

Nuvance Health, Neuroscience Institute Externship in Clinical Neuropsychology

Nuvance Health Department of Neurology in Danbury, CT is recruiting externs with an interest in clinical neuropsychology for the 2021-2022 training year.

Brief Overview

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., headache 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, pediatric psychologist, physician assistants, physical therapists, physiatrists, 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, headache 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 fellow 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., epilepsy 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 four neuropsychologists and secondary faculty include neurologists and neuropsychologists in the wider Nuvance Health and WCHN community.

Although this is primarily a clinical training program, research opportunities exist within both the neuropsychology service as well as the broader medical community and its affiliates. Additional research involvement is possible, but would be driven largely by the interest level and motivation of the resident.

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 formal 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 style and supervisors are always available for discussion and problem-solving throughout a clinic day. As a small highly individualized program, the fellowship also provides continuous evaluation and feedback.

Training during the Covid-19 Pandemic

Unless there is another work-from-home mandate due to the COVID-19 pandemic, trainees should expect that clinical work and some supervision will occur on site. Trainees are required to commit at least 2 days per week. Currently, externs attend one day for on-site assessment, scoring and supervision. The second day is remote for telehealth work, case preparation, report-writing, didactics, case consultation, and supervision. Trainees are granted full remote access to our electronic medical record system, neuropsychology shared drive, medical library, and email. However, 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.

ALL QUESTIONS AND APPLICATIONS CAN BE SENT TO:

Anna G. Gertsberg, Ph.D.
Clinical Neuropsychologist
Director of Clinical Training
Associated Neurologists, PC - Nuvance Health Neuroscience Institute
Assistant Professor, Department of Psychiatry
University of Connecticut School of Medicine
Phone: [\(203\) 748-2551, ext. 312](tel:(203)748-2551)
E-mail: anna.gertsberg@nuvancehealth.org