Position: Postdoctoral Research Fellow

Employer: Massachusetts General Hospital, Department of Psychiatry; Harvard Medical School

Program Directors:

Conall O’Cleirigh, PhD – Associate Professor, Harvard Medical School; Director, Behavioral Medicine, Department of Psychiatry, Massachusetts General Hospital; Co-Director, Behavioral and Social Science Core, Harvard University Center for AIDS Research. cocleirigh@mgh.harvard.edu

David C. Henderson, MD – Professor and Chair, Department of Psychiatry and Assistant Dean, Diversity and Multicultural Affairs, Boston University School of Medicine; Psychiatrist-in-Chief, Division of Psychiatry, Boston Medical Center. david.henderson@bmc.org

Program Description:

The Boston University Medical Campus (BUMC) – Massachusetts General Hospital (MGH) Global Psychiatry Clinical Research Training Program (T32) is a National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH) funded three-year postdoctoral fellowship that seeks to address the critical shortage of advanced training opportunities for young investigators in the field of global psychiatry and mental health. The goals of the program are to:

- Attract new candidate psychiatrists, clinical psychologists, and public health scientists committed to developing the critical clinical research skills to work effectively across scientific disciplines and political and cultural boundaries.
- Combine scientific mentorship, rigorous didactic training, financial support, supportive institutional environments (domestic and international), and challenging research questions for fellows to begin productive independent research careers in global mental health.
- Train fellows as advocates to help push for a more equitable redistribution of global resources for mental health research and services.
- Provide the opportunity for trainees to progress smoothly from their postdoctoral training to NIH career development awards and junior faculty positions.

Fellows complete a mentored research project at an international training site in Barbados, Ethiopia, Peru, South Africa, Uganda or Ukraine in topics such as addictions, mood disorders, psychotic disorders, PTSD/trauma/complex emergency, HIV mental health, women’s health, and childhood disorders. In addition to these topics, there is a research methods core made accessible to fellows consisting of faculty with extensive experience in clinical trials, qualitative/quantitative research, and implementation science. Fellows utilize a variety of research skills and techniques to understand the scope of a problem, and develop innovative interventions that are feasible, and culturally and clinically relevant to the specific environments and populations. At the end of the third year of the program, fellows are well situated to submit a K-award application. With heavily circumscribed clinical responsibilities, trainees will focus on the refinement of their research projects, developing international collaborations, and strengthening their clinical research skills.

Position Description:
The BUMC-MGH Global Psychiatry Clinical Research Training Program is seeking a postdoctoral fellow who will receive up to three years of dedicated mentorship from Drs. Conall O’Cleirigh, Christina Psaros, and Amelia Stanton, who currently have several projects in sub-Saharan Africa that are focused on developing and testing psychosocial interventions to support engagement and retention in HIV, TB, and cervical cancer cascades of care. The fellow will also develop an independent research project under the guidance and supervision of these US-based mentors, and in collaboration with other primary mentors who are based in sub-Saharan Africa. The fellow will attend didactic lectures, research seminars, journal clubs, and scientific meetings that supplement this intensive and structured research experience. This learn-by-doing approach, combined with the appropriate educational training, provides the critical skills needed for successful career development in global mental health. The postdoctoral fellow will have access to resources across the institutions that are affiliated with the program and with their mentors, including Massachusetts General Hospital, Harvard University, Boston University Medical Center, and Boston University. Upon completion of the program, the fellow will be prepared to serve as a leader in global mental health and equipped to compete for individual training support and faculty positions in academia.

Required Qualifications:
- The candidate must be a citizen or noncitizen national of the United States, or they must have been lawfully admitted for permanent residence at the time of appointment.
- The candidate must have completed their psychiatry residency, possess a PhD in psychology, possess a PhD from an accredited School of Public Health, or possess a PhD in the health sciences to be eligible to apply for this fellowship.
- The candidate must have emerging evidence of research scholarship and a strong interest in conducting intervention development work in sub-Saharan Africa.

To apply, please:
- Email the following materials to Dr. Conall O’Cleirigh (cocleirigh@mgh.harvard.edu) and Dr. Amelia Stanton (stantona@bu.edu), copying Brianna Estrada (bestrada@mgh.harvard.edu), with the subject line “Applicant for T32 fellowship in global psychiatry”: your current CV (including all publications) and a statement of research interest (maximum of 3 pages).

The start date for this position is July 1, 2024. Applications will be accepted until the position is filled.