



**POSTDOCTORAL FELLOWSHIP IN  
FORENSIC PSYCHOLOGY**

**2022-2023**

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# POSTDOCTORAL FELLOWSHIP IN FORENSIC PSYCHOLOGY

## **OVERVIEW: MUSC & THE COMMUNITY & PUBLIC SAFETY DIVISION (CPSPD)**

The Medical University of South Carolina (MUSC) opened in 1824 and served as a small private college specialized in training physicians. Today, MUSC serves the State of South Carolina as a state university with a medical center and six colleges which excel in educating a broad range of health professionals, biomedical scientists, and additional health personnel. MUSC was named the top overall hospital in the state of South Carolina by U.S. News & World Report! Additionally, MUSC's Ear, Nose, and Throat Center has been ranked as being among the best in the nation!

The Community & Public Safety Psychiatry Division (CPSPD) is a division within the larger Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences Department in the College of Medicine at the Medical University of South Carolina (MUSC). The CPSPD consists of several specialty programs including the Forensic Psychiatry Program (FPP), the Progressive Professionals Program (PPP), the Sexual Behaviors Clinic and Lab (SBCL), the Youth and Family Forensic Program (YFFP), and the Public Safety & Emergency Services Program. The CPSPD also includes the Community Clinical Services Center, which provides local and statewide outpatient mental health care on the MUSC campus, in the community, within institutional settings, and via telepsychiatry to local and state agencies. The CPSPD demonstrates a commitment to education and innovation with the Education and Training Program and the Research Studies currently operating within the division. Diana Mullis, M.D., serves as Director of the CPSPD. All specialty programs are detailed in the relevant sections below.

## **OVERVIEW: POSTDOCTORAL FELLOWSHIP IN FORENSIC PSYCHOLOGY**

The Postdoctoral Fellowship in Forensic Psychology at MUSC is a 12-month program that provides a diverse training experience in areas relevant to both mental health and legal domains. Our program is committed to educating clinicians in the theoretical and practical aspects of forensic psychology while simultaneously providing an invaluable service to the state of South Carolina. As major strength of the fellowship, fellows are required and encouraged to gain exposure to a wide variety of both criminal and civil evaluations with both adults and juveniles through the array of programs offered within the CPSPD.

Our program consists of core components, which reflect best practices in the field, and elective opportunities which will allow fellows to explore areas in which they have had limited exposure. We work to prepare fellows to enter the field as exceptional and ethical forensic psychologists with a wide array of specialized skills. Furthermore, we offer guidance to fellows to help them find their place in an ever-changing and growing field.

For the forensic evaluation core experience, our program exposes fellows to both criminal and civil and state and non-state forensic evaluations to round out the range of case exposure. Fellows become highly familiar with state cases through our contract with the South Carolina

Department of Mental Health. The CPSPD is contracted to provide competency to stand trial and criminal responsibility/ capacity to conform evaluations for 9 counties in South Carolina. Through this contract, fellows gain experience conducting court-ordered evaluations in these areas with both adults and juveniles. Additionally, fellows will participate in non-state contracted criminal cases referred to our office from various agencies.

Non-state cases may include several types of evaluations including criminal responsibility (CR), competency to stand trial (CST), independent medical and malpractice, adoption evaluations, child custody evaluations, parental fitness, termination of parental rights, juvenile transfer/reverse transfer evaluations, adoption evaluations, disability claim assessments, worker's compensation evaluations, pre-employment evaluations, conservator and guardianship evaluations, sexual behavior evaluations, sexually violent predator (SVP) statute civil commitment and release evaluations, fitness-for-duty evaluations, and other forensic consulting. Fellows will gain exposure to the specific CPSPD programs listed and the aforementioned types of cases will be assigned as the fellow's experience and skill allow. The frequency with which each type of case will be assigned is based upon the rate of referrals in each given program. A fellow's training can be tailored to fit specific professional interests. At MUSC, we also provide Consultation Liaison services to the Institute of Psychiatry and the Medical University Hospital for issues such as violence and suicide risk assessment.

Didactics include a weekly landmark case law series and courses relevant to the intersection of law and mental health. Mock trials and testimony observation are utilized to prepare fellows to present testimony in court. As part of the academic component of the program, fellows complete a research project (paper, local, regional, national, or international presentation, etc.). Fellows will gain experience providing some teaching and supervision to visiting students and/or medical students on a rotation in the CPSPD. Satisfactory completion of this fellowship program meets postdoctoral supervised practice requirements for licensure in the state of South Carolina.

The American Board of Professional Psychology (ABPP) is the primary organization charged with specialty board credentialing in the field of psychology. The American Board of Forensic Psychology (ABFP) is a part of ABPP and is responsible for the forensic psychology specialty certification process. Board Certification or the ABPP credential is recognized as the standard of competence in forensic psychology. Board certification in Forensic Psychology is a rigorous three-step credentialing process and provides peer and public recognition that one has obtained competence as a specialist in the field of forensic psychology. The waiver obtained by our program allows graduates to apply for the ABPP credential upon completion of fellowship and waives the requirement that one must practice in the field for five years prior to becoming eligible to apply.

## **THE AREA**

Founded in 1670, Charleston is a beautiful, water-front city that serves as a popular vacation destination. Charleston is well known for its rich history, well-preserved architecture, celebrated restaurant community, and mannerly people. Our French Quarter and Battery areas are enjoyed by individuals nationwide. Condè Nast ranked Charleston the #1 City in the US for the 4th Year! In addition, the city has been named the Top Destination in the World!

Discover a place where the past is still present, where gas-lit lamps flicker in the warm southern breezes. Cobblestone streets pave the way to intriguing boutiques and exquisite dining. Encounter historic houses and museums, attractions, pristine beaches, and world-class golf in one destination that has been welcoming visitors for more than 300 years.

Lovingly-preserved homes, churches, and public buildings line the tree-shaded streets, serving as a living testament to the city's illustrious past. History is literally found around every corner, providing a focal point for a visit to this intriguing city. Much of the Historic District includes Charleston's original commercial areas, allowing visitors to enjoy a leisurely walk to fine galleries, boutiques, and restaurants.

## **HOW TO GET HERE**

*Charleston International Airport:* Charleston International Airport (CHS) is centrally located in the Charleston, S.C. metropolitan area and provides a first impression of the local community to the nearly 3 million passengers annually coming to the South Carolina Lowcountry for business and leisure activities. CHS flies nonstop to 24 airports and 19 cities in the United States and Canada. Airlines include Alaska Airlines, American Airlines, Delta Air Lines, JetBlue Airlines, Porter Airlines, Silver Airways, Southwest Airlines, United Airlines, and US Airways.

*Amtrak:* The Charleston Amtrak station is a train station located in North Charleston, South Carolina, and is served by Amtrak, the national railroad passenger system. The North Charleston station was originally built by the Atlantic Coast Line Railroad in 1956, after a fire destroyed Charleston Union Station in 1947.

## **DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF CPSPD PROGRAMS**

### **FORENSIC PSYCHIATRY PROGRAM (FPP)**

Forensic psychology and psychiatry are fields focused on the intersection of mental health and the legal system. The FPP provides assessment and consulting services to criminal and civil legal entities and supports the year-long forensic psychiatry and forensic psychology fellowship training programs. Furthermore, forensic research is conducted within the FPP, and projects have received federal, state, and private foundation funding support.

Consulting and evaluation services span the forensic field with expertise in civil and criminal case work, such as competency to stand trial, criminal responsibility, capacity to conform behavior, mitigation, risk assessment, impact of traumatic brain injury, malpractice, guardianship, and conservatorships. The FPP accepts cases from across the entire state of South Carolina. Additionally, the FPP is contracted with the South Carolina Department of Mental Health Forensic Services Center to provide competency to stand trial, criminal responsibility, and capacity to conform behavior evaluations for multiple counties in South Carolina. Through this contract, fellow gain experience conducting court-ordered evaluations in these areas with both adults and juveniles.

## **PROGRESSIVE PROFESSIONALS PROGRAM (PPP)**

The Progressive Professionals Program (PPP) is a comprehensive evaluation, intervention, and monitoring service for professionals referred for evaluations related to employment. Along with pre-employment evaluations, the PPP conducts evaluations related to problematic workplace conduct. The PPP conducts comprehensive Fitness-for-Duty evaluations to provide expertise on the extent, nature, and severity of the presenting issue and offers recommendations for intervention, treatment, and compliance monitoring. Specifically, services are available for assessing professional sexual misconduct, substance abuse and dependence, verbal and physical aggression, and cognitive impairment. Evaluations are conducted at an MUSC facility located outside of the main campus to facilitate the privacy of the professionals receiving services. The PPP has experience serving state medical and other health care professional licensing boards, hospital systems, physician residency programs, graduate medical students, the federal government, an aircraft production corporation, law enforcement agencies, and private corporations.

The PPP clinical team consists of a multidisciplinary array of specialists including physicians, psychologists, a licensed professional counselor, and social workers. Team members include experts with board certifications in Forensic Psychiatry, Addiction Psychiatry, Neurology, Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, and General (Adult) Psychiatry. We also have a neurocognitive psychologist, polygraph examiner and former sworn law enforcement professional on staff to provide evaluation services for indicated cases. Diana Mullis, M.D., serves at the Director of MUSC's PPP. Dr. Mullis is a board-certified adult and forensic psychiatrist, who along with the multidisciplinary team of specialists have years of experience in this field of practice.

## **SEXUAL BEHAVIORS CLINIC AND LAB (SBCL)**

The SBCL is specifically designed and operates to evaluate and treat human sexual behavior disorders to include paraphilic disorders and other problematic, abusive, and criminal offense activities for clinical, forensic, and research purposes. The SBCL includes the use of clinical and forensic interviewing techniques with the capacity for digital, audio, and video recording; psychological assessment; and physiological assessment (to include penile plethysmography, photovaginal plethysmography, visual reaction time assessment, and polygraph examination).

The SBCL includes a penile plethysmography (PPG) examination lab certified as a "Clinical and Research Laboratory" by Limestone Technologies. The Research certification is the highest level possible. It is one of only two such certified labs in South Carolina and one of the few on the East Coast. The SBCL is also one of the few labs in North America with the technical capacity to conduct photovaginal plethysmography.

Treatment within the SBCL is weekly group therapy for individuals charged with or convicted of sexual offenses and fellows have the option to participate in the provision of the group treatment. There are also opportunities to provide individual sexual behavior/ general therapy under supervision in the SBCL.

The SBCL has provided services to: criminal, civil, and family court systems; other state agencies including the South Carolina Attorney General, Department of Mental Health, Department of Juvenile Justice, and Department of Social Services; and individual and institutional treatment providers. The SBCL conducts both treatment and forensic evaluations to include evaluations for the South Carolina Sexually Violent Predator Act civil commitment and release proceedings.

## **YOUTH & FAMILY FORENSIC PROGRAM (YFFP)**

The YFFP provides assessment and consulting services for juvenile and family related matters to assist in family/ juvenile court matters. These services span the forensic field with expertise related to dissolution of marriage, child protection, legally-involved youth, and adoption (e.g., child custody, termination of parental rights, parental fitness, adoption, juvenile transfer, and juvenile reverse transfer). The YFFP team includes professionals from multiple disciplines, including a psychiatrist, psychologist, and professional counselor, all of whom have training and expertise in child development and parenting interventions. Doctoral evaluators have completed formal forensic specialty training.

## **COMMUNITY CLINICAL SERVICES CENTER**

The Community Clinical Services Center provides outpatient mental health care on the MUSC campus and at community and institutional settings locally and around the state; conducts research relevant to community mental health services; supports student, resident and fellow education; and provides general clinical telepsychiatry services to local and state agencies. It is important to note that forensic psychology fellows are not assigned to the Community Clinical Service Center during the course of their fellowship year given the focus of this program on forensic evaluation (with the exception of South Carolina Department of Corrections). As such, information is included for reference only. Clinical settings include the following:

*Community Psychiatry Clinic:* The mission of Community Psychiatry Clinic is to provide high quality clinical care to members of our community in need. We offer services to adults, children, and their families. We collaborate with providers throughout the health system in order to deliver comprehensive and evidenced based behavioral health treatment. Our team consists of mid-doctoral level clinicians from multiple health care disciplines.

*General Adult Residency Clinic:* The mission of the General Psychiatry Clinic is to provide psychiatric outpatient care to adults in the local community and to support an environment that promotes clinical education under the supervision of teaching faculty members for third and fourth-year general psychiatry residents. Training includes the development of diagnostic skills and treatment planning, along with the use of various psychotherapy techniques and appropriate psychopharmacological agents. The training experience aims to help residents acquire critical practice management skills applicable to a real-world setting.

*South Carolina Department of Corrections (SCDC):* The CPSPD provides psychiatric medication management services at clinics on-site in two SCDC institutions and via telepsychiatry to other institutions around the state. Additionally, CPSPD provides psychological

testing, psychological autopsy evaluation, case management, crisis assessment, and group therapy services for SCDC.

*South Carolina Department of Juvenile Justice (SCDJJ):* The CPSPD provides psychiatric medication management services on-site in an SCDJJ facility and conducts the psychiatric component of assessments at one of the SCDJJ evaluation centers.

## **EDUCATION AND TRAINING PROGRAM**

The CPSPD promotes education through the implementation of a variety of training opportunities. Opportunities include a Postdoctoral Fellowship in Forensic Psychology and a Forensic Psychiatry Fellowship. The CPSPD also serves as a training site for medical students, physician residents and fellows, social work trainees, and undergraduate criminal justice students.

*Postdoctoral Fellowship in Forensic Psychology:* The Postdoctoral Fellowship in Forensic Psychology at MUSC is a 12-month program that offers a wide array of training opportunities pertaining to criminal and civil legal proceedings. Fellows learn through practical application and a series of didactic training seminars. Fellows in the Forensic Psychology and Forensic Psychiatry Programs share didactic trainings and work closely to facilitate peer learning. The postdoctoral fellowship in forensic psychology program is described in detail below.

*Forensic Psychiatry Fellowship:* The Forensic Psychiatry Fellowship at MUSC is a 12-month accredited program that provides a diverse training experience in areas where psychiatry is applied to legal issues. The program is committed to educating clinicians in both the theoretical and practical aspects of forensic psychiatry.

*Medical Student and Resident Curriculum Elective Courses:* The CPSPD provides didactic and/or clinical instruction in the general and child & adolescent psychiatry residencies, the addiction psychiatry fellowship and the psychology internship. In addition, the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences offers third- and fourth-year medical students and residents several elective clinical and lab courses in forensic psychiatry.

## **RESEARCH STUDIES**

The CPSPD values innovation and strives to contribute to the wealth of knowledge in the fields of forensic psychology and psychiatry. Projects are supported by federal, state, and private grants. Principle Investigators include CPSPD faculty with a history of federal, state, and private foundation funding support.

## **POSTDOCTORAL FELLOWSHIP TRAINING**

### **TRAINING EXPERIENCES**

Fellows will gain exposure to a variety of experiences necessary to form a well-rounded foundation for a career as a Forensic Psychologist. To this end, we have developed a core

curriculum consisting of forensic evaluation, psychological assessment, treatment, supervision, and a didactic and case law seminar series. Specialized elective opportunities are available based upon each fellow's interest. Fellows will also gain exposure to expert testimony through observation, mock-trial experiences, and actual testimony as it arises. Location information, a description of the population served, an estimated division of responsibilities, and each core element of the program is discussed below.

**Location:**

Fellows will spend the majority of their work week in the off-campus MUSC location at 29 Leinbach Drive in Charleston, SC. The off-campus office consists of several interview rooms, faculty and fellow offices, a penile plethysmography (PPG) examination lab, and space dedicated to psychological testing, telepsychiatry, group treatment, and research. Interview rooms are equipped with video surveillance and other features to ensure safety. Examinees are generally transported to our location for evaluation and the majority of evaluations take place on-site. Fellows and supervisors will infrequently be required to travel to an alternative location for forensic evaluation or consultation. Additionally, participation in certain elective rotations may require more frequent off-site training and consultation.

**Population Served:**

At MUSC, fellows have the unique opportunity to interface with a diverse group of juvenile and adult clients experiencing a wide range of psychopathology. Examinees may present with serious mental illness (acute or in remission), substance use disorders, behavioral disorders, mood disorders, anxiety disorders, neurocognitive disorders, and/or personality disorders. Fellows will evaluate examinees currently residing within various levels of care and correctional settings. Detained individuals may be transported for evaluation by various agencies to include Sherriff's Offices, County Police, the Department of Juvenile Justice, or the South Carolina Department of Corrections. Examinees on bond will present independently for scheduled evaluation. Consultation services regarding suicide and violence risk are provided to MUSC's inpatient acute units as needed.

**Estimated Division of Responsibilities:** Specified percentages of effort serve as an estimate and may vary depending on cases referred.

State criminal cases (CST, CRCC)	60%
Non-state cases and consultation	15%
Psychological Testing	5%
Forensic Treatment	5%
Supervision	5%
Didactics and Case Law	5%
Research	5%

## **Core Training Experiences:**

*Forensic Evaluation:* Fellows gain exposure to a variety of criminal and civil forensic evaluation services throughout their training year. Specifically, we provide state contracted services, as well as consultation and evaluation of non-state criminal and civil matters. Evaluation types will include a heavy focus on Competency to Stand Trial (CST) and Criminal Responsibility and Capacity to Conform Conduct (CRCC) evaluations. Fellows with an interest in juvenile populations will have the opportunity to conduct juvenile Competency to Stand Trial evaluations for Family Court intermittently throughout the duration of their training year.

Fellows are expected and encouraged to participate in several non-state forensic evaluations during the course of the training year. Faculty within the CPSPD offer forensic evaluation services that focus on varying areas to include child custody, parental fitness, termination of parental rights, adoption, juvenile transfer/reverse transfer, disability, worker's compensation, pre-employment, conservator and guardianship, independent medical and malpractice, adoption, sexual behavior, sexually violent predator statute civil commitment and release, and fitness-for-duty. As mentioned above, fellows will gain exposure to the specific CPSPD programs listed and the aforementioned types of cases will be assigned as the fellow's experience and skill allow. The frequency with which each type of case will be assigned is based upon the rate of referrals in each given program. Supervisors will put forth effort to assign specific types of cases to fellows based upon expressed interest.

*Psychological Assessment:* Fellows will gain experience conducting forensic psychological assessment under supervision of a licensed psychologist. Frequency of psychological assessment services provided is largely dependent on referrals requested. Referral questions generally consist of malingering assessment and personality assessment; however, additional referral questions may arise. To that end, fellows will become proficient in the use of several psychological assessment tools used to identify feigning and malingering. Measures commonly used include the Miller Forensic Assessment of Symptoms Test (M-FAST), Structured Interview of Reported Symptoms, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition (SIRS-2), Inventory of Legal Knowledge (ILK), Test of Memory Malingering (TOMM), and Validity Indicator Profile (VIP). Fellows will also become familiar with additional specialized psychological testing instruments used in specific forensic evaluations (e.g. child custody and sexual behavior).

Fellows will become familiar with the use of structured forensic assessment instruments such as the MacArthur Competence Assessment Tool- Criminal Adjudication (MacCAT-CA), the Evaluation of Competency to Stand Trial- Revised (ECST-R), and the Rogers Criminal Responsibility Assessment Scales (R-CRAS). Knowledge and clinical application of such assessments will further assist in establishing an in-depth skill base relative to assessing various psycholegal constructs. Fellows may also gain experiences in violence risk assessment if asked to provide consultation regarding dangerousness to inpatient acute units. Commonly used instruments include the Historical Clinical Risk Management-20, Version 3 (HCR-20 V3), and the Violence Risk Appraisal Guide (VRAG).

*Expert Testimony:* Given the nature of forensic evaluation, fellows may be asked by the court to testify regarding psycholegal issues (e.g. competency to stand trial, criminal responsibility, child

custody, etc.). As these opportunities arise, fellows will work with their supervisors to prepare for testimony. Throughout the course of the fellowship year, additional opportunities will arise in which fellows will be given the opportunity to observe senior faculty providing expert testimony. Fellows will also participate in one to two mock trials in which they will have the opportunity to practice the skills necessary to become proficient in providing expert testimony.

*Research:* Although not a primary focus of this fellowship, fellows are required to participate in scholarly research activities during the course of their postdoctoral training year. Fellows may request to join with faculty to work towards pre-existing research goals or initiate a project of their own. Fellows are required to participate in one scholarly presentation during the course of their training year. This presentation may be related to the aforementioned research activities as fellows' interests dictate. Attendance and submission to the American Psychology-Law Society (AP-LS) conference is strongly encouraged. As such, funding for attendance to AP-LS is provided.

*Forensic Treatment:* Opportunities vary as need arises. Please inquire if interested.

## **SUPERVISION**

A licensed clinical psychologist with specialty training in forensic psychology serves as the primary clinical supervisor. The primary supervisor will provide a minimum of one hour of supervision each week focusing on forensic casework, psychological assessment, research activities, and professional development. Additional supervision will be provided by several other faculty members within the CPSPD depending on the type of case assigned. See below for a brief description of each faculty member associated with the Postdoctoral Fellowship in Forensic Psychology at MUSC.

## **EDUCATION AND DIDACTICS**

Teaching and educating fellows serves as a top priority within the CPSPD. As such, a seminar series has been developed in which fellows will learn through presentations, videotapes, and hands-on-experience. Presenters from MUSC and associated agencies and universities will speak on a variety of topics relevant to forensic psychology. A landmark case law series will mirror the didactic series and serves to increase the fellows' familiarity with landmark cases pertaining to mental health and forensic psychology.

## **EVALUATION AND FEEDBACK**

Clinical supervisors formally evaluate fellows quarterly during the course of their training year. Specific areas of strength and areas in need of continued growth are noted. Feedback is provided directly to the fellow and serves as an opportunity to identify areas of focus for the remainder of the training year. At the conclusion of the fellowship, fellows are again provided feedback from their clinical supervisors. This final evaluation aims to highlight the fellows' accomplishments and help to continue to facilitate growth as they prepare to begin working as an early career psychologist. Similarly, clinical supervisors welcome feedback throughout the duration of the fellow's training year.

## **INTERDISCIPLINARY APPROACH**

The MUSC Postdoctoral Fellowship in Forensic Psychology offers fellows a unique and valuable opportunity with regard to interdisciplinary training. The above fellowship has been designed to operate in conjunction with the MUSC Forensic Psychiatry Fellowship, which allows fellows from each discipline to work alongside one another for the entirety of their training year. This design affords each fellow an opportunity to learn from the other given his or her respective expertise. In addition to the benefits associated with peer learning, fellows will work alongside psychologists, psychiatrists, licensed professional counselors, social workers, and several other disciplines.

## **FELLOWSHIP TRAINING DIRECTOR AND COORDINATOR:**

### ***Fellowship Training Director:***

*Sheresa Christopher, Ph.D., ABPP:* Dr. Christopher attended Pacific Graduate School of Psychology at Palo Alto University (PAU) where she earned a Forensic Psychology Emphasis Certificate, a Master's Degree in Clinical Psychology, and a Doctor of Philosophy in Clinical Psychology. She attended a pre-doctoral internship at the University of Massachusetts and Worcester Recovery Center and Hospital and completed a Postdoctoral Fellowship in Forensic Psychology at Augusta University in a partnership with East Central Regional Hospital. Dr. Christopher currently holds an academic position as Assistant Professor within the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences at the Medical University of South Carolina (MUSC). She serves as the Director of the Postdoctoral Fellowship in Forensic Psychology and is actively involved in providing supervision to fellows in the Forensic Psychiatry Fellowship Program. Dr. Christopher also serves as the Director of the Youth and Family Forensic Program within the CPSPD at MUSC. Dr. Christopher is a Specialist of the American Board of Professional Psychology and a Fellow of the American Academy of Forensic Psychology.

Dr. Christopher primarily conducts forensic evaluations with juveniles and adults pertaining to several psycho-legal issues (e.g. competency to stand trial, criminal responsibility, parental fitness, child custody, etc.) and provides expert testimony relevant to questions assessed. She provides psychological assessment services, conducts psychological autopsy evaluations of decedents, and provides consultation regarding violence risk to providers within the MUSC Institute of Psychiatry (IOP). Dr. Christopher is the Chair of the American Psychology-Law Society (APLS) Social Media Committee. Professional and research interests include justice-involved youth, forensic evaluation in family court, and trauma-informed care. She is particularly interested in the psychological and behavioral sequelae of trauma exposure in youth in the juvenile justice system and associated treatment methodologies.

***Fellowship Program Coordinator: TBD for the 2022-2023 training year.***

## **FACULTY AND STAFF**

Faculty in the CPSPD include professionals from multiple disciplines including physicians, psychologists (clinical, neurocognitive and forensic), social workers, professional counselors, a plethysmography lab technician and a polygraph examiner. There are also several key administrative personnel including the CPSPD Administrative Coordinator, Forensic Psychiatry Fellowship Coordinator, administrative assistants and reception desk staff. It is important to note that only the faculty and staff directly involved in the fellowship are listed herein. The CPSPD has many additional faculty and staff members who serve as active and vital parts of the larger division. Please reference the website for additional information about key personnel in the CPSPD Community Clinical Services Center.

***CPSPD Team Members:***

*Diana M. Mullis, M.D.:* Dr. Mullis is the Director for the Community and Public Safety Psychiatry Division and holds rank of Clinical Associate Professor with the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences at the Medical University of South Carolina (MUSC). She also holds the position as a Medical Director for the Mental Health Integrated Center for Clinical Excellence (MH-ICCE). Dr. Mullis is Board-certified in Psychiatry and Forensic Psychiatry. She completed her residency training in Psychiatry and Fellowship in Forensic Psychiatry at MUSC. Prior to her psychiatric training and subsequent practice in the field of Psychiatry, she practiced several years as a board-certified physician in the field of Emergency Medicine.

Dr. Mullis maintains a clinical practice and actively participates as a faculty member to train and supervise medical students, residents, and fellows. Dr. Mullis is experienced in performing criminal and civil evaluations for the defense and plaintiff, including competency to stand trial, criminal responsibility, and diminished capacity. She also has experience in performing evaluations for mitigation; violence risk assessments; fitness for duty; Independent Medical Evaluations; standard of care and malpractice case analysis; emotional harm and disability; working with public safety officers; and providing correctional medical care.

*Christopher S. Fields, M.D.:* Dr. Fields is an Assistant Professor and the Fellowship Director for the Forensic Psychiatry Fellowship at MUSC. He is Board Certified in Psychiatry, Child & Adolescent Psychiatry, and Forensic Psychiatry. Dr. Fields completed Fellowships in Forensic Psychiatry and Child & Adolescent Psychiatry at Emory University School of Medicine in Atlanta. Dr. Fields has experience with adult populations on forensic issues, including: competency to stand trial, criminal responsibility, mitigation, disability and Independent Medical Examinations. Prior to his current work at MUSC, Dr. Fields served as medical director for a large residential psychiatric treatment facility for children in Atlanta, GA. In addition to his forensic work, Dr. Fields has clinical roles at MUSC running an acute adult psychiatric unit and providing outpatient treatment for children and adolescents.

*Emily Gottfried, Ph.D.:* Dr. Gottfried is a clinical forensic psychologist in the MUSC Community and Public Safety Psychiatry Division (CPSPD). In this capacity, Dr. Gottfried completes forensic evaluations for the courts, including competency to stand trial, criminal responsibility, and fitness for duty/pre-employment psychological evaluations. She serves as the Director of the MUSC Sexual Behaviors Clinic and Lab (SBCL) and conducts evaluations of sexual behavior. She also provides expert testimony to the courts. As the Director of CPSPD Student Education and Research, she provides clinical and research supervision and mentoring to

students (undergraduate, medical, psychiatry residents, psychology interns, and psychiatry and psychology forensic fellows). Nationally, Dr. Gottfried is the Chair of the American Psychology-Law Society (APLS) Professional Development of Women Committee; the Treasurer of the APA Society 12 (Clinical Psychology) Division IX (Assessment); and the Secretary of the South Carolina Chapter of the Association of the Treatment of Sexual Abusers (SC ATSA). Dr. Gottfried is a licensed clinical psychologist in the states of South Carolina and Georgia and is a National Register Health Service Psychologist. Her research interests include sexual offender risk assessment, the Sexually Violent Predator (SVP) Act, physiological assessment of male and female sexual arousal, and improving the predictive validity of forensic-specific assessment instruments.

*E. Thomas Lewis, III, MD:* Dr. Thomas Lewis is an addiction and forensic psychiatrist and assistant professor in the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences at the Medical University of South Carolina (MUSC). His areas of clinical interest include inpatient crisis stabilization and detox, medication assisted treatment for addiction, recovering professionals, and forensic evaluations for a variety of criminal and civil settings. Dr. Lewis also supervises and teaches medical students, residents, and fellows. He completed a Bachelor's of Science in Biochemistry at Queens University of Charlotte. He then went on to complete medical school, general psychiatry residency, addiction psychiatry fellowship, and forensic psychiatry fellowship at MUSC.

Dr. Lewis is actively involved in organizational psychiatry. He is a South Carolina representative to the American Psychiatric Association Assembly. He also serves on the executive committee of the South Carolina Psychiatric Association. Dr. Lewis is also involved in a variety of research projects focused on better understanding addiction-related issues in forensic settings. He is co-chair of the research committee for the American Academy of Addiction Psychiatry. Dr. Lewis has also been certified through the court as an expert witness in forensic psychiatry within the state of South Carolina.

*Abby L. Mulay, Ph.D.:* Dr. Mulay is a licensed clinical psychologist and Clinical Instructor in the Community and Public Safety Psychiatry Division in the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences of the Medical University of South Carolina (MUSC). Dr. Mulay obtained her Ph.D. in clinical psychology from Long Island University (Brooklyn Campus). She completed her pre-doctoral internship in clinical psychology (forensic track) at the University of North Carolina School of Medicine/Federal Correctional Complex (Butner, NC). After internship, she completed a postdoctoral fellowship in clinical forensic psychology at MUSC. In her current role at MUSC, Dr. Mulay conducts forensic evaluations (e.g., competency to stand trial, criminal responsibility, pre-employment/fitness for duty), supervises trainees in their forensic work, and delivers clinical services within the South Carolina Department of Corrections (SCDC). In addition to her clinical work, Dr. Mulay has several research projects underway examining issues related to forensic evaluation. She also studies the clinical utility of the Alternative DSM-5 Model for Personality Disorders (AMPD). Dr. Mulay was recently a co-editor of a book that outlines the use and research support of the AMPD, entitled, *The DSM-5 Alternative Model for Personality Disorders: Integrating Multiple Paradigms of Personality Assessment*. She is an active member of the Society for Personality Assessment and the

American Psychology-Law Society, and she serves as a reviewer for several personality and criminal justice journals.

*William Burke, Ph.D., LPC:* Dr. Burke is the president and clinical director of Southeastern Assessments, which provides forensic evaluations and treatment primarily with sex offenders and individuals with sexual disorders. He is also a Clinical Assistant Professor at the Medical University of South Carolina, Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences. Dr. Burke has personally evaluated and tested over 6,000 sexual offenders. Of those evaluated, approximately 3,000 have undergone a penile plethysmograph study conducted by Dr. Burke or under his direction.

*Kathryn K. VanKirk, Ph.D.:* Dr. VanKirk is a licensed clinical psychologist/staff neuropsychologist at the Ralph H. Johnson Veteran's Administration Medical Center and assistant professor with the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences at the Medical University of South Carolina (MUSC). Presently, she serves as neuropsychologist consultant with the Department of Forensic Psychiatry at MUSC and is also a member of the Violent Behavior Prevention Committee at the Ralph H. Johnson VAMC.

*Joe Secondary, RPSGT, RST, Lab Technician:* Joe Secondary graduated from Laboure College in Boston, MA with a degree in Clinical Neurophysiology. He trained in EEG, SLEEP, EP, EMG, IOM and LTM epilepsy diagnostic studies. He has worked in clinical and research sleep and neurophysiology since 1993. He is a registered Polysomnographic Technologist and has managed sleep centers for over 10 years. Furthermore, he is specialized in sleep lab development and has experience in community and corporate education for sleep disorders and sleep wellness. He has worked at MUSC since June 2010.

*Tim Stephenson, Polygrapher:* Tim Stephenson is a retired law enforcement officer and a Polygraph Examiner in the Department of Forensic Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences at MUSC. He is a graduate of the University of Arkansas Law Enforcement Executive Development Course, the South Carolina Criminal Justice Academy, the FBI Command College, and the Virginia School of Polygraph. He is a past president of the South Carolina Association of Polygraph Examiners and has extensive experience in conducting behavior assessments, credibility assessments and polygraph examinations on a variety of criminal cases. He has been court certified as an expert in law enforcement operations in the Court of General Sessions and Administrative Court. He is an active participant in the teaching program at MUSC providing lectures for medical students, residents, and fellows.

*Kristin Eyre, MSW, LISW-CP:* Ms. Eyre graduated from the University of South Carolina in 2005 with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Criminology and Criminal Justice. Following her undergraduate studies, she attended the University Of South Carolina College Of Social Work, graduating with a Master of Social Work degree in 2009. Ms. Eyre's substantive area of expertise is working within inpatient forensic settings. At the South Carolina Department of Corrections and the South Carolina Department of Mental Health, she worked as a member of acute inpatient multidisciplinary teams providing assessment, treatment and discharge planning for a complex caseload of individuals with numerous biopsychosocial challenges, including criminal charges. While meeting the supervision requirements for Independent Licensure, she

broadened her clinical skills by working as the lead therapist for a structured outpatient program providing services to those diagnosed with cognitive disabilities and those with severe mood disorders. In addition to forensic mental health, Ms. Eyre's interests include outreach and the provision of education regarding forensic mental health to members of the criminal justice community. Ms. Eyre presently works at The Medical University of South Carolina's Community and Public Safety Psychiatry Division, where she assists in forensic evaluations. She is a Licensed Independent Social Worker with a Clinical Practice specialization in the State of South Carolina.

*Heather H. Plunkett, B.A. (Administrative Coordinator):* Ms. Plunkett obtained her B.A. from Charleston Southern University in 1998. Ms. Plunkett has recently joined the CPSPD, bringing with her almost 20 years of combined experience in the Legal and Human Resources fields. Her position provides skilled, high-level administrative support to CPSPD.

*Allison Floyd, B.S. (Administrative Assistant):* Ms. Floyd obtained a B.S. from the University of Central Florida in December of 2005. She provides numerous services to assist CPSPD faculty in conducting forensic evaluations for the legal system.

## **ELIGIBILITY AND APPLICATION PROCESS**

*Eligibility:* Applicants must have a Ph.D. or Psy.D. in Clinical Psychology from an American Psychological Association (APA) accredited graduate program. During the course of obtaining their degree, applicants must have completed an APA-accredited pre-doctoral internship program. If an applicant's degree has not yet been conferred, a letter from the applicant's graduate school specifying degree requirements have been met and the date the applicant's degree will be conferred is required. An applicant's degree must be conferred no later than August 31<sup>st</sup>. Applicants must have strong general clinical training and robust experience with psychological assessment and report writing. Experience working with forensic populations is preferred. The deadline for applications to be submitted in their entirety is January 5<sup>th</sup> of each year. **MUSC is participating in the Uniform Acceptance Date (UAD) process for forensic fellowships.** This year, the anticipated UAD for forensic fellowships is **February 22, 2022.** Although our fellowship may make an offer prior to the UAD, we will not require applicants to accept an offer prior to the determined UAD. *Applicants are nonetheless encouraged to notify a fellowship of their decision as soon as possible, to allow for more efficient management of opportunities.*

## **SELECTION PROCEDURES**

Eligible applicants must complete the application located in appendix A. They are also required to submit a copy of their curriculum vitae, a personal statement (1-2 pages), three letters of recommendation, an official copy of graduate transcripts, and two writing samples (preferably forensic reports, if available). Please submit all application materials in one PDF document to ForensicFellowships@muscedu. Letters of recommendation and official graduate transcripts may also be sent to ForensicFellowships@muscedu or 29-C Leinbach Drive Charleston, SC 29407. Once applications are received, selected applicants will be invited for an in-person interview.

## **COMPENSATION AND BENEFITS**

The salary for this position is based on the funding levels established by the National Institute of Health for doctoral level trainees and will be updated annually. As a point of reference, the salary was \$50,004 for the 2020-2021 training year. In addition to the stipend, MUSC offers a package of fringe benefits that includes health benefits and annual, professional, and sick leave. Furthermore, the CPSPD will pay for fellow attendance at the American Psychology-Law Society (AP-LS) conference in March, as part of the fellowship training. Fellows also benefit by enjoying the relaxing, coastal atmosphere of Charleston, South Carolina.

## **OUTCOMES**

All graduates of the MUSC Postdoctoral Fellowship in Forensic Psychology have successfully obtained employment in the field of forensic psychology and are currently employed with the Department of Social Security, Fourth Judicial District Court Psychology Services, Los Angeles County Department of Health Services Office of Diversion and Reentry, Bridgewater State Hospital, Georgia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities, Center for Behavioral Medicine, and MUSC.



ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

1. License to practice in State(s) of \_\_\_\_\_ License No(s) \_\_\_\_\_ Date(s) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

2. Is there any reason that you could not perform the essential functions of a psychology fellow in the training program at the Medical University of South Carolina with or without accommodation? Yes \_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_

If yes, please explain on a separate sheet the required accommodation and how, with it, you could perform the essential functions of the position.

3. If **not** a U.S. citizen and/or if graduated from a foreign graduate school, please complete the following (if applicable):

Type of Visa \_\_\_\_\_

Do you intend to apply for U.S. citizenship? \_\_\_\_\_

ECFMG Certificate Number \_\_\_\_\_

Attach a copy of the certificate or interim certificate. If you are now in the U.S. give date and port of entry \_\_\_\_\_.

4. Chronological list of most salient activities including publications, academic honors, and any further special training which you have. You may attach a detailed CV instead.

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**Fellowship Appointments:** Applications should be forwarded to [ForensicFellowships@musc.edu](mailto:ForensicFellowships@musc.edu) as one file when possible (e.g., excluding materials that have been sent from the original source). Supporting documentation for this application are to be sent including:

- Application Form**
- Curriculum vitae**
- A personal statement (1-2 pages)**
- Three letters of recommendation**
- Two writing samples (preferably forensic reports)**
- Official copy of graduate transcripts**
- Copy of graduate degree or DCT Letter**