

**SAN FRANCISCO VA MEDICAL CENTER  
PSYCHOLOGY POSTDOCTORAL RESEARCH FELLOWSHIPS  
Schizophrenia Advanced Psychology Research Fellowship  
2017-2019**



The San Francisco VA Medical Center offers a psychology postdoctoral advanced research fellowship in Schizophrenia. This fellowship is affiliated with the University of California, San Francisco.

The psychology research fellowship focusing on neurobiological mechanisms underlying the symptoms and course of schizophrenia is now accepting applications for post-doctoral fellowships from recent PhDs, MDs, and MD/PhDs.

The Schizophrenia Research Fellowship is associated with the Sierra Pacific MIRECC (VISN 21), affiliated with the University of California, San Francisco, and funded by the Office of Academic Affiliations (OAA), Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). This a two-year Post-Doctoral Advanced Fellowship Program in Mental Health Research and Treatment with a focus on schizophrenia research.

Fellows will work in labs studying the neurobiological mechanisms of the symptoms of schizophrenia and its neuro-developmental and neuro-degenerative course. The core faculty members are basic neuroscientists and psychiatrists, working in genetics, brain imaging, electrophysiology, and neuroplasticity.

Fellows will have extended experience in a laboratory, leading to the submission of research papers and grant proposals. Fellows will be dual-mentored with Research and Career Mentors to guide them both formally and informally, through learning neurobiological methods, producing a body of data, presenting data at national meetings, writing and publishing papers, preparing grant

proposals, and attending local and national workshops on launching and maintaining successful careers in biological psychiatry.

For more information about the Schizophrenia Research Fellowship, please contact Dr. Judith Ford (Judith.Ford@va.gov).

**Schizophrenia Faculty:**

[Judith Ford](#) (Director)

[Susanna Fryer](#)

[Dan Mathalon](#)

[Mike Minzenburg](#)

[Joshua Woolley](#)

**Training Term**

The research fellowships are full-time, two-year, 52 week commitments (2080 hours per year). Research fellows are entitled to 10 federal holidays and earn sick leave and vacation (annual leave) days at a rate of 4 hours of each per two- week pay period (a total of 13 days of each). San Francisco VA also offers generous professional leave for conferences and other approved educational activities. Some fellowships can extend to a third year. Requirements for state licensure as a professional psychologist can be met within some of our research fellowships.

**Stipend and Benefits**

The current stipend is \$50,228 for the first year. State and federal income tax and FICA are withheld from Fellows' checks. Fellows are not covered by Civil Service retirement or leave and are not eligible for federal life insurance benefits. The United States Government covers fellows for malpractice under the Federal Tort Claims Act. VA offers individual and family health insurance plans for fellows on a matching basis, (i.e., fellows pay half of the premium and the VA pays the other half.) On June 26, 2013, the Supreme Court ruled that Section 3 of the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA) is unconstitutional. As a result of this decision, the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) has now extended benefits to employees and annuitants who have legally married a spouse of the same sex. Dental and vision insurance are also available. San Francisco VA Medical Center also offers a public transportation reimbursement program. Fellows are entitled to 10 federal holidays and earn sick leave and vacation (annual leave) days at a rate of 4 hours of each per two-week pay period (a total of 13 days of each). San Francisco VA also offers professional leave for conferences and other approved educational activities.

**Eligibility**

Candidates **MUST** be graduates of APA-accredited doctoral programs in clinical or counseling psychology and **MUST** have completed an APA-accredited internship. All requirements for the doctoral degree must be completed prior to the start of the fellowship year. Persons with a Ph.D. in another area of psychology who meet the APA criteria for respecialization training in Clinical or Counseling Psychology are also eligible. The VA requires that applicants are US Citizens, men have registered for selective service, and all have had varicella infection (“chicken pox”) or vaccination for such prior to the start of the fellowship.

Specific details related to eligibility:

1. U.S. citizenship. VA is unable to consider applications from anyone who is not currently a U.S. citizen. Verification of citizenship is required following selection. All interns and fellows must complete a Certification of Citizenship in the United States prior to beginning VA training.
2. Fellows are subject to fingerprinting and background checks. Match result and selection decisions are contingent on passing these screens.
3. VA conducts drug screening exams on randomly selected personnel as well as new employees. Interns and Fellows are not required to be tested prior to beginning work, but once on staff they are subject to random selection for testing as are other employees.
4. Have received a Doctorate from an APA-accredited graduate program in Clinical or Counseling Psychology. Persons with a doctorate in another area of psychology who meet the APA criteria for respecialization training in Clinical or Counseling Psychology are also eligible.
5. Have completed an internship program accredited by the APA Commission on Accreditation or have completed a VA- sponsored internship.

### **Application Procedure**

To apply for our one of these postdoctoral research fellowships, please submit application materials listed below to Dr. Judith Ford. The application deadline is **December 16, 2016**. Please do not mail any materials in hard copy form.

1. Letter of interest, including a brief summary of educational, research, and clinical research experiences relevant to the fellowship, a summary of your training needs and goals, and a statement of your career goals.
2. Current Curriculum Vitae
3. Three letters of Recommendation
4. A letter of support from your Dissertation chairperson describing your dissertation status and timeline if you have not completed your graduate degree. Dissertations must be complete before the postdoctoral fellowship begins. Please note we will be monitoring dissertation progress and status on a routine basis. All requirements for the doctoral degree must be completed prior to the start of the fellowship year.
5. A letter of support from your current Internship Training Director indicating that you are in good standing to successfully complete your predoctoral internship, including the expected completion date. If internship already completed, you can mail a copy of your predoctoral internship certificate.

### **Contact Information**

Specific questions may be directed to Dr. Judith Ford (Judy.Ford@ucsf.edu).

### **Other Information**

The San Francisco VA's Psychology Research Fellowship Program is affiliated with the University of California, San Francisco.

In accord with the Federal Drug-Free Workplace Program, fellows may be subject to urine testing for illicit drug use. Other branches of the federal government (Office of Personnel Management) may conduct routine background checks at their discretion.

The San Francisco VAMC is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer. All qualified applicants are encouraged to apply, including minorities and women. VA seeks candidates whose experience, teaching, research, or community service has prepared them to contribute to our commitment to diversity and excellence.