

Postdoctoral Fellowship in Behavioral Psychology and Applied Behavior Analysis

2021–2022

Advanced training in applied behavior analysis





Jennifer Zarcone, Ph.D., BCBA-D, is the Senior Vice President of Adult Clinical Services and Training at May Institute. She provides consultation and clinical support to staff around severe problem behavior, staff and parent training, and medication monitoring. Dr. Zarcone obtained her doctoral degree from the Experimental Analysis of Behavior program at the University of Florida, Department of Psychology, in 1993. She is a BCBA at the doctoral level and a licensed psychologist. She has served as a co-investigator on several multi-center clinical trials in autism research at the University of Rochester Medical Center, and on self-injury at the Kennedy Krieger Institute. Dr. Zarcone has served in leadership positions for the Association of Behavior Analysis International (ABAI) and is a fellow of ABAI. She has held several editorial board positions and is currently on the Advisory Board for Women in Behavior Analysis.

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The Postdoctoral Fellowship in Behavioral Psychology and Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) provides advanced training in applied behavior analysis. The fellowship is a minimum one-year, supervised experience based on a scientist-practitioner training model. Our program requires a trainee to develop interventions utilizing evidence-based and empirically supported clinical methods, reference research literature, collect treatment outcome data, and share findings at professional conferences and through publications. The model supports an integrated approach to science and practice, with the goal of developing skills that foster a career-long process of assessment, intervention, investigation, and dissemination.

Fellows develop a written training plan with their primary supervisors and the Director of Training. The plan identifies learning objectives and performance goals that fellows are expected to achieve during the program. The training plan also specifies the activities and associated timelines that fellows will pursue in applying and sitting for the Massachusetts psychology licensure examination, if desired.

PROGRAM FOCUS AND COMPONENTS

The field training component of the postdoctoral fellowship is structured around a primary service site although there may be opportunity to train at a second site depending on interest and supervision availability. Fellows are given a clinical caseload as well as other assignments that allow them to practice and refine their specialization skills.

Supervisors and other clinicians observe fellows at work, review their reports, and continuously evaluate their progress. Upon completing their training, fellows are able to qualify for and take the Massachusetts psychology licensure examination. Supervision can also be provided towards certification as a Board Certified Behavior Analyst.

During the program, fellows receive approximately 2,000 hours of training (40 hours per week x 48 weeks) with at least 1,000 hours devoted to direct service if they are working toward licensure. Other training activities include:

- Individual and group supervision (4 hours per week)
- Participation in annual May Institute Professional Continuing Education seminar series
- Teaching and supervision opportunities within the May Institute APA-accredited Predoctoral Internship Program
- Implementation of research projects at assigned service sites
- Regularly scheduled group meetings with the Director of Training

FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE

Cynthia Anderson, Ph.D., BCBA-D

Ivy Chong, Ph.D., BCBA-D, M.B.A.

Sarah Connolly, Ph.D., BCBA-D

Kayla Gordon, Ph.D., LABA, BCBA

Whitney Kleinert, Ph.D., LP, LABA, BCBA-D

Ryan Martin, Ph.D., NCSP

Robert F. Putnam, Ph.D., LABA, BCBA-D

Alice Shillingsburg, Ph.D., BCBA-D

Lauren C. Solotar, Ph.D., ABPP

Sarah Weddle, Ph.D., LABA, BCBA-D

2021–2022 EXPECTED TRAINING PLACEMENTS

Placement sites conduct applied research and deliver consultation and direct services, for children and adults with autism and other developmental disabilities. The primary approach is based on the principles of ABA. These sites include the May Center School for Autism and Developmental Disabilities; the Home, School, and Center-Based Services program; and the Adult Services program. There are also opportunities for Research Fellowships at our Corporate Headquarters.

May Center School for Autism and Developmental Disabilities | 41 Pacella Park Drive, Randolph, MA

The May Center School is located in Randolph, Mass. The school applies the principles of behavior analysis to the assessment and treatment of core and associated features of autism spectrum disorder including communication, social interaction, addressing repetitive behaviors, and severe problem behavior. Students served in the schools typically present with significant behavioral and/or learning challenges.

Home, School, and Center-based Services | 41 Pacella Park Drive, Randolph, MA

Our home, school, and center-based services offers a unique, comprehensive continuum of consultation and treatment services to schools, private agencies, and families. Our clinicians work with staff and families to coordinate and enhance programming and quality of life for students with behavioral, learning, and/or cognitive challenges across a full spectrum of service options. Our services range from intensive center-based programs, in-home behavioral support, to consultation and technical assistance for system-wide organizational change. This would include opportunities for learning the implementation of School-wide Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports in a variety of districts and schools. An additional unique opportunity is available to supervise direct service providers and provide consultation within a large, urban public school setting with students and staff from a variety of cultural, ethnic, racial, and linguistic backgrounds.

Adult Services | 41 Pacella Park Drive, Randolph, MA

Fellows will be providing clinical support with a small caseload of individuals either at their residence or in the Day Habilitation programs. Fellows will be supporting clinical training for staff regarding the basics of ABA and the Essentials for Living curriculum. Fellows will also participate in the peer review and Quality Improvement (QI) process for Adult Services.

Research Projects | 41 Pacella Park Drive, Randolph, MA

Fellows may choose to focus primarily on research during their fellowship. This could include large-scale research and/or single-subject research. There are several large-scale research projects underway or planned at May Institute, some of which are federally funded. Current and planned projects include: (a) a randomized, controlled trial of early-intensive behavioral intervention, (b) a randomized, controlled trial of modular, school-based interventions for children with autism spectrum disorder, (c) a randomized, controlled trial of a school-based intervention for middle and high-school students exhibiting challenging behavior, and (d) a feasibility study of parent-training program. In addition to participating in the research studies, fellows will have the opportunity to learn skills in grantsmanship and the conduct of large, randomized controlled trials. Fellows also may receive mentoring in how to design and conduct independent research projects. Fellows may also participate in the National Standards Project and other ongoing research projects.



SALARY AND BENEFITS

Fellows receive an annual salary and are offered health and dental insurance, basic life insurance, a 403(b) plan, and short-term disability insurance. They also receive 15 days of paid leave and 10 paid holidays each year.

ADMISSIONS REQUIREMENTS AND APPLICATION PROCESS

Applicants to the Postdoctoral Fellowship must be on track for completing all requirements for their PhD prior to starting their fellowship. They must demonstrate ethical conduct and interpersonal skills appropriate to the professional practice of psychology.

The postdoctoral fellowship committee evaluates applicants based on their academic preparation, letters of recommendation, and training goals consistent with our program's philosophy and orientation.

May Institute does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, ancestry, national origin, age, physical or mental

disability, sex/gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, military status, veteran status, genetic information, pregnancy, pregnancy-related conditions, marital status, socioeconomic status, homelessness, or any other category protected under applicable law in treatment or employment at the Institute, admission or access to the Institute, or any other aspect of the educational programs and activities that the Institute operates.

The application deadline for the 2021-2022 academic year is January 10, 2021. Applications should be submitted to psychinternship@mayinstitute.org. Please include:

- Cover letter indicating interest and program site preference
- Two letters of recommendation
- Curriculum vita

NOTE: Once an individual has matched to this program, May Institute will conduct a criminal record check (CORI), as required by Massachusetts Law. In addition we require driving record checks of all employees. A final match is contingent upon the successful completion of the CORI and driving record check with the Department of Motor Vehicles.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Jennifer Zarcone, Ph.D.

Director of Training

Doctoral Internship and Postdoctoral Fellowship Programs

Tel: 781.437.1251

E-MAIL INQUIRIES INVITED TO: psychinternship@mayinstitute.org

“With 65 years at the forefront of autism service, training, and research, May Institute provides a depth and breadth of expertise that is unparalleled.”

DR. JENNIFER ZARCONE

rev090120

About May Institute

May Institute is a national leader in the field of applied behavior analysis, proudly serving individuals with autism spectrum disorder and other developmental disabilities, brain injury and neurobehavioral disorders, and other special needs. Since its founding 65 years ago, May Institute has evolved into a national network that serves thousands of individuals and their families annually through more than 140 service locations.

The organization is an active center of research and training, maintaining affiliations with universities, hospitals, and human service agencies worldwide. In response to the tremendous increase in the prevalence of ASD, May Institute founded the National Autism Center in 2005. This May Institute Center is dedicated to serving children and adolescents with ASD by promoting best practices and offering comprehensive and reliable information to families, practitioners, and communities.



CORPORATE HEADQUARTERS: 41 Pacella Park Drive, Randolph, Massachusetts 02368

TEL: 800.778.7601 | WEB: mayinstitute.org | EMAIL: info@mayinstitute.org