Center for Trauma and Mental Health Fellowship 2026-2027

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Fellowship Description

The Center for Trauma and Mental Health Fellowship Program provides short-term support for selected master's students to work closely with a mentor and contribute to research and practical projects in the fields of trauma and mental health. The Fellow is expected to contribute 65 hours to their projects and will receive $21.22 per hour sponsored by the BUSPH Center for Trauma and Mental Health. A research presentation will be hosted in the Spring to showcase student projects. This fellowship is open to all MPH and MS students at BUSPH who have a particular interest in trauma and mental health. Project plans will be finalized by the end of the Fall semester, and the fellows will complete their work through the Spring semester. Questions can be sent to ctmh@bu.edu.

Application

MPH/MS Student Fellowship Application

The application will ask for some basic information about the student and two text questions about their interests, skills, and experiences.

Frequently Asked Questions

Who is eligible to apply for the Fellowship?

The fellowship is open to all current MPH and MS students at BUSPH who have a particular interest in trauma and mental health research. Students should be at BUSPH through the Spring 2027 semester.

How will fellows be compensated?

Compensation will be $21.22/hr for about 5 hrs of work/week for 12 weeks totaling 65 hours. Timecards will be reported weekly. Compensation is subject to taxation.

Can this fellowship count as my practicum?

No, the CTMH fellowship does not meet the criteria for an SPH fellowship. The intention is to provide valuable experience to students in the field of trauma and mental health.

Who can I contact for additional questions?

Please reach out to ctmh@bu.edu. Claire Dillenbeck, Administrative Research Coordinator, will respond to questions sent to this email. She can also be found at Talbot 512E on Tuesday afternoons and Thursdays.

How are fellows matched with mentors?

CTMH staff will review initial applications and send a selection to each mentor based on best fit and areas of interest. The mentors will then decide their own final selection

process, for example, an interview or using the responses to the initial application. CTMH staff will comprehensively consider all the selections to ensure as many students have opportunities as possible.

Is there an opportunity for publication or conference presentations?

Opportunities for publication and presentations will depend on the nature of each fellowship and the stage of the research projects. If this is part of your goal with the fellowship, it is best to express interest in research-focused placements. This can be discussed with individual mentors. Fellows will all participate in a research presentation in the Spring and information about the projects will be published on the CTMH website.

Is the schedule flexible/are students able to build their own schedule?

Fellows will work 5 hrs/week for 12 weeks, and schedules will be discussed with mentors directly. Fellows can generally expect some scheduled meetings and independent work. Fellows are expected to manage their time independently.

Are there options for fellows to stay involved beyond the official fellowship period?

After the initial fellowship work, there may be opportunities to continue working with mentors on a case-by-case basis and this can be discussed individually. CTMH funding will not continue past the initial 65 hour fellowship.

What professional development opportunities will be available?

Professional development opportunities will be planned based on the nature of finalized project plans to meet the needs of this year's fellows. Fellows are welcome to request specific support they feel would be helpful for consideration.

Does the fellowship involve team collaboration or if it is primarily independent work?

The nature of the work will vary based on placement. Fellows are expected to collaborate with their mentors and teams, and CTMH will encourage networking between fellows.

Can I participate in the fellowship more than once?

In order to give opportunities to as many students as possible, students may only participate once in the CTMH Fellowship. We encourage students to continue to connect with CTMH after their fellowship by attending events and watching our newsletter for other opportunities. Previous fellows are also a valuable resource for the incoming class of fellows for advice and encouragement.

2026-7 Fellowship Projects

Fellowship project descriptions are initial proposals subject to change based on the development of the research, funding, and interest/skills of the fellow. If additional opportunities arise while applications are under review, CTMH will match fellows based on interests and experience.

Koichiro Shiba, PhD

Epidemiology

This project focuses on the impact of social connectedness on health and well-being outcomes. The fellow work with the All of Us Research Program data set to summarize potential outcomes available and write code to prepare a cleaned, analytic dataset, as well as participate in manuscript writing.

Jaimie Gradus, DSc, MPH

Epidemiology

This project examines exposure to suicide loss and attempt and their impact on mental and physical health outcomes. Potential roles for the fellow include conducting a literature review and summarizing existing research on these topics. The fellow may also contribute to the writing of results from a study using registry data in Denmark or a longitudinal cohort study in the United States. Depending on the fellows' skills and interests, opportunities for secondary data analysis may also be available.

Patrece Joseph, PhD

Community Health Sciences

Teen Takeover Study: The purpose of this study is to assess youth's motivations for attending and the prevalence and characteristics of teen takeovers—events planned and advertised on social media by young people to meet up in public spaces. Research fellows on this project will assist with (1) coding media documents (e.g., newspapers, social media posts) to build a dataset of characteristics of teen takeover events across the United States (e.g., locations, whether violent incidents occurred, etc.) and (2) analyzing qualitative using the dataset we build.

Anthony Joseph Rosellini, PhD

Epidemiology

Dr. Rosellini is involved in several studies that are collecting clinical data (interviews, questionnaires) from patients experiencing anxiety and depressive disorders. He is seeking support in cleaning/curating REDCap data bases, constructing code books, and preparing data for predictive modeling

Trish Elliot, DrPH

Community Health Sciences

Health Law Advocates' Mental Health Advocacy Program for Kids (MHAP for Kids) aims to eliminate barriers to mental health care for at-risk youth with unmet mental health needs by providing no-cost advocacy services to eligible, low-income families. In collaboration with BUSPH, data is triangulated from families, staff, stakeholders, and program administrative data to evaluate the program's implementation and impact. This fellowship could involve activities such as designing data collection tools, data analysis, policy review, report/academic writing, and more. There is flexibility to tailor the project based on the fellow's experience and interests. The fellow will also have the opportunity to work directly with staff and shadow meetings at Health Law Advocates to advance their public health perspective on the work of mental health advocacy.

Samara Grossman, MSW, LICSW

Boston Public Health Commission

This fellowship will be a practical project with the BPHC Center for Behavioral Health and Wellness: “We are working to create a fair, just, and equitable behavioral health system in Boston, with a strong focus on youth. Our goals are to improve mental and behavioral health outcomes, particularly for those affected by racism and systemic inequities.” Details of these fellowship projects will be discussed further with the fellows. It is possible fellows may also be placed in other BPHC sites.

Example: Fellow will assist in landscape analysis of public mental health initiatives, programs, and outcomes in cities of similar and large size in US.

Emilia Bianco, PhD

BU School of Social Work
Global Health

Research opportunity for a fellow interested in global health. There are two possible projects for learning and collaboration. One is about women entrepreneurs in Zimbabwe with a focus on gender, trauma informed care, and economic justice. The other project explores the situation and needs of asylum-seeking children living in shelters in MA, while it evaluates a socio-emotional learning program directed to children 3 to 5 years old. Both are global social work initiatives and are at the data analysis and writing stages. The research fellow will help write reports and conduct literature reviews for academic manuscripts, among other related research activities.

Luz M López, PhD, MPH

BU School of Social Work
Public Health Social Work and Global Social Work

Opportunity for a bilingual, Spanish Speaking fellow to assist with a Project in Nicaragua, with focus in intrafamily violence, trauma informed care, community participatory research, prevention, and education. Assistance with literature review, development and implementation of a program evaluation tool, and translation of documents to Spanish. Interest in the field of social work and interdisciplinary work with psychologists, nurses, and community health workers.

Jane Pryma, PhD

Sociology

People with PTSD are at greater risk of diabetes, cardiovascular disease, chronic pain, and autoimmune disorders. Through interviews with providers and patients, this project will explore the social factors that affect how patients and clinicians understand and manage the relationship between structural inequalities, chronic traumatic stress, and chronic disease. The goal of the research is to identify the social benefits and challenges of trauma-informed, integrated physical and mental health care. Results aim to guide how healthcare organizations deliver coordinated care, responsive to a patient's life stage, social needs and responsibilities, including work, school, and caregiving. I am looking for assistance with a scoping review of the literature on integrated PTSD care and, pending IRB approval, participant recruitment and qualitative interviews with patients and providers.