specialization within the defined area of practice. Depending on interest and supervisor availability, minor clinical concentrations may be offered to fellows to fulfill approximately 30% of their training time. The purpose of the minor rotation is to provide opportunities to address any gaps in training or to extend prior training experiences for the fellow before entering the field. Lastly, 10% of the fellowship program is designated for educational and professional development experiences including (1) educational and didactic training activities focusing on evidence-based practices and professional development in pediatric health and clinical child and adolescent psychology, (2) weekly time to set aside to prepare for the Examination for the Professional Practice of Psychology (EPPP), (3) workshops/trainings in health equity and associated areas, and

many optional trainings offered within UT Dell Med Psychiatry & Behavioral Sciences Grand Rounds, Dell Children's Medical Center Pediatric Grand Rounds, and Schwartz Rounds.

In addition to offering advanced clinical experiences, clinical rotations may offer an opportunity to gain mentored supervision by conducting vertical supervision for interns and advanced graduate students.

Description of Training Activities

Postdoctoral Fellowships are offered for three primary training concentrations. Clinical training activities will take place within hospital, specialty care, and telemedicine clinics provided by the Psychology Service at Dell Children's Medical Center.

Fellowship applicants are encouraged to apply to up to two of the following three areas of training:
1) Developmental Disabilities/Autism
2) Inpatient Medical Consultation-Liaison
3) Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) and Cardiac Care Unit (CCU)

Major Training Concentrations

Developmental Disabilities/Autism Concentration

This postdoctoral fellowship concentration is based within the Autism Program at Dell Children's Medical Center. Fellows gain clinical experience across several Dell Children's specialty programs, including the Texas Child Study Center, Pediatric Primary Care, and Developmental-Behavioral Pediatrics. These programs provide diagnostic evaluations, consultation, and therapeutic interventions for children with neurodevelopmental and behavioral concerns. Postdoctoral fellows participate within a team-based approach to diagnosis and monitoring of children with neurobehavioral conditions such as autism spectrum disorder, complex ADHD, speech/language disorders, and developmental delay. Evaluations take place through specialty outpatient services, as well as through an embedded primary care model. Fellows will also participate in evidence-based interventions such as Parent-Child Interaction Therapy (PCIT), RUBI Parent Training, and cognitive-behavioral interventions for children and their families. They receive live supervision and maintain a caseload of preschool through adolescent-age youth presenting with neurodevelopmental disabilities and co-occurring internalizing or externalizing disorders. In addition to providing these interventions, fellows are expected to engage in collaborative clinical practice and interdisciplinary training with medical residents in pediatrics and psychiatry on the rotation.

Inpatient Medical Consultation-Liaison Concentration

The consultation-liaison (C/L) Service provides mental/behavioral health services to medically ill children and adolescents (and certain adults) within most of the inpatient services of Dell Children's Medical Center. Psychologists and trainees provide consultative and liaison services from a behavioral medicine perspective with a focus on (1) helping children and their families cope with and adjust to acute and chronic medical illness, (2) assessing and managing anxiety/depression, or other maladaptive responses associated with their

hospitalization, (3) identifying psychopathology when present, and (4) collaborating with team members from an interprofessional perspective to make appropriate treatment recommendations. The C/L Service is an integrated program, where psychology and psychiatry work together directly to determine how best to support the Dell Children's inpatient population. Psychology attendings and trainees work alongside psychiatry fellows and their attendings as an integrated service for both straightforward and more complex cases. In addition to benefitting patients and families, an ancillary advantage is that trainees in both disciplines are afforded the opportunity to learn from one another through varied interviewing styles and lines of questioning, clinical formulation and organization of differential diagnoses, exposure to additional feedback sources to highlight blind spots, and supervision and feedback from an attending in a different discipline. Trainee supervision is integrated into the service within morning rounds/case presentations, pre-encounter huddles, intra-encounter modeling and reflective practices, and post-encounter debriefings. Service-specific didactics are provided on a regular basis throughout the year.

The inpatient medical consultation-liaison fellow will also participate in the Comfort Ability® Program, an evidence-based, one day workshop that helps adolescents and their caregivers learn how to better manage recurring functional symptoms such as chronic pain (nerve, muscle or joint pain, headaches, abdominal pain, etc.), nausea, dizziness, fatigue and muscle weakness. Workshops are offered monthly as part of the Dell Children's Multidisciplinary Chronic Pain Program. Fellows receive training and supervised experience with a focus on (1) conducting comprehensive biopsychosocial evaluations to assess pain and symptom history, daily functioning, and relevant individual and family factors; (2) providing introductory education on chronic pain and functional symptom management; and (3) co-facilitating adolescent and/or caregiver Workshop groups. There may also be opportunities to provide brief follow-up sessions for caregivers to reinforce workshop skills and refine scaffolding plans developed during the workshop. Fellows may also elect to participate in ongoing Comfort Ability Program research initiatives. Additional information about the program is available at https://www.thecomfortability.com/

Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) and Cardiac Care Unit (CCU) Concentration

This postdoctoral fellowship offers specialized training in perinatal and pediatric psychology at Dell Children's Medical Center (DCMC) within the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) and the Texas Center for Pediatric and Congenital Heart Disease (TCPCHD).

The NICU is one of two Level IV NICUs in the Austin area, and provides care for critically ill, premature, and medically complex infants. DCMC also houses a Specialized Delivery Unit (SDU), allowing pregnant patients with known high-risk fetal conditions to deliver on-site and have immediate access to our specialized NICU. Clinical presentations commonly treated in the NICU include adjustment disorders, acute stress disorder, posttraumatic stress symptoms, postpartum depression (PPD), postpartum anxiety (PPA), postpartum obsessive-compulsive disorder (OCD) symptoms, health anxiety, and other behavioral health concerns arising during the perinatal period.

The TCPCHD program diagnoses, treats, and manages the care of children and adults with heart diseases and defects. The program serves patients and families from fetal life and into adulthood. The interdisciplinary psychosocial team collaborates closely with the medical teams, rehabilitation therapies, and our neurosciences

colleagues. The postdoctoral fellow will join this dynamic psychosocial team and be an integral part of the growth and expansion of the psychosocial services.

Across both settings, fellows will receive comprehensive training in psychological assessment, consultation, and evidence-based psychotherapy for a range of presentations and concerns, including: parents and caregivers navigating the emotional and psychological challenges associated with having a hospitalized infant; parental coping and addressing the psychological impact of medical uncertainty. In the TCPCHD program, fellows will also work with patients and families within general congenital heart surgery and specialty programs such as Heart Failure/Heart Transplant, Adult Congenital Heart Disease, and the Interstage program; and brief surgical evaluations and heart transplant for neonates/ infants and participation in MRBs to discuss candidacy. Fellows also work closely with multiple disciplines including cardiac surgeons, neonatology, cardiology, CCU intensivists, maternal-fetal medicine, nursing, physical and occupational therapy, speech-language pathology, physical therapy, child life, social work, and psychiatry. Across both settings, fellows will develop essential skills in integrated behavioral health and family-centered medical care.

Supervision will be based on a developmental and behavioral skills training model and may also include opportunities to provide supervision to psychology interns, and doctoral students, as well as psychiatry fellows within a vertical supervision model.

Education and Professional Development

Educational, Professional Development, and Didactic Activities

Fellows participate in several dedicated learning activities throughout the year focusing on advanced level training experiences to prepare them for entry level clinician educator roles. In addition to didactic programming to address possible gaps in prior training, educational experiences for fellows' target areas of professional development (e.g., preparation for licensure, interviewing and job negotiations, planning for board certification, etc.), teaching and curriculum design, and scholarly and/or clinical program development. Additional specialized training is also offered that focuses on integrated behavioral health service delivery models and culturally informed, evidence-based practices for pediatric health and clinical child and adolescent oriented patient care.

Licensure Preparation

As the last formal training year for psychology trainees, a priority goal for the program is to prepare fellows to achieve licensure for the independent practice of psychology. To ensure proper documentation of clinical experiences when applying for licensure, fellows must keep track of their patient contact time using Monthly Activity Logs. Copies of these logs should be reviewed with clinical supervisors and will be reviewed regularly by training program leadership. Fellows are encouraged to establish a study schedule to help prepare for the Examination for the Professional Practice of Psychology (EPPP), utilizing dedicated time provided by the training program for educational activities. EPPP study materials may be made available to fellows via electronic documents and folders. Fellows are required to have passed the EPPP before completing the training year.

Scholarship & Research

The fellowship adheres to a scientist-practitioner model, and the integration of research and practice is emphasized. Fellows have opportunities to participate in scholarly projects, including pilot research, program

development/evaluation, and educational curriculum development, as schedules permit and opportunities arise. Accordingly, fellows are required to participate in and contribute to the UT Dell Med Psychiatry & Behavioral Sciences Department Scholarly Day, which typically occurs in April. Fellows are expected to submit a professional poster presentation to reflect their scholarly work within one of four domains: (1) Clinical Research, (2) Case Study/Case Presentation, (3) Educational/Curriculum Innovations, or (4) Quality Improvement/Program Evaluation. Fellows are also encouraged to utilize the support and collaboration of their clinical supervisors and the many professionals and training partners associated with medical school, hospital, and university system.

Salary, Benefits, and Resources

Salary and Benefits

Fellows are employees of the University of Texas at Austin Dell Medical School and thus receive the benefits provided for all full-time staff. The Psychology Fellowship is housed within the UT Dell Med Department of Psychiatry & Behavioral Sciences, but trainees receive appointments for their primary field placement designated by the title "Psychology Postdoctoral Fellow" at Dell Children's Medical Center and its associated partner programs.

The fellowship start date is September 1st and the base salary is $63,480 per year. The official start date is contingent upon successful completion of all required pre-employment processes, including the background check and employee health screening. The specific assignment is for one year, ending on August 31st. The core hours expected are (minimally) 8AM to 5PM, but flexibility is expected to meet the needs of the Department. This position type is Administrative and Professional and is subject to renewal annually. Fellows are considered exempt, salaried staff members, meaning in part that they are exempt from overtime pay.

Fellows are entitled to all employee benefits authorized by the state legislature. Benefit information can be found by visiting http://www.utexas.edu/hr/prospective/benefits.html.

Insurance

Eligible university employees enjoy a variety of insurance options, including employer-paid medical coverage for full-time employees and 50 percent employer-paid medical coverage for part-time employees. Eligible employees may also select dental, vision, short- and long-term disability coverage, and more.

Retirement

The State of Texas offers eligible UT Austin employees two retirement program options: TRS, the Teacher Retirement System of Texas and ORP, the Optional Retirement Program, both of which include generous employer contributions. You may review these programs and how to enroll online at http://www.utsystem.edu/offices/employee-benefits/optional-retirement-program

Time Off

Eligible employees who work at least 20 hours per week for 4.5 continuous months are entitled to multiple paid leave options including Annual Leave (Vacation), Paid Holiday Leave and Sick Leave. Certain employees may also earn compensatory time off, in accordance with Texas state law. Vacation and Sick leave begin accruing on the first day of employment and will continue to accrue on the first of each month after. The number of hours is

based on how much state service you have. Vacation time off can be used when an employee has been employed by the State of Texas for six continuous months. This requirement only needs to be met once during state service employment at any State of Texas agency. Other time off types can be used during the first 6 months.

- 8 hours Vacation earned each month – can be used after 6 months
- 8 hours Sick time earned each month – can be used immediately

Compensatory Time

Employees may earn state compensatory time, when the time/hours worked at the end of the work week exceeds their scheduled weekly hours. These hours can be used similarly to vacation, for a personal day. The state compensatory time expires within one year of accrual.

Holidays

The state legislature determines the number of holidays that UT can observe. Employees are eligible to receive holiday time off in benefits eligible roles. Employees may work on the University Holiday, particularly those who provide patient care within clinics that remain open, and the schedule is determined by the department, clinical supervisors, and care coverage available. The UT holiday schedule can be viewed here.

Floating Holiday

Some years the holiday schedule includes a floating holiday. If it does, you will receive 8 hours of floating holiday time off. If you're less than full-time, you will receive floating holiday leave based on the percentage of hours you're appointed. The floating holiday can be used similarly to a vacation day.

Requirements for Completion of Fellowship

Psychology Fellows will receive a certificate of completion at the end of the training year upon satisfying:

1. Completion of 2000 hours (12-months full time) during the fellowship year.
2. Satisfactory performance and progress in clinical work and professional conduct as measured by bi-annual competency-based supervisory evaluations.
3. Attendance in seminar programs and required meetings.
4. Passing score on the Examination for Professional Practice in Psychology (EPPP)

Application and Selection Procedures

The Training Program currently offers three full-time fellowship positions for the 2027-2028 training year. Dell Med/DCMC adheres to a policy of nondiscrimination in the recruitment of employees or learners. To be eligible, applicants must have completed (or are scheduled to complete) an APA-Accredited Doctoral Internship in Psychology. Applicants are expected to have completed all doctoral requirements, with confirmation of dissertation completion and degree conferral prior to the start of the fellowship start date. The application deadline is December 29, 2026.

A fully completed application includes:

1. A letter of interest indicating the preferred training concentration, specific training goals and interests, and

eligibility for post-doctoral fellowship (i.e. APA accredited internship completion date, dissertation status)
2. Curriculum Vitae
3. Three letters of reference.

Completed application (LOI and CV) materials should be submitted in one PDF to our secure UT Box via this link (https://utexas.app.box.com/f/ed7526b308134f08b91f91ab507a4a12). Use the following naming template for uploaded application materials: Applicant's Last N, First N_application item (ex: Hamilton, Alex_LOI_CV). Additionally, this link should be shared with references for them to directly upload their letters, using the same naming template noted above (ex: Hamilton, Alex_LOR). Please reach out to sdjaquez@ascension.org for any questions or technical difficulties.