

# Postdoctoral Residency Position in Clinical Neuropsychology

**MATCH NUMBER: 8062**

**Co-directors: Barry Ardolf, PsyD, ABPP/CN and Andrea Zartman, PhD, ABPP/CN**

**Core Staff: Heejin Kim, PsyD, ABPP/CN, Greg Westhafer, PhD**

**Supplemental Staff: Pam Fitzpatrick, PhD, ABPP, Helen Chung, PhD**

## **Program Overview:**

The North Texas Health Care System (VANTHCS) offers a two-year postdoctoral residency in Neuropsychology and recruits one resident every year. We are a member of the Association of Postdoctoral Programs in Neuropsychology (APPCN; [www.appcn.org](http://www.appcn.org)) and follow a practitioner-scholar training model that follows APA Division 40/ Houston Conference Guidelines (Hannay, 1998). As such, this program will assist you in meeting prerequisite requirements for board certification in Clinical Neuropsychology through the American Board of Professional Psychology (ABPP). Our APPCN Neuropsychology training program runs alongside our larger APA approved postdoctoral program at the Dallas VA which includes seven additional postdoctoral positions in Substance Abuse, Medical Psychology, Patient Aligned Care Teams (PACT), Geropsychology and Family/Couples Therapy.

Our main goal is to prepare you for independent practice, help you become more established within the field of Neuropsychology, develop your professional identity and provide a foundation to successfully complete the ABPP process following completion of post-doc.

The workload distribution includes 60% clinical time, 20% didactics, 10% tiered supervision and 10% research with emphasis on providing empirically based assessments and interventions.

## **Outline of Training Year:**

1<sup>st</sup> 6 months: NP Consult Team with 2-3 reports per week, didactics, research

2<sup>nd</sup> 6 months: NP Consult Team 2 days, didactics, research, Neurology experience

Year 2: NP Consult Team 2 days, minor rotation 1-2 days, didactics, research, supervision

## **Major Rotation: Neuropsychology Consult Team**

Postdocs are primarily housed in the Neuropsychology Consult Team. This team primarily conducts both outpatient and inpatient evaluations from a wide variety of referral sources including Neurology, Mental Health and Primary Care. The cases seen on this team are typically complex in nature with contributing medical, psychological and neurological etiologies to consider. Postdocs are responsible for seeing 2-3 pts in this clinic per week.

## **Neurology Experience:**

Postdocs will have the opportunity to shadow various neurologists through a variety of settings including the General Neurology Clinic, MS Clinic, Sleep Clinic and Movement Disorders Clinic as well as completing inpatient rounds.

## **Minor Rotations:**

Minor rotations are completed to help increase one's breadth and depth of training during the second year of training. The length of time and number of rotations one takes is primarily based on the postdocs interests and desires. You can choose no less than two 6-month rotations and no more than four 3-month minor rotations. The rotations you can choose from are as follows:

## **MH Silver Team (Geropsychiatry team):**

Patients age 70 and older are assigned to this team for their care regardless of their psychiatric diagnosis. In this manner, the Silver Team is very much a general practice team with specialization in terms of the age cohort which it treats. Fellows work within the context of an interdisciplinary team at all stages of patient evaluation and treatment. They acquire knowledge of and skills in neuropsychological assessment and common mental health problems associated with aging. The vast majority of work will be with outpatients conducting comprehensive assessment, determination of capacity, and if desired, individual and/or group psychotherapy. However, the Psychology Fellow may be called upon periodically to see inpatients. Fellows will be actively engaged in all aspects of evaluations from test-selection to feedback and there is the possibility of layered supervision with interns or practicum students.

## **Spinal Cord Injury Unit:**

The Spinal Cord Injury Center (SCIC) is an 11-million dollar addition to the Dallas VA that opened in 1996. The center includes a 30-bed inpatient unit to care for the medical and rehabilitation needs of persons with spinal cord injuries or other neurological dysfunctions (e.g., Multiple Sclerosis, Guillain-Barre Syndrome, and Cervical Stenosis) as well as an outpatient clinic for comprehensive care throughout the lifespan. The SCIC operates a CARF accredited rehabilitation program for spinal cord injury. The clinical mission of the Spinal Cord Injury Center is to enhance the health, functional abilities and quality of life for persons with spinal cord injury or disease. Psychology is an integral part of the interdisciplinary team that works together toward this stated goal. Other members of the team include: physicians, physician assistants, nurses, social workers, occupational therapists, physical therapists, recreational therapists, psychology technician, chaplains, and dietitians. Patients served at the SCI Center comprise a diverse population in terms of ages (19-89), disabilities, medical conditions, education (4th grade through Ph.D. level), occupations, family support, and psychiatric diagnosis. Services provided as part of an SCI rotation include: neuropsychological assessment, behavioral modification, marital and/or family therapy, group therapy (e.g. Caregiver Psycho-educational Groups, Peer Mentoring Program), sexuality counseling, smoking cessation services, pain management, substance abuse screening, and consult liaison services for the SCI Outpatient clinic. Another important role for psychology is providing staff consultation and education.

## **Community Living Center (CLC: Rehabilitation/Extended care):**

The CLC is a 120-bed extended care facility which provides rehabilitation in an interdisciplinary setting for veterans who are recovering from stroke, those who need long-term care due to chronic illness (e.g., cardiac disease, diabetes, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease), those who need respite care due to loss of caretaker, those who need hospice care due to terminal illness (e.g., cancer, AIDS), those who suffer from various kinds of dementia, and those who have experienced traumatic brain injury. Fellows participate in all the activities of the interdisciplinary treatment team and will function with responsibility for the assessment, diagnosis, and treatment of veterans. Opportunities for experience with groups include participation in support groups for caregivers and involvement in the AEGIS volunteer peer counseling program at the Community Living Center. Additional experience with veterans suffering from heart disease is provided through evaluation of veterans in the congestive heart failure clinic, the pre-surgical evaluation clinic, the post-cardiac surgery intensive care unit and the cardiac rehabilitation program. Approximately 70% of a fellow's time will be spent in assessment-oriented activities and 30% in treatment activities during this rotation.

## **Therapy:**

Conducting therapy is NOT a component of this fellowship. However, a brief experience participating in Evidenced Based Therapy may be available. The following EBPs are available in which the post-doc would work with a non-neuropsychologist to see 1-2 pts using the following modalities: Acceptance and Commitment Therapy, Interpersonal Processing Therapy, Cognitive Processing Therapy, Cognitive Behavioral Therapy, Prolonged Exposure, and Integrative Behavioral Couples Therapy.

## **Setting:**

Dallas VA is the second largest VA in the country with multiple specialized programs. There are 80+ psychologists on staff (10 which are ABPP in various areas, 3 ABPP in Neuropsychology). Dallas has formally trained psychology fellows since the early 1980's and postdocs of different specialties since 1992. The Neuropsychology fellowship has been established since 2014. We have a strong relationship with the University of Texas Southwestern Medical School.

## **Resources:**

Onsite library with online access to a large number of medical journals  
Shared office for postdocs  
Electronic medical records  
Desktop access to neuroimaging

## **Required Didactics:**

- Neuropsychology Journal Club (2nd-4th Wednesdays of month) with South Texas VA
- Neuropsychology Case Conceptualization (2nd & 4th Thursdays of month with NP core staff)
- Neuropsychology Group Supervision (every Monday with NP core staff)
- Neurology Grand Rounds (1st Wednesday of month at UTSW)
- Brain Cutting (1st Wednesday of month at UTSW)
- Postdoctoral general didactics (every Friday for the first year)
- Diversity Journal Club (once a month with all trainees and some of general staff)

## **Supplemental Didactics:**

- UTSW Psychiatry Grand Rounds (once a week)
- Mental Health Grand Rounds (once a week)
- Neuroanatomy and Physiology course at UTSW Medical School (2nd year)

Fellows will also receive at least 1-2 hours of individual supervision on a weekly basis.

## **Research:**

Research projects are largely completed through the collaborative relationship with our sister academic medical center, the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center. Fellows participate in research meetings and assigned primary research mentors through UTSW. Fellows are expected to complete at least one research project with publication and/or national presentation by the end of their second year. Fellows will also present their research at a Mental Health Grand Rounds at the end of their second year.

## **Teaching and Supervision:**

Trainees will participate in tiered supervision of practicum students throughout their second year and be involved in varying aspects of the internship applicant selection process both years of fellowship. They may also be involved in ongoing education and training of psychometricians. Trainees are expected to teach at the intern assessment didactic once a month throughout both years of fellowship.

Stipend:        Year 1 - - \$44,648 (please note there is no state income tax in Texas)  
                    Year 2 - \$47,061

Benefits: Health Insurance, 13 days paid vacation, all federal holidays, and up to 13 days of sick leave.

## **Application Procedure:**

Applicants must be U.S. citizens who are candidates in (or have completed) an APA-accredited doctoral program in clinical or counseling psychology. They must have completed an APA accredited internship program and earned their Ph.D. or Psy.D. prior to the start of the residency.

We will be participating in the APPCN match process and interviews will be conducted at the International Neuropsychological Society (INS) conference. For additional information about the match, please go to: <http://appcn.org/FAQmatch.html>.

## **To apply, please complete the following:**

1. Cover letter outlining career goals and goodness of fit. As an attachment to this letter, please state the number of reports written (graduate school and internship) and list the neuropsychological tests that you have administered and scored.
2. A current curriculum vitae
3. Official graduate transcripts
4. Three letters of recommendation, one of which must be from an internship supervisor, sent directly from the letter writer via electronic attachment
5. Two de-identified neuropsychological assessments (reports only)
6. Letter from dissertation chair regarding dissertation status and anticipated completion date, if doctoral degree has not been completed at the time of this application.

We will be participating in the APPA CAS (APPIC Psychology Postdoctoral Application) process this year. application materials are to be submitted by this process through the website <http://www.appic.org>

**Deadline for application materials is January 1<sup>st</sup> 2017.**

## **Staff:**

**Barry R. Ardolf, Psy.D., ABPP** \_\_\_\_\_ ([BarryR.Ardolf@va.gov](mailto:BarryR.Ardolf@va.gov))

School: Forest Institute of Professional Psychology

Neuropsychology Fellowship: Henry Ford Hospital, Detroit, MI.

Diplomate in Clinical Neuropsychology, American Board of Professional Psychology (ABPP)

Primary Job Assignment: Neuropsychology Consult Team

Interests: Neuropsychological Assessment, Dementia, Geropsychology

University Affiliation: Assistant Professor, University of Texas Southwestern Medical School

**Helen Chung, Ph.D.** \_\_\_\_\_ ([Helen.Chung1@va.gov](mailto:Helen.Chung1@va.gov))

School: Oklahoma State University, Counseling Psychology

Geropsychology Fellowship: VA North Texas Health Care System, Dallas, TX.

Diplomate: None

Primary Job Assignment: Community Living Center (CLC) Geriatric Extended Care

Primary Interest/Expertise: Rehabilitation psychology and dementia

University Affiliation: None

**Pamela J. Fitzpatrick, Ph.D., ABPP/RP** \_\_\_\_\_ ([Pamela.Fitzpatrick@va.gov](mailto:Pamela.Fitzpatrick@va.gov))

School: Arizona State University, Clinical Psychology

Neuropsychology Fellowship: Rehab Without Walls, Pheonix, AZ.

Diplomate in Rehabilitation Psychology, American Board of Professional Psychology (ABPP)

Primary Job Assignment: Spinal Cord Injury Center (SCI)

Primary Interest/Expertise: Rehabilitation Psychology, Neuropsychology, Adjustment to Disability, Sexuality & Disability

University Affiliation: Assistant Professor, University of Texas Southwestern Medical School

**Heejin Kim, Psy.D., ABPP** \_\_\_\_\_ ([Heejin.Kim@va.gov](mailto:Heejin.Kim@va.gov))

School: Pepperdine University, Clinical Psychology

Neuropsychology Fellowship: San Antonio Military Medical Center, San Antonio, TX.

Diplomate in Clinical Neuropsychology, American Board of Professional Psychology (ABPP)

Primary Job Assignment: Mental Health Silver Team (geriatrics/dementia team)

Primary Interest/Expertise: dementia, stroke, TBI

University Affiliation: None

**J. Gregory Westhafer, Ph.D.** \_\_\_\_\_ ([John.Westhafer@va.gov](mailto:John.Westhafer@va.gov))

School: University of Texas at Austin, Clinical Psychology

Neuropsychology Fellowship: West Virginia University, Morgantown, WV

Diplomate: None

Primary Job Assignment: Neuropsychology Consult Team

Primary Interest/Expertise: Neuropsychology (General), Movement Disorders, Dementia, TBI, Stroke

University Affiliation: Assistant Professor, University of Texas Southwestern Medical School

**Andrea Zartman, Ph.D., ABPP** \_\_\_\_\_ ([Andrea.Zartman@va.gov](mailto:Andrea.Zartman@va.gov))

School: University of North Texas, Clinical Health Psychology and Behavioral Medicine

Neuropsychology Fellowship: VA South Texas Health Care System, San Antonio, TX

Diplomate in Clinical Neuropsychology, American Board of Professional Psychology (ABPP)

Primary Job Assignment: Neuropsychology Consult Team & Team Leader, Behavioral Health Team

Interest/Expertise: TBI vs PTSD, dementia, ecological validity of executive functioning

University Affiliation: Assistant Professor, University of Texas Southwestern Medical School

## **Reference:**

Hannay, H.J. (1998). Proceedings of the Houston Conference on specialty education and training in clinical neuropsychology. *Archives of Clinical Neuropsychology*, 13 (2), 157-249.