

# Charles E. Steinberg Fellowship in Psychiatry and the Law

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## Introduction

### Goals

- *To provide an educational experience which will give Forensic Psychiatry Fellows the opportunity to gain the psychiatric subspecialty knowledge and skills necessary to ethically apply scientific and clinical expertise to: (1) legal issues involving criminal, civil, correctional, or legislative matters; (2) the legal regulation of psychiatry; and (3) provide psychiatric evaluation and treatment to those in forensic settings.*
- *To provide Fellows with the opportunity to develop their interests, talents, and knowledge as they apply to the subspecialty of forensic psychiatry.*

### Fellowship Training

Consistent with the first goal of the Fellowship, the Fellows are provided a didactic core curriculum and supervised clinical experiences.

#### ***Didactic Core Curriculum***

1. Law Seminar. The Fellows will have instruction in psychiatry and the law provided on a weekly basis, one and one-half hours for approximately 30 weeks, by the legal faculty of the Psychiatry and Law Program. The legal faculty is: Hon. John Connell, Joyce Parker, Esq., Charles Steinman, Esq., Richard Tubiolo, Esq. The seminar will cover basic law for psychiatrists and other topics (see page 11).
2. Case Conference. A case conference will be provided by the Director of the Forensic Psychiatry and Law Fellowship.
3. Lectures in Psychiatry and the Law. A weekly lecture organized by the Director of the Psychiatry and Law Program will be provided. Topics covered in the seminar will include Criminal Forensic Psychiatry, Civil Forensic Psychiatry, Violence Risk Assessment, Legal Regulation of Psychiatry, Ethics Issues in Forensic Psychiatry, Special Issues in Forensic Psychiatry and Correctional Psychiatry.
4. Landmark Cases Seminar. The weekly landmark cases specifically listed by the American Academy of Psychiatry and the Law and additional significant legal cases will be reviewed in depth. The seminar series, of approximately 35 seminars, will be provided by the Director of the Psychiatry and Law Program. A member of the legal faculty, Professor Michael Perlin will contribute to approximately two seminars.

### ***Supervised Clinical Experiences***

1. The Fellows core clinical experience is provided in three settings: the Regional Forensic Unit of the Rochester Psychiatric Center, the Monroe County Mental Health Center for Sociolegal Services and the Evelyn Brandon Health Center at Unity Health System.
2. Weekly supervision will be provided by each of the following: the Director of the Psychiatry and Law Program (J. Richard Ciccone, M.D.); the Co-Director of the Fellowship in Psychiatry and the Law (R.P. Singh, M.D.); and the Director of Education (Josh Jones, M.D.).
3. Additional supervision will be provided by the Chair, Department of Psychiatry, Unity Health System (Michael McGrath, M.D.), and a Consulting Psychiatrist at the Monroe County Socio-Legal Center (Odysseus Adamides, M.D.).
4. The Fellows will have supervision in writing psychiatric reports and testifying in court. These supervised experiences may occur at the Regional Forensic Unit of the Rochester Psychiatric Center, the Monroe County Mental Health Center for Sociolegal Services, Strong Memorial Hospital, the courtroom and in private practice settings. Supervision will be provided by the faculty of the Psychiatry and Law Program.
5. The Fellows will have the opportunity to work with faculty members on private cases. This participation may include involvement in: consultations with attorneys, examinations of individuals referred for forensic evaluation; review of all relevant written materials; writing of forensic reports; preparation for testimony, and observation of psychiatric testimony

### **Evaluation of Fellows**

#### ***Evaluation Criteria, Process, and Follow-up***

The evaluation criteria have been developed from the ACGME core competencies with reference to the specific competencies relevant to forensic psychiatry: psychiatric and medical knowledge; patient care; interpersonal and communication skills; practice-based learning improvement; system-based learning; and professionalism. The Fellow Evaluation Form is distributed to faculty members for completion. The fellows review their evaluations and discuss them with the Program Director.

#### ***Frequency of Evaluation***

The evaluation will be done four times a year.

#### ***Person Responsible***

Director of the Steinberg Fellowship in Psychiatry and the Law.

## **Evaluation of Fellowship**

Fellows evaluate the Fellowship on four times a year. The evaluation categories cover the didactic, clinical and supervisory components of the Fellowship.

### **Rochester Regional Forensic Unit (Rochester Psychiatric Center)**

**1111 Elmwood Avenue  
Rochester, NY 14620**

#### **FACULTY:**

R.P. Singh, M.D.  
Christine Ransom, Ph.D.  
Joshua Jones, M.D.  
J. Richard Ciccone, M.D.

## **Program Description**

The Rochester Regional Forensic Unit (RFU) of the Rochester Psychiatric Center is a 55-bed, maximum-security unit. It is a new, state of the art unit that the service moved into in December 2008. It provides assessment and treatment of three categories of patients:

1. CPL 330.20 patients – individuals who have been found Not Responsible by Reason of Mental Disease for a crime. After a verdict of Not Responsible, individuals may be sent to the RFU for determination of whether or not they are Dangerously Mentally Ill. If found Dangerously Mentally Ill, they are committed to the RFU for treatment. They remain hospitalized involuntarily on the Regional Forensic unit until the Court determines, with the assistance of expert psychiatric input (report and/or testimony), that they are no longer Dangerously Mentally Ill.
2. CPL 730 patients- individuals who have been arrested and charged with a crime, and found Not Competent to Stand Trial. They may be hospitalized for treatment and restoration of Competence to Stand Trial. The Court, with the assistance of expert psychiatric input (report and/or testimony), determines when an individual's competence has been restored. At times, the initial determination of Competence to Stand Trial cannot be accomplished on an outpatient basis, under those circumstances, the Director of Mental health may direct that the initial evaluation be completed at the RFU.
3. DCS/508 patients – incarcerated individuals charged with crimes, who are determined to require psychiatric hospitalization to further evaluate and treat their mental illness. These individuals are acutely ill and usually require short-term hospitalization (2-4 weeks) for assessment and treatment.

## **Fellow Role and Responsibilities**

Fellows (PGY-5 residents) are assigned to the Regional Forensic Unit for one year, part-time (60%). The caseload, maximum eight patients, is assigned by R.P. Singh, M.D.,

Director of Education of the Forensic psychiatry Fellowship and Chief Psychiatrist, Regional Forensic Unit in coordination with J. Richard Ciccone, M.D., Director of the Forensic Psychiatry Fellowship. The fellows provide evaluation, treatment and forensic psychiatric assessments. The forensic psychiatric assessments include Competence to Stand Trial, the presence of a Dangerous Mental Illness, Involuntary Commitment to the RFU and Treatment over Objection. The fellow prepares forensic psychiatric reports and provides forensic psychiatric expert witness testimony as necessary.

## **Goal**

Develop expertise and skills needed to evaluate, treat patients and conduct forensic psychiatric issues.

## **Objectives\***

1. Fellow will demonstrate the ability to assess the presence of a dangerous mental disorder in a forensic psychiatric patient.
2. Fellow will demonstrate the ability to assess the presence of malingering.
3. Fellow will demonstrate the ability to assess a defendant's capacity to stand trial.
4. Fellow will demonstrate the ability to create and implement appropriate treatment plans in a forensic setting.
5. Fellow will demonstrate the ability to communicate forensic data and opinions to the legal system in the form of a forensic psychiatric report.
6. Fellow will demonstrate ability to communicate forensic data and opinions as an expert witness (testimony or mock trial).

\* The measurement tools, as appropriate, will be used to assess the fellow's ability regarding each objective: the interview checklist, the oral presentation checklist, the forensic report checklist and the expert witness checklist.

**Monroe County Mental Health  
Socio-Legal Center  
80 West Main Street  
Rochester, NY 14614**

### FACULTY:

Odysseus Adamides, M.D.  
J. Richard Ciccone, M.D.  
Joshua CW Jones, M.D.  
Michael McGrath, M.D.  
Kevin Robinson, M.D.  
David Putney, M.S., CRC

## **Program Description**

The Monroe County Socio-legal Center was established in 1964 and is operated jointly by the University of Rochester Medical Center and Monroe County. The Center provides forensic psychiatric consultation to the city, town, and county courts, parole and probation departments, and pre-trial release program. Training for Fellows in Psychiatry and the law has been associated with the Center since the founding of the Psychiatry and Law Program at the University of Rochester in 1986. Located near the courts, Monroe County Jail, the office of the District Attorney, the office of the Public Defender, and the Probation Department the Socio-legal Center provides a unique blend of consultation and training in the area of psychiatry and the law.

## **Fellow Role and Responsibilities**

Fellows (PGY-5 residents) are assigned to the Socio-legal Center for one year, part-time (20%). The fellows are assigned to examine incarcerated and non-incarcerated individuals referred for evaluation of a variety of forensic psychiatric issue.

## **Goal**

Develop expertise and skills needed to evaluate individuals referred to a court clinic setting to determine: competence to stand trial; need for treatment; and pre-sentence evaluation.

## **Objectives\***

1. Fellow will demonstrate the skill to assess a defendant's competence to stand trial in an outpatient setting.
  2. Fellow will demonstrate the skill to assess the presence of a mental disorder and to perform court ordered mental health evaluations to determine the need for treatment.
  3. Fellow will demonstrate the skill to communicate forensic data and opinions to the legal system in the form of a forensic psychiatric report and testimony.
- The measurement tools, as appropriate, will be used to assess the fellow's ability regarding each objective: the interview checklist, the oral presentation checklist, the forensic report checklist and the expert witness checklist.

**Unity Health System**  
**Evelyn Brandon Health Center**  
**81 Lake Avenue**  
**Rochester, NY 14608**

### **FACULTY:**

J. Richard Ciccone, M.D.  
Rory Houghtalen, M.D.  
Joshua Jones, M.D.  
Michael McGrath, M.D.

## **Fellow Role and Responsibilities**

Fellows (PGY-5 residents) are assigned to Unity for one year, part-time (10%). The fellow is assigned:

1. One afternoon per week throughout the year to the Sexual Behavior Treatment Program, where the fellow evaluates and treats individuals with sexual behavior disorders, including sex offenders
2. One afternoon, every other week to the CPL Clinic (330.20 Clinic), usually for six months, where the fellow has the opportunity to evaluate and treat individuals on an outpatient basis who have been found Not Responsible by Reason of Mental Illness and subsequently determined by the courts to be not Dangerously Mentally Ill, most after years in forensic and civil psychiatric hospitals, and mandated to receive outpatient forensic psychiatric treatment.

## **Goal**

Develop expertise and skills needed to: (a) evaluate and treat individuals in a Sexual Disorder Clinic including sexually violent predators; (b) evaluate and treat individuals who have been found Not Responsible by Reason of Mental Disease and are being followed on an outpatient basis.

## **Objectives\***

1. Fellow will demonstrate the skill to assess individuals with paraphilias and sex offenders.
2. Fellow will demonstrate the skill to create and implement an appropriate treatment plan for individuals with paraphilias and sex offenders.
3. Fellow will demonstrate the skill to assess and treat individuals who have been found Not Responsible by Reason of Mental Illness and are participating in a court mandated program.

\*The measurement tools, as appropriate, will be used to assess the fellow's ability regarding each objective: the interview checklist, the oral presentation checklist, the forensic report checklist and the expert witness checklist.

## **Forensic Psychiatry Case Conference**

Rochester Psychiatric Center Regional Forensic Unit

FACULTY:

J. Richard Ciccone, M.D.

## **Program Description**

The Fellows present patients who raise diagnostic and forensic questions. Following the case presentation, the patient is interviewed by the faculty member and a discussion follows. The case conference includes an opportunity to observe faculty members conduct a clinical interview and forensic examination.

### **Goal**

Develop expertise and skill in the oral presentation of a forensic case.

### **Objective\***

Fellow will demonstrate the ability to assess individuals in a forensic setting.

- \* The measurement tools, as appropriate, will be used to assess the fellow's ability regarding each objective: the interview checklist, the oral presentation checklist, the forensic report checklist and the expert witness checklist.

## **Steinberg Fellowship Mock Trial Series**

Various Sites

### **FACULTY:**

J. Richard Ciccone, M.D.  
Honorable Judge John Connell  
Joshua CW Jones, M.D.  
Joyce Parker, J.D.  
R. P. Singh, M.D.  
Charles Steinman, J.D.  
Richard Tubiolo, J.D.

### **Program Description**

The Fellows participate in a structured record review and observation of a pre-recorded forensic evaluation. The fellows then work with Fellowship legal faculty members to prepare and deliver testimony in a simulated trial.

### **Goal**

Develop expertise and skill in forensic examinations and expert testimony.

### **Objective\***

Fellow will demonstrate the ability to deliver expert testimony.

- \* The measurement tools, as appropriate, will be used to assess the fellow's ability regarding each objective: the expert witness checklist.