



Icahn
School of
Medicine at
Mount
Sinai

2023-2025

**POSTDOCTORAL FELLOWSHIP IN CLINICAL NEUROPSYCHOLOGY
DEPARTMENT OF NEUROLOGY
THE ICAHN SCHOOL OF MEDICINE AT MOUNT SINAI
THE MOUNT SINAI HOSPITAL**

The Department of Neurology of the Icahn School of Medicine is recruiting for three two-year postdoctoral fellowship positions in clinical neuropsychology, beginning July 1 or September 1, 2023. The fellowship focuses on neuroinflammatory diseases, especially multiple sclerosis (MS), however training with other neurological disorders is also provided. Cognitive decline is a critical issue in MS neurological care, which has engendered strong clinical and research collaborations among the ten attending neurologists, five neurology fellows, three attending neuropsychologists, and neuropsychology fellows within our Comprehensive MS Center.

The program follows the scientist-practitioner model; thus, fellows are engaged in both clinical practice and research. The breakdown between clinical and research activities is flexible and tailored to the fellow's interests, with at least 50% of the fellow's time spent in clinical service. The program meets the requirements for licensing as a psychologist in New York State. It is consistent with APA Division 40 and Houston Conference guidelines for specialty training in Clinical Neuropsychology; our goal is to train fellows to an advanced level of competence to achieve board certification in clinical neuropsychology. The program is co-directed by James F. Sumowski, PhD and Suzan Uysal, PhD, ABPP-CN.

Clinical Training: Clinical training involves (a) focused outpatient neuropsychological evaluations tailored to inform treatment for persons with MS and related neuroinflammatory diseases; (b) health behavior interventions to promote functional independence by minimizing risk factors (e.g., obesity, sleep disturbance) and maximizing protective factors (e.g., healthful diet, exercise) associated with differential cognitive, physical, and emotional outcomes; and (c) in-depth neuropsychological assessments of patients with other primary neurologic conditions (e.g., dementia, stroke, traumatic brain injury, HIV, encephalitis, epilepsy, movement disorders). Clinical services are provided to a culturally and socio-economically diverse patient population, both in-person and by telehealth.

Research Training: There is much opportunity for scholarly activity within the MS Center, mostly under the supervision of Dr. Sumowski. Research participation may include contributing to ongoing research projects (e.g., a large R01 NIH-funded prospective cohort study of risk and protective factors for cognitive decline in persons with MS), carrying out an independent research project through secondary analysis of existing data resources (including a comprehensive neuroimaging data set), submitting a grant proposal to support a new pilot project, assisting faculty in the preparation of manuscripts and center-wide grant applications, or writing a review paper or book chapter. Fellows may present their research at national or international conferences.

Didactic Training: Postdoctoral fellows attend weekly case conferences with neurologists at the MS Center and participate in the following core didactic seminars and meetings:

- *Professional Issues in Neuropsychology Seminar:* This didactic encompasses case conference, neuropsychological assessment report writing, an Ethics module covering the Ethical Principles of Psychologists and Code of Conduct and ethical issues in neuropsychology, ABCN board certification preparation, and journal club. Fellows develop their teaching skills through presenting many of the seminars.

- *Functional Neuroanatomy and Clinical Neuroscience for Neuropsychologists*: This didactic series covers the content areas of basic neuroscience, functional neuroanatomy, neurochemistry of behavior, neuropathology, domains of function, cognitive and behavioral syndromes, clinical neurology, neuroradiology, and clinical neuropsychological assessment. It is taught by Dr. Uysal, author of *Functional Neuroanatomy and Clinical Neuroscience: Foundations for Understanding Disorders of Cognition and Behavior*. New York, NY: Oxford University Press, 2023.
- *Interdepartmental Neuropsychology Faculty Lecture Series*: This didactic series is presented by neuropsychologist faculty from across the Mount Sinai health system.
- *Other Didactics*: As a large academic medical center, we also offer a wide array of additional (optional) didactic training experiences, including (but not limited to) the following: Human Neuroanatomy course offered through the Graduate School of Biological Sciences, Behavioral Neurology Case Conference, Neurology Residency Seminars, Neurology Grand Rounds, Neuropathology brain dissections, Neuropathology clinical-pathological diagnostic case conferences, Neuroradiology seminar, Translational neuroscience seminars offered through the Friedman Brain Institute, Psychology Grand Rounds, and Psychiatry Grand Rounds.

Compensation and Benefits: Fellows receive an annual stipend; stipend amounts are set by NIH and Mount Sinai guidelines (as a point of reference the stipend was \$58,661 for the 2022-2023 academic year). Health, vision, dental, and malpractice insurances also are provided. Funding to attend one professional conference each year is also available, as well as participation in an extensive offering of free or low-cost seminars, workshops, and courses offered by the School of Medicine on topics such as research methodology and professional development, computer program skills training, and leadership skills and public speaking. The Medical School Real Estate Office located at 1249 Park Avenue (212-659-9630) can provide information about affordable housing in the area. Below-market rate apartment rentals located close to the hospital are available to Mount Sinai postdoctoral fellows.

Context of the Training Program: The fellowship is located at The Mount Sinai Hospital, located on the Upper East Side of Manhattan. We serve one of the most diverse patient populations in the world, and we place a high value on the diversity of our workforce and leadership.

Admission Requirements: Applicants must be enrolled in a doctoral degree program in professional psychology (clinical, counseling), and be scheduled to complete all requirements for the doctoral degree and eligible for a limited permit to practice psychology in New York State by the time training begins. Preference will be given to applicants who have completed an APA-approved doctoral program and an APA- or CPA-approved clinical internship, and applicants with predoctoral specialty training in neuropsychology.

Application Procedure: Applications will be considered on a rolling basis until the fellowship positions have been filled. The submission deadline is December 10, 2022; highly interested candidates are encouraged to submit applications early. Candidates will be interviewed either in-person or via videoconference. Applications should be sent via email with the subject "Neuropsychology Fellowship Application" to both James F. Sumowski, PhD (james.sumowski@mssm.edu) and Suzan Uysal, PhD, ABPP-CN (suzan.uysal@mssm.edu), and must include:

1. Cover letter describing the candidate's suitability for the fellowship program, including prior clinical training and experience (e.g., patient populations served, training settings, assessment experience). Candidates should state their career goals, how this fellowship will support these goals, their research experience, and whether their career goals include clinical research.
2. Curriculum vitae (including citizenship and languages spoken fluently).
3. Copy of unofficial graduate transcript (if selected, the candidate must submit the official transcript).
4. Two de-identified sample psychological or neuropsychological assessment reports.
5. Representative copies of abstracts, publications, or research presentations, if applicable.
6. Three letters of recommendation, e-mailed directly to both Drs. Sumowski and Uysal.