



Postdoctoral Fellowship Training Program

Postdoctoral Fellowship Description

CLINICAL FOCUS

Title: Postdoctoral Fellowship in Neuropsychology

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

Site/Employer: Butler Hospital (Major, 16 months)/Care New England (Employer)
Veterans Affairs Providence Healthcare System (Minor, 8 months)

Supervisor(s): Nicole McLaughlin, PhD (Primary Supervisor)
Farah Aslanzadeh, PhD
Meghan Collier, PhD
Athene Lee, PhD
Louisa Thompson, PhD

Providence VA Medical Center (Minor rotation supervisors)
Donald Labbe, PhD (Primary Minor Supervisor)
Emma Gosselin, PsyD
Emily Hallowell, PhD
Megan Spencer, PhD
Ryan Van Patten, PhD, ABPP-CN

Description of Site

This two-year fellowship is part of the Clinical Neuropsychology Specialty Program (CNSP) within the Postdoctoral Fellowship Training Program (PFTP) of The Brown Clinical Psychology Training Consortium. Training will occur at hospital affiliates of The Alpert Medical School of Brown University. Trainees will spend 8 months at their primary site (Butler Hospital) and 4 months at their secondary site (VA Providence Healthcare System) per year, spending 70% of their time on clinical activities, 20% on research, and 10% on structured didactics across the two years. There is a possibility for a minor rotation at Brown University Health during Year 2 (see below). Training is consistent with Houston Conference Guidelines and meets requirement of 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.

Butler Hospital

Founded in 1844, Butler Hospital is Rhode Island's only private, non-profit psychiatric hospital for adolescents, adults, and seniors. Butler is affiliated with Alpert Medical School of Brown University and is the flagship for its Department of Psychiatry and Human Behavior. Butler has specialty inpatient units in geriatrics, substance abuse, adolescents, and mood disorders, as well as partial hospital programs

focusing on young adults, women, and substance abuse. Referral questions on the inpatient unit include psychodiagnostic clarification, differential diagnosis (e.g. dementia v depression), and recommendations for disposition. The incoming fellow will interact with a variety of allied health professionals and have close contact with referring providers. Butler is also the home of a multidisciplinary Memory and Aging Program, as well as a Movement Disorders clinic and a Psychiatric Neurosurgery Program directed by Dr. McLaughlin in which patients are tested before and after surgery for severe OCD. The outpatient neuropsychology service receives referrals predominantly from primary care providers, neurologists, and psychiatrists, with questions of differential diagnosis and treatment planning for a wide range of adult and geriatric patients. Referral questions include those with mild cognitive impairment/dementia, vascular disease/stroke, movement disorders, and neuropsychiatric disorders. In both inpatient and outpatient settings, there are also opportunities to conduct non-English speaking evaluations with medical interpreters.

VA Providence Healthcare System (minor rotation)

The VA Providence Healthcare System (VAPHS) serves as one of the major teaching hospitals for Psychiatry at the Alpert Medical School of Brown University. The VAPHS is a 75-bed facility that provides acute inpatient and outpatient care in psychology, psychiatry, medicine and surgery to veterans in Rhode Island, eastern Connecticut, and southeastern Massachusetts. Outpatient veterans' medical needs are managed through the primary care service with referrals available to 32 subspecialties. The VAPHS has the highest ratio of outpatient-to-inpatient services in the entire VHA system and with over 150,000 patient visits annually it ranks among the largest clinical facilities in Rhode Island. The service collaborates closely with other providers in Mental Health and in the Neurology and Primary Care Services. The Neuropsychology Service offers neuropsychological assessment and cognitive training services. Neuropsychology staff and fellows also serve in consultative roles to multidisciplinary clinics, including our Polytrauma/TBI clinic as well as our local Parkinson's Disease Research, Education, and Clinical Centers (PADRECC) team. During the secondary neuropsychology fellowship rotation, fellows will train in the outpatient neuropsychology service which receives a wide variety of referral questions including neurodegenerative disorders, MS, movement disorders, CVA, TBI, and psychiatrically related cognitive impairment. Fellows will conduct 2-3 outpatient neuropsychological assessments per week. In addition, fellows will participate in the Cognitive Training Intervention program which offers both individual and group interventions for individuals with age related cognitive changes, psychiatric related cognitive difficulties, and ADHD. Opportunities for supervision of advanced practicum students will also be available.

¹A minor training rotation may be available at *Brown University Health Neuropsychology Program, Rhode Island Hospital (RIH)* in Year 2. Incoming fellows will receive assessment/consultation experience in both inpatient and outpatient medical settings. Inpatient consultation referrals come from all medical and surgical specialties, as well as inpatient psychiatric services, across the hospital. Referral questions include issues of decision-making capacity, differential diagnosis, rehabilitation needs, and disposition. The incoming fellow will interact with a variety of allied health professionals and have close contact with referring providers, conduct bedside assessments, and write same day targeted reports. 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. Referral questions include those with mild cognitive impairment/dementia, multiple sclerosis, stroke, TBI, movement disorders, epilepsy, and neuropsychiatric disorders. In both settings, there are also opportunities to conduct non-English speaking evaluations with medical interpreters. Fellows will conduct 3 outpatient evaluations per week and service the inpatient neuropsychology service 1 day per week (1-2 brief bedside evaluations).

¹ At the time of this postdoctoral fellowship announcement the RIH training option is currently under active negotiation and cannot be guaranteed. In the event this rotation is not available, fellows will rotate to Butler Hospital for a 2nd 4-month cycle.

Fellowship Aims

1. To provide the fellow with broad post-doctoral training in the area of clinical neuropsychology, with special emphasis on aging, dementia, and geriatric psychiatric disorders.
2. To develop the fellow's skills in empirically validated cognitive training interventions for adults with normal age related cognitive decline, MCI, mild TBI, psychiatric related cognitive difficulties, and ADHD.
3. To mentor the fellow in conducting clinical research focused broadly on aging/dementia.
4. To enable the fellow to gain experience working with multidisciplinary teams on the Butler Hospital Senior Specialty inpatient unit and Memory and Aging Program.

Fellowship Timeline

The duration of the fellowship is 2 years, contingent upon satisfactory progress.

Clinical Activity Plan (70%)

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

- At *Butler Hospital*, the fellow will attend multidisciplinary rounds on the inpatient geriatric unit several times per week. The fellow will assist the team in making diagnostic, treatment and placement recommendations. The fellow will assess 4-5 patients per week from the geriatric, adult, and Memory and Aging Program populations at Butler Hospital. They will conduct 2-4 inpatient evaluations per week, primarily from the geriatric inpatient unit, but possibly from other units depending on the flow of the consult service. They will also assist with outpatient evaluations 2-4 times per month. Assistance is sometimes available from neuropsychology residents, practicum students, and technicians.
- At the *Providence VA*, the fellow will conduct ~3 outpatient neuropsychological assessments per week and also participate in our Cognitive Training program offering individual and group interventions using empirically validated models of cognitive remediation. Opportunities for supervision of advanced practicum students are also available.

Research Activity Plan (20%)

The fellow will be exposed to various aspects of clinical and research work in neuropsychology. This is achieved via possible participation in the following activities:

- Clinical trials: Fellows will participate in clinical trials, administering outcome measures, recruiting patients, and training staff. Current trials include vaccines for Alzheimer's disease and new brain imaging methods in dementia.
- Grant writing: Fellows have the option of submitting F32 or foundation grants in the area of dementia and aging.
- Manuscript preparation and submission: The fellow will complete a review in a research area of their choosing for submission to a peer-reviewed journal. The fellow will be encouraged to collaborate on manuscript preparation using existing datasets and present posters at national conferences. Most fellows complete one to four studies during two years of training.

Didactics (10% time)

Postdoctoral Seminars: The fellow will participate in post-doctoral seminars through the Brown Postdoctoral Training Program (10% time).

Mandatory Didactics:

Core Seminars (1 per month during the first year of the fellowship).
DPHB Academic Grand Rounds (1 per month).
Clinical Ethics (1 per month during the first year of the fellowship).
Track Seminars –Neuropsychology Rounds, Neuropsychology seminar (weekly).
Brain Cuttings, Medical Examiner’s Office (required once during fellowship but may attend more frequently)

Optional Didactics:

Memory and Aging Program Case Conference, Butler Hospital (weekly).
MHBSS Colloquium Series, Veterans Affairs Medical Center (monthly).
Neuropsychology Grant Writing Seminar (1/month)
Other Brown, and hospital didactics may be attended with permission from the primary supervisor.
Providence VA Cranium Club (1 per week)

Supervision and Evaluation

Supervision will be provided in the form of daily individual supervision and monthly group case discussions. At the conclusion and midpoint of the fellowship, the fellow and the supervisors are requested to 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 at both training sites:

- Access to space appropriate for clinical care
- Personal office space
- A personal desktop and/or laptop computer
- Internet access
- Telephone
- Access to Brown University library and database resources

Reporting and approval

This fellowship is part of the Clinical Neuropsychology Specialty Training Program as described above (Fellowship Organizational Structure).

The position has been discussed and approved by the Neuropsychology Track faculty.

Director, Clinical Neuropsychology Specialty Program

Associate Director, Clinical Neuropsychology Specialty Program

Director, Postdoctoral Fellowship Training Program

