

UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA POST-DOCTORAL FELLOWSHIPS IN EATING DISORDERS

Detailed Information

The Eating Disorders Program in the Department of Psychiatry at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill is accepting applications for MD or PhD scientists for postdoctoral positions in the field of Eating Disorders. Several appointments are anticipated. Starting dates are open and flexible. Appointments will be for two years, with possible extension for another year. Salary is commensurate with qualifications but in all cases equals NIH post-doctoral stipends.

The training program is designed for postdoctoral trainees with doctoral degrees and some prior training or expertise in the field of eating disorders. Applicants from fields including medicine, psychology, nutrition, and related disciplines are invited to apply. The program aims to provide rigorous advanced training in aspects of eating disorders research ranging from bench to society. The program will develop productive investigators on the path towards independence who will contribute to the advance of knowledge in the etiology, prevention, and treatment of eating disorders.

Our training faculty includes 14 senior research faculty, 5 junior research faculty, and 5 clinical advisors from psychiatry, psychology, nutrition, sociology, genetics, epidemiology, and pediatrics. All fellows will choose a mentorship team. A systematic series of internal and external program evaluations with clear semiannual benchmarks will facilitate ongoing professional development, with the ultimate goal of introducing highly trained, methodologically rigorous, clinically competent researchers to the field of eating disorders.

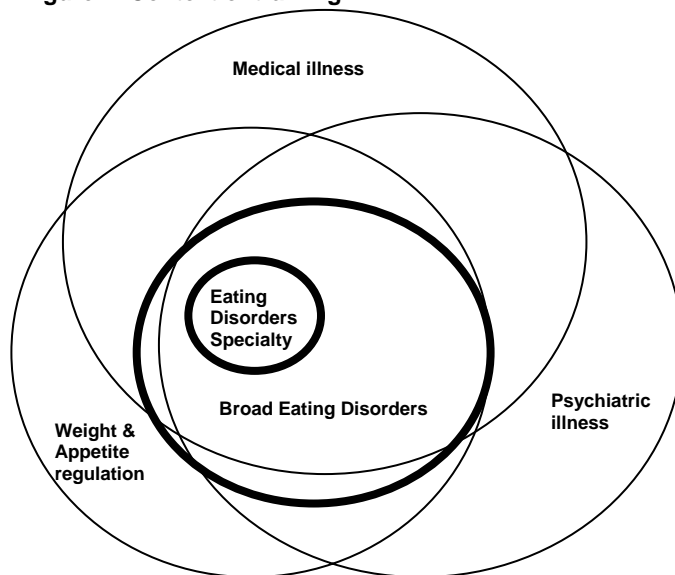
Criteria for selection include demonstrated experience in the area of eating disorders, strong potential to become an independent investigator, interest and (to a lesser degree) experience in project areas, strength in computation and in verbal and written communication, curiosity, and genuine commitment to advancing the scientific rigor of the eating disorders field. Applicants with interdisciplinary interests are strongly encouraged. Fellowships are restricted to US citizens or permanent residents.

Program Philosophy The UNC Eating Disorders Program's three part mission of research, training, and clinical care provides the ideal backdrop for a training program in eating disorders. In our three years of existence, we have rapidly built substantial bridges across departments and schools at UNC. The program's guiding philosophy will nestle a specialty research focus within the field of eating disorders into the broader context of eating disorders as they relate to the broader fields of weight and appetite regulation, psychiatric illness and medical illness with an appreciation for genetic and environmental risk factors for disease (Figure 1). Our prototype candidate would develop specialized skills in a particular area of eating disorders (e.g. genetics or epidemiology), while appreciating the broader context of eating disorders from neuroimaging to societal influences on eating disorders risk. Moreover, trainees will develop a full appreciation of the range of medical and psychiatric comorbidities associated with eating disorders. This will allow our fellows to be both specialist leaders as well as informed collaborators across a range of methodologies and scientific approaches. Our prototype fellow would inform and

enrich his or her research with observations associated with ongoing clinical contact with patients with eating disorders—either as part of their clinical research projects or during ½ day/week rotations for those not involved directly with clinical research projects. This depth and breadth of experience will combine essential specialization with versatility in order to sustain a career as a creative and collaborative investigator.

Our mentorship team includes both senior and junior research mentors who are either: a) directly involved with eating disorders research; b) have access to large population-based databases that can be brought to bear on critical eating disorders

Figure 1. Context of training



questions; c) possess critical methodological expertise that has the potential to enrich eating disorders research; or d) are experienced in an area that is highly comorbid with eating disorders. Junior mentors will benefit throughout the program from mentorship training and will assist with career development of trainees. In addition, we include clinical advisors who are active clinicians in the eating disorders program who will provide both teaching and supervision in order to help keep our trainees grounded in clinical reality and to enhance the real world applicability of their research.

The fellowship will provide “hands-on” experience in all phases of research, including: 1) the formulation of clear and testable research questions; 2) the design of appropriate research plans using effective and carefully chosen methodologies; 3) development of institutional review board proposals; 4) the collection and management of data; the analysis, interpretation and clear presentation of results; and, 5) effective manuscript and grant writing. The program will also provide a foundation for the integration of basic genetic and neuroscience research with clinical research and for the advancement of translational research. Each fellow will be expected to have experience outside of her or his primary area. Fellows who are primarily stationed in genetics labs, statistical labs, or working with epidemiological samples, will also be expected to spend some portion of their time interfacing with clinical researchers. Fellows who focus on clinical research will also receive didactic instruction in basic research and may be invited to participate in basic science immersion rotations. The purpose of this cross-fostering is to develop further an appreciation of the needed integration of basic and clinical research in order to solve the complex etiological and treatment questions in the field of eating disorders. This training program will also emphasize ethical issues and the responsible conduct of research. Unique ethical issues facing eating disorders clinicians and scientists such as involuntary commitment, mandated feeding, and treatment limitations imposed by managed care will also be covered in depth. In addition, fellows will receive training in the skills that are essential for successful academic careers, including critical reading of the literature, manuscript and grant preparation, presentations at conferences and lectures, skills for balancing work and family, and guidelines for

being a sought after collaborator. The research training experience will be calibrated to the needs of the trainee. Fellows entering the program with PhD and extensive research experience will be expected to develop a greater level of research independence during their fellowship. Those MD or other fellows who enter with less extensive research training, will benefit from more step-by-step mentoring to guide them through the development of critical research skills.

The Mentorship Team

Administrative Structure – Dr. Bulik serves as the program director and is directly responsible for all aspects of the program. Dr. Bulik will be joined by the *Training and Advisory Committee* in overseeing the program (see below) and external guidance will be provided by the *Program Evaluation Committee* (see below). Dr. Bulik and the *Training Advisory Committee* will be supported by the administrative assistant for the Eating Disorders Program and financial oversight will be provided by the Department of Psychiatry Business Office.

The Training Advisory Committee includes Drs. Bulik (Psychiatry and Nutrition), Patrick Sullivan (Genetics and Psychiatry), Robert Hamer (Psychiatry and Biostatistics), Deborah Tate (Nutrition and Health Education and Health Communications) and June Stevens (Nutrition and Epidemiology). The committee will be involved in interviewing and selecting candidates and evaluating progress. The committee will meet with trainees bi-annually. Monitoring by this committee will be externally validated by the Program Evaluation Committee.

A separate and independent Program Evaluation Committee, comprised of three individuals outside of the program, will provide independent review and evaluation of the program. Members of this committee include Dr. Ruth Striegel-Moore (from Wesleyan University), Dr. Barry Popkin, and Dr. Gene Orringer. All of these individuals:

- Are internationally renowned investigators
- Have significant experience in training pre- and post-doctoral fellows
- Have extensive experience with NRSA training programs
- Are Clinician-Scientists themselves and have experience in translational and clinical research.

Our Training Faculty – The table below lists available training faculty and their role in the program. Individual websites describe their areas of interest and expertise.

Faculty Member	Department	Role	Website
Bulik, Cynthia	Psychiatry	Director	http://www.unceatingdisorders.org/people.shtml#cynthia
Baucom, Donald	Psychology	Research Faculty	http://www.unc.edu/depts/clinpsy/people/faculty_fulltime.html#baucom
Belger, Aysenil	Psychiatry	Research Faculty	http://www.med.unc.edu/psych/directories/belger.htm
Brownley, Kimberly	Psychiatry	Research Faculty	http://www.med.unc.edu/psych/directories/brownley.htm
Dymek-Valentine, Maureen	Psychiatry	Research Faculty	http://www.unceatingdisorders.org/people.shtml#maureen
Ford, Carol	Pediatrics	Research Faculty	http://www.unhealthcare.org/site/findadoctor/zpt_facultyProfile?l_fid=803&currentrow=35&dept=Pediatrics&division=&searchtype=doc_speciality
Garbutt, James	Psychiatry	Research Faculty	http://www.med.unc.edu/alcohol/faculty/GarbuttJC/Garbutt-full.htm
Gil, Karen	Psychology	Research Faculty	http://www.unc.edu/depts/clinpsy/people/faculty_fulltime.html#gil
Graham, Karen	Psychiatry	Research Faculty	http://www.med.unc.edu/psych/directories/welcome.htm
Grier, Nichole	Psychiatry	Clinical Faculty	http://www.unceatingdisorders.org/people.shtml#nichole
Guo, Guang	Sociology	Research Faculty	http://www.unc.edu/~gguo/
Hamer, Robert	Psychiatry	Research Faculty	http://www.med.unc.edu/psych/directories/hamer.htm
La Via, Maria	Psychiatry	Clinical Faculty	http://www.unceatingdisorders.org/people.shtml#maria
Naftel, Albert Jack	Psychiatry	Clinical Faculty	www.med.unc.edu/psych/directories/naftel.htm
North, Kari	Epidemiology	Research Faculty	http://www.sph.unc.edu/?option=com_profiles&Itemid=1894&profileAction=ProfDetail&profileId=2349
Perrin, Eliana	Pediatrics	Research Faculty	http://www.unhealthcare.org/site/findadoctor/zpt_facultyProfile?l_fid=1768&currentrow=101&dept=Pediatrics&division=&searchtype=doc_speciality
Raney, T.J.	Psychiatry	Clinical Faculty	http://www.unceatingdisorders.org/people.shtml#tj
Siega Riz, Anna Maria	Nutrition	Research Faculty	http://www.sph.unc.edu/?option=com_profiles&Itemid=1900&profileAction=ProfDetail&profileId=8912
Stevens, June	Nutrition	Research Faculty	http://www.sph.unc.edu/?option=com_profiles&Itemid=1900&profileAction=ProfDetail&profileId=1277
Sullivan, Patrick	Genetics	Research Faculty	http://genetics.unc.edu/faculty/sullivan.htm
Tate, Deborah	Nutrition	Research Faculty	http://www.sph.unc.edu/?option=com_profiles&Itemid=1900&profileAction=ProfDetail&profileId=6792

Coursework

Fellows will have the opportunity to participate in a range of educational activities ranging from formal coursework to departmental grand rounds. In addition, a specific seminar will take place for eating disorders fellows and fellows from other training programs. The following table is a draft schedule.

Eating Disorders Research Fellowship Seminar Series (Draft)		
Date	Speaker	Topic
9/5	Garbutt	Ethics and Responsible Conduct of Research I
9/12	Garbutt	Ethics and Responsible Conduct of Research II
9/19	Hamer et al.	Introduction to Experimental Design and Statistics
9/26	All	Practice Talks: Eating Disorders Research Society
10/3	Hamer et al.	Descriptive Statistics
10/10	Hamer et al.	Probability
10/17	Hamer et al.	Distributions and Sampling
10/24	Hamer et al.	Data Collection and Management
10/31	Hamer et al.	Data Analysis; Regression and Correlation
11/7	Hamer et al.	Analysis of Variance
11/14	Bulik	Preparing Presentations: Power Point Tips
11/21	Bulik	Critical Review of the Literature
11/28	Stevens	Measurement
12/5	Sullivan	Genetics of eating disorders and complex traits
12/12	Siege-Riz	Assessment of dietary intake
12/19	Garbutt	Assessment of substance abuse
1/9	Girdler	Psychophysiological methods
1/16	Belger	Neuroimaging techniques
1/23	Guo	Twin and family modeling
1/30	Baucom	Studying families
2/6	<i>Open</i>	<i>Trainee Request</i>
2/13	Bulik	Reviewing manuscripts for journals
2/20	Bulik	Manuscript writing 1: Designing tables
2/27	Bulik	Manuscript writing 2: Methods and results
3/6	Bulik	Manuscript writing 3: Setting the stage
3/13	Bulik	Manuscript writing 4: Discussion
3/20	Bulik	Manuscript writing 5: Writing a revision letter/dealing with editors
3/27	Bulik & Sullivan	Grantwriting 1: Show me the Crisps! Icing your idea. Talking with NIH
4/3	Bulik & Sullivan	Grantwriting 2: Specific Aims and Abstract
4/10	Bulik & Sullivan	Grantwriting 3: Building the story: Background and Significance
4/17	Bulik & Sullivan	Grantwriting 4: Presentation of preliminary studies
4/24	Hamer	Grantwriting 5: Data analysis and Power
5/1	Sullivan	Grantwriting 6: The art of the three page response
5/8	<i>Open</i>	<i>Trainee Request</i>
5/15	All	Practice Talks: Academy for Eating Disorders
5/22	All	Practice Talks: Academy for Eating Disorders