



## **Postdoctoral Training Program in Adult Clinical Neuropsychology Medical College of Georgia Augusta University**

The Department of Neurology at the Medical College of Georgia offers a two-year postdoctoral training program in clinical neuropsychology that is a member of the Association of Postdoctoral Programs in Clinical Neuropsychology (APPCN) and conforms to the Houston Conference Guidelines on Specialty Education & Training in Clinical Neuropsychology. The Medical College of Georgia (MCG) is the medical university for the State of Georgia's university system. Its primary academic and clinical campus facilities are located in Augusta, Georgia. Below is a formal description of the training program.

### **INSTITUTIONS AND PROGRAM DESCRIPTION**

**Institutional Mission.** Clinical training occurs within the Augusta University Health System, which has three primary missions— patient care, education and research. The Neuropsychology Service is located on Augusta University's Health Sciences Campus, which is composed of the Colleges of Allied Health, Dental Medicine, Graduate Studies, Nursing, and the Medical College of Georgia, which is the nation's 13th oldest and sixth largest medical school. Augusta University Health is a not-for-profit corporation that manages the clinical operations associated with Augusta University. In addition to clinical training in the hospitals and clinics, didactic training is also available through the basic science departments of the Medical College of Georgia, College of Allied Health Sciences, and College of Graduate Studies and is tailored to the individual resident's training needs.

**Program Mission & Goals.** The postdoctoral training program's mission is to provide the necessary education and training required to produce an advanced level of competence in neuropsychology so that residents may enter the specialized practice of clinical neuropsychology at the independent practitioner level. The program will enable the resident to acquire advanced skills in neuropsychological

assessment, treatment, and consultation as well as an advanced understanding of brain-behavior relationships. The training site routinely provides access to patients referred primarily from neurology and neurosurgery, but also from the general medicine, psychiatry, and other services.

**Program Administrative Structure.** The clinical neuropsychology postdoctoral training program is conducted under the auspices of the Neuropsychology Service within the Department of Neurology in the MCG School of Medicine under the direction of one clinical neuropsychologist with consultation from a board certified clinical neuropsychologist.

**Clinical Training Facilities.** Clinical training takes place through the Augusta University Health System, which is composed of the Augusta University Medical Center (483-bed adult hospital), Augusta University Ambulatory Care Center (more than 80 outpatient clinics), Augusta University Specialized Care Center (a 13-county Level I regional trauma center), and the 149-bed Augusta University Children's Medical Center.

**Neuropsychology Clinic.** The Adult Neuropsychology Service's clinic is physically located in the Neurology Building, which is across the street from the AU MCG Medical Center (which houses the Neurology and Neurosurgery faculty offices, the Neurology Library and conference rooms and auditorium, the neurology resident offices and, and the Neurology/Neurosurgery inpatient beds). Our clinic shares this adjunct building, which affords comfortable and quiet testing areas and ample patient parking, with the Multiple Sclerosis Service. The Adult Neuropsychology Service occupies several offices, testing rooms, and file and test storage areas. The service is staffed by an office specialist, a registration specialist, and a full-time psychometrist. Resident office space is equipped with a computer and also serves as a testing room. Most AU library resources may be accessed online via computer and the Neuropsychology Service has an ever-growing library of tests and other applicable resources. Residents also enjoy full access and have borrowing privileges at the Neurology Departmental Library and the Augusta University campus library, located a short walking distance behind the hospitals.

**Client Population Served.** Neuropsychological evaluations will routinely be performed on adult outpatients from the neurological, surgical, general medical, and psychiatry services. Residents will be exposed to patients with neurodegenerative conditions/dementing illnesses, cerebrovascular disorders, movement disorders, epilepsy, traumatic brain injuries and head injuries, brain neoplasms, psychiatric disturbances, developmental disorders, chemotherapy/radiation treatment effects, infectious diseases, multiple sclerosis, and other chronic medical conditions. Additional training opportunities (as available) include pre- and post-surgical neuropsychological evaluation within the Epilepsy Surgery Program, involvement in intracarotid amobarbital (Wada) procedures, and pre-surgical evaluation of DBS candidates.

**Evaluation Procedures.** Neuropsychology residents are evaluated by their primary supervisor once every six months to monitor progress of the resident's education and training goals. Resident evaluations are reviewed during a face-to-face meeting with the resident and educational development plans are monitored and revised as necessary. The postdoctoral training program and the resident's primary supervision are evaluated by the resident once yearly. The training program conducts competency based examination in order to provide useful feedback about the resident's relative strengths and weaknesses across the major content areas important for neuropsychologists.

**Grievance Procedures.** The resident's faculty advisor and the Department of Neurology's Residency Program Director are available to advise/assist the resident with any grievance they may have. The Department of Neurology follows institutional policies, which require multilevel hearings, due process, timely notice and accurate records if disciplinary action is required. Residents may appeal any decision through the Residency Program Director. The response will be promptly discussed with the resident.

**Primary and Affiliated Faculty.**

Primary Supervisor: Kelly M. Stanek, Ph.D. (Neuropsychologist)

Some others: Ned Pruitt, M.D. (Neurology Faculty)  
 Michael Rivner, M.D. (Neurology Faculty)  
 Aryn Rojiani, M.D., Ph.D. (Neuro/Anatomic Pathologist)  
 Debra Moore-Hill, M.D. (Neurology Residency Program Director)

**Salary, Benefits, Hiring, and Institutional Policy Information.**

*Subject to budgetary approval and institutional changes.*

*Upcoming/Anticipated Residency Cycle Dates:*

September 1, 2021 to August 31, 2023

September 1, 2023 to August 31, 2025

*Salary:* \$47,476

*Benefits:*

Resident receive AU staff benefits, which currently include options for group health insurance, group and additional life insurance, disability insurance, dental and vision insurance, and retirement savings accounts. Residents typically receive a modest educational stipend each year that is intended to support professional activities such as conference attendance.

*Leave:*

Each resident accrues 10 hours of annual leave (equivalent of 15 days per year) and 8 hours of sick leave each month. There are 9 scheduled holidays. In addition, there are 3 unscheduled holidays, which are received in February, May and August and must be used prior to the end of the calendar year in which they are earned. Leave

dates are subject to the approval of the resident's program director. Leave requests should be submitted 45 days ahead of time.

For more information on AU Benefits, please visit:

[https://www.augusta.edu/hr/university/university\\_benefits/index.php#](https://www.augusta.edu/hr/university/university_benefits/index.php#)

*Institutional Policies:*

For additional employee information, including institutional policies and conditions of employment, please visit the **University Employee Handbook**:

[https://www.augusta.edu/hr/employee\\_manuals.php](https://www.augusta.edu/hr/employee_manuals.php)

**APPCN Membership.** The MCG postdoctoral training program in clinical neuropsychology is a member in good standing of the Association of Postdoctoral Programs in Clinical Neuropsychology (APPCN). The program was one of the founding members of APPCN.

The mission of the Association of Postdoctoral Programs in Clinical Neuropsychology (APPCN) is to offer the highest quality competency-based residency training in clinical neuropsychology with an emphasis on preparation for future specialty board certification through the American Board of Professional Psychology/American Board of Clinical Neuropsychology (ABPP/ABCN).

For additional information, please visit:

<https://appcn.sitewrench.com/about>

## **TRAINING ACTIVITIES**

Experiential training in the neuropsychological evaluation of patients with actual or suspected neurological disorders, the writing of consultative reports, and the provision of feedback to patients and referral sources is emphasized. Didactic training in the neurosciences and clinical neurology are available and will be tailored to the educational needs of the individual resident.

**Clinical Neuropsychology Consultation Training.** The core of training consists of using a variety of cognitive, sensorimotor, and psychological tests to evaluate patients with neurologic disorders referred from medical professionals concerned with their accurate diagnosis and care. The resident will learn to utilize a broad array of neuropsychological examination procedures that evaluate a wide spectrum of behaviors such as memory, attention, intelligence, speech and language, visuospatial perception, spatial thinking, executive functions, sensorimotor abilities, and personality or mood.

Evaluations will be performed on patients from the neurological, surgical, general medical, and psychiatric services. Residents will be exposed to patients with neurodegenerative conditions/dementing illnesses, cerebrovascular disorders, movement disorders, epilepsy, traumatic brain injuries and head injuries, brain neoplasms, psychiatric disturbances, developmental disorders, chemotherapy/radiation treatment effects, infectious diseases, multiple sclerosis, and other chronic medical conditions. The behavioral presentation and pathophysiology of the major neurobehavioral syndromes will be covered. Detailed training will also be given in writing consultative reports tailored to the referral source, with an emphasis on clear and concise writing, and in providing feedback to patients in a therapeutic manner that is also clear and efficient. Competence in and understanding of ethical practice, professional standards, and appreciation of cultural and individual differences and diversity are assured by exposure to these issues throughout the clinical experience.

**Clinical Service Requirements.** Although there are no absolute requirements, the typical resident will see patients for neuropsychological assessment 3-4 days each week. This expectation varies over the course of the residency depending upon the type of evaluation and the resident's other commitments, such as attending formal classes, scientific meetings, or other program approved activities.

**Research.** Over the course of the two-year program, the resident should conduct an independent research project in cooperation with faculty, with output including a manuscript suitable for publication and/or presentation suitable for presentation at a national scientific meeting.

**Didactic Training.** Since clinical neuropsychologists are primarily concerned with the behavioral consequences of cerebral diseases, a thorough knowledge of neuroscience and clinical neurology is a prerequisite for the independent practice of clinical neuropsychology. To acquire this body of knowledge, a series of specific formal educational activities will be attended by most residents. The program currently includes:

1. **Medical Neurosciences.** This 15 credit hour course is offered as part of the regular medical school curriculum (1<sup>st</sup> year). The Neuropsychology resident will participate in the sections of the course that cover neuroanatomy, neurophysiology, neuropathology, psychiatry, and clinical neurology. These sections are taught during the spring semester, consisting of up to 20 hours of lecture and 4 hours of laboratory work each week. Attendance at applicable lectures and labs will be coordinated in advance with the attending neuropsychologist. The resident may participate in midterm and final examination.
2. **Neurology 5000.** This course examines the clinical manifestations of neurological diseases and is regularly offered to 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> year medical students. It is taught by the Neurology and Neurosurgery faculty each

weekday morning for two hours over the course of one-month, typically in the fall.

3. Neurology Resident Neuroanatomy Course. This course is taught by Neurology faculty for all neurology residents once each year. It meets for one hour, one morning per week, for approximately 6 months. It employs Neuroanatomy through Clinical Cases by Hal Blumenfeld as its textbook.
4. Grand Rounds. Attendance at Neurology grand rounds is expected on a regular basis. Attendance at Psychiatry grand rounds is expected as possible. Other grand rounds throughout the university may also be available and can be attended as applicable to the resident's interests and/or as possible.

In addition to the formal coursework and lectures listed above, there are a variety of educational conferences available to neuropsychology residents that may be attended depending upon educational needs and interests, including Neuroscience Seminars sponsored by the Brain Discovery Institute or the Neuroscience PhD program through the Institute of Molecular Medicine and Genetics and a host of regularly scheduled conferences within Neurology and associated departments (see below; schedule and location is subject to change).

The schedule of Neurology and related conferences varies, but an example follows:

<b>General Neurology Conferences</b>	
Grand Rounds:	Thursdays: 8:00-9:00 am
Morning Report:	Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays: 7:30-8:00 am; Fridays: 8:00-8:30 am
Resident Lecture:	Mondays: 12:00-1:00 pm; Fridays: 7:00-8:00 am
M&M Conference:	2 <sup>nd</sup> Thursday: 12:00-1:00 pm
Journal Club:	Last Wednesday: 5:00-6:00 pm
Professor Rounds:	Thursdays: 11:00-12:00 pm
Visiting Professors:	Thursdays: TBA
Neuroanatomy:	Wednesdays (July-December): 7:00-8:00 am
<b>Subspecialty Conferences</b>	
Stroke:	4 <sup>th</sup> Thursday: 12:00-1:00 pm
Neuromuscular:	1 <sup>st</sup> Tuesday: 12:00-1:00 pm
Epilepsy:	1 <sup>st</sup> Thursday: 12:00-1:00 pm
Neuroradiology:	Fridays: 7:00-8:00 am
Child Neurology:	Tuesdays: 1:00-2:00 pm
<b>Other Department Conferences</b>	
Neuropathology (Brain Cuttings):	Wednesdays: 8:30 or 10:00 am
Neuropathology Student Lecture:	TBA: October-November
Psychiatry Grand Rounds:	Thursdays: 11:30-12:30 pm

**Experiential Training (excluding neuropsychological training)**. Participation in activities such as neuropathology (brain cutting) conference and neurology bed rounds is also available for those residents who have not already had such experiences. Other seminars and workshops of interest (in basic neurosciences, biostatistics, clinical psychology, and psychiatry) also are regularly available to residents throughout the Augusta University campus as their schedule allows.

**Supervision**. Supervision will be conducted a minimum of two hours each week with the adult neuropsychologist on a one-to-one basis. Supervision initially consists of the development of an educational plan including arranging formal coursework, weekly seminars, and assigned readings. After the resident is adequately trained in test administration and is ready to begin evaluating patients, the majority of supervision is taken up with assessment, diagnostic, treatment, and consultation issues. As the resident becomes more proficient in neuropsychological assessment and consultation, supervision will be concerned with broader issues concerning research plans, ethical practice, and professional development in addition to ongoing clinical cases.

## **APPLICATION AND SELECTION PROCEDURES**

**Candidate Information**. Applicants should have a firm background in neuropsychological assessment and strong writing and communication skills. Applicants must have fully completed their APA-approved doctoral education (including dissertation) and APA-approved pre-doctoral internship prior to beginning the residency. Applications will be considered from U.S. citizens and U.S. permanent residents only. The residency is a two-year program that begins on or around September 1.

Interested candidates may obtain further information by contacting the director of the training program, Kelly Stanek, PhD, ABPP, via email or telephone (see below).

**Application Procedure**. To apply, applicants should submit a cover letter with statement of interest/goals, CV, graduate transcripts, APPCN Verification of Completion of Doctorate (if doctorate has not been completed prior to application), two deidentified sample reports, and three letters of recommendation (including at least two from individuals familiar with the applicant's neuropsychology training) by December 31 to:

Kelly M. Stanek, PhD, ABPP  
Director of Neuropsychology Training  
Neurology Building (FO 122)  
Department of Neurology  
Medical College of Georgia  
905 15th Street Augusta, GA 30901

Phone: 706-721-3851

Fax: 706-721-6950

Email: [kstanek@augusta.edu](mailto:kstanek@augusta.edu)

**Interviews.** For the 2020/21 recruitment season, selected applicants will be invited to interview remotely on select dates in January through early February. Interviews have more typically been conducted at the annual meeting of the International Neuropsychological Society (INS).

**APPCN Resident Matching Program.** The Medical College of Georgia's postdoctoral training program in neuropsychology is a participant in the matching program administered on behalf of Association of Postdoctoral Programs in Clinical Neuropsychology (APPCN) by the National Matching Service, Inc. ([www.natmatch.com/appcnmat](http://www.natmatch.com/appcnmat)). The program adheres to all the pertinent rules and procedures of the "Match."