



# FORENSIC PSYCHOLOGY POSTDOCTORAL FELLOWSHIP 2023-2024

ABFP Experience Waiver 2021-25



## **Application Deadline: January 6, 2023**



**SCHOOL  
OF MEDICINE**

DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHIATRY  
& BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES

Division of Community Behavioral Health  
in collaboration with NM Behavioral Health Services  
Division & NM Second Judicial District Court

THE UNIVERSITY OF NEW MEXICO HEALTH SCIENCES



## FORENSIC PSYCHOLOGY POSTDOCTORAL FELLOWSHIP

# Overview

**Interested in advanced training in forensic mental health assessment and forensic mental health policy?** This is the postdoctoral fellowship for you!

The Forensic Psychology Postdoctoral Fellowship represents a partnership between The University of New Mexico School of Medicine's Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences, Division of Community Behavioral Health, the New Mexico Behavioral Health Services Division and the New Mexico Second Judicial District Court.

The primary goal of the Fellowship is the development of skills necessary to conduct high-quality forensic mental health assessments. By the end of the training year with us, you will demonstrate competency in:

- Forensic ethical principles;
- Forensic mental health assessment, including familiarity with specialized forensic assessment instruments (FAIs);
- Forensic evaluation report writing;
- Interdisciplinary communication and consultation; and
- Fundamentals of mental health case law, statutory law, and regulatory guidance.

During the training year, you will also gain mental health policy experience via consultative work with New Mexico's Behavioral Health Services Division. Policy activities include:

- Facilitating an ongoing Learning Community developed for current competency to stand trial evaluators contracted with the Behavioral Health Services Division;
- Developing and delivering training on forensic assessment and issues related to the intersection of criminal justice and behavioral health;
- Providing consultation regarding evidence-based approaches to forensic evaluations and best practices in forensic mental health assessment; and
- Participating in a state clinical policy work group.



## Core Clinical Training

Wait lists for adjudicative competency hearings have been described as a national crisis, and New Mexico has a particularly urgent need for competency evaluations. As professionals helping address this demand, our postdoctoral fellows conduct **court-ordered competency evaluations for the New Mexico Second Judicial District Court (SJDC) Competency Clinic** as their core clinical training.

Your experience will include conducting clinical and competency interviews; administering, scoring, and interpreting psychological tests; authoring forensic evaluation reports; providing testimony and/or recommendations in court cases and hearings; and providing peer consultation/supervision.

As a fellow, you will conduct both in-custody and out-of-custody competency evaluations with a particularly complex clinical population. **Because of the unique cultural landscape and great need for mental health providers in New Mexico, you can expect a depth and breadth of experience with various clinical concerns.**

You will be exposed to comorbid mood, psychotic, personality, and substance use disorders that manifest in highly diversified ways, offering a rich training experience that promotes advanced forensic conceptualization skills. You can also anticipate thorough training in and exposure to neurocognitive and neurodevelopmental disorders relevant to competence.

Because of the specific statutory fabric of New Mexico, fellows can expect advanced training in malingering testing, forensic assessment instruments, and other forensically relevant instruments.

Issues of malingering and neuropsychological functioning are frequently considered and feature prominently in cases and supervision.

The unique competency evaluation experiences throughout the postdoctoral year cultivate a strong forensic sophistication transferable to a wide variety of referral questions.

By the end of the fellowship, fellows planning to apply for board certification have several options for high-quality forensic reports they can submit for the practice sample portion of their application.

**The competency training you complete through the fellowship year also contributes both directly and indirectly to forensic mental health policy issues in New Mexico.**





## Core Policy Training

Beyond the rich opportunities in forensic assessment, the intersection of psychology and law is also at the root of many state and federal policies. This fellowship offers a unique opportunity to work closely with New Mexico's Behavioral Health Services Division of Health and Human Services and contribute specifically to forensic policy advocacy and change. Although the policy experience looks different each year because of its dependence on projects and programs being addressed, you can expect to learn persuasive writing techniques, overall functioning of state systems, and effective participation on committees and boards (including Robert's Rules of Order).

As a fellow you may engage in the following activities:

- Write situation reports or policy papers
- Program evaluation/outcome research
- Program development/design
- Policy analysis
- Actively participate in the Supreme Court Commission on Mental Health and Competency and the Legislative/Rule Change Subcommittee
- Actively participate in the Sentencing Commission Legislative Committee

**You will have a direct impact on forensic practices through your fellowship policy training.** Our fellows have assisted in raising the competency evaluator compensation rate, for example. Current fellows are running a qualitative research project to better understand the impact of a new state competency ruling on evaluative practice. This research will be presented to the NM Supreme Court for consideration of possible rule change. Further, UNM fellows are advocating for small changes to enhance efficiency for competency evaluations.

Through your policy training, you can anticipate working with state officials (legislators, senate, lobbyists, and individuals from the governor's office), judges, attorneys, detention center staff, community program directors, and others who are working together to create a better mental health system in New Mexico.

## Dissemination of Forensic Mental Health Knowledge

Completing fellowship in an academic environment carries the responsibility of teaching others! You will present both in the CIT ECHO series (attended by members of law enforcement) and our Law and Mental Health series. You will also complete a third dissemination project, such as presenting at a conference or working on a journal or newsletter article.



## Supplemental Training Opportunities

The fellowship offers supplemental training experiences (time-permitting) that allow fellows to further tailor their training to their professional interests and desired expertise. **Additional clinical training in evaluations addressing police academy suitability, police fitness for duty, mitigation, civil disability, and other psycholegal questions may be available.** Our department has also grown in the last year with additional faculty conducting forensic behavioral science research with local, state, and national agencies. Collaboration with our forensic research faculty and additional contribution to ongoing forensic policy initiatives with the Behavioral Health Services Division may be arranged. Any supplemental experiences are based on availability, needs of the fellow, and needs of the community.



You will also have opportunities to attend trainings through the Department of Psychiatry & Behavioral Sciences, a UNM mental health law course, monthly Professional Development Seminars with other postdoctoral fellows in the university, and policy seminars taught by CBH staff.

## Didactic Training

Our fellows attend the weekly UNM Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences, Division of Community Behavioral Health's Law and Mental Health didactic series. Presentations cover a breadth of topics including forensic assessment; the legal system; correctional and community forensic psychology/psychiatry; and child and adolescent forensic psychology/psychiatry. **The didactic series is taught by internationally recognized and up-and-coming forensic experts in mental health and law**, including legal professionals, forensic psychologists, forensic social workers, and forensic psychiatrists. The series has a national audience including postdoctoral psychology fellows, psychology graduate students, law students, attorneys, social workers, and medical residents. **You will also have an opportunity to be a Law and Mental Series presenter!**

During the training year, you will also participate in a mock trial with the aid of volunteer attorneys and a judge. Using one of the evaluations you complete during the fellowship year, you'll experience first-hand what it is like to be subject to *voir dire*, direct examination, and cross examination under simulated courtroom conditions!

## ABFP Experience Waiver

**UNM's fellowship has been approved for the ABFP Experience Waiver**, which allows trainees who successfully complete the fellowship to skip the five-year waiting period to apply for board certification as a forensic psychologist. To adequately prepare you for the rigorous board certification process, UNM has devised an intensive curriculum designed to cover key areas of focus on the board certification exam, including best practices in forensic mental health assessment, foundational case law, forensic ethics, cultural issues in forensic assessment, communicating forensic opinions, etc. Our curriculum also includes readings regarding clinical judgment, forensic mental health treatment, lived experience, the Sequential Intercept Model, and other policy-relevant topics. The curriculum will be regularly discussed/reviewed with you at a weekly Group Supervision session.



## Fellowship Term & Salary

**Two postdoctoral fellows** will be hired for the 2023-2024 training year. The training year is 12 months (September 2023 - August 2024).

Commencement and termination date are somewhat flexible, based on individual circumstances. Salary is determined according to National Institutes of Health guidelines. **For FY 2022 it is approximately \$53,840.00 plus benefits** (PTO, sick time, medical insurance, etc.), depending on experience.

Fellows also receive a professional development fund of up to \$2,000 to be used during the fellowship year.

## Application Qualifications

**All applicants must demonstrate the following minimum qualifications prior to the start of fellowship:**

- Completed an APA/CPA-approved pre-doctoral internship;
- Obtained a doctorate degree in clinical, counseling, or school psychology from an APA/CPA-approved doctoral program; and
- Eligible to work in the United States.

Additionally, the following represent **preferred qualifications:**

- Forensic psychology specialization/experience during graduate training;
- Experience conducting psychological and forensic evaluations;
- Knowledge of forensic issues in psychology;
- Experience working with individuals with serious mental illness;
- Experience working with correctional or forensic populations;
- Experience working with individuals with substance abuse issues;
- Experience with psychological testing, including forensic assessment instruments;
- Educational and teaching experiences with a variety of trainees.
- Mental/behavioral health policy experience.

We encourage applicants of historically marginalized or minoritized backgrounds to apply.



# Application Process

## APPLICATION MATERIALS & PROCEDURE

To apply, please email the following materials to Dr. Anthony Perillo, Training Director, at [aperillo@salud.unm.edu](mailto:aperillo@salud.unm.edu) by **Friday, January 6, 2023**:

- Curriculum vitae;
- Cover letter addressing minimum and preferred qualifications, as well as your professional background, career trajectory, and career interests;
- Three letters of recommendations from academic/professional references, submitted by the reference directly to Dr. Perillo ([aperillo@salud.unm.edu](mailto:aperillo@salud.unm.edu));
- A sanitized forensic evaluation report, preferably regarding competence to proceed.

If you have questions prior to submitting your application, please submit them to Dr. Anthony Perillo at [aperillo@salud.unm.edu](mailto:aperillo@salud.unm.edu).

## INTERVIEWS

Interview offers will be made before the end of January. Interviews will be conducted via Zoom during the beginning and middle of February.

**Note:** *UNM is participating in the Uniform Acceptance Date (UAD) process for forensic fellowships, known as the Common Hold Date by the Association of Psychology Postdoctoral and Internship Centers (APPIC). **The UAD is February 27, 2023.** Under the UAD process, offers may be extended at any time prior to February 27, 2023, but applicants are not required to accept an offer prior to that date.*





## Living & Working in the Land of Enchantment

Fellowship can represent a challenging year, and having a supportive community and an abundance of recreational activities at your disposal can ease stress levels and greatly enhance the training year! Albuquerque (ABQ) is an excellent place to live and work.

Year-round sunshine and warm weather (though still with weekend skiing at your disposal); excellent food; the world's second-longest tramway to the peak of the Sandia Mountains; breweries and brunch spots galore; rich history and culture; gorgeous landscapes and hiking; rafting on the Rio Grande; the Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta; the Albuquerque Isotopes and New Mexico United sports teams; a low cost of living--these are just a sample of the awesome things that come along with living in The Duke City!

In addition to ABQ, the surrounding area hosts an array of recreational activities. Whether taking in the Pueblo Revival architecture and vibrant art scene of Santa Fe; exploring the Taos Pueblo and the Sangre de Cristo Mountains in Taos; fishing in the Jemez Mountains; driving the Turquoise Trail; or immersing yourself in Meow Wolf (try it--you'll thank us!); the area surrounding ABQ offers an abundance of adventure.

Elsewhere in NM, Las Cruces (check out White Sands National Park), Carlsbad Caverns, and Roswell are all easy and popular weekend trips. ABQ International Sunport is also readily accessible!



# Meet Our Faculty

## TRAINING DIRECTOR



**Anthony Perillo, Ph.D.** is Training Director of the Forensic Psychology Postdoctoral Fellowship and Associate Professor in the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences. He is a licensed psychologist who has conducted forensic evaluations in the United States and Canada at the private practice, local, county, and federal levels. He received the American Psychology-Law Society's 2021 Early Career Teaching and Mentoring Award for his supervisory, teaching, and mentorship work with forensic trainees. His research focuses on factors that influence clinical judgment in forensic evaluations (funded by the National Science Foundation), language we use about people involved in the legal system, and forensic mental health policy. His supervision approach follows a pedagogy of kindness: strength-based feedback, support tailored to the needs of each trainee, and a working relationship built on honesty and collaboration.

## OTHER ADMINISTRATIVE DIRECTORS



**Jeff Younggren, Ph.D., ABPP (Clinical)** serves as the fellowship's Co-Director. He is a Clinical Professor in the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences. A Fellow of the American Psychological Association and a Distinguished Member of the National Academy of Practice, he has had a long and distinctive career as a clinical and forensic psychologist. He has extensive forensic experience in trauma, child abuse, memory, delayed recall, Posttraumatic Stress Disorder, Military Courts, Military Forensic Psychology, general forensic issues and general court-martial cases. He has published extensively on law and ethics and recently edited the book *Forensic Psychology in Military Courts*, published by the APA. He is currently on the committee to revise APA's Specialty Guidelines for Forensic Psychology and has served on a previous revision committee. He also serves as a Risk Management Consultant to The Trust, a position he has had for over 20 years.



**Carli Bonham, M.D.** is a psychiatrist with interest in access to care and developing community partnerships. She has been on faculty at UNM since 2010. Along with Dr. Altschul, she oversees the Division of Community Behavioral Health, which addresses health disparities among individuals with mental illness in New Mexico through community-partnered research, clinical, and educational initiatives. In the Division, she also serves as Vice Chair of Community Behavioral Health Policy. Additionally, she serves as the psychiatric consultant for the New Mexico Behavioral Health Collaborative. Clinically, she provides direct care through the UNMH Assertive Community Treatment team and to rural communities through the UNM Telebehavioral Health program.



# Meet Our Faculty

## CLINICAL FACULTY



**Julie M. Brovko, Ph.D.** is an Assistant Clinical Professor in the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences and a Clinical Associate in the Department of Psychology. She serves as one of the Clinical Directors of the Second Judicial District Court Competency Clinic. She also co-teaches two case law and mental health courses at the UNM School of Law. She has a private forensic practice and takes both federal and state cases focusing on criminal and civil topics. She earned her PhD in Clinical Psychology from UNM!



**Emma Hamilton, Ph.D.** is a bilingual (Spanish and English) licensed psychologist and Research Assistant Professor in the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences. She earned her doctorate at the University of Texas at Austin, after which she completed the UNM Postdoctoral Forensic Psychology Fellowship. Dr. Hamilton conducts competence to stand trial and law enforcement pre-employment evaluations and serves as an expert witness in private forensic cases. She has a background in juvenile and adult violence and sexual risk assessment, in addition to immigration evaluations, parental fitness evaluations, and mitigation evaluations. Current research interests include the impact of competency-related legal dispositions on recidivism and best practices in forensic report writing. Dr. Hamilton has received national awards for excellence in forensic research and practice, and she is actively involved in mental health policy in New Mexico and serves as the Legislative Committee Chair for the New Mexico Psychological Association.



**Heath J. Hodges, Ph.D., M.L.S., ABPP (Forensic)** is an Assistant Clinical Professor in the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences and assists with supervision and education in the Forensic Psychology Postdoctoral Fellowship. He previously served as the Interim Training Director for the Fellowship and has been involved in the development of two other forensic psychology fellowships qualifying for the ABFP Early Career Waiver. He is licensed as a psychologist in Ohio and New Mexico, and he is board certified in Forensic Psychology by the American Board of Professional Psychology (ABPP). He primarily works in the private sector conducting various types of forensic mental health assessments. His supervision approach emphasizes the supervisory relationship and focuses on forensic conceptualization, communication of forensic opinions, and the unique goals of the trainee.



**Tatiana Matlasz, Ph.D.** is a licensed clinical psychologist and Research Assistant Professor in the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences who graduated from UNM's own Forensic Psychology Postdoctoral Fellowship in 2022. Her forensic evaluation experience has primarily included referral questions concerning competency to stand trial, sanity, mitigation, and violence risk, including for defendants facing the death penalty. She currently conducts competency evaluations for the SJDC Court Clinic and pre-employment screenings for Albuquerque Police Department applicants. Her research interests include antisocial behavior and psychopathic personality traits across the lifespan, diversion and re-entry, forensic assessment, and mental/behavioral health policy. Professionally and personally, she believes in the strength of community, collaboration, and above all, kindness. For fun and to destress, you'll find her baking and cooking soups to share with others, no matter the season!



**Simone Viljoen, Ph.D.** is an Assistant Clinical Professor in the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences and an Adjunct Instructor in the Department of Psychology. She serves as one of the Clinical Directors of the Second Judicial District Court Competency Clinic. Her professional work has included forensic mental health assessments in numerous referral contexts, as well the delivery of training and workshops in law and mental health-related topics to various agencies. She has co-authored a book chapter and several publications related to violence risk assessment and management, in particular, the use of protective factors in these assessments; gender issues in forensic psychology; and diagnostic issues in personality disorders.



# Meet Our Faculty

## OTHER AFFILIATE FACULTY



**Bronwyn Neeser, Psy.D.** is the Forensic Policy Program Manager for the State of New Mexico. Her efforts are focused on the intersection between clinical application and public policy, finding creative solutions to solve forensic mental health infrastructure difficulties or snags. Her training includes community mental health, health psychology, and forensic psychology. Her focus and expertise continue to be competency to stand trial evaluations, competency in the judicial system, and public policy. She is currently an ex-officio member of the New Mexico Supreme Court Commission on Mental Health and Competency and co-chair of the commissions Legislative/Rule Change subcommittee. She participated in the mental health summit executed by the Supreme Court focused on the sequential intercept model, serving as expert support for the thirteen counties in New Mexico to assist in identifying support needs for their current mental health systems. Outside of work she loves reading, being in nature, adventures, and spending time with friends, family, and her fluff-ball puppy Franklin.



**Nils Rosenbaum, M.D.**, has worked with law enforcement officers for ten years. He is employed full-time by the Albuquerque Police Department where he evaluates clients in the field, works alongside detectives, and helps with the overall direction of the police response to people living with mental illness. He is the director of the Behavioral Sciences Section at APD and is involved in almost all aspects of mental health-related subjects within APD, including officer self-care and resilience. He has published articles in the field of mental health and law enforcement and first responders. He is an avid practitioner of mindfulness and has begun to introduce it to the APD in their mental health training. He also teaches mindfulness to police officers all over the country via a videoconference platform used to give officers continuing education and case support (CIT ECHO).

## Interested?

Please reach out to our training director with questions!

**[aperillo@salud.unm.edu](mailto:aperillo@salud.unm.edu)**

Website info on the UNM Forensic Psychology Postdoctoral Fellowship:

**[hsc.unm.edu/medicine/departments/psychiatry/education/forensic](https://hsc.unm.edu/medicine/departments/psychiatry/education/forensic)**