Women’s Mental Health Elective Track
Department of Psychiatry, Loyola University Medical Center
Mental Health Service Line, Edward Hines Jr VA Hospital

Loyola University Medical Center and Edward Hines Jr. VA Hospital offer an elective track for specialized psychiatric training in women’s mental health. We are accepting applications for the 2016-2017 academic year, with a start date of July 1, 2016. This is a PGY-IV fellowship, open to PGY-III psychiatry residents in good standing with their current psychiatry residency training program. The fellow will transfer into Loyola University’s Psychiatry Residency Program during the PGY-IV year, and will be eligible for ABPN board certification in General Psychiatry upon graduation. There is no national board certification in the field of women’s mental health.

What is Women’s Mental Health?
As an emerging specialty area, women’s mental health takes into account sex, gender and reproductive influences on psychiatric disorders and their treatment. These include:

- Psychiatric disorders related to the menstrual cycle, the perinatal period and perimenopause
- Psychiatric/gynecologic comorbidities, such as pelvic pain and dyspareunia in the context of sexual trauma
- Sex differences in vulnerability to psychopathology
- Sex differences in pharmacokinetics
- Gender-linked traumas, such as sexual abuse and intimate partner violence
- Gender roles and gender-linked interpersonal patterns

The Hines/Loyola Women’s Mental Health Elective track is one of approximately 9 such programs in the United States.

It offers the unique experience of working in a collaborative care Women’s Health Clinic that includes women’s health primary care physicians, a gynecologist, women’s mental health psychiatrists, social workers, a psychologist, a clinical pharmacist and a nutritionist. This elective track includes a particular focus on the mental health needs of women veterans, a unique and growing population.

Clinical Rotations
Clinical training occurs at three different sites:

- The Loyola University High-Risk Perinatal Mood Disorder Clinic
- The Hines VA Women’s Health Clinic
- The Hines VA Mental Health Clinic

Clinical Experiences

- Psychiatric evaluations and treatment as part of a collaborative care team in the Hines Women’s Health Clinic. This includes learning about, and participating in, collaborative care techniques such as warm handoffs, curbsides, shared medical records, and multidisciplinary meetings.
- Evidence-based women’s mental health psychotherapy, such as psychotherapy for perinatal loss, fear of pelvic exams, midlife role transitions. Telepsychiatry (psychiatric care delivered via secure videoconferencing from the patient’s home) for patients unable to travel to Hines (e.g. patients with no child care arrangements, or those on bed rest while pregnant).

Didactics
Women’s Mental Health resident fellows attend all PGY-IV didactic lectures that are a part of the core curriculum for general Loyola psychiatry residents including a Women’s Mental Health Seminar. In addition, Women’s Mental Health resident fellows have the opportunity to teach women’s mental health to Internal Medicine residents.

Career development projects
Women’s Mental Health fellows each complete a career development project, the nature of which depends on their educational objectives and career aspirations. It could include designing and completing a research project, participating in an existing research project, co-authoring a journal article or book chapter or other activities agreed upon with their supervisor.

Eligibility and Application Requirements
PGY-III residents in good standing with their current training program may apply. Residents will be expected to obtain a temporary Illinois medical and controlled substance license.

For any questions related to Women’s Mental Health elective track, please contact:

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