Behavioral Neuropsychology Lab
Postdoctoral Fellowship in Neuropsychology

The Department of Neurology at the University of Virginia Health System will have an opening for 1 postdoctoral fellow for 2015-2017. We will be participating in the match but we are not a member of APPCN. Our training program follows the Houston Conference model for specialty training in clinical neuropsychology and our former fellows have been very successful at obtaining board certification in clinical neuropsychology through the American Board of Professional Psychology (ABPP). We will have several interview options – on-site at an open house on January 16, 2015, at INS (Feb 3-7, 2015), via Skype, or over the phone. Our application deadline is Friday, January 16th. Those individuals who are interested in attending the open house should submit their applications by January 9th at the latest. Prior to the start of fellowship, candidates must have completed an APA or CPA accredited internship.

Basics of the Fellowship
The majority of a fellow’s time is devoted to outpatient neuropsychological assessment. The remaining time can be tailored to individual interests, including participation in research, delivery of psychotherapy services, didactics, and rotations in other departments that provide neuropsychological services to special populations (e.g., traumatic brain injury, psychiatric disorders, epilepsy). The salary is approximately $40,000 with full health insurance benefits and an additional stipend that can be applied toward parking, gym membership, or cafeteria credit. The University of Virginia is the premier academic institution in the state of Virginia with a very highly regarded academic medical center. The Department of Neurology is consistently ranked among the best in the nation. The Charlottesville area has been named one of the best places to live in the United States due to the beautiful surroundings, excellent restaurants, and a vibrant arts and music scene.

What We Do
The main focus of our work is outpatient neuropsychological assessment of adults with neurological disorders. We staff several multidisciplinary clinics including the Memory Aging and Care Clinic (MACC), James Q. Miller MS Clinic, Movement Disorders Clinic, Functional Neurosurgery Clinic, Neuro-Oncology Clinic, and Huntington’s Disease Clinic. Our role in these clinics includes individual assessment, feedback to patients, families, and team members, and cognitive/behavioral assessment for clinical trials. We perform pre and post operative assessments for individuals undergoing deep brain stimulator (DBS) placement surgery to treat Parkinson’s disease, and we are occasionally called upon to see inpatients to address issues of competency to return to independent living. Additionally, the postdoctoral fellow has the opportunity to see individuals or couples for psychotherapy. Although this is not required, we feel that psychotherapy with individuals struggling with neurologic conditions is a unique and valuable learning experience. The didactic component of the program includes participation in department grand rounds, journal clubs, the neuropsychology seminar series, brain cutting, neurodegenerative neuroimaging conference, and independent study. There are several opportunities for mentored research (both archival and prospective studies), and it is expected that each fellow will
complete a research project for publication or presentation at a national conference. Thus, we consider the breadth of training resources as well as the flexibility to pursue specialized interests a foremost strength of the fellowship. Former fellows have secured positions at academic medical centers and in private practice, and several are now board certified through ABPP. Our fellowship program has grown over time and we are in the process of applying for membership in APPCN.

It is expected that at this point, a candidate for the fellowship will have strong training in assessment, interpretation, report-writing, and principles of brain-behavior relationships. Our fellowship is designed to provide a wealth of clinical experience to prepare individuals for independent practice. Candidates with an interest in neuropsychology but without a specialized background in neuropsychology will find that a program with a more structured didactic component would better meet their needs.

Who We Are

Carol Manning, PhD, ABPP is the Director of the Behavioral Neuropsychology Lab, Director of Memory Clinical Trials, Vice Chair for Faculty Development in Neurology, as well as Director (and co-founder) of the Memory Aging and Care Clinic. Dr. Manning is a tenured Associate Professor of Clinical Neurology. She has published work in the areas of aging, Alzheimer’s disease, Huntington’s disease, and Parkinson’s disease. She oversees and coordinates the many opportunities for our postdoctoral fellows to become involved in Alzheimer’s Disease Research Center (ADRC) activities and neuroclinical trials. Our satellite ADRC focuses on minority and rural individuals with dementia and Dr. Manning has been integral in its establishment and the recruitment and retention of participants. She is particularly interested in the impact of dementia on caregivers and families. Dr. Manning was appointed to the Alzheimer’s and Related Disorders Commission advisory board by the governor of Virginia. She is also the Chair of the Central and Western Virginia Alzheimer’s Association. In addition, she teaches graduate courses on the biological bases of mental illness and on assessment.

Kathleen Fuchs, PhD, ABPP is the Director of Postdoctoral Training and is the neuropsychologist for the James Q Miller MS Clinic. Dr. Fuchs has been a member of the multidisciplinary MS clinic since its inception at UVA and is active in clinical trials and ongoing collaborative research projects in MS. She was named to the National MS Society’s Volunteer Hall of Fame due in part to her work on a rural outreach program to provide neuropsychological services to individuals with MS in underserved areas. She also serves on the editorial board for the International Journal of MS Care. Dr. Fuchs works closely with the UVA Neuro-Oncology group as well as the Memory and Aging Care Clinic and sees a number of individuals referred from those services for assessment and for psychotherapy. She is an Associate Professor of Clinical Neurology and a member of the Internal Review Board (IRB) for the medical center. She has presented continuing education courses for mental health professionals for the National MS Society and the American Brain Tumor Association as well as community education programs for the Alzheimer’s Association. Dr. Fuchs also serves as an oral examiner for ABCN.

Scott A. Sperling, PsyD is an Assistant Professor of Clinical Neurology, Associate Director of Postdoctoral Training, and a member of the Society for Clinical Neuropsychology’s Education Advisory Committee. He has clinical and research interests in Parkinson’s disease and movement disorders, although he also sees many individuals for Alzheimer’s disease, the frontotemporal dementias, and other neurological disorders. He staffs the Functional Neurosurgery Clinic, completing assessments for patients undergoing evaluation for deep brain stimulator (DBS) surgery and for those with suspected non-motor deficits. His research includes the study of predictors of dementia and neuropsychiatric symptoms in Parkinson’s disease and of post-operative outcomes following DBS surgery and MR-guided focused
ultrasound lesioning. He also serves as the Clinical Director for a federally funded intervention that provides counseling, education, and access to community resources to family caregivers throughout Central Virginia, who are providing care for a loved one with dementia.

Laurie Brenner, PhD is a pediatric neuropsychologist who recently joined our group. She specializes in epilepsy, traumatic brain injury, stroke, central nervous system tumors, and neurodevelopmental outcomes of conditions originating in the perinatal period (preterm birth, low birth weight, birth injury, hypoxic ischemic encephalopathy, infection). Her research interests include cognitive endophenotypes in neurodevelopmental disorders, clinical indicators for quality improvement in healthcare, and risks and protective factors for children undergoing surgery for intractable epilepsy. Dr. Brenner plans to offer advanced fellows the opportunity to do a rotation with her in order to gain experience in how conditions that persist into adulthood are manifest early in development.

Our Practice
Our service is supported by a lab coordinator and four psychometrists. We typically have three to four postdoctoral fellows and one to two graduate practicum students per year. We have office and assessment space in two sites – the Neurology Outpatient Unit at the main hospital complex and the Fontaine Adult Neurology Clinic located approximately 1.5 miles from the hospital.

Current Clinical Trials/Research Projects
In addition to ongoing recruitment and assessment of minority and rural-dwelling individuals for our satellite ADRC, we do cognitive and behavioral assessments of patients and caregivers as part of pharmaceutical clinical trials for amnestic mild cognitive impairment, mild to moderate Alzheimer’s disease, and behavioral variant of frontotemporal dementia. Through the MS clinic we provide ongoing assessments of individuals in clinical trials assessing the safety and efficacy of new immunomodulatory treatments. Starting in 2015 we will be working with Cardiology on a multicenter clinical trial to assess the safety and cognitive impact of a device designed to prevent emboli from reaching the brain during transcatheter aortic valve replacement procedures. In addition, we also complete focused cognitive and neurobehavioral assessments as part of a longitudinal study aimed at identifying the genetic risk factors for psychiatric and cognitive decline in Parkinson’s disease.

Open House/Interviews
Although we will be conducting interviews at INS, we want to offer candidates the opportunity to visit the University of Virginia and interview prior to INS. We will be holding on-site interviews in an open-house format on Friday, January 16, 2014, 9 – 3pm. An on-site interview is not required as we appreciate that travel expenses might be prohibitive for some. Telephone or Skype interviews can be arranged as well. We anticipate that we will be able to extend interview invitations as we receive and review applications.

Additional Information
This program is not a member of the APPCN but we will be participating in the match. For additional information about the match, please go to: http://appcn.org/FAQmatch.html. Please note that there is another neuropsychology postdoctoral fellowship program at the University of Virginia. That program is within the Department of Psychiatry. They have a separate application process.

We will be posting updates regarding interviews, the open house, etc. on our Facebook page: www.facebook.com/uva.neuropsychology
You can obtain more information about our department and the different specialty clinics via the webpage:
http://www.medicine.virginia.edu/clinical/departments/neurology/education/fellowship

To Apply
Application materials may be sent electronically, by mail, or by fax. Please send a copy of your CV, a letter of intent/goals, a sample report, and three letters of recommendation to:

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Department of Neurology
Box 800394
Charlottesville, VA 22908-0394

Please note that we do not need transcripts at this time but candidates who match with us will need to provide transcripts of their graduate work.

Materials can be faxed to Dr. Fuchs at 434-982-1996 or sent by email to klf2n@virginia.edu. All application materials must be received by January 16th. We will review applications as they arrive and contact candidates to arrange for interviews. If you are interested in attending the open house session, please indicate that in your letter. Please note that this just indicates interest, not a commitment to attend.

Thank you for your interest in our program….we look forward to reviewing your application materials.