Postdoctoral Fellow
Department of Psychiatry
University of California, San Diego

Start date: As soon as possible; no later than August 1, 2023.

Location: Based in San Diego, CA preferred but not required.

Key responsibilities: Lead and assist in writing manuscripts.

Eligibility: We are prioritizing a close research fit—seeking an individual who is interested in conducting research on how parenting drives changes in substance use or delinquency.

Compensation: Expected $60,000 per year plus benefits

To express interest: Email William Pelham, PhD (wpelham@ucsd.edu) with your curriculum vitae. In the body of the email, describe any relevant qualifications (see below) not visible on the vitae. No further materials are necessary.

We seek applicants for a Postdoctoral Fellow position in the Department of Psychiatry at UC San Diego, to begin as soon as possible. Being on-location in San Diego is preferred but not required. For remote position, the fellow must reside within the U.S. Start date may occur prior to relocation to San Diego.

This position is ideal for a candidate seeking an academic research career and especially who may wish to seek a faculty position at UCSD after completion of the fellowship.

The fellow will be funded on two research projects funded by NIDA and NIAAA, both focused on adolescents. The first project investigates the role of family processes (e.g., parenting, conflict) in the etiology of drinking, drug use, conduct problems, and delinquency across adolescence. The second project focuses on how the COVID-19 pandemic has affected adolescent drinking and drug use patterns.

Both projects comprise secondary data analysis of the ongoing Adolescent Brain and Cognitive Development (ABCD) Study, a national multisite consortium following nearly 12,000 children prospectively from late childhood to young adulthood.

The fellow’s primary responsibilities will be writing manuscripts and conducting statistical analyses. The fellow is expected to be a co-author on all manuscripts resulting from the two research projects and to lead their own papers that are consistent with the Scientific Aims of the projects.

Thus, this position is ideal for someone hoping to increase their publication record during postdoc. We anticipate between 4-8 publications per year arising from these activities.

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Work will be conducted under the primary supervision of Dr. William Pelham, PhD, Assistant Professor of Psychiatry. The fellow will regularly collaborate with and have further mentorship from two senior investigators on both research projects: Dr. Sandy Brown, PhD and Dr. Susan Tapert, PhD. Dr. Brown and Dr. Tapert are nationally renowned experts in adolescent substance use.

The fellow will have access to several training opportunities at UCSD and through the ABCD Study Consortium. UCSD Psychiatry is the 3rd most highly funded department in the U.S., has more than 200 faculty members including national experts in many domains, and devotes extensive resources to postdoctoral training. The fellow may attend UCSD’s biweekly Addiction Seminar, hosted by a NIAAA-funded T32 training program in alcohol research; participate in an annual Psychiatry Grant Writing Seminar and/or career development award (K) writing group; and attend speaker series through Psychiatry Grand Rounds and the Center for Human Development. Through participation in the ABCD Study Consortium, the fellow may gain exposure to senior investigators at 22 study sites across the U.S. and have access to feedback from groups of both domain-matter and biostatistical experts.

The fellow’s participation in grant writing is optional but encouraged. Pathways to a faculty position at UCSD are possible for fellows who secure external funding. The School of Medicine has an exceptional track record of mentoring postdoctoral fellows into funded faculty positions. For example, more than 20 faculty members at UCSD hold active research career development (K) awards from NIDA/NIAAA. The previous fellow in this position successfully competed for and was awarded a 2-year extramural grant.

UC San Diego is considered an exempt setting by the California Board of Psychology. Completion of supervised clinical research as part of this fellowship may count toward supervised professional experience (SPE) hours for clinical licensure in the State of California.

The position includes a generous benefits package (medical, dental, vision).

Required qualifications:
- Doctoral level degree in clinical psychology or related discipline
- Training and/or experience in child/adolescent psychology/psychiatry

Preferred qualifications:
- Evidence of research productivity including first-author publications
- Training and experience in substance use/addiction and/or conduct problems/delinquency
- Training and experience in statistical analysis and research design
- Competencies with statistical software such as R or Mplus

The University of California is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer with a strong institutional commitment to the achievement of excellence and diversity among its faculty and staff. All qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin, age, disability, protected veteran status, or any other characteristic protected by law.