

California Legislature



Robert McCarron, D.O. completed a dual residency in internal medicine and psychiatry at Rush University and received board certification in psychiatry, psychosomatic medicine, and internal medicine. He completed a two-year at fellowship in integrative medicine at the Academy of Integrative Health and Medicine. Dr. McCarron is the Founding Director for the UC Irvine Train New Trainers (TNT) Primary Care Psychiatry (PCP) Fellowship and the TNT PC Training and Education in Addiction Medicine (TEAM) Fellowship, which are one-year programs designed to train primary care providers in the essentials of adult psychiatry, pediatric psychiatry, and SUD behavioral health. Dr. McCarron also serves as Professor, Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Medicine and Associate Dean, Continuing Medical Education at the University of California, Irvine School of Medicine. He is also Director of Education for the UCI Susan Samueli Integrative Health Institute. He serves on the ACGME Residency Review Committee for Psychiatry and is Medical Director for Mind OC. Dr. McCarron is a California National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) Board Member and serves as an advisor on integrated care to the American Medical Association.

Dr. McCarron has numerous publications in the areas of medical education, unexplained physical complaints; pain management; depression and anxiety in the primary care setting; preventive medicine; medical / psychiatric cross-disciplinary education and integrative care. He served on the DSM 5-TR Advisory Board for mood disorders and has written numerous journal articles and edited six textbooks on clinical education.

Dr. McCarron has received recognition for his national leadership and expertise in cross disciplinary medical / psychiatric / whole-person integrated education from the UC Davis School of Medicine Vice Chancellor; the American College of Physicians; the Association of Medicine and Psychiatry; the Academy of Consultation Liaison Psychiatry; The American College of Psychiatrists; Orange County Medical Association; American Association of Directors of Psychiatric Residency Training; the American Psychiatric Association and NAMI.

Train New Trainers (TNT) Fellowships

The University of California, Irvine School of Medicine Train New Trainers (TNT) Primary Care Psychiatry (PCP) Fellowship are year-long clinical education certificate programs for primary-care oriented trainees and providers who are looking to receive advanced training in primary care psychiatry. Primary care providers often receive limited formal training in “primary care-based” psychiatry. The Train New Trainers Fellowship are designed to address the most frequently encountered medical and psychiatric conditions seen in the primary care setting. The goal of the fellowship is to augment the members’ education by training them how to prevent, accurately diagnose, and effectively treat the most encountered psychiatric or medical conditions.

65% of mental health care is provided by primary care providers. To expand the behavior health workforce, the fellowship trains its members how to recognize psychiatric conditions in their patients.

The fellowship was established in 2016 at UC Davis and enrolled 35 fellows from around California. In 2018, the program moved to the UC Irvine School of Medicine.

The original source of funding for the program came from counties, such as Alameda which was an early partner of the program. The fellowship was able to grow with state support, which came in the form of a one-time funding of \$1 million in the 2018 state budget.

As part of the fellowship, members receive clinical education, training, and mentorship from experts in behavior health. Fellows attend national conferences, webinars, and receive personal coaching.

Fellows receive over 50 hours of training, which leads to a certificate of completion from the UC Irvine Department of Psychiatry and Human Behavior.

The one-year training period consists of three key components. First, fellows will attend intensive weekend learning sessions and focus on core topics such as how to conduct a psychiatric interview, effective screening and treatment of mood anxiety, pain, and substance misuse disorders. The program contains an emphasis on chronic pain in the context of psychiatric illness. Second, fellows will complete two interactive learning sessions with faculty each month. Third, fellows will be assigned a faculty advisor and discuss an individualized learning plan.

The TNT Fellowships have been recognized for their impact and innovation, receiving several awards, including the American Psychiatric Association (APA) Psychiatric Services Achievement Award and the American College of Psychiatrists (ACP) Award for Creativity in Psychiatric Education. The TNT Fellowships work towards addressing the gap in mental health expertise within the primary care setting, especially in the areas of psychiatry, child and adolescent psychiatry, and addiction medicine.