



POST-DOCTORAL FELLOWSHIP IN CLINICAL NEUROPSYCHOLOGY

The clinical neuropsychology postdoctoral fellowship at Stony Brook University Medical Center is a two-year, full-time training program designed to comply with the Houston Conference Guidelines for specialty training in clinical neuropsychology. The program has a lifespan orientation and clinicians are expected to develop competencies in working with both adults and children. However, depending on current availability, fellows will either be child or adult focused (e.g. 70/30 split, with adult track fellows seeing 70% adult patients). The goal of fellowship is to produce well-rounded neuropsychologists who are prepared for institutional and/or private practice careers. While the development of clinical expertise is a primary focus, the program emphasizes both research and organizational/advocacy involvement.

Stony Brook University Hospital (SBUH) is Long Island's premier academic medical center. With 597 beds, SBUH serves as the region's only tertiary care center and Level 1 Trauma Center, and is home to the Stony Brook Heart Institute, Stony Brook Cancer Center, Stony Brook Long Island Children's Hospital, Stony Brook Neurosciences Institute, and Stony Brook Digestive Disorders Institute. SBUH also encompasses Suffolk County's only Level 4 Regional Perinatal Center, state-designated AIDS Center, state-designated Comprehensive Psychiatric Emergency Program, state-designated Burn Center, the Christopher Pendergast ALS Center of Excellence, and Kidney Transplant Center. It is home of the nation's first Pediatric Multiple Sclerosis Center.

The program currently consists of three clinical neuropsychologists and one research neuropsychologist. Although an independent service, all supervising neuropsychology staff hold academic faculty appointments in the Department of Neurology. The outpatient service is located in a four-office suite within walking distance of the outpatient neurology clinic. Inpatient evaluations and many didactics are provided at Stony Brook University Hospital. Referrals are drawn from many different areas of the hospital and the fellow will have the opportunity to work with neurological, psychiatric, geriatric, general medical, and academic populations.

Supervision is provided primarily by the neuropsychology staff. However, as an academic medical center, multi-disciplinary training opportunities are common. Where relevant, fellows have the opportunity to train with neurology, geriatric, pediatric, and general medicine residents and fellows. Fellows have access to all SUNY library and electronic resources, as well as support from dedicated research staff.

STRUCTURE: The fellowship provides training in both adult and pediatric neuropsychology. However, fellows begin the fellowship with an identified emphasis of training (adult or pediatric) and can expect to see 70 to 80 percent of patients within the area of focus. Clinical activities minimally comprise 70-80% of the fellow's time. A 10% research commitment is required and can be extended to 20% for those fellows who are interested in a larger research component to the fellowship. Didactics comprise approximately 10% of the fellow's time.

CLINICAL ACTIVITY: The fellowship strives to produce well-rounded clinicians who are competent to work with a wide range of patient populations. To this end, referrals are drawn from many different areas of the hospital and the fellow will have the opportunity to work with neurological, psychiatric, geriatric, general medical, and academic populations. Memory and movement disorders, as well as multiple sclerosis are more common referral populations due to the presence of specialists in these areas within the department. An emphasis is placed on the development of professional comportment and communication style. The development of effective communication skills with referral sources, patients, community resources, and colleagues is a major focus of training. A goal of producing short, concise, and easily understood reports is emphasized. Depending on the interest of the fellow and availability, an opportunity to supervise externs may be an option.

DIDACTICS: All fellows are required to take part in a number of didactic experiences. All fellows participate in neurology grand rounds and neuropsychology seminar, neuropsychology case conference, and ABPP preparation seminar. One important aspect of the neuropsychology seminar involves once per month guest speakers from the academic medical center and surrounding community. Additionally, fellows have the option of choosing didactics that match their interests or identified areas of development (e.g. Epilepsy conference, Cerebrovascular rounds, Psychiatry grand rounds, Brain tumor conference).

TRAINING ACTIVITIES:

Clinical Service Requirements: The fellowship focuses primarily on outpatient neuropsychological assessment. Because evaluations range from short screening assessments to comprehensive academic neuropsychological evaluations spanning multiple test days, the number of cases seen each week will vary. It is the goal of the fellowship to maximize a diversity of training experiences while at the same time keeping the fellow's clinical service requirements at a manageable level. During the weekly individual supervision session, the current workload of the fellow is reviewed, and modifications are made as needed so as to avoid overwhelming the fellow.

Supervision: Supervision occurs both on a scheduled and case-focused basis. All fellows have one hour per week scheduled for individual supervision. Additional supervision often occurs informally, as needed. In a typical case, the supervisor and the fellow complete the initial interview, the fellow completes all testing and prepares the datasheet, and the case is reviewed. At a later date, the fellow and the supervisor see

the patient for a feedback session. Following the feedback session, the case is again reviewed in supervision, and the report draft is finalized. Additionally, the fellow is scheduled to meet with the supervisor one hour per week for individual supervision. Group supervision is scheduled one time per week and typically follows a case conference format. The style of the group supervision is designed around the intent of helping fellows to learn to succinctly communicate findings. Additionally, group supervision is designed to help prepare fellows for the case defense of the oral portion of the board certification examination.

Research Requirements: All faculty take part in ongoing research that is derived from clinical data gathered from patients seen in the service. A large and growing database is available for the fellow to utilize. All fellows are required to take on at least one project as a principle investigator and there is an expectation that the research will be presented at national conferences.

Other Educational Requirements and Opportunities:

Advocacy and Professional Organization Involvement: The importance of advocacy and professional involvement is a unique component of the Stony Brook Fellowship. All fellows are expected to actively participate in a state or national neuropsychology organization. Faculty and recent fellows have held multiple chair positions and/or membership on committees for the New York State Association of Neuropsychology (NYSAN).

Professional Presentation: All fellows are required to provide a minimum of one oral presentation per year. These can be in the form of giving a talk at a conference, patient advocacy organization or support group, grand rounds, or other organized professional event. More informal talks are also given in didactic meetings.

Opportunities to Pursue Individual and Subspecialty Interests: The fellowship is highly individualized. At the beginning of each training year, fellows identify areas of focal interest in which they would like to develop greater competence. Areas of interest may relate to specific patient populations (e.g. multiple sclerosis, sleep disorders, movement disorders, epilepsy, traumatic brain injury) or particular clinical activities (e.g. cognitive remediation, management of a memory/cognitive compensation group).

Development of Competence and Understanding of Ethical Standards and Diversity/Cultural Competence: Competence in the employment of ethical standards in practice as well as the development of awareness/competence in diversity and cultural competence is addressed in the context of clinical practice (e.g. identifying and addressing ethical issues that come up in practice) as well as during group supervision and didactics.

Evaluation and Grievance Procedures: Evaluation of fellows begins with the development of a training plan that is built in collaboration with the Director of Training at the beginning of the fellow's first year. Formal review of fellow progress occurs at six

month intervals throughout the two year program. Informal evaluation occurs as part of the daily experience of supervision and professional development. At six month intervals, fellows complete a written review of the supervisory and general training experience. Similarly, at six month intervals, the staff of the service meet to review fellow progress and complete a written assessment. This assessment is shared with the fellow in supervision and areas in need of further development are discussed and a plan for addressing concerns is prepared. In the rare circumstance where a fellow is not demonstrating the minimum level of clinical/professional competence, an intervention plan is developed by the service staff and is presented to the fellow. All attempts are made to address areas of concern, and the fellow is provided with specific feedback on progress to address difficulties. If not satisfactorily addressed with the above plan, concerns significant enough to bring into question a fellow's ability to competently/ethically practice will result in termination of the fellow's state position or failure of renewal for the second year.

At the beginning of the fellowship, all trainees are supplied with written instructions for addressing grievances. Grievances are addressed on two levels. As state employees, grievance procedures follow those outlined by Human Resources within the SUNY Stony Brook institution. Fellows are encouraged to bring any grievances to the supervisor, director of training, or director of the service. The training director and service director maintain an open door policy, providing for available consultation at any time. Additionally, the administrator of the neuropsychology service is also available, should grievances require input from outside of the service.

STAFF:

Thomas Preston, PhD, ABPP-CN
Director of the Neuropsychology Service

Dr. Preston is a clinical associate professor of Neurology at Stony Brook and has been the chief of the neuropsychology service since 2005. He completed his PhD from Vanderbilt University, internship training at the Yale Child Study Center, and postdoctoral fellowship at the University of Rochester Medical Center.

Brian K. Lebowitz, PhD ABPP-CN
Director of Neuropsychology Training

Dr. Lebowitz joined the neuropsychology service in 2007 and is an Assistant Professor of Neurology at Stony Brook. He completed his PhD at the University of Cincinnati, internship and postdoctoral training at the James A. Haley Veterans Hospital and neuropsychology fellowship at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center/Harvard Medical School.

Emily C. Roseman, PhD
Clinical Assistant Professor, Neurology.

Dr. Roseman completed the neuropsychology fellowship at Stony Brook University Medical Center in 2013. She completed her PhD from Drexel University and internship from the Mt. Sinai Hospital and Rehabilitation Center.

Christopher Chistodoulou, PhD

Research Assistant Professor, Neurology

Dr. Chistodoulou joined the Department of Neurology at Stony Brook in 2000 and is involved in a wide range of research studies within the department. He completed his PhD from the City University of New York and post-doctoral fellowship at the New Jersey Medical School and Kessler Foundation.

SALARY AND BENEFITS: All fellows are full-time state employees and have a full benefits package that includes medical/dental coverage, vacation, and paid sick leave. The salary for the fellowship is \$42,000 per year.

APPLICATION AND SELECTION PROCEDURES: The Neuropsychology Fellowship Program at Stony Brook University Hospital participates in the Association of Postdoctoral Programs in Clinical Neuropsychology (APPCN) Resident Matching Program. Information regarding the match and associated deadlines can be found at:

<https://natmatch.com/appcnmat/>

Interviews will be held at the annual meeting of the International Neuropsychological Society and on site.

Interested applicants are required to submit the following:

- Letter of interest describing interests and career goals
- Curriculum vitae
- APPCN Verification of Completion of Doctorate form
- Copies of two de-identified neuropsychological evaluation reports
- Three letters of recommendation
- Official graduate transcript

It is preferred that all application materials be submitted electronically to:

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