



Postdoctoral Fellowship Training Program
Postdoctoral Fellowship Description
CLINICAL FOCUS

Title: Postdoctoral Fellowship in Aging and Dementia

	Yes	No
APA-accredited:	X	
Fellowship primarily allows for Telework:		X
Fellowship primarily allows Telesupervision:		X
Fellowship primarily uses Telehealth:		X

Site/Employer: Rhode Island Hospital/Brown University Health

Supervisor(s): Jennifer Davis, PhD, ABPP-CN (Primary Supervisor)
Laura Korthauer, PhD
Seth Margolis, PhD, ABPP-CN
Victoria Sanborn, PhD
Jonathan Drake, MD
Chuang-Kuo Wu, MD, PhD
Scott Warren, MD

Description of Site

This two-year fellowship at **The Brown University Health Neuropsychology Program and Alzheimer's Disease and Memory Disorders Center (ADMDC) at Rhode Island Hospital** 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% of their time 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. Efforts are underway to ensure that the program's training model is also fully aligned with the Minnesota Conference Guidelines.

Rhode Island Hospital (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. The **Brown University Health Neuropsychology Program** is the state's largest, with 13 neuropsychologists who see more than 2,000 outpatients per year and provide specialized inpatient services to Rhode Island Hospital, The Miriam Hospital, and Newport Hospital. The **Alzheimer's Disease and Memory Disorders Center (ADMDC)** at Rhode Island Hospital is a tertiary referral center for southern New England that provides state-of-the-art diagnostic and treatment services as well as cutting edge research programs and facilities for people with Alzheimer's disease and related cognitive disorders.

The incoming fellow will split their time between clinical and research activities within the Neuropsychology Program and ADMDC.

Outpatient neuropsychology program at Brown University Health. The outpatient neuropsychology service receives referrals predominantly from internists and neurologists, with questions of differential diagnosis and treatment planning for a wide range of adult and geriatric patients. The fellow will be exposed to a broad range of clinical presentations to supplement their focused experience in aging and dementia in the ADMDC. Referral questions include those with movement disorders, stroke, epilepsy, brain tumor, TBI, organ transplant, and neuropsychiatric disorders, in addition to those with mild cognitive impairment/dementia. The fellow's outpatient experience (2 outpatient evaluations per week) will be supervised by Drs. Davis, Korthauer, and Margolis. A major focus of the outpatient evaluation process is the follow-up, feedback appointment. The incoming fellow can expect to get in-depth training in delivering impactful feedback in these sessions.

In addition to the typical outpatient model of care, fellows will participate in a monthly multidisciplinary *Normal Pressure Hydrocephalus (NPH) Clinic* comprised of neurosurgery, neurology, neuropsychology (Drs. Davis and Korthauer), and physical therapy. Patients with suspected NPH receive same day evaluations from each of these disciplines followed by a consensus discussion to determine shunt eligibility. The fellow will perform NPH evaluations and take part in the consensus meeting. This monthly clinic will substitute for one outpatient session with Dr. Davis or Dr. Korthauer. The fellow will also have multiple opportunities to participate in Wada procedures for epilepsy surgical planning and intraoperative cortical mapping during brain tumor resections under the supervision of Dr. Margolis. Fellows will also have the opportunity to participate in pre-surgical case conferences within BUH's Level IV Comprehensive Epilepsy Program, collaborating with epileptologists, neurosurgeons, neuroradiologists, and neuropsychology under the supervision of Dr. Margolis. These experiences occur throughout the two-year fellowship and are in addition to the standard outpatient clinic schedule.

Alzheimer's Disease and Memory Disorders Center (ADMDC). The ADMDC is comprised of three cognitive and behavioral neurologists, a neuropsychologist, and psychopharmacologist. The center receives referrals primarily from primary care for diagnosis and management of neurodegenerative disorders, including cutting edge treatment with anti-amyloid infusion therapies. The center also has an active clinical trials program and is a site for the Alzheimer's Disease Neuroimaging Initiative. The fellow will train with neurologists in the clinic to develop expertise in the neurological examination as well as interpretation of neuroimaging (e.g., MRI, amyloid PET) and other biomarker diagnostic tools (e.g., CSF, plasma biomarkers) that may be used in the differential diagnosis of neurodegenerative conditions. The fellow will gain an understanding of front-line treatment for Alzheimer's disease and related dementias, including treatment decision-making around disease management throughout the course of neurodegenerative illnesses (i.e., diagnosis to advanced stages). The fellow will also gain experience in the unique role of a neuropsychologist within a Memory Disorders Center, under the supervision of Dr. Sanborn. This includes conducting weekly targeted neuropsychological evaluations for patients undergoing assessment for neurodegenerative conditions, providing real-time feedback to referring neurologists, reviewing results with patients and their family members, and engaging in conversations across disciplines about patient outcomes beyond the evaluation. This will also involve a monthly brief multidisciplinary clinic using batteries designed to evaluate and track patients with Alzheimer's disease being considered for or engaged in anti-amyloid therapies. This monthly clinic will substitute for one outpatient session with Dr. Sanborn. Additionally, the fellow may have the opportunity to conduct caregiver training sessions and support groups, based on the fellow's training goals.

Brown Neuropsychology Free Clinic Elective Rotation. The Brown Neuropsychology Free Clinic provides a brief neuropsychology evaluation service to the uninsured/underinsured patients of the larger Rhode Island Free Clinic (RIFC). RIFC is a community-based free healthcare center in Providence RI, with a mission to increase access to medical services among underserved communities and contributes to

reducing healthcare disparities. The Neuropsychology Free Clinic at RIFC serves as an elective opportunity for Brown neuropsychology fellows to train with culturally, racially, and linguistically diverse populations. Under the supervision of a Brown neuropsychology faculty member, trainees will work with professional interpreters to conduct neuropsychological evaluations and provide consultation on differential diagnosis and treatment recommendations. Experienced RIFC neuropsychology postdoctoral fellows could potentially engage in tiered supervision of new RIFC neuropsychology residents with their primary supervisor at RIFC.

Fellowship Aims

1. To provide the fellow with broad post-doctoral training in hospital-based adult clinical neuropsychology.
2. To provide the fellow with specialized post-doctoral training in the diagnosis and treatment of Alzheimer's disease and related dementias and collaboration with Neurology colleagues within a multidisciplinary clinic.
3. To provide mentored research opportunities to prepare the fellow for independent research 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 Training Committee policy, the fellow and the mentor will notify each other in December about an offer for a second year.

Clinical Activity Plan (60%)

The fellow will have three clinical days per week comprised of direct clinical contact with patients, data analysis, report writing, provision of feedback, and related clinical skills. 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 Brown University Health Neuropsychology Program with additional specialty training provided in Alzheimer's disease and related dementias within the ADMDC. Patients within Brown University Health are from diverse sociodemographic, socioeconomic, and linguistic backgrounds, and the incoming fellow can expect to receive training in working with patients from a variety of such backgrounds, including training to work 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, 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, most especially through their interactions with ADMDC staff.

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

- The fellow will conduct outpatient neuropsychological evaluations (2 days per week in the Neuropsychology Program and 1 day per week in the ADMDC).
- The fellow will participate in neuropsychological feedback sessions, reviewing impressions and providing tailored recommendations to patients and their families.
- The fellow will participate in interdisciplinary and neurology-based activities (shadowing neurologists during clinical encounters and conducting supportive neurobehavioral status exams).
- The fellow will be required to facilitate a weekly ADMC Clinical Consensus Conference.

- The fellow will be required to attend the Normal Pressure Hydrocephalus clinical consensus conference (1/month).

Path toward licensure: YES

Research Activity Plan (30%)

The fellow has one and one-half days of protected research time each week (i.e., 30% time). 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.
- Manuscript preparation and submission: The fellow will be encouraged to collaborate on manuscript preparation and poster submissions at professional 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%)

Mandatory 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 2)
- Brown Neurology Grand Rounds (1 per week)
- ADMDC Journal Club (1 per month)

Optional Didactics:

- Neuropsychology Grant Writing Seminar (1 per week)

Supervision and Evaluation

Full-time fellows will receive a minimum of four hours per week of structured learning activities, which include both clinical supervision and research mentorship. Clinical supervision will be provided in the form of weekly individual supervision with neuropsychologists (Drs. Margolis, Sanborn, Davis, and Korthauer). Clinical discussion and educational opportunities will also involve neurologists (Drs. Wu, Drake, and Warren). The fellow will receive weekly individual research supervision from Dr. Korthauer, who will assist in setting research goals, managing projects, and developing scholarly products. While research activities may align with Dr. Korthauer's areas of expertise, collaborative projects with other supervisors are both possible and encouraged. When a fellow's research interests fall outside of Dr. Korthauer's expertise, additional mentorship will be provided to ensure appropriate guidance and support. 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

Fellow will be provided with the following resources:

- Access to space appropriate for clinical care
- A computer and project specific software
- Internet access
- Telephone
- Personal office space
- Professional 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.

Director, Clinical Neuropsychology Specialty Program

Associate Director, Clinical Neuropsychology Specialty Program

Director, Postdoctoral Fellowship Training Program