



## Center for Cognition and Communication

### 2022-2023 Externship Brochure

#### **About Us**

**Center for Cognition and Communication (CCC)** is a leading provider of comprehensive neuropsychological evaluations, cognitive therapy and other related mental health services for patients who have suffered a concussion or traumatic brain injury (“TBI”).

CCC provides services in the New York metro area, with offices uptown adjacent to Cornell Medical Center and in mid-town, with a third in Queens. The Company has developed a distinguished reputation in the field of rehabilitation through the use of state-of-the-art computer-driven programs for remediation and the latest advancements in research, therapy, and education.

CCC’s treatment services are administered by a team of specialists in neuropsychology, clinical psychology, and rehabilitation. The Company adapts the treatment to the individual needs of each patient and facilitates recovery to the highest possible level of function. The Company helps patients improve cognitive skills, including speech and language and regain, as closely as possible, their functional ability level prior to injury. In addition to providing cognitive therapy, CCC offers comprehensive neuropsychological evaluations and assists patients with a plan for post-therapy vocational and social goals, thereby providing a much more comprehensive rehabilitation service. Treatment typically spans six to twelve months and is covered by workers’ compensation, no-fault insurance, other commercial payers and in select circumstance a lien agreement.

#### **Neuropsychology Testing**

CCC provides comprehensive neuropsychological assessments, treatments, and support for adults and children who struggle with cognitive deficits. Neuropsychology is a subspecialty of clinical psychology that is focused on understanding the brain–behavior relationship. Neuropsychology seeks to uncover the cognitive, behavioral, and emotional difficulties that can result from known or suspected brain dysfunction. Neuropsychological evaluation consists of a comprehensive examination of cognitive and behavioral functioning. Evaluations comprise measures that are standardized, scored objectively, and have established psychometric properties.

The neuropsychological evaluation includes a clinical interview with the patient, a collateral interview with caregivers/family, and review of relevant medical records. The evaluation is administered by paper and pencil and computer-based assessments and measures patients’ cognitive strengths and weaknesses. The multiple areas of cognition that are assessed include:

- intelligence
- attention
- executive functioning
- working memory



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- speed of processing
- learning and memory
- visual spatial skills
- fine motor skills

Based on the results of the evaluation, a report that summarizes the data is written and shared with the referring physician. The report includes a cognitive profile, detailed recommendations and objective information about the patient's functioning. Cognitive training is often recommended to help improve functioning. CCC also offers a neuropsychological re-evaluation. The purpose of the re-evaluation may effectively measure improvement associated with the cognitive treatment and determine if further treatment is warranted.

#### **Cognitive Rehabilitation**

The approach to cognitive rehabilitation used at CCC is restorative in nature. That is, based upon an analysis of the functions assessed by the neuropsychological evaluation, a determination is made as to the cognitive strengths and weaknesses presented by the patient, and a program of intervention or treatment plan is designed. Cognitive rehabilitation is based on the principle of neuroplasticity, meaning that the human brain is not a static organ but capable of physical change. These changes can occur through neural pathways and synapses after exposure to enriched environments. Cognitive remediation provides such an enriched environment.

CCC offers cognitive treatment that consists of exercises through the use of computer software based on a number of theoretical models of cognitive functions; for example, attention, memory, executive functioning and others. The parameters usually monitored in the cognitive rehabilitation interventions used at CCC include reaction time, level of exercise difficulty, average number of correct responses, and average number of incorrect responses, among others. The proportion of successes in any session is closely monitored by our trained therapists. The overall purpose is to restore, reinforce, compensate and teach compensatory strategies in order to reach optimal cognitive improvement.

#### **Program Goals**

To train the extern in neuropsychological assessment and/or cognitive rehabilitation treatment in preparation for the extern becoming an independent neuropsychologist practitioner. The externship also allows for the possibility of the extern becoming board certified in the future. Externs will have completed 1250 hours by the end of the 12 months.

#### **Admission Requirements**

The applicant must be in good standing at an APA-Accredited graduate program and approved by the institution's director of training to proceed with externship.



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### **How to Apply**

CCC participates in the NYNJADOT Match. In addition to those materials:

- Two sample de-identified adult neuropsychological assessment reports are required.

Completed packets for the upcoming year must be submitted no later than the fourth week in January; incomplete packets will not be reviewed. Spanish speaking (bilingual) applicants are highly encouraged to apply, as a large percentage of our patients are Spanish speaking.

### **Interview Process**

Due to COVID-19, interviews will be held via Zoom with psychology supervisors. Interviews can begin as soon as the application committee has reviewed completed applications.

### **Face to Face Hours**

Externs will be required to spend a minimum of 10 hours a week in face-to-face direct service delivery (administering assessments) to patients (preferably more). The rest of the extern's time will be devoted towards scoring, report writing, didactics and supervision.

### **Supervision and Didactics**

CCC is committed to providing supervision consistent with the requirements of APPIC/APA. Supervision will include at least one hour of individual supervision with the director of training and one hour of group supervision with other externs/externs/postdocs. The supervisor will be licensed as an independently functioning psychologist in the state of New York and supervisors will be employed by the site in which the extern is providing services. In all cases, externs will clearly be under the direction of the supervisor and will not be considered to function independently.

In addition to supervision, externs will be required to attend one hour of weekly didactics. Currently, we are in a partnership with Yale University for weekly Zoom didactics.

### **Patient Relations**

Each extern shares the responsibility for maintaining and improving the high quality of services provided. Continued success will depend on how well Center for Cognition and Communication's patients and their families are satisfied. Although patients/spouses/partners may not always be right, it is the policy of Center for Cognition and Communication to never argue with them. When an extern cannot satisfy a patient/parent/caregiver complaint by considerate and courteous



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discussion, the matter should be referred to Kim Busichio, Ph.D. All externs of Center for Cognition and Communication are expected to be professional and ethical in their conduct towards patient, parents and caregivers. Center for Cognition and Communication externs must uphold the highest standards when interacting with patients, parents and caregivers. This is true both in and out of the office.

#### **Anti-Harassment Policy**

The Practice is committed to a work environment in which all individuals are treated with respect and dignity, free from all forms of unlawful discrimination. Sexual harassment, or harassment based on an extern's race, color, religion, national origin, age, sexual orientation, marital status, domestic partnership status, disability or any other protected characteristic violates the law, has no place in the work environment and is strictly prohibited. It is the Practice's policy that every extern has the right to work free of unlawful harassment, sexual or otherwise. This policy applies to all persons involved in the operation of the Practice and prohibits unlawful harassment by all externs, including management. The following conduct constitutes harassment other than sexual harassment and will not be tolerated. (i) Use of ethnic slurs or racial epithets. (ii) Telling jokes that may be construed as harassment of others based on their race, national origin, age, disability, sexual orientation, or religious beliefs, or other characteristic protected by law. (iii) The display of cartoons or other images (including images displayed on computers) that may be construed as harassment of others based on their race, national origin, age, disability, sexual orientation, or religious beliefs, or other characteristic protected by law. Any extern who finds another person's behavior to be offensive and who is comfortable doing so may directly inform such other person that such conduct is offensive to such extern and that it must stop. In any event, externs are required to use the complaint procedure set forth below. Please also refer to the Practice's Sexual Harassment Prevention Policy (available upon request).

#### **Complaints**

Any extern who believes that he or she has been harassed in violation of this policy by any supervisor, management official, other extern, or any other person in connection with employment with the Practice should follow the procedures outlined below without fear of retaliation and, to the maximum extent possible, with an assurance of confidentiality and discretion consistent with our ability to conduct an investigation of the complaint. If the complaint has merit, the Practice will take corrective action. Violators of this policy will be subject to disciplinary action including, but not limited to, counseling the accused, suspension and termination of employment.

#### **Confidentiality**

Confidentiality will be maintained throughout the investigatory process to the extent practical and appropriate. All records and data assembled in connection with the investigation of the complaint shall be kept separate and apart from the relevant individuals' personnel files. Any record of



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disciplinary action resulting from a complaint of discrimination or harassment shall be included in the personnel file of the disciplined extern. In addition, in order to minimize needless rumors and other adverse consequences, any extern bringing a complaint or assisting in the investigation of a complaint should use his or her best efforts to keep the complaint and investigation process strictly confidential except to the extent necessary to pursue the complaint.

#### Procedure

- a. An extern who believes that he or she has been subject to harassment (sexual or otherwise) should report the incident immediately to Nancy Chow, Director of Operations. If that is uncomfortable for the extern, the extern may contact Jason Brown, M.D. or Kim Busichio, Ph.D. immediately. Should an extern notify Nancy Chow of an alleged violation of the Practice's policy, it shall be Nancy Chow's responsibility to notify Jason Brown, M.D. and Kim Busichio, Ph.D., who will assist and/or arrange for an investigation of the complaint. Any reported allegations of harassment will be investigated promptly. The investigation may include individual interviews with the people involved and where necessary, with individuals who may have observed the alleged conduct or may have relevant information. Under no circumstances shall the person responsible for the alleged violation participate in conducting the investigation. The question of whether a particular action or incident is prohibited requires a determination based on all of the facts available in the matter. It is incumbent upon the person investigating the complaint to ensure that the alleged incident and the investigatory process are appropriately documented.
- b. Upon completion of the investigation, the matter will be reviewed and a decision will be made regarding appropriate discipline, if any, for the responsible individual and, if appropriate, redress for the aggrieved extern. It is the Practice's goal to reach the decision as promptly as possible.

Once a decision or decisions have been made in accordance with paragraph (b) above, they shall be communicated to the aggrieved extern and the responsible individual.

#### **Discipline**

We expect that you will never participate in any activity or practice that will require us to undertake disciplinary action. We are confident you will find your co-workers and providers pleasant, cooperative and eager to do their own jobs as well as to enable you to do yours. The people at Center for Cognition and Communication are a team of professionals who believe in our goals, our standards and our methods. We believe in you and your ability to become a member of the Center for Cognition and Communication Team. Personal problems between externs should be resolved in private. In the interest of maintaining a harmonious working environment for everyone, it is expected that every effort to resolve any such problems will be made. Center for Cognition



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and Communication views discipline as a means of identifying and correcting unacceptable behavior or performance, not as a means of punishment.

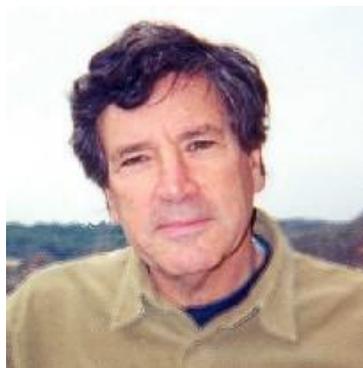
Should there be any issues with an extern's performance or otherwise, the extern shall be notified promptly in an attempt to correct such behavior. Should the behavior persist, the extern's training director at their respective school may be notified.

#### **Dress Policy**

Dress Policy Appearance and personal cleanliness are of the utmost importance in our health care environment. Dress, clothing and appearance are expected to be professional at all times. Attire which reveals any of the following is also not acceptable: cleavage or midriff area, undergarments, body tattoos or piercing. Unusual or excessive hair coloring or styles are considered unacceptable. If you have any questions about personal appearance, please consult Nancy Chow, Director of Operations.

#### **Meet Our Staff**

##### **Founder – Jason Brown, M.D.**



Dr. Brown is a neurologist and writer of works in neuropsychology and philosophy of mind. He has been a reviewer and recipient of grants and fellowships from the National Institutes of Health and the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation and is or has been on the editorial boards of leading journals in his field. He has written 11 books, edited 4 others, and about 200 articles.

#### **Biography**

Premedical studies at the University of California in Los Angeles, graduation from Berkeley in 1959. Medical school at the University of Southern California in Los Angeles, with an M.D. in 1963, externship at St. Elizabeth's Hospital in Washington, D.C.



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He returned to Los Angeles for a residency in neurology at UCLA. 1967–1969 in the Army, in Korea and San Francisco. In 1969, he took a post-doctoral fellowship at the Boston Veteran's Hospital. In 1970, he was invited to the staff of Columbia-Presbyterian Hospital in New York as assistant professor. In 1972, he published his first book, *Aphasia, Apraxia, and Agnosia*. In 1976, he received a fellowship from the Foundations Fund for Research in Psychiatry to spend a year at the Centre Neuropsychologique et Neurolinguistique in Paris. Upon his return, he joined the staff of New York University Medical Center, eventually as Clinical Professor in neurology. The academic year 1978–79 was spent as Visiting Associate Professor at Rockefeller University.

The Center for Cognition and Communication (CCC) was established to provide treatment for clients with head injury, stroke, and other acquired and developmental disorders of cognition.

Since 2002, Prof. Jason W. Brown and his wife, Carine, house and co-organize the Whitehead Psychology Nexus workshops in Southern France.

#### **Clinical Director - Kim Busichio, Ph.D.**



Kim has been CCC's Clinical Director since 2006 and has been instrumental in the company's growth and stability. Kim oversees the clinical team of Neuropsychologists and Psychologists, performs the majority of initial evaluations at CCC, and provides ongoing treatment plans for clients. Kim also works closely with the personal injury referral base and provides expert testimony as required.

Kim received her Masters and Doctorate from Fairleigh Dickinson University and her undergraduate B.A. with Honors in Psychology from Seton Hall.

Kim completed her postdoctoral residency at JFK Johnson Rehabilitation Institute Center for Head Injuries and her clinical externship at Rusk Institute of Rehabilitation Medicine. Prior to that, Kim



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was a research and clinical associate at Kessler Medical Rehabilitation Research and Education Corporation.

Kim's work in the field of Neuropsychology has been extensively published through manuscripts, abstracts and dozens of presentations at relevant Industry Association Professional events. Kim is a member of the New Jersey Psychological Association.