Neuropsychology Postdoctoral Fellowship 2020-2022

Department of Neurology
Division of Neuropsychology
University of Miami Miller School of Medicine
Miami, Florida 33136

Available Positions

The Division of Neuropsychology, Department of Neurology at the University of Miami Miller School of Medicine is accepting applications for two full-time two-year postdoctoral fellowship positions to begin in the late summer 2020 or early fall 2020.

Application and Selection Procedures

Interested applicants should email all materials to SVestrich@med.miami.edu to the attention of Dr. Bonnie Levin.

Required application materials:

- Cover letter
- CV
- Three letters of recommendation
- Two work samples
- Graduate transcript
Applications will be received and reviewed on a rolling basis. Deadline for submission is January 15, 2020, however, *early applications are strongly encouraged.*

Interviews will be conducted on-site, at INS, or by teleconference, depending on applicant’s preference and availability.

**Eligibility**

Completion of an APA-accredited doctoral training program and internship are required. Appropriate candidates are those with a strong interest in assessment, interpretation, report writing, and principles of brain-behavior relationships. Formal graduate-level coursework in clinical neuropsychology, and neuropsychological assessment is required. Preference is given to candidates who completed an internship with a neuropsychology emphasis.

Approximately 50% of our patients are Spanish speaking. Therefore, while all applications will be considered, applicants who are fluent in Spanish and have an interest in working with the Hispanic/Latino population are strongly encouraged to apply.

**Training Setting**

The Division of Neuropsychology is embedded within the [Department of Neurology](#) at the University of Miami Miller School of Medicine and chaired by the internationally renowned Dr. Ralph L. Sacco, current president of the American Academy of Neurology and past president of the American Heart Association. The Department of Neurology is one of the premier Departments in the country with more than 85 distinguished research and clinical faculty in most of the neurological sub-specialties. Together with Neurosurgery, US News and World Report ranked our department among the top 50 in the country and in the top 16 in NIH funding.

For over 50 years, Neurology at the University of Miami, Miller School of Medicine, has been a prominent leader in treating patients from all over the world, in cutting edge research, and in training and attracting esteemed faculty.

The mission of the Department has grown fourfold—to expand the knowledge of the causes, treatments, and cures for neurological disease; to conduct innovative research; to provide unparalleled care to patients and to train the next generation of practitioners and neuroscientists.

Widely recognized as an international referral center, neurologists from Latin America and all over the United States turn to UM faculty for expertise in solving complex neurological problems. The department has grown to fourteen clinical divisions and programs that offer patient care.

The Department of Neurology is home to the McKnight Brain Institute which conducts clinical and basic research in the area of age-related memory loss and the Brain Endowment Bank,
which banks and studies the human brain affected by Parkinson’s disease and other movement disorders, drug addiction, and aging.

With satellite offices in Palm Beach, Miami, Plantation, Kendall and Hialeah; major scientific advances to its credit and vast expertise, the Department of Neurology is committed to solving the puzzle and finding a cure for neurological diseases in this generation.

The Division of Neuropsychology receives referrals of patients with a wide range of neurological conditions (see Clinical Experiences section below). We work closely with other disciplines in the department (e.g., neurologists, neurosurgeons, social workers, physical therapists, neurology residents) to provide our patients well rounded, multidisciplinary care. Collaboration with other disciplines spans clinical and research activities, enriching the training of our fellows.

Miami is a multicultural city, with a large Hispanic/Latino population from across South America, Central America and the Caribbean. This is reflected in the diversity of our patients, making attention to diversity and cultural issues a hallmark of our program.

South Florida is a vibrant growing area that offers an exceptional lifestyle and many recreational opportunities. Activities include year-round swimming, boating, water skiing, fishing, snorkeling, tennis, golf, and most outdoor sports for enjoyment and relaxation. The greater metropolitan area including Miami and surrounding Miami-Dade County has a population of over 2.5 million. The area has all the cultural and sporting facilities one expects to find in large population centers, and much more. These include symphony, ballet, opera, theaters, and museums, and zoological and botanical centers. There are major league teams in baseball, basketball, football, and ice hockey. The University of Miami also has outstanding college teams in football, baseball, and basketball. Abundantly diverse restaurants, stores, and services of all types, styles, and prices are to be found throughout the metro Dade area. There are many interesting places to visit such as South Beach, Bayside in the downtown waterfront area, Coconut Grove, Coral Gables, and you are just a car ride away to top vacation areas such as the Florida Keys and the Florida Gulf Coast.

Training Overview

Outpatient neuropsychological assessment will comprise the majority of the fellow’s time. Involvement in mentored research, didactics, and supervision of practicum students is also expected. The proportion of time spent in research activities can be tailored to suit the interests of the fellow.

Our training program follows the Houston Conference model for specialty training in clinical neuropsychology through the American Board of Professional Psychology (ABPP).

Clinical Experiences

Fellows will receive extensive clinical training evaluating patients with a broad range of neurologic disorders including (but not limited to) dementias, movement disorders, epilepsy, hydrocephalus, multiple sclerosis, traumatic brain injury, infectious diseases, aphasias, toxic exposures, anoxic events, sleep disorders, tumors, and vascular disorders.
Fellows interested in seizure disorders will have the opportunity to conduct pre- and post-surgical evaluations as well as participate in pre-surgical epilepsy conferences, brain mapping, WADA procedures, and conduct research in collaboration with our epilepsy division.

All fellows will have ample opportunities to conduct pre- and post-surgical evaluations for patients with Parkinson’s disease, essential tremor, and other conditions that are known to benefit from Deep Brain Stimulation (DBS) surgery. Participation in pre-surgical case conferences for DBS with the movement disorders division is an important component of training.

Interested fellows will have the opportunity to provide short-term therapy for patients before and after DBS surgery. Case load for brief psychotherapy will be small as training in neuropsychological assessment is prioritized. This opportunity is contingent on making appropriate clinical progress.

Research Opportunities

Ongoing research projects in our division include studies of cannabinoids in traumatic brain injury, frailty and cognition, transcranial magnetic stimulation (TMS) and neuroplasticity, biomarkers of vascular cognitive impairment, Parkinson’s disease, predictors of DBS outcome, sleep disorders and their relationship to cognition, markers of frailty, the role of polypharmacy, ethnic disparities, exercise, and age related memory loss. Several studies are funded by federal grants. Research in age related memory loss is largely funded by the Evelyn McKnight Brain Institute. Candidates with interest in research will be encouraged to develop an independent project and be involved in manuscript and grant writing.

Didactics, Educational Activities and Professional Development Experiences

Trainees will participate in neuropsychology rounds, case conferences and neurology and psychiatry grand rounds and will also be involved in training of undergraduate and graduate level neuropsychology students.

Mandatory Attendance:

- **Neuropsychology Rounds**
  - Rounds include review of ongoing clinical cases and discussion of pre-surgical patients in preparation for pre-surgical case conferences.
  - Fact finding exercises aimed at assisting fellows prepare for board certification, as permitted by clinical needs.
  - Presentations on Neuropsychology Topics: The postdoctoral training experience includes one 60-minute didactic held biweekly with each fellow expected to present on 2-3 topics a year.

- **Neurology Grand Rounds**
- **McKnight Journal Club** Fellows are expected to present once per year.
- **Epilepsy/Neurosurgery Case Conference** Only fellows working with seizure disorders are expected to participate in this conference, however all are encouraged to attend.
- **DBS/Neurosurgery Case Conference**
Other Opportunities (not mandatory):

- Neuroradiology Rounds
- Stroke Lecture Series
- Neurology Lecture Conference
- Multi-site Neuropsychology Residents Didactic
- Brain Cutting at Jackson Morgue
- Neuroanatomy/Neuropsychology Case Conference
- Psychiatry Grand Rounds
- Professors Rounds
- Observe various surgical/medical procedures including DBS, craniotomies, laser ablation and Wada testing.
- Epilepsy Boot Camp - Intensive epilepsy training course held during the summer. It is open to neurology and neuropsychology fellows interested in seizure disorders.

Supervision

Fellows will receive a minimum of one hour of individual clinical supervision and 2 hours of group supervision per week.

Opportunities for fellows to supervise graduate students will be available.

Salary

The current salary is commensurate with NIH guidelines plus an excellent benefit package.

Core Training Faculty

- Bonnie Levin, PhD
  Schoninger Professor of Neurology
  Chief, Neuropsychology Division

- Gustavo Rey, PhD
  Associate Professor of Clinical Neurology
  Neuropsychology Division

- Annelly Bure-Reyes, PhD
  Assistant Professor of Clinical Neurology
  Neuropsychology Division

- Sarah Getz, PhD
  Instructor of Clinical Neurology
  Neuropsychology Division
- Katalina F. McInerney, PhD
  Assistant Professor of Clinical Neurology
  Neuropsychology Division

- Marina Sarno, PsyD
  Instructor of Clinical Neurology
  Neuropsychology Division

We encourage you to contact us at SVestrich@med.miami.edu if we can clarify or expand on any components of our program. We look forward to a productive 2020-2022 postdoctoral fellowship experience.