



Postdoctoral Training Program in Adult Clinical Neuropsychology

Medical College of Georgia

Augusta University

The Department of Neurology at the Medical College of Georgia at Augusta University 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) at Augusta University is the medical university for the State of Georgia's university system. MCG affiliated clinical facilities are part of the Wellstar MCG Health Medical Center. MCG academic and clinical campus facilities are in Augusta, Georgia. Below is a formal description of the training program.

INSTITUTIONS AND PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Institutional Mission. Clinical training occurs through the Medical College of Georgia and Wellstar MCG Health systems. MCG 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. Wellstar MCG Health is a not-for-profit corporation that manages the clinical operations associated with MCG. 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 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 residents 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 who are referred primarily from the Departments of Neurology and Neurosurgery, but also from 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 a board-certified clinical neuropsychologist.

General Medical Setting: Training Facilities. Clinical training facilities are located within the Wellstar MCG Health system, which is composed of the Wellstar MCG Health Medical Center (520-bed adult hospital), Ambulatory Care Center (more than 80 outpatient clinics), and 154-bed Wellstar Children's Hospital.

Physical Facilities: Neuropsychology Clinic. The Neuropsychology Service's clinic is physically located in the Wellstar MCG Medical Center, which also houses the Neurology and Neurosurgery faculty offices, the Neurology Library, conference rooms, and auditorium, the Neurology resident offices and, and the Neurology/Neurosurgery inpatient beds. The Neuropsychology Clinic currently occupies an office area with dedicated exam/testing rooms and a clinical workroom. Neuropsychology faculty offices and a shared neuropsychology staff and resident workspace are located in a nearby building on the AU Health Sciences Campus. Members of the Neuropsychology Service team include office specialist, registration desk specialist, and full-time psychometrist staff. Resident workspace is shared; assigned space/resources owned by AU and/or Wellstar are subject to change. The Neuropsychology Service has an ever-growing library of tests and other relevant resources. Residents also enjoy in-person and walkable access to the Neurology Departmental Library and the Augusta University Greenblatt Library, both located on the AU Health Sciences campus. Additionally, residents may access the AU Library and other relevant AU resources on the Summerville campus, and most AU library system resources may be accessed online.

Client Population Served. The residency program is housed in the Neurology Department; as such, neuropsychological evaluations will routinely be performed for adult outpatients referred primarily from our neurological and neurosurgical services, but also from 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 medical conditions. There are additional opportunities for clinical involvement with patients within our Comprehensive Epilepsy Surgery Program (a Level 4 Epilepsy Center) and the Neuromodulation Clinic within our Movement Disorders program (a Parkinson's Foundation Center of Excellence).

Primary and Affiliated Faculty.**Primary Faculty/Clinical Supervisor:**

Kelly M. Stanek, Ph.D., ABPP (Neuropsychologist)

Affiliated Faculty:

Ben Barnes, M.D. (Neurology Faculty, Neurology Residency Program Director)

Michael Rivner, M.D. (Neurology Faculty and Neuroanatomy Director, Neurology Residency)

Matthew Kridel, Ph.D. (Neurology Faculty and Clinical Health Psychologist)

David J. Kozlowski, Ph.D. (Medical Neurosciences Component Director)

Jeffrey Switzer, M.D. (Neurology Department Chair)

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 residents 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 evaluation to provide useful feedback about the residents' relative strengths and weaknesses across the major content areas important for neuropsychologists. Areas identified as requiring improvement will be discussed and a competency development plan will be enacted. Disciplinary action will follow institutional policy and guidelines. Incoming residents will receive additional information regarding program and institutional evaluation and grievance policies.

Grievance Procedures. The resident's faculty advisor, the Department of Neurology's Residency Program Director, and the Department Chair 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. Incoming residents will receive additional information regarding program and institutional evaluation and grievance policies.

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

Anticipated Residency Cycle Dates: We typically recruit for one position every two years. Availability of a position for the upcoming training cycle will be updated each fall on our APPCN program page. The residency is a two-year program that begins on or around September 1.

Benefits: Residents are funded and employed by Augusta University. They will receive a base salary (**Subject to budgetary approval and institutional changes; FY22 salary data: \$47,476*) and AU employee 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; this is subject to department approval. Each resident accrues annual leave (equivalent of 15 days per year) and sick leave each month. AU currently has 8 scheduled holidays, plus 2-5 additional holidays typically offered during the December academic break; however, timing/availability of these additional holidays is subject to both clinic and institutional policy/changes. Resident leave dates are subject to the approval of the resident's program director. Leave requests should be submitted at least 45 days ahead of time.

For more information on **AU Employee Benefits**, please visit:
https://www.augusta.edu/hr/university/university_benefits

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

APPCN Membership. The MCG postdoctoral training program in clinical neuropsychology is a member of the Association of Postdoctoral Programs in Clinical Neuropsychology (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

Training program emphases include 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. Didactic training in neurosciences and clinical neurology are available and tailored to the educational needs of the individual resident.

Clinical Neuropsychology Consultation Training. The core of training consists of using a variety of cognitive 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, visuoperception, visuospatial thinking, executive functions, sensorimotor abilities, and personality or mood.

Outpatient evaluations will be performed for adult patients referred from neurological, surgical, general medical, and psychiatric services for a variety of neuropsychological questions. There are also specific opportunities for involvement in clinical activities within the Epilepsy Surgery Program (pre- and post-operative neuropsychological evaluation, Wada procedures, Epilepsy Surgical Conference) and our Movement Disorders Service's DBS program (pre-and post DBS neuropsychological evaluation, DBS Conference).

Across these experiential learning experiences, training will involve multiple components. 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. Understanding and competency in ethical practice, professional standards, and appreciation of cultural and individual differences are emphasized through direct and indirect exposure to these issues throughout the clinical experience.

Clinical Service Requirements. Although clinical load may vary, 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. Residents will be expected to demonstrate proficiency in test administration and scoring, as well in interpretation of a variety of neuropsychological measures. Residents will typically have access to the services of a psychometrist for a portion of their caseload as possible and should expect general training in working with a psychometrist; however, the resident will also directly provide neuropsychological test administration and scoring services to patients.

Clinical Supervision. Individual supervision will be conducted for a minimum of two hours each week with the supervising neuropsychologist. Supervision typically occurs throughout the week rather than adhering to one set time. It 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 involves issues in assessment, diagnosis, treatment, and consultation. 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.

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. *Neuropsychology Specific Didactics.* Neuropsychology didactic sessions will include semi-regular seminars, lectures, and assigned readings on relevant clinical and professional topics. Self-directed didactic studies will also be assigned, typically involving a literature review and culminating in at least one formal presentation per academic year by each resident to the neuropsychology clinic and/or neurology residents.
2. *Medical Neurosciences.* This course is offered as part of the regular medical school curriculum. Neuropsychology residents 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 lectures and laboratory work. Attendance at applicable lectures and labs (i.e., those pertaining to behavioral neuroanatomy and psychiatry) will be coordinated in advance with the attending neuropsychologist.
3. *Neurology 5000 Clerkship.* This course examines the clinical manifestations of neurological diseases and is regularly offered to 3rd year medical students. It usually consists of a lecture series and weekly lab session over the course of a three-week rotation, typically in the fall.
4. *Neurology Resident Neuroanatomy.* This course is taught by Neurology faculty for all neurology residents once each year. It typically meets for one hour, one morning per week for approximately 6 months. It has historically employed Neuroanatomy through Clinical Cases by Hal Blumenfeld as its textbook.
5. *Neuropathology Conference* (brain cutting). These conferences are typically offered semi-regularly by the MCG Department of Pathology. Residents are expected to arrange attendance whenever possible as their clinic schedule allows.
6. *Grand Rounds.* Regular in-person attendance at Neurology grand rounds is required. Attendance at Psychiatry grand rounds is expected as possible (dependent on clinic schedule). Other grand rounds throughout the university may also be available and can be attended as applicable to the residents' interests and/or as possible.
7. *Journal Clubs.* Semi-regular journal clubs will be organized by neuropsychology residents or faculty, and residents are also expected to join relevant neurology resident journal clubs as possible.

Additional Psychology Training Emphases and Experiences.

Psychology Postdoc Seminar. Attendance at these biweekly seminars offered through the Psychology division of the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Medicine at MCG is expected whenever available and possible. These seminars are focused on professional issues relevant to psychologists and provide Neuropsychology residents with regular opportunities to interact with psychology post-docs in other departments. Past topics have included issues related to cultural and individual differences and diversity, training in supervision, ethics, advocacy, and licensing.

Psychotherapy and Other Clinical Experience. Depending on availability of affiliated supervisors and current programs, there may be opportunities for interested residents to gain supervised experience in individual and group psychotherapy, cognitive rehabilitation, and/or support and psychoeducational groups for patients with cognitive and/or neurological disorders and/or functional neurological disorder.

Additional Educational Experiences. In addition to the formal coursework, lectures, and seminars listed above, there are a variety of educational conferences available to neuropsychology residents that may be attended depending upon educational needs and interests (e.g., Neuroscience Seminars sponsored by the Neuroscience PhD program) and a host of regularly scheduled conferences within Neurology and associated departments (see below; schedule and location is subject to change).

Seminars in basic neurosciences, biostatistics, clinical psychology, and psychiatry are regularly held throughout the Augusta University campus and would be available to residents as their schedule allows. Participation in other Neuropsychology-adjacent activities within the department (e.g., Neurology bed rounds) may be possible for interested residents depending on their clinic schedule and other training obligations.

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 or CPA-approved doctoral education (including dissertation) and APA or CPA-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 should look for updated availability of a position to be posted to our APPCN program site in the fall and may obtain further information

by contacting the director of the training program, Kelly Stanek, PhD, ABPP, via email or telephone.

Application Procedure.

* Please note that we are not able to recruit every year. We will advertise open positions in the fall. You may also consult our APPCN program listing or AU website, and/or contact the training director to confirm availability of a position for the current recruitment cycle prior to submitting any application materials.

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 of active recruiting years to:

Kelly Stanek, PhD, ABPP
Director of Neuropsychology Training
Department of Neurology, Medical College of Georgia
BI 3080, 1120 15th Street, Augusta, GA 30912
Phone: 706-721-3851
Email: kstanek@augusta.edu

Interviews. Virtual interviews will be arranged for selected candidates. In-person informational sessions may also be available at the annual meeting of the International Neuropsychological Society (INS). There will be no preference in candidate selection afforded to those who attend in-person meetings.

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). The program adheres to all the pertinent rules and procedures of the "Match."