

The Brandon Nelson Fellowship in the Translational Neuroscience of Major Mental Illness at UCLA

Call for Applications

We are excited to announce the availability of a new fellowship to support early career researchers aiming to change the landscape for those with severe mental illness. This fellowship program is designed for physicians and psychologists in training who are committed to building research careers at the intersection of basic and clinical neuroscience, with a focus on serious mental illness, particularly psychotic disorders. The program is grounded in the conviction that meaningful advances in treatment will require a deeper understanding of the underlying neurobiology of these conditions.

Fellows will pursue mentored research within established programs at the Semel Institute for Neuroscience and Human Behavior at UCLA. Participating laboratories include the Geschwind Lab, which integrates population genetics, functional genomics, and computational approaches with basic and clinical neuroscience; the Green Lab, which applies cognitive, social, and affective neuroscience using methods including functional neuroimaging and neurophysiology; and a clinical trials unit directed by Dr. Stephen Marder, with extensive infrastructure for conducting complex intervention studies. Research programs involving translational work that spans laboratories and focuses on psychosis will be given highest priority? Other factors include the applicant's career trajectory and the potential impact of the work proposed. Please contact the fellowship directors prior to your application.

Fellowship Directors

Stephen R. Marder, MD, Michael F. Green, PhD, Daniel H. Geschwind, MD, PhD

Application Process

Applicants should be clinically trained investigators holding an MD, PhD, or combined MD/PhD degree.

Applications should include:

- A two-page description of the applicant's research interests and an outline of proposed research.
- A current CV or NIH Biosketch
- Two letters of recommendation from a Department Chair, Principal Investigator, or supervisor
- Applications for the year beginning July 1, 2027 should be received by December 15, 2026

Award Terms

The award is for one year, but is renewable on a competitive basis pending progress and submission of other outside funding applications. Fellows receive funding of \$100,000 per year. These funds may supplement an existing fellowship, or serve as a salary source.

For inquiries and questions: smarder@mednet.ucla.edu