

UConn Health Postdoctoral Research Fellowship in Substance Use Recovery Support Services

The Collaborative Hub for Emerging Adult Recovery Research (CHEARR) at the UConn Health School of Medicine is recruiting a **postdoctoral fellow** interested in a career conducting research on recovery support services for emerging adults with substance use disorders. The fellow will work directly under the mentorship of Dr. Kristyn Zajac, with opportunities for external mentorship from researchers at Chestnut Health Systems, East Tennessee State University, and the University of Massachusetts Chan Medical School. Fellowships are 1-2 years depending on training needs. The fellow will primarily work on a NIDA-funded Initiative (the Collaborative Hub for Emerging Adult Recovery Research [CHEARR], R24DA057632) focused on recovery supports for emerging adults with opioid use disorder. CHEARR seeks to advance research on the efficacy/effectiveness of recovery support services, particularly continuing care models, for emerging adults who take or who have taken medications for opioid use disorder. We use a community-based participatory approach, which means persons with lived experience with opioid use disorder, and particularly with taking medications for opioid use disorder as part of their recovery process, are an integral part of the research team. ***As such, recruiting postdoctoral fellowship applicants with lived experiences (i.e., in recovery from substance use and/or personal experience with familial substance use problems) is a high priority for CHEARR.***

Beyond CHEARR activities, integration into other projects will be based on the fellow's interests and training needs. There are currently multiple NIH-funded studies that employ various research designs and methods, including randomized controlled trials, stepped-wedge cluster randomized trials, multimodal assessments of risk factors for substance use treatment dropout, mHealth intervention development and evaluation, working with community boards who partner on research, and data from legal system-related studies, among others. There are also data from multiple NIH-funded randomized clinical trials focused on treatment of substance use problems available for secondary analysis.

Role of the Postdoctoral Fellow: As an essential member of the investigative team, you will...

- Conduct advanced grant-funded research (e.g., plan data collection and advanced statistical analysis, ensure fidelity of intervention implementation and community partner engagement, develop training curricula and supervise intervention implementation, collaborate with a project coordinator on project-related tasks, assist in training and supervising data collection staff, assist with dissemination of research results)
- Pursue extramural funding (e.g., NIH K-series award or diversity supplement) and attend trainings designed to launch your own independently funded research career
- Serve as primary author or co-author for journal articles and chapters for publication
- Write or assist with writing grant progress reports and new grant applications
- Attend professional conferences for continuing education and to present study results

Position Requirements: In order to meet the demands of the position, you must have...

- A Ph.D. in psychology, education, public health, criminal justice/criminology, or a related field (degree must be attained by the position start date)
- Experience working as part of an investigative team
- Experience writing journal articles
- Training in human subjects research protocols and ethical conduct of research
- Experience using statistical techniques and software (e.g., SPSS, SAS, STATA, MPlus, R)
- Preferred: Experience with training and supervision of clinical and/or research teams
- **Preferred: Lived experience (i.e., in recovery from substance use and/or personal experience with familial substance use problems)**

Applicants from [underrepresented populations, as defined by NIH](#), are strongly encouraged to apply.

Starting Date: Start dates range from Spring to Summer 2025. **This is an in-person fellowship and is, unfortunately, not available as a remote opportunity.**

Salary & Benefits: \$61,008 – 64,346 (based on education & experience), plus an excellent benefits package and up to \$2,000 per year for training and professional meetings. Postdoctoral fellows are employees of UConn Health and are members of the University Health Professionals (UHP) bargaining unit.

Quality of Life and Professional Resources:

- ✧ Onsite childcare facilities
- ✧ Onsite cafeteria and coffee shop
- ✧ Onsite gym/wellness center available to post-docs for a reduced rate of \$5/month
- ✧ Access to UConn library resources and free software downloads
- ✧ Opportunity to get supervised hours for licensure (for clinical psychology PhDs only)
- ✧ Employee Assistance Program (EAP)
- ✧ UConn Health/Jackson Labs Postdoctoral Association hosts both professional (e.g., monthly seminar series; trainings) and social networking events
- ✧ Annual postdoctoral travel grants of up to \$600 annually (in addition to \$2,000 provided by CHEARR grant listed above)

Benefits: (click links to learn more):

- ✧ High quality health and dental insurance benefits
- ✧ [Retirement benefits](#) - multiple options
- ✧ Supplemental benefits can be found [here](#), including a dependent care assistance program, medical flexible spending account, group life insurance, and supplemental retirement benefits
- ✧ [Tuition waiver can be used for UConn courses and for dependent children](#)

Paid time off:

- 30 days of paid leave per year which includes vacation, personal days, and holidays.
- 12 days of paid sick leave per year

Application Information: To apply, please submit (1) a cover letter detailing your experiences, interests, career goals, and fit with CHEARR; (2) curriculum vitae; (3) one writing sample (e.g., peer-reviewed publication or in-progress empirical manuscript); and (4) contact information for three references (academic supervisors or collaborators). You may e-mail these materials to Kristyn Zajac at zajac@uchc.edu

We will begin reviewing applications immediately and will continue until the position is filled.

About UConn Health: Founded in 1961, UConn Health is composed of the Graduate School, School of Medicine, School of Dental Medicine, John Dempsey Hospital, the UConn Medical Group, UConn Health Partners and University Dentists. UConn Health is the only public academic health center in Connecticut and with approximately 5,000 employees. UConn Health is a vibrant, integrated academic medical center that is entering an era of unprecedented growth in all three areas of its mission: academics, research, and clinical care. A commitment to human health and well-being has been of utmost importance to UConn Health since the founding of the University of Connecticut schools of Medicine and Dental Medicine in 1961. Based on a strong foundation of groundbreaking research, first-rate education, and quality clinical care, we have expanded our medical missions over the decades. In just over 50 years, UConn Health has evolved to encompass more research endeavors, to provide more ways to access our superior care, and to innovate both practical medicine and our methods of educating the practitioners of tomorrow.

About the area: UConn Health's 206-acre campus is situated around a wooded hilltop in the beautiful, historic community of Farmington, Connecticut and is part of the Greater Hartford area. This richly diverse community is home to nearly 200 cultural, arts and heritage organizations, including art and historic museums, theatre, dance, opera, and concert venues, and dining options from the Caribbean, South America, Europe, the Middle East and Asia. Major area festivals are celebrated year round, such as the Greater Hartford Jazz Festival, the Amistad Foundation's Juneteenth Celebration, Riverfest – July 4th weekend, and the Sunken Garden Poetry Festival, as well as annual events including celebrations of our African American, Puerto Rican, West Indian, and Native American communities. UConn Health is conveniently located about two hours by car from both Boston and New York City. In addition, outstanding local recreation areas offer camping, hiking, horseback riding, skiing, canoeing/tubing, golfing, and fresh and salt water beaches. Professional sports teams in the area include the Hartford Yard Goats and New Britain Bees baseball teams, Connecticut Whale hockey team, and the WNBA Connecticut Sun. The area is also home to the nationally ranked UConn basketball, football, and soccer teams. For more information on the area, visit www.hartford.com. For information on housing in the area and other aspects of daily life, visit the [Graduate School's Guide to Life in Greater Hartford](#).

The CHEARR team is strongly committed to eliminating disparities and building a multicultural and diverse community of students, faculty, and staff. CHEARR firmly believes that diverse perspectives, including those with lived experience with substance use problems, must be represented in all aspects of our work. In addition, UConn's faculty and staff are the critical link to fostering and expanding our vibrant, multicultural and diverse University community. As an Affirmative Action/Equal Employment Opportunity employer, UConn encourages applications from women, veterans, people with disabilities and members of traditionally underrepresented populations.