Introduction
The Boston University Medical Center / Boston VA Healthcare System Addiction Psychiatry fellowship is a one year (PGY V) program that has been accredited since 1997 through the leadership of Dr. John Renner, a renowned Addiction psychiatrist. It is funded for three PGYV Fellows yearly.

Through a comprehensive series of didactic presentations and rotations at Boston area tertiary care facilities the fellowship provides advanced training in the diagnosis and treatment of addictive disorders. Clinical rotations include treating addictions in the adult detoxification and intensive outpatient settings, adult and geriatric consult liaison hospital settings and an adolescent residential setting. Public Health addiction psychiatry and medication assisted treatment with methadone and buprenorphine is experienced through clinical time spanning the entire year at the Boston VA Causeway Community Based Outpatient Clinic and the Boston Public Health Commission Behavioral Health Clinic. Fellows are also provided with teaching opportunities through interaction with medical students and psychiatry residents. Substantial elective time is given to pursue research and other interests, for which a wide variety of mentors are available.

Additional training
We also sponsor a VA funded two-year Interprofessional Advanced Addiction Fellowship which is designed to train future generations of VA healthcare leaders in research and management of addiction services and addiction psychiatry training programs. This program provides opportunities to work alongside addiction professionals from other disciplines with 75% time devoted to research, management or educational activities and up to 25% time to direct clinical service. This would be an ideal career track for fellows who want additional research experience.

Boston Area
Boston was established in 1630 making it one of the oldest cities in the US. It is the capital of Massachusetts and the largest city in the state. The city population includes over half a million while the Greater Boston area includes over 7 million people. Students from the many colleges and universities in the area make up over a quarter of the population.

Boston offers a variety of cultural activities including museums, sporting events (Red Sox, Celtics, New England Patriots, Bruins), theatre, concerts and world class restaurants. New England is known for its beauty throughout all four seasons and Boston is close to a variety of natural landscapes from beaches to mountains accessible by public transportation or a short drive. Public transportation includes a subway system, buses and commuter rails. Fun day trips include Cape Cod, Maine, Rhode Island, and New Hampshire while New York City is a 4 hour drive from Boston. Logan airport is easily accessible and is a major hub for many airlines.
Clinical Experience and Faculty

Boston VA Causeway Clinic
Outpatient Addiction Psychiatry
Boston, MA
Year round rotation
John Renner, MD

Boston Public Health Commission
Outpatient Behavioral Health Clinic
Boston, MA
Year round rotation
Sherry Nykiel, MD

Edith Nourse Rogers Memorial Veterans Hospital
Intensive Outpatient Addiction Treatment
Geriatric Addiction Consult Liaison
Bedford, MA
3 month rotation
Nitigna Desai, MD

Boston VA Brockton Campus
Inpatient Addiction Treatment
Brockton, MA
1 month rotation
Grace Chang, MD

Brigham and Woman’s Hospital
Consult Liaison Addiction Psychiatry
Boston, MA
3 month rotation
Joji Suzuki, MD and Claudia Rodriguez, MD

Elective Rotation
Fellows choose a research, clinical elective or scholarly activity for two months of the fellowship.

Call
There is no requirement for night call, but moonlighting can be approved through the training director.

Training Experience
In addition to clinical experiences, fellow participated in weekly didactic seminars. Topics include the clinical management of patients with substance use disorders, the conceptual foundation of addiction psychiatry, and reviews of research in addictions. Joint meetings with Addiction Medicine teams from Boston Medical Center and Brown University occur bimonthly. Fellows are eligible to attend courses sponsored by the Division on Addictions at Harvard Medical School and educational meetings organized by the Interest Group on Alcoholism and the Addictions of the Massachusetts Psychiatric Society as well as BUMC Grand Rounds. Fellows are also expected to conduct training seminars for junior residents several times a year.

Research and Scholarly Activity
Scholarly activity and research is a major priority in the program. All fellows are encouraged to review the literature and research topics of interest. Selected residents may elect a combined Addiction Psychiatry Residency – Master’s Degree program at the Boston University School of Public Health (one tuition reimbursed position is available annually).

VA funding is also available to support research activities for PGY VI residents or fellows who elect the 2 year Interprofessional Advanced Addiction Fellowship Program.

The VA Boston Healthcare System is home to researchers in basic neuroscience, epidemiology, clinical assessment, medication development, pharmacological and psychosocial treatment, and services outcome research. In collaboration with researchers affiliated with Boston University and Harvard Medical School, fellows have the opportunity to work with researchers whose work is focused on: (1) the effect of ethanol on nervous system development, (2) signaling pathways and neural plasticity in models of addiction and PTSD, (3) factors involved in relapse and re-hospitalization following treatment for addictions, (4) psychosocial treatments for addiction, (5) psychosocial interventions for PTSD in Veterans with substance use disorders, (6) technological advances in reaching and intervening with combat Veterans with problem drinking and PTSD, (7) interplay of emotion regulation and information processing in the treatment of addiction, and (8) integration of substance-related and medical health care.

Where are our graduates now?
Boston Medical Center
Boston, Orlando, and San Juan VAs
Brigham and Woman’s Hospital
Brown University
MGH
UC Irvine
UMass

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For information about the fellowship
http://www.bumc.bu.edu/psychiatry/fellowships/addiction-psychiatry-fellowship/

For information about the Interprofessional Advanced Addiction Fellowship:
http://www.boston.va.gov/services/mental_health/interprofessional_advanced_addiction_fellowship.asp

For information about employment benefits
https://www.bmc.org/gme/housestaff/benefits.htm