

**VA Advanced Fellowship in Health Sciences
War Related Illness and Injury Study Center
Washington DC VA Medical Center**
50 Irving Street, NW
Washington, DC 20422
<https://www.warrelatedillness.va.gov/>



Fellowship Year Begins: start date is negotiable.

Application and Selection Procedures

The War Related Illness and Injury Study Center (WRIISC) Health Sciences VA Advanced Fellowship is a two-year, full-time program with VA benefits, including 13 days annual leave, 13 days sick leave, health insurance, and 10 federal holidays. Salaries are set yearly dependent on local cost of living adjustments as well as training level. Our program is designed to provide two full years of postmaster and postdoctoral training. However, advancement to the second year is contingent on successful completion of first year requirements.

Accepted fellows are expected to participate in research activities as follows:

- 40% Within the predetermined study scope and methodology, conduct studies related to Veterans health.
- 20% Collect and analyze data, including periodical/literature search and utilizing specialized skills in related field to analyze the collected data.
- 20% Participate/assist in manuscript writing for publication in scientific journals and/or presentations. May also assist in grant writing.
- 15% Lab maintenance, including equipment maintenance, and ordering of supplies as needed.
- 5% Other duties as assigned, which may include attending Scientific Conferences and Meetings.

Eligibility

To be considered for our postmaster or postdoctoral training program, applicants must have completed a master's degree or doctoral degree in Biological Engineering, Psychology, and related fields, or be on track to complete the degree prior to the program. Certification of U.S. citizenship and drug screening are required for all VA postmaster and postdoctoral fellows. In addition, VA employment requires that males born after December 31, 1959, must have registered for selective service by age 26. Please review VA eligibility requirements before applying: [Advanced Fellowships - Office of Academic Affiliations](#).

Application Materials

Please submit the following materials in electronic format to Mr. Wenguo Yao at (Wenguo.yao@va.gov).

1. A cover letter that describes:
 - a. Your background, current professional interests, and research goals
 - b. Specific reasons you are interested in training at the DC WRIISC
 - c. Methodological experience with assessment (e.g., behavior, physiological,

neuroimaging) and intervention (e.g., exercise, nutrition, behavioral), including settings you have worked in and patient populations.

2. Curriculum vitae
3. One work sample (e.g., a first author published article, master's thesis, capstone, or presentation) or practical clinical assessment accomplishments (e.g., VO₂ Max test, exercise stress test, wingate, muscular strength, balance and gait, IMPACT, ANAM, cognitive assessment, neuroimaging, or quantitative interviews)
4. Graduate course work
5. A letter from your Dissertation Chair or Master's advisor, specifying the expected date that you will complete all requirements necessary to complete your master's or doctoral degree (e.g., successfully defend your dissertation, thesis or capstone.)

Training Setting



The War Related Illness and Injury Study Center (WRIISC) is a National VA Post-Deployment Health Resource that offers tertiary level care and is housed within a VA medical center. This national program with sites in DC, NJ, and CA. Patients from around the nation are referred to WRIISC clinicians for a multidisciplinary consultation for difficult-to-diagnose war-related illnesses. WRIISC also conducts national studies in the Veteran population, often using representative national samples of Veterans including those who are not receiving VA medical care. Fellows that join our interdisciplinary team can directly assist our unique population.

The WRIISC-DC is housed within the Washington DC VA Medical Center, a 205-bed hospital that provides care to more than 78,000 Veterans on an outpatient basis. The DC VAMC is in the heart of the District of Columbia, approximately 3 miles from the US Capitol, 4 miles from the White House, and in close proximity to a number of other medical centers (e.g., MedStar National Rehabilitation Hospital and Children's National Hospital). At the DC VAMC, the Clinical Research Center (CRC), a new 18,000 sq. ft. building facility, officially houses the medical center's Research and Development Department including: out-patient clinical research, human performance research units, contemporary laboratories, and record retention.

Overview

Fellows can expect to:

- Gain an advanced understanding of Veterans' health priorities
- Generate and implement a feasible project within the time constraints of the fellowship including writing a VA Career Development Award (<https://www.research.va.gov/funding/cdp.cfm>)
- Learn to interpret, adapt, and incorporate new findings from the literature and established data sets for first- author publication
- Support ongoing protocols through data collection; and engage in grant writing for WRIISC studies that are under development

Fellows will have the opportunity to enhance their skills through a variety of educational and training activities and be involved in multiple programmatic studies related to military environmental exposures and other post-deployment health topics.

Performance Evaluation

Fellows will receive formal, face-to-face feedback twice yearly from research supervisors regarding progress being made in the fellowship. Formal feedback will include written evaluation that includes ratings in professional competency areas related to clinical practice and scholarly inquiry. Fellows who receive ratings below developmentally appropriate minimums in each competency area will be given specific feedback and training to improve their skills in these areas. If necessary, remediation plans designed to assist with any difficulty demonstrating development in professional competencies will be created by training faculty and completed by the fellow before the conclusion of the training program. Fellows will also be presented with a description of these evaluation procedures, mechanisms to document complaints, their rights and responsibilities related to evaluations, current due process procedures, and methods to express concerns/address grievances related to training or supervision at the start of the fellowship.