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Nuvance Health Neuroscience Institute Clinical Neuropsychology Externship Program

Website:

<https://nynjadot.apa.org/job/nuvance-health-neuroscience-institute-neuropsychology-externship-danbury-connecticut-0083/hash/a6910b66fecc7174b13842cd27c18b7d>

<https://www.nuvancehealth.org/services-and-treatments/neurology-and-neurosurgery>

Brief Overview of Externship:

The position is designed to prepare graduate students for a career in clinical neuropsychology and subsequent board certification (ABPP) in neuropsychology. Externs participate in didactic learning and the majority of the extern's time is devoted to outpatient neuropsychological assessment. The remaining time can be tailored to individual interests, including participation in research, and minor rotations in other departments that provide neuropsychological services to specific populations (e.g., ache clinic, stroke center, movement disorders, pre/post neurosurgical evaluations). Our program adheres to the Houston Conference Guidelines and we endorse the scientist-practitioner model of training, emphasizing a flexible battery approach to neuropsychological assessment. Our Danbury location is part of a large, well-established outpatient neurology practice in southwestern Connecticut and Hudson Valley. Our department is comprised of neuropsychologists, neurologists, neurosurgeons, physician assistants, and clinical research coordinators for clinical trials. Externs will have training in adult neuropsychological assessment with a diverse clinical population. The main focus of our work is outpatient neuropsychological assessment of adults with neurological disorders. We see a large number of individuals with neurodegenerative conditions, movement disorders, multiple sclerosis, brain tumors, and stroke. We see patients from several multidisciplinary clinics including outpatient neurology, movement disorders, stroke, ache and concussion/TBI clinics. The neuropsychology service also sees individuals with epilepsy and seizure disorders. We perform pre and post-operative assessments for individuals undergoing DBS placement surgery and shunt placement in NPH. Students will have the opportunity to see complex, rare neurological syndromes typically seen in large, University-based Medical Centers (e.g., recent cases have included Hashimoto's encephalopathy and corticobasal degeneration) while also developing expertise in classic syndromes and neurodegenerative disorders by working as an integral member of our interdisciplinary neurology practice. Our role is to provide individual assessment, feedback to patients, families, and team members, and cognitive assessment for clinical trials.

Education and Didactics

In addition to training in assessment methods, diagnostic skill development, and report writing, there are a number of didactic activities available to students. Journal club (with a focus on clinically relevant literature), weekly case conference review, along with mock fact-finding exercises are held regularly to prepare students for board certification and independent practice. There are also opportunities to discuss cases with professionals in other disciplines (e.g., psychiatry or child assessment). Opportunities to sit on neurosurgery, neurology, and psychiatry grand rounds, participate in movement disorders treatment team meetings are available. Our primary faculty is comprised of three neuropsychologists and secondary faculty include neurologists, psychiatrists, and neuropsychologists in the wider Nuvance Health and WCHN community. Although research involvement is possible, this would be driven largely by the interest level and motivation of the student.

Supervision:

Externs participate in individual and group supervision where they have the opportunity to interact with faculty and interdisciplinary teams. Most supervision is case-by-case with all supervision sessions scheduled as needed. Supervision is initially more "hands on" (e.g., full participation during interview and feedback) and then decreases as the extern progresses. There is an open-door supervision and supervisors are always available for discussion and problem-solving throughout a clinic day. As a small highly individualized program, we provide continuous evaluation and feedback.

Unless there is another work-from-home mandate, trainees should expect that most clinical work and supervision will occur on site. Trainees are required to commit at least 2 days per week. Trainees are granted full remote access to our electronic medical record system, neuropsychology shared drive, medical library, and email. Case preparation, report-writing and some supervision may be done remotely, should the extern wish to do so. The amount of time spent on-site vs remote work will change depending on the needs of our population and the healthcare system we are a part of.

For Further Information:

Please address questions regarding the neuropsychology externship to:

Anna G. Gertsberg, Ph.D., ABPP via e-mail at anna.gertsberg@nuvancehealth.org

General information about externship site:

Training Director: Anna G. Gertsberg, Ph.D., ABPP

Length of externship (in months): 12 months

Start Date: on or around July 1st

End Date: on or around June 30th

How many hours a week are expected of extern?: 16-20 hours

Specialty tracks: Clinical Neuropsychology

of externs to be accepted for 2022-23: 4

Minimum level of readiness: Coursework in neuropsychology and prior testing experience are preferred, though not required. The practicum position is tailored to fit to the experience level of each student.

Do you provide a stipend? If so how much?: No

Interviews:

When do you expect to begin interviews? After 01/24, as per NYNJADOT guidelines

Interview process: Individual interviews with staff neuropsychologists are required (likely virtual but in-person options will also be available - per applicant preference). Offer decisions are made based on a combination of the applicant's background, interests, goals, and fit with the site.

What application materials are required?: Cover Letter (including days available), CV, 2 letters of reference, testing report (or case summary if unavailable), eligibility letter.

Intervention and Assessment:

Assessment training experiences commonly offered: Neuropsychological assessment, including test administration, case conceptualization, report writing, and feedback to patients and families. Externs will also have the opportunity to conduct brief cognitive evaluations.

Expected number of full assessment batteries completed during externship: 1-2 per week.

Estimate # of integrated assessment reports per year: 1-2 per week.

Supervision:

Estimate hours/week of individual supervision: 2 hours

Estimated hours/week of group supervision: 1-2 hours

Estimated hour/week of didactics: 1 hour

Context of didactics: Neurology and neuropsychology seminars, case discussion and mock fact-finding exercises, journal club

Estimated informal open door "curbside" supervision: always available

Specify if observation occurs during intervention, assessment, consultation: Live, in-person

Support:

Wheelchair accessible: Yes

Are home visits required as part of the trainee's duties?: No

Is a transportation stipend provided?: No