

Research Fellowship in Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) and Aging

San Francisco Veterans Affairs Medical Center (SFVAMC)

Memory and Aging Center

Weill Institute for Neurosciences

University of California, San Francisco (UCSF)

January 2022

Program Director and Mentor: Raquel C. Gardner, MD

Co-Mentor: Kristine Yaffe, MD

Overview: The goal of this 2-year post-doctoral research fellowship program is to train outstanding scientists to lead clinical research on TBI and aging either within VA or across the nation and world. The fellow will design and lead epidemiological analyses of existing TBI data, present findings at local and national research meetings, first-author original scientific articles, and write grants under the primary mentorship of Dr. Raquel Gardner with co-mentorship from Dr. Kristine Yaffe. The fellow will be expected to begin preparation of a career development award grant by the start of year 2 of the fellowship in order to propel the fellow towards an independent research career. Available data resources and research networks include the Transforming Research And Clinical Knowledge in TBI (TRACK-TBI) study network, the NIH-funded TRACK-Geriatric TBI (TRACK-GERI) study, the VA-funded TRACK-VA study, the CENC/LIMBIC epidemiology study (VA nationwide data), the UCSF Memory and Aging Center cohorts including the UCSF Alzheimer's Disease Research Center SFVA-based Brain Aging in Veterans (BRAVE) cohort, the Dept. of Defense funded DoD-AD Blood Testing Initiative (DoD-ADBI) Study, the Health and Retirement Study, and the Global Brain Health Institute. The ideal candidate will be highly motivated, creative, collaborative, possess excellent writing skills, possess excellent analytical skills, and demonstrate emerging leadership skills.

Eligibility: Candidates must have either a PhD or MD with dedicated advanced training in clinical research methods, biostatistics, and epidemiology either via a PhD in epidemiology, a Master's degree, or completion of the equivalent course credits. Ability to code in a biostatistical software program such as Stata or R or SAS is required. MD candidates may be non-U.S. citizens; non-MD candidates must be U.S. citizens.

Funding: Full-time salary plus benefits are provided for 2 years with the option to extend for a third year. Salary rate is commensurate with degree, title, and level of experience. \$10,000 per year is provided for research expenses or conference registration fees.

Research Environment: The fellowship is based at the San Francisco VA Medical Center (SFVAMC). The fellow will also have a post-doctoral fellow appointment in the UCSF Department of Neurology. The SFVAMC is a leading research VA with the largest funded research operation in the Veterans Health Administration totaling over \$79 million of expenditures annually and over 220 active research projects. The UCSF Department of Neurology is ranked #1 nationally for amount of NIH funding and has held this spot for the past 10 years. The SFVAMC and UCSF exist within a rich basic, translational, and clinical research environment that spans several campuses and hospitals across San Francisco, including the Zuckerberg San Francisco General Hospital and Level 1 Trauma Center (ZSFG). The fellow will have the opportunity to engage with

multiple institutes and research centers relevant to TBI and aging research including: the Memory and Aging Center (Director: Bruce Miller, based at UCSF Mission Bay, coordinating center for multiple multi-site research studies focused on neurodegenerative disease), the Brain And Spinal Injury Center (Director: Geoff Manley, based at ZSFG, coordinating center for the TRACK-TBI study network), the Center for Population Brain Health (Director: Kristine Yaffe, based at SFVAMC, coordinating center for the CENC/LIMBIC Epidemiology project), and the UCSF Division of Geriatrics Pepper Center (Director: Ken Covinsky, based at SFVAMC).

Clinical training and experience (optional): While this is primarily a research fellowship, MD fellows who have completed a residency will have the option of participating in up to ½ day of research-relevant patient-care per week as a means to expand their clinical knowledge of TBI and aging and inform their high-impact research initiatives. Clinical experiences may include Memory Evaluation Clinic at SFVAMC, TBI Clinic at the UCSF Memory and Aging Center or SFVAMC, or Neurorecovery Clinic at the Weill Institute for Neurosciences. Fellows will evaluate and treat patients under the supervision of attending physicians with expertise in TBI/neurorecovery, behavioral neurology, and/or geriatric psychiatry. Non-MD fellows will have the option to observe in clinic. For those with interest or skills in acute TBI inpatient care, clinical experiences or observation at ZSFG Trauma Center could also be arranged.

Please contact Dr. Raquel Gardner Raquel.Gardner@ucsf.edu for more information.

Eligible applicants should email a CV, cover letter, and the names of 2 references to Dr. Gardner and cc Domenico Lombardi Domenico.Lombardi@ucsf.edu . Application submission/review is rolling and start date is flexible.