



Postdoctoral Fellowship Training Program
Postdoctoral Fellowship Description
CLINICAL FOCUS

Title:	Postdoctoral Fellowship in Medical Neuropsychology and Dementia Prevention
APA-accredited:	Yes
Site/Employer:	Brown University Health, Rhode Island Hospital
Supervisor(s):	Jennifer Davis, Ph.D., ABPP-CN (Primary) Laura Korthauer, Ph.D. David Ahern, Ph.D. Kimberly Chapman, Ph.D. Jacob Lafo, Ph.D. Seth Margolis, Ph.D., ABPP-CN Kelli Sullivan, Ph.D. Kristen Wesbecher, Ph.D.

Description of Site

This two-year fellowship at **The Brown University Health Neuropsychology Program** 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 fellowship is housed in the Neuropsychology Program. The fellow will spend 50% of their time on clinical activities, 40% on aging and dementia 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.

The proposed training will be carried out at the outpatient Neuropsychology Program at Brown University Health located at the Coro Building of the Rhode Island Hospital campus. 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 Neuropsychology Program also provides a robust infrastructure for investigator-initiated research.

Research Training and Setting: The fellow will receive advanced research training in conducting clinical trials, intervention delivery, and assessment of psychological and biological outcomes. A portion of the fellow's time will be spent on an NIH-funded randomized controlled trial of a multidomain health behavior intervention (Tailored Education for Aging and Cognitive Health; TEACH) for middle-aged adults at risk for Alzheimer's disease and related dementias (R01 funded to Drs. Korthauer and Davis, *Testing Efficacy of a Personalized Multi-domain Behavioral Intervention for Alzheimer's Disease and*

Related Dementias Risk Reduction in Midlife). There are also opportunities to develop an independent line of research, including prospective data collection or use of several existing datasets (e.g., Alzheimer's Disease Prevention Registry, Neuropsychology Program clinical database, normal pressure hydrocephalus clinical outcomes dataset, national publicly available datasets). The Neuropsychology Program collaborates closely with the two major memory disorders programs in Rhode Island: the Alzheimer's Disease and Memory Disorders Center (ADMDC) at Rhode Island Hospital and the Memory and Aging Program (MAP) at Butler Hospital. The ADMDC 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. It is a site for the Alzheimer's Disease Neuroimaging Initiative (ADNI), industry-sponsored clinical trials for novel pharmacological interventions, and investigator-initiated research studies. MAP is a highly productive clinical research program dedicated to developing biomarkers and breakthrough treatments for Alzheimer's disease. The program serves as a site for several landmark NIH studies, including ADNI, the Dominantly Inherited Alzheimer's Network, the Alzheimer's Disease Clinical Trials Consortium, and the U.S. POINTER lifestyle intervention study.

Clinical Setting and Training:

The fellow will receive assessment/consultation experience in both inpatient and outpatient settings and intervention delivery experience in the outpatient setting. There are also opportunities to conduct non-English speaking evaluations with medical interpreters.

Inpatient consultation service at Rhode Island Hospital. Rhode Island Hospital (RIH) is one of several teaching hospitals within Brown University Health. 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 serves as a primary teaching hospital for the Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University. RIH is the largest trauma center in the region and has extensive neurology, neurosurgery, and psychiatry departments. 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 fellow will have a dedicated day each week on the inpatient consultation service across their years of training.

Outpatient 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. Referral questions include those with mild cognitive impairment/dementia, multiple sclerosis, stroke, TBI, and neuropsychiatric disorders. A major focus of the outpatient 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. In addition, the fellow will actively participate in a memory disorders center consensus meeting attended by neurologists and neuropsychologists, in which cases are discussed in a group format for diagnostic consensus and treatment planning. The fellow will see one outpatient per week.

Behavioral Intervention. The fellow will serve as an interventionist for the TEACH program under the supervision of Dr. Davis (licensed clinical psychologist). The fellow will spend one-half day per week delivering the 16 session, manualized TEACH program to participants enrolled in the trial. They will be trained to deliver the intervention and receive weekly supervision from Dr. Davis. After gaining

experience with intervention delivery, the fellow will have the opportunity to lead tiered group supervision of other study interventionists.

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 clinical training in hospital-based adult/geriatric clinical neuropsychology.
2. To provide the fellow with broad post-doctoral research training in the areas of behavioral intervention delivery, clinical trials methodology, and aging and dementia.
3. To provide the fellow with research training and experience in preparation for a research career in prevention and treatment of Alzheimer's disease and other neurodegenerative conditions.

Fellowship Timeline

The duration of the fellowship is 2 years, contingent upon satisfactory progress during the first year. The anticipated start date is September 1, 2027. Fellows will be license-eligible following completion of the first year of fellowship.

Note: The fellow and the primary mentor will notify each other in December whether the commitment will be made for a second year.

Clinical Activity Plan (50% time)

The fellow will have two and one-half clinical days per week comprised of direct clinical contact with patients, including an inpatient day, one outpatient assessment, and one half day of intervention. The fellow will be trained and prepared to function independently in clinical neuropsychology through exposure to a wide variety of commonly encountered adult and geriatric clinical populations with neurological and/or psychiatric conditions. Supervision will focus on ensuring that the fellow has achieved advanced skills in clinical interviewing, test administration, scoring and analysis of test data, integration of assessment results (including neuroimaging and other general medical work-up), differential diagnosis, treatment planning, report writing, and intervention. There will be a focus on developing professional skills in interacting with other disciplines and professionals and ensuring strong general clinical skills.

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

- The fellow will regularly conduct outpatient neuropsychological evaluations.
- The fellow will conduct inpatient neuropsychological consultations throughout the hospital.

- The fellow will participate in neuropsychological feedback sessions, reviewing test results with patients and their families.
- The fellow will deliver the TEACH intervention, a behavioral health program theoretically grounded in the science of health behavior change and designed for primary prevention of Alzheimer's disease and related dementias in midlife
- The fellow will attend and participate in weekly Alzheimer's and Memory Disorders Center Consensus Conference.
- Post-Doctoral Seminars: The fellow will be required to participate in the post-doctoral seminars through the Brown University Clinical Psychology Postdoctoral Training Program and Clinical Neuropsychology Specialty Program (CNSP).

Research Activity Plan (40% time)

The fellow has two full days of protected research time each week (i.e., 40% time). The fellow will be exposed to various aspects of clinical research via participation in the following activities:

- Study coordination and clinical research intervention (20%): The fellow will collaborate with Drs. Korthauer and Davis, along with other project staff, to coordinate a large clinical trial funded by NIH/NIA. Associated activities will include:
 - a. The fellow will gain exposure to assessment protocols, treatment fidelity methodology, methods to promote recruitment and retention, and management of IRB protocols.
 - a. The fellow will receive training in data management and quality control procedures.
 - a. The fellow will be required to participate in weekly research meetings.
- Development of an independent line of research (20% effort)
 - a. 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.
 - a. Grant writing: The fellow will be encouraged to develop a grant idea and submit a grant proposal by the end of the fellowship term. Additionally, the fellow will have the opportunity to contribute towards ongoing grant preparation and submission in the Neuropsychology Program.
 - b. Opportunities for prospective data collection are available, depending on the fellow's research interests. There are also multiple existing datasets from which the fellow may perform analyses and publish results.

Didactics (10% time)

Postdoctoral Seminars: The fellow will participate in post-doctoral seminars through the Brown Postdoctoral Training Program (10% time across the two years); didactics run from September-May.

Mandatory Didactics:

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

Additional Didactics:

Neuropsychology Program Research Seminar (monthly)
 Neurology and Neuropathology Grand Rounds (weekly)

Opportunities to supervise neuropsychology practicum students and undergraduate volunteers, in a tiered supervision model, are also available.

Supervision and Evaluation

Supervision will be provided in the form of weekly individual supervision of at least 4 hours of face-to-face time from two or more faculty supervisors. There will be numerous other activities during the week in which the supervisor will observe and interact with the fellow in the clinical environment (e.g., interviewing and feedback sessions with families).

At 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.

It is anticipated that the fellow will accumulate sufficient clinical hours to be eligible for licensure in the state of Rhode Island.

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

Resource Requirements

Fellows 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 will be part of the CNSP. The position has been discussed and approved by the Neuropsychology track faculty in their monthly meeting.

Director, Clinical Neuropsychology Specialty Program (CNSP)

Associate Director, Clinical Neuropsychology Specialty Program (CNSP)

Director, Postdoctoral Fellowship Training Program (PFTP)