

Implementation Science and Partnerships Advancing Care and Training in Mental Health (IMPACT-MH)

The Columbia University Research Fellowship in **Implementation Science and Partnerships Advancing Care and Training in Mental Health (IMPACT-MH)** provides advanced implementation science training to the next generation of mental health (MH) services researchers committed to reducing the persistent mental health treatment gap in the United States. While evidence-based treatments exist, structural barriers prevent individuals with serious mental illness from receiving adequate care. IMPACT-MH prepares fellows to design, evaluate, and sustain scalable, community-engaged mental health interventions to address this quality gap.

We are currently recruiting an IMPACT-MH postdoctoral fellow with a background and interest in anxiety disorders and obsessive-compulsive disorder (OCD). The selected fellow will work directly with **Dr. Sapana Patel and Dr. Blair Simpson** to support activities in [IMPACT-OCD \(Improving Providers' Assessment, Care Delivery and Treatment of OCD\)](#). This unique statewide program funded by the New York State Office of Mental Health (NYS-OMH) utilizes community-based participatory approaches and the principles of implementation science to improve care for individuals with OCD across the lifespan in NY State. Our interdisciplinary team of experts with personal and family lived experience, clinicians, researchers, and policymakers develop and evaluate strategies that increase the adoption of evidence-based care for OCD within community mental health clinics and other care settings. The fellow will have a unique opportunity to participate in state and federally funded research projects to build their program of independent research.

The IMPACT-MH fellowship offers a rich interdisciplinary academic-community learning environment through the Division of Community Engagement and Implementation Science, [the Center for OCD and Related Disorders](#), and the [Center for Practice Innovations](#) at Columbia Psychiatry and the New York State Psychiatric Institute. Fellows work closely with established multisectoral partnerships to ensure that their research has direct relevance for real-world practice and policy. Through intensive mentorship and experiential learning, fellows develop the conceptual, methodological, and technological competencies needed to become independent investigators capable of securing competitive NIH funding, including K-awards. Graduates of the program will be equipped to translate emerging scientific discoveries into sustainable, evidence-informed mental health services and policies that strengthen the public health impact of NIMH-supported research and contribute to closing the U.S. mental health treatment gap. To learn more about the fellowship please visit: <https://educationportal.nyspi.org/AboutIMPACTMH.aspx>

Start date for the fellowship is flexible. At the time of start, candidates should have a PhD in psychology or related field (e.g., Social Work with the credentials to apply for a limited permit to practice psychology in New York State) or a MD in psychiatry. They have experience working with individuals with OCD, as well as training and experience in delivering CBT. If you have any questions, feel free to contact **Dr. Sapana Patel** at: IMPACTOCD@nyspi.columbia.edu

Application Process

All materials must be uploaded into the application portal: <https://educationportal.nyspi.org/>

The application includes (and you should have ready to upload):

- Curriculum Vitae: Please include an updated version of your CV as part of this application.
- Cover Letter
- Up to 3 peer reviewed published manuscripts by applicant
- Please provide a brief (1-3 page) summary detailing:
 1. Your interest(s) and/or experience(s) in mental health research
 2. The research question(s) you are interested in addressing
 3. Additional training you hope to attain