Roanoke College
Undergraduate Research Field Study

An educational learning experience that serves as part of the ongoing relationship between Roanoke College and the Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center – Salem, VA.

Role: Research Assistant

Purpose: To gain experience working in research with a seasoned Principal Investigator (PI) on current research protocols.

Potential Duties

- Contribute to the preparation of research products (protocols, scientific manuscripts, and/or scientific posters)
- Conduct data entry/management/coding (excel, SPSS)
- Analyze data and present outcomes/findings
- Assist with protocol binder management and Informed Consent (IC) quality management
- Conduct bibliography/literature review and background/introduction writing for grant submissions
- Prepare IRB Protocol submissions (initial, continuing review, amendments, etc)

Additional Opportunities

- Attend IRB/R&D Meetings
- Assist with Research Week
- Participate in Grand Rounds (Psychology and Medicine)
- Research Service rotation – learn administrative side of research
- Clinical observership* (optional, hours do not count towards semester requirement)

Outcomes

- Produce 3-page paper on lessons learned and application of field study program to future studies
  - Submitted to Roanoke College and VA Training and Education Coordinator
- Present Poster or presentation on outcome of field study at Roanoke College and/or VA Research Week

Time Requirement

- 100-120 hours
- 1 Semester, with the option for additional semesters based on performance

Additional Requirements

- Obtain Without Compensation (WOC) Appointment with the VA
  - Complete Scope of Practice Document (must be signed by supervising PI)
  - Complete trainings: TMS VA Privacy and Info Security, VA Privacy and HIPAA Training, VACO Compliance and Business Integrity, Fire/Life Safety, Emergency Preparedness, and CITI Training
Timeline

February

- Accepting student applications: Feb 11th – Feb 28th
  - All applications are due to Dr. Lassiter by 5:00 PM on Thursday, February 28, 2019.

March

- Notice of Being Selected for an Interview—Week of March 4th
- Interviews/ information session with students – March 19th
  - Interview (Dr. Lehman, Lynn Jernigan)
  - Information Session: (Dr. Lassiter, Dr. O’Leary)
    Discuss student requirements, matching timeline, potential start dates, clinical observership process,
    review roles and responsibilities list, types of class credit
  - Meetings with potential PIs
- Matching process completed by March 29th

April

- Provide students with WOC Appointment information – deadlines by April 23rd
- End of April Orientation
  - Two dates during the week of April 22nd

May

- Students may begin working with research programs by mid-May if agreed upon by both PI mentor and
  Roanoke College supervisor

August

- Students may begin working with Fall 2019 research program as early as August 26th if agreed upon by both PI mentor
  and Roanoke College supervisor

Contacts

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2019-2020 Opportunities

Working with Dr. Ashley Engels, Psychologist

- **OPTION 1: QUIT Club**
  Smoking cessation project that incorporates contingency management and motivational enhancement therapy in residential substance abuse and trauma treatment programs.

- **OPTION 2: Motivational Enhancement Therapy**
  Starting in the next year, this project involves the motivational enhancement therapy arm of the QUIT Club in another setting (possibly outpatient).

- **OPTIONS: Database Mining - Cognitive and Psychological Symptom Overlap with Substance Use Disorders**
  This project focused on how cognitive and psychological symptoms overlap with substance use disorders and the changes that occur over the course of treatment in the residential substance abuse treatment program. Though this project is not actively recruiting, an existing database is available as an excellent resource for a publication/presentation.

Working with Dr. Ali Iranmanesh, Endocrinologist/Research Investigator

- **Multiple Options:**
  Dr. Iranmanesh is an endocrinology, diabetes & metabolism specialist. As Director of Sponsored Research, he has multiple projects available depending on student interest in this area.

Working with Dr. Matthew Jameson, Clinical Psychologist

- **OPTION 1: Residential PTSD Program Using Acceptance and Commitment Therapy and Exposure Therapy**
  This project is an ongoing archival study investigating the effectiveness of a residential PTSD program using Acceptance and Commitment Therapy and exposure therapy. We are investigating changes in PTSD and depression symptoms, as well as possible moderators of change.

Working with Dr. Aliza Lee, Podiatry

- **OPTION 1: Investigation of Rifampin to Reduce Pedal Amputations for Osteomyelitis in Diabetics**
  The study looks at adding an extra antibiotic (Rifampin) to the preferred antibiotic regimen/therapy. The addition of this one antibiotic has synergy and improves outcomes.

- **OPTION 2: Shortwave Diathermy therapy for failed conservative treatment of plantar fasciitis**
  Heel pain (aka plantar fasciitis) is a very common diagnosis that affects many. 98% get better conservatively; for those that do not get better this device is a non-invasive/non-opioid alternative to pain management and the healing process.

- **OPTION 3: The Efficacy and Safety of Granexin Gel in the treatment of Diabetic Foot Ulcer**
  This study is a Phase III, randomized, double-blinded, parallel group, vehicle controlled, multicenter study. This product is new to wound care, innovative, and not currently available on the market as such. Working on FDA approval.

Working with Dr. Katherine Luci, Psychologist

- **OPTION 1: ACT for Older Adults Group**
  Continuing the work on our ACT for Olders Adults group (i.e. learning how to submit/resubmit to IRB, doing study intakes with Veterans, entering data, managing RedCAP for the project team, etc.).

- **OPTION 2: Veteran Referrals to SAMVAMC Memory Assessment Clinic**
  Continuing a project started this year by one of our fellows, looking at how/when/why Veterans get referred to our Memory Assessment Clinic. We are especially interested in understanding why some get referred so late in the neurodegenerative process.