



FULL-TIME POSTDOCTORAL RESEARCH SCHOLAR POSITION

The Department of Psychiatry at the University of Connecticut (UCONN) School of Medicine invites applications for a full-time postdoctoral research scholar position in the **Family Adversity and Resilience Research (FARR) program** housed within the Child & Adolescent Psychiatry Division. The FARR program is led by Drs. Damion Grasso, Margaret Briggs-Gowan, and Carolyn Greene. The FARR lab conducts multimodal research that includes psychotherapy efficacy and process research, psychophysiological methodology (EEG/ERP, autonomic), epigenetic/genetic research, longitudinal designs to study developmental psychopathology in high-risk samples, behavioral observation, and experience sampling methodology. The position is initially funded for 2-3 years. Some postdoctoral fellows are successful in transitioning into a faculty position, and this may be a path the postdoctoral fellow may wish to pursue. The position is supported by both NIH and internal funding. While the position is research-focused, there are ample opportunities to accrue supervised clinical hours in assessment and psychotherapy (summarized below). Start date is flexible and salary is negotiable (not constrained by NIH salary caps). Candidates who have completed all of their requirements for their PhD but the degree has not yet been conferred, will be considered.

Family Adversity & Resilience Research (FARR) program. At FARR, we are conducting studies to help us learn ways to promote healthy development in children who have experienced stressful life events and other kinds of adversity. There are currently four active NIH research projects, as well as several other research projects in this broad area.

Adaptation and Resilience in Childhood Study (ARCS). ARCS is a NIMH funded study (U01MH113390; MPIs Grasso/Briggs-Gowan) in the follow-up stage that seeks to elucidate risk and protective factors involved in the emergence of psychopathology among young children (4-6 years) exposed to family violence. Specifically, we are examining individual differences in how young children respond to threat (anywhere from 100 milliseconds to several minutes) with methodologies that include neurophysiology (ERP, EEG), autonomic measures, observational coding, and a puppet interview. Since we are currently focused on analyzing and preparing manuscripts from our baseline data, the postdoctoral fellow will have ample opportunities to be involved in scholarly products.

Parenting Infants in the Pandemic Study (PIPS). PIPS is a NICHD-funded study (R01HD106617; MPIs Briggs-Gowan/Grasso) in the follow-up stage that seeks to gain mechanistic insight into how perinatal pandemic-related stress impacts the caregiving environment and child dysregulation. Study methodology includes a large survey, in-depth virtual interviews, a parent-child observational paradigm, and collection of DNA samples to examine pandemic-related stress and stress-related epigenetic processes. This study will also provide several opportunities for a postdoctoral fellow to contribute to scholarly products.

Randomized Clinical Trial (RCT) of Fathers for Change (F4C). F4C is a novel affect-regulation based intervention designed to reduce family violence and child maltreatment among fathers identified by child protective services. This is a new 5-year dual-site RCT (Yale University/UConn Health) funded by NICHD (R01HD110583; MPIs Grasso/Stover) comparing F4C to an active control condition

(Duluth batterer intervention program). Aims are to examine the efficacy of F4C in reducing family violence and improving child outcomes. Additional aims seek to examine therapeutic change mechanisms with observational coding of sessions. The postdoctoral fellow will be involved in all aspects of this study, including the opportunity to deliver one of the interventions and contribute to data analysis and scholarly products.

Dyadic emotional processes in emerging adolescence (PI Greene). This internally funded pilot study utilizes experience sampling methodology to examine emotional processes hypothesized to contribute to youth's (ages 11-14 years) use of emotion regulation strategies during the critical transition to adolescence among a sample of trauma-exposed families.

Other Research Initiatives. Dr. Grasso has several ongoing and emerging research projects that may be of interest to the postdoctoral fellow. One growing collaboration focuses on gun violence and identifying public health strategies to improve firearm policies and their implementation (with funding from the National Collaborative on Gun Violence Research). Another is emerging pilot work focused on developing and testing a trauma-informed, transdiagnostic youth mentoring model for youth exposed to adversity and violence.

Clinical Opportunities. Co-located with the FARR lab is the Child and Adolescent Outpatient Psychiatry Clinic, which includes medication management, as well as psychotherapy for a range of childhood disorders and a special emphasis on trauma-specific psychotherapy. Utilization of evidence-based psychological treatments is an expectation, as is comprehensive assessment and measurement-based care. The postdoctoral fellow will have opportunities for training in evidence-based models, as well as carrying a caseload of children and adolescents with weekly clinical supervision with Dr. Grasso or Dr. Greene. There are also opportunities to become involved in group therapy sessions.

UConn Health Department of Psychiatry. The Department of Psychiatry is made up of an expanding faculty of more than 60 – about a third of which is comprised of psychologists. Faculty are engaged in cutting-edge clinical and basic research across multiple areas across the lifespan with studies ranging from depression in adults and the geriatric population, pediatric anxiety, Huntington's Disease, the effects of stress and trauma on children and families, and more. UConn Health is also home to the Alcohol Research Center, the longest-funded center at the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (NIAAA). Collaboration among faculty within and outside of the Department of Psychiatry is incredibly strong, as is our collaboration with other Connecticut schools and institutions.

The ideal candidate will have earned a doctoral degree in clinical psychology (APA accredited) by the postdoctoral start date, training in cognitive-behavioral interventions, training in research design and statistical methods, and a strong track record of scholarly contributions. The successful candidate will participate in combined clinical and research activities that include delivery of psychotherapy, clinical evaluations, facilitating laboratory paradigms, data analysis, manuscript preparation, and mentoring student interns. Trainees must attend seminars focusing on developmental psychopathology, addiction, and the responsible conduct of research. It is expected that trainees will author and co-author peer-reviewed journal articles throughout the training period on both interpersonal violence in children, as well as addiction and related topics.

For inquiries and/or to apply for this position, please contact Dr. Damion Grasso at dgrasso@uchc.edu. Applicants must provide: (1) a letter of interest describing training goals, career plans, and research experience, (2) full curriculum vitae, (3) two letters of recommendation, and (4) an official transcript. Review of applications will begin immediately and continue until the position is filled.