



THE WARREN ALPERT  
**Medical School**  
BROWN UNIVERSITY

**Clinical Psychology Training Programs at Brown: A Consortium of the  
Providence VA Medical Center,  
Lifespan, and Care New England  
Postdoctoral Fellowship Training Program  
Postdoctoral Fellowship Description: CLINICAL FOCUS**

**Title:** Postdoctoral Fellowship in Aging and Dementia  
APA-accredited: YES  X  NO

**Site:** Rhode Island Hospital

**Supervisor(s):** Jennifer Davis, PhD, ABPP-CN (Primary Supervisor)  
Jonathan Drake, MD  
Laura Korthauer, PhD  
Seth A. Margolis, PhD, ABPP-CN  
Chuang Kuo Wu, MD, PhD

---

**Description of Site**

This two-year fellowship at Rhode Island Hospital (RIH) is part of the APA-Accredited Clinical Neuropsychology Specialty Program (CNSP) within the Postdoctoral Fellowship Training Program (PFTP) of Brown University's Clinical Psychology Training Consortium. The fellow will spend 60% on clinical activities, 30% on research, and 10% on structured didactics. Training is consistent with Houston Conference Guidelines and meets requirements for the American Board of Professional Psychology (ABPP) / American Board of Clinical Neuropsychology (ABCN) board certification.

RIH is a private, 719-bed, not-for-profit, acute care hospital and academic medical center founded in 1863. It is the largest of the state's general acute care hospitals, providing comprehensive health services, and serving as a primary teaching hospital for Brown Medical School. RIH is the largest trauma center in the region and has extensive neurology, neurosurgery, and psychiatry departments. Incoming fellows will split their time between clinical and research activities within the RIH Neuropsychology Program and Alzheimer's Disease and Memory Disorders Center (ADMDC).

The RIH ADMDC is a tertiary referral center for southern New England that provides state-of-the-art diagnostic and treatment services and cutting edge research programs and facilities for people with Alzheimer's disease and related cognitive disorders. The Center is interdisciplinary, with clinical and research faculty from Brown/RIH's Departments of Neurology and Psychiatry and Human Behavior. Incoming fellows will be embedded within the ADMDC once per week alongside attending neurologists (Drs. Wu and Drake). The emphasis of training will center on rapid office testing to serve the needs of a busy Memory Disorders Clinic; training in behavioral/cognitive neurology will be at the core of this experience. Additionally, the incoming fellow will receive in depth exposure to neurological exams, radiology, and lab (biomarker) review/consideration, as well as targeted neurobehavioral testing to guide differential diagnosis/treatment planning. Exposure to and participation in clinical trial activities to aid drug discovery for Alzheimer's disease is also a central part of this experience.

The RIH Neuropsychology Program includes a busy outpatient program as well as an inpatient consultation service. The outpatient program is where incoming fellows will spend the majority of their clinical time under the supervision of board certified clinical neuropsychologists (Drs. Davis and Margolis). The program receives referrals from neurologists, geriatricians/internists, and psychiatrists

with questions of neurodegenerative differential diagnosis and treatment planning for a wide range of patients, as well as individuals with stroke, TBI, epilepsy, brain tumor, movement disorders, and neuropsychiatric disorders. A major focus of the evaluation process is the follow-up, feedback appointment, at which time the patient and family/caregivers are provided with both written and oral summaries of the examination, along with detailed recommendations. The incoming fellow can expect to get in depth training in delivering impactful feedback in these sessions. Additionally, our program has close relationships with other specialty neurology/neurosurgery programs (epilepsy, movement disorders, normal pressure hydrocephalus) and incoming fellows can expect to participate in multidisciplinary clinic activities to inform surgical decision making.

### **Fellowship Aims**

1. To provide the fellow with broad post-doctoral training in hospital-based adult/geriatric clinical neuropsychology.
2. To provide the fellow with post-doctoral training in the diagnosis and treatment of Alzheimer's disease and related dementias and collaboration with Neurology colleagues.
3. To provide the fellow with mentored research opportunities in dementia and aging.

### **Fellowship Timeline**

The duration of the fellowship is 2 years, contingent upon satisfactory progress. The anticipated start date is July-September. Consistent with the Brown Training Committee policy, the fellow and the primary mentor will notify each other in December about an offer for a second year.

### **Clinical Activity Plan (60%)**

The fellow will be trained and prepared to function independently in clinical neuropsychology through exposure to a wide variety of adult and geriatric clinical populations across the RIH Neuropsychology Program and the ADMDC. Patients within RIH are from diverse sociodemographic, socioeconomic, and linguistic backgrounds, and incoming fellows can expect to receive training in working with patients from a variety of such backgrounds, including training in working with medical interpreters. Supervision will focus on ensuring competencies in clinical interviewing, test selection, administration, scoring and analysis of test data, integration of assessment results (including neuroimaging and other general medical work-up), differential diagnosis, report writing, treatment planning and intervention, as well as feedback delivery. Our program is highly interdisciplinary; thus, there will be a focus on developing professional skills in interacting with other disciplines and professionals to prepare fellows for a career in hospital-based neuropsychology. Approximately 14-16 hours per week will be spent in direct clinical contact with patients or clinical trial participants, while 8 hours will be spent working on report data analysis, report writing, and related clinical skills.

In order to ensure that the fellow receives a high level of clinical training in the area of clinical neuropsychology/behavioral neurology, the following activities will be required during the fellowship:

- The fellow will regularly conduct outpatient neuropsychological evaluations in the Neuropsychology Program, including medical records review, clinical interview, test administration/scoring, and interpretation/report writing.
- The fellow will participate in neuropsychological feedback sessions, reviewing test results with patients and their care partners.
- The fellow will be embedded in the ADMDC one day per week seeing patients with attending neurologists (Drs. Drake & Wu).

- The fellow will conduct assessments and clinical interview ratings of cognitive and/or functional status (e.g., Clinical Dementia Rating Scale) for ongoing clinical trials in the RIH ADMDC.
- The fellow will be required to attend, regularly present at, and help coordinate weekly ADMDC Consensus Conference meetings attended by neurology, neuropsychology, and psychiatry.
- The fellow will have the option to participate in multidisciplinary clinics and associated case conferences, including the Comprehensive Epilepsy Program, Comprehensive Movement Disorders Program, and Normal Pressure Hydrocephalus Program.
- Time permitting, there will also be opportunities to conduct inpatient neuropsychological consultations throughout the medical center, and attend/assist with Wada test procedures in presurgical epilepsy/brain tumor patients, and intraoperative brain mappings with brain tumor patients undergoing resections of masses within eloquent language cortex.

Path toward licensure: YES

### **Research Activity Plan (30%)**

The fellow will conduct research in aging and dementia.

- The fellow will collaborate with ongoing investigator-initiated research projects based on their interests.
- There will be opportunities to use existing datasets, access data from ongoing research studies, or collect new data.
  - Current investigators' areas of research include:
    - Early/preclinical markers of risk and resilience to Alzheimer's disease, including novel neurocognitive tasks, EEG, and MRI.
    - Behavioral interventions for prevention of Alzheimer's disease and related dementias.
    - Ecological validity of neuropsychological assessment, including medication adherence, driving, and compensatory strategy use in MCI and mild dementia
    - Adverse cognitive effects of medications in aging populations
- Manuscript preparation and submission: The fellow will be encouraged to collaborate on manuscript preparation and poster submissions at national conferences. Individually tailored goals will be established in this area. There are also opportunities to develop grant-writing skills and potential opportunities to submit applications for external funding.

### **Didactics (10%)**

Postdoctoral Research Seminars: The fellow will have the option of attending Academic Fridays, which offers research-specific didactic lectures taught by researchers from across the Brown consortium to help fellows prepare for an independent research career.

### **Required Didactics**

First year fellows will participate in the following clinically oriented post-doctoral seminars through the Brown Postdoctoral Fellowship Training Program:

- Core Seminars (1 per month)
- Clinical Ethics – if intending to sit for licensure (1 per month)

Throughout the 2-year fellowship, fellows are required to attend:

- Department of Psychiatry and Human Behavior Academic Grand Rounds (1 per month)
- Clinical Neuropsychology Specialty Program Seminars (1 per week)
- Neuropsychology Grand Rounds (2 per year)
- Department of Pathology Brain Cuttings (at least once in Years 1 or Year 2)

- Brown Neurology Grand Rounds (1 per week)

### **Supervision and Evaluation**

At a minimum, a full-time fellow will receive four hours of structured learning activities per week. Individual, weekly, clinical supervision will be provided by Drs. Davis and Margolis and on a preceptorship model with Drs. Drake and Wu. Dr. Korthauer will provide weekly research mentorship to ensure that the fellow is making progress and on track to achieve their short- and long-term goals. Fellows will also attend research meetings relevant to their research project(s) and receive supervision/mentorship from study investigators. Every 6 months for the duration of the fellowship, the fellow and the supervisors will provide formal evaluations, and evaluations of the program relative to the goals and learning objectives of the fellowship.

Please visit the [Brown Faculty](#) page to view supervisor profiles.

### **Resource Requirements**

Fellows will be provided with the following resources:

- Access to space to complete clinical and research responsibilities
- A computer and project specific software
- Internet access
- Telephone
- Individual office space
- Travel funds of \$1000 per year

### **Reporting and Approval**

This fellowship is part of the CNSP. The position has been discussed and approved by the Neuropsychology faculty in their monthly meeting.

Director, Clinical Neuropsychology Specialty Program

Associate Director, Clinical Neuropsychology Specialty Program

Director, Postdoctoral Fellowship Training Program