



## **VA Special Fellow in Advanced Geriatrics/Cognitive & Behavioral Neurology**

### **Fellowship overview:**

The Geriatric / Cognitive & Behavioral Neurology Fellowship is a two-year VA-funded Clinical Research Fellowship at the Veterans Affairs Boston Healthcare System under the direction of Dr. Budson, Chief of Cognitive & Behavioral Neurology at VA Boston, board certified behavioral neurologist, and funded cognitive neuroscience researcher specializing in memory. VA Boston has a long tradition in Cognitive & Behavioral Neurology, starting with Norman Geschwind, Frank Benson, and Edith Kaplan. More recently it has become the home of cutting-edge cognitive neuroscience, including state-of-the-art EEG/ERP, TMS, and MRI (Siemens 3T) research. The fellowship also includes work with the Boston University Alzheimer's Disease Center (BU ADC), for which Dr. Budson is the Director of the Educational Core. The fellowship provides clinical training in the diagnosis and management of memory disorders and other aspects of behavioral neurology, and research supervision in experimental psychology and cognitive neuroscience with Dr. Budson, or other types of research with other VA Boston mentors. Fellows will have an Instructor faculty appointment at their mentor's institution, either Boston University School of Medicine or Harvard Medical School.

### **Fellowship training:**

#### **Clinical Training**

The Fellow will participate in the (1) weekly Memory Disorders Clinic, which sees patients with neurodegenerative disorders, stroke, traumatic brain injury, blast exposure, and other causes of memory loss; (2) weekly Memory Disorders Case Conference, an educational multidisciplinary & interprofessional group discussion of the diagnosis of various neurological disorders with cognitive impairment; (3) weekly BU ADC Consensus Diagnosis Meeting; (4) Monthly Neuropsychology Grand Rounds. Fellows will become expert in the diagnosis and management of patients with memory disorders, including proficiency in the selection, administration, and interpretation of neuropsychological testing.

## **Research Training**

The Fellowship provides research opportunities for fellows who want to develop an academic career. Dr. Budson (or other VA Boston mentor) will help the fellow to gain research skills including laboratory-based experimental methods for clinical research and cognitive neuroscience (or other) techniques. Fellows working with Dr. Budson will have access to training in behavioral, EEG/ERP, TMS, and MRI neuroimaging research. Fellows meet with Dr. Budson (or other mentor) on a regular basis for reviewing the progress in clinical training and research projects. Fellows are also provided with the opportunity to take relevant seminars and short courses in a variety of topics including memory disorders, biostatistics, and grant-writing. The fellow will also be encouraged to apply for pilot and career development grants, starting the road toward independent funding and faculty positions.

## **ELIGIBILITY**

The Fellowship is open to U.S. citizens and lawful permanent residents. Candidates must possess an MD or a foreign-equivalent basic medical degree (e.g., MBBS) and be board-eligible/certified in the U.S.

## **APPLICATION PROCEDURE**

The following materials should be emailed to Dr. Budson:

- **Cover Letter:** The cover letter should clearly state the applicant's clinical and research interests, goals for the fellowship, and plans after the program.
- **Curriculum Vitae**
- **Three references with email and phone contact information.**

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## COMMENTS ABOUT THE TRAINING

“Advanced Geriatrics/Cognitive & Behavioral Neurology Program is a well-integrated educational program. It is a perfect combination of clinical work and research alongside strong mentorship. As a clinical fellow, I am so impressed by rich clinical support system at the VA Boston Healthcare System. The availability of advanced diagnostic tools for clinical patients is amazing, which includes amyloid PET, high resolution MRI with quantification of gray and white matter volume and timely-mannered neuropsychology evaluation. As a clinical researcher, I have ample opportunity to join different projects, develop my own ideas and write training grants. This program has set a high quality standard for me to construct my own clinical team in the future. I am truly grateful to be a fellow here. Please contact me if you have any questions at [xiaoyans@bu.edu](mailto:xiaoyans@bu.edu).” Xiaoyan Sun, MD, PhD.

“The fellowship helped me to gain the knowledge and confidence to diagnose dementia and other cognitive disorders, as well as knowledge of pharmacologic and non-pharmacologic treatments of Alzheimer’s disease and many other dementias. I also had ample opportunity to learn how to correlate neuropsychological testing with neurological examination and radiographic findings. I truly enjoyed the multidisciplinary approach to the diagnosis and comprehensive care of the patients. There were also many opportunities to join various research projects, to write review articles, as well as book chapters.” Aleksandra C. Stark, MD (aleksandrastark@gmail.com)