

University of Arkansas for
Medical Sciences
Post-Doctoral Fellowship
in Clinical Neuropsychology

2021-2023

UAMS[®]

| Psychiatric
| Research Institute

University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences

The University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences (UAMS) is Arkansas' only comprehensive academic health center. It is the largest public employer in the state with more than 10,000 employees in 73 of Arkansas' 75 counties and a regional campus in Northwest Arkansas. UAMS offers 64 baccalaureate, master's, doctoral, professional, and specialist degree programs and certificates through their Colleges of Medicine, Nursing, Pharmacy, Health Professions, Public Health, and graduate school. UAMS also is home to seven institutes where specialized clinical care and research are conducted, including the Winthrop P. Rockefeller



Cancer Institute, Harvey & Bernice Jones Eye Institute, Myeloma Institute, Donald W. Reynolds Institute on Aging, Jackson T. Stephens Spine & Neurosciences Institute, Translational Research Institute, and the Psychiatric Research Institute. UAMS and its clinical affiliates, Arkansas Children's Hospital and the VA Medical Center, are an economic engine for the state with an annual economic impact of \$3.92 billion. Due to its wide ranging influence, UAMS is impacting the health care of Arkansans now and in the future.



The Psychiatric Research Institute (PRI) is a state of the art facility that is dedicated to improving the mental health and well-being of residents in Little Rock, the state of Arkansas, and the country through evidence-based treatment, innovative research, and quality training and education. Clinical programs are dedicated to assessing and treating children, adolescents, and adults through a variety of outpatient clinics and inpatient programs, including the Walker Family Clinic, Child Study Center, Center for Addiction Services and Treatment, Women's Mental Health Program, and STRIVE (Seeking To

Reinforce my Identity and Values Everyday), a school-based community outreach program.

In addition to clinical care of psychiatric disorders, research and education are integral to the overall approach of PRI. The institute's focus on evidence-based care takes into consideration the education of future medical personnel while relying on the work of research scientists to provide innovative forms of treatment. PRI's three research divisions are the Center for Addiction Research, the Division of Health Services Research, and the Brain Imaging Research Center. In

addition to the Postdoctoral fellowship in Clinical Neuropsychology, educational programs include an APA pre-doctoral clinical psychology internship, child and adolescent psychology traumatic stress fellowship, general psychiatry residency, and fellowships in child and adolescent, forensic, addiction, and geriatric psychiatry.

Life in Little Rock

Little Rock is a scenic city sitting on the south bank of the Arkansas River in Central Arkansas. It is the capital and most populous city in Arkansas with a 2020 population estimate of 198,000, though the Little Rock metropolitan area is ranked 75th in terms of population with approximately 725,000 residents. The size of Little Rock and surrounding area gives its residents a feeling of living in a large city with all the amenities accessible to them but also having a small town feel with quiet shops and family-friendly neighborhoods. In fact, in 2014 Little Rock was ranked #1 in “America’s 10 Great Places to Live” by Kiplinger Personal Finance Magazine.



Little Rock is a major cultural, economic, educational, medical, government, and transportation center within Arkansas, the South and the country. Fortune 500 companies Dillard’s and Windstream Communications are headquartered in Little Rock, along with Axion, Stevens, Inc., American Taekwondo Association, and Heifer International. Little Rock boasts a number of attractions for those who are lovers of art, music, and theater, including the Arkansas Arts Center, Arkansas Repertory Theatre, Robinson Center Music Hall, Wildwood Park for the Arts, Community Theatre of Little Rock, and Ballet Arkansas.



The city is probably most well known for being home of the William J. Clinton Presidential Library and Museum, which was opened in 2004. The archives and library contain 2 million photographs, 80 million pages of documents, 21 million e-mail messages, and nearly 80,000 artifacts from the Clinton presidency. The museum within the library showcases artifacts from Clinton's term and includes a full-scale replica of the Clinton-era Oval Office.

William J. Clinton Presidential Library and Museum

Little Rock is home to a wide variety of other museums, such as the Museum of Discovery, Historic Arkansas Museum, MacArthur Museum of Arkansas Military History, Old State House Museum, and the Mosaic Templars Cultural Center. Little Rock has a proud history of being on the forefront of the civil rights movement. The Little Rock Central National Historic Site commemorates the desegregation of Central High School in 1957 and the persistence of nine African American students in attending a formally all-White school.

Outdoor enthusiasts enjoy biking and running on the Arkansas River Trail which features more than 15 miles of scenic riverfront and the Big Dam Bridge, one of the longest pedestrian and bicycle bridges in North America. Little Rock also has over 60 parks and recreational areas, and Pinnacle Mountain State Park is adjacent to the western side of the city. The most prominent feature of the park is Pinnacle Mountain, which towers over 1,000 feet above the Arkansas River Valley and includes several hiking trails. The park also includes the Arkansas Arboretum, an interpretive trail with flora and tree plantings.



Pinnacle Mountain State Park

Education also is an integral part of Little Rock. It is home to two branches of the University of Arkansas system: the University of Arkansas, Little Rock (UALR) and the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences (UAMS). Over 12,000 students receive their education at UALR, and the university features over 100 undergraduate degree programs and over 60 graduate degree programs. Athletes participate in Division I athletics in the Sun Belt Conference. UAMS is the only academic medical center in Arkansas and includes the medical school for the University of Arkansas. It also features seven institutions that provide specialized clinical care and research.



Dickey-Steps Park

Sports are important to the culture of Little Rock and to the state of Arkansas. The Arkansas Travelers, the AA professional minor league baseball affiliate of the Los Angeles Angels, play their home games at Dickey-Steps Park in North Little Rock. War Memorial Stadium in Little Rock is the second home of the University of Arkansas Razorbacks football team who play most of their home games at Donald W. Reynolds Razorback Stadium in Fayetteville.

Links to Local Information

Little Rock Visitors Bureau – www.littlerock.com

Little Rock Calendar of Events – www.littlerock.com/calendar

Little Rock Neighborhoods – www.littlerock.com/travel-tools/neighborhoods/

Little Rock River Market – www.rivermarket.info/

Fellowship in Clinical Neuropsychology

Overview

The Clinical Neuropsychology Fellowship is designed for residents who intend to pursue a career in academic neuropsychology with a focus in clinical service, research, and education. The primary objective of the neuropsychology track is to fulfill the requirements set forth by APA Division 40, the Houston Conference guidelines, and the Association of Postdoctoral Programs in Clinical Neuropsychology. The fellowship provides clinical, didactic, and research training to develop a high level of competence in clinical neuropsychology. During the two year training program there is exposure to a wide range of patient populations, including classic neurologic disorders and rarer syndromes, using flexible battery to more qualitative approaches for assessing and understanding the neurocognitive profiles of these patients. Successful completion of this fellowship program will meet criteria for future Board Certification through the American Board of Professional Psychology/American Board of Clinical Neuropsychology. The primary patient population for this track is adults with a variety of neurological, neurosurgical, medical, and psychiatric presentations.

Our two-year fellowship in Clinical Neuropsychology is designed to provide residents with a broad and general training experience in adult neuropsychology within an academic medical setting, while also providing them opportunities for further specialization. It is sponsored by UAMS and the College of Medicine and is one of many training programs within the Department of Psychiatry, including an APA accredited pre-doctoral psychology internship with one track dedicated to Neuropsychology. Training faculty hold secondary appointments in the Departments of Neurology and Neurosurgery, allowing for a wide range of training experiences within the clinics of these departments. The Fellowship training is anticipated to run August 1, 2021 through July 31, 2023.

Mission

The mission of the Clinical Neuropsychology Fellowship program is to provide quality training and practice experience in an environment centered on cultural humility, providing our community with equitable access to evidence-based behavioral health services. Therefore, we seek to recruit and train postdoctoral fellows who reflect the community in which we serve and share our values of diversity, equity, and inclusion. We strive to prepare culturally responsive trainees for competent, ethical, and socially relevant practice as early career psychologists.

Training Model and Goals

We adhere to a scientist practitioner training model in which our emphasis is on developing professional psychologists who can provide culturally competent clinical services to individuals, while working within the community context of each person. Our goal is to train Fellows so that

at the completion of the program, they will be able to demonstrate competency in neuropsychological assessment, and in consultation and multi-disciplinary teamwork. They will be able to provide services to a diverse population that varies by age, socio-economic level, ethnicity, rural/urban setting, and type and severity of neuropathology. We adhere to the Houston Conference guidelines.

Training Clinics

Walker Family Clinic

The Walker Family Clinic has been offering mental health services to young adults, adults, and geriatric populations since 2008. The clinic was formed by the integration of the UAMS Program for Adults and Program for Young Adults. This clinic serves the referral needs for inpatient units, UAMS outpatient clinical programs, the community of greater Little Rock, and for secondary and tertiary settings from across the state. The patient population for the clinic generally reflects the racial and ethnic breakdown of the Greater Little Rock metropolitan area. Socio-economic status also is diverse; however, many clientele come from lower income homes. Staff include psychologists, psychology interns, psychiatrists, psychiatry residents and fellows, licensed clinical social workers, social work interns, licensed professional counselors, and a neuropsychology technician.

Neuropsychology

Throughout both years the resident will train within the neuropsychology service, which was developed in 2006. The service has developed a strong regional reputation, and patients are referred from across the state and from bordering regions of adjacent states. At present, the neuropsychology service is a referral-based program that provides neurocognitive assessment for a variety of patient populations with referrals primarily coming from the Departments of Neurology and Neurosurgery, as well as from Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, Family Medicine, Psychiatry, and community and hospital-based clinicians throughout the state. Although the majority of the service is outpatient based, inpatient consults are also conducted. Common referral questions focus on diagnostic clarification, neurocognitive and functional abilities within existing conditions, and evaluation for surgical planning with the neuropsychologists playing important roles on multiple interdisciplinary treatment teams including Epilepsy Surgery and Functional Neurosurgery teams. The service is comprised of two board certified neuropsychologists, two neuropsychology fellows, one neuropsychology intern, and a dedicated neuropsychology technician. Residents have the opportunity to conduct testing independently and to train with the neuropsychology technician to fully experience the range of testing modalities. Our goal is to help residents improve proficiency and self-assurance with increasing levels of independence throughout the training program so that they leave fellowship with a strong sense of confidence and professional identity.

Clinical Populations

Neurology – The Neurology Clinics are a primary referral source to the neuropsychology service. Primary patient populations from the Neurology Clinics include multiple sclerosis, autoimmune disorders, epilepsy (pre-surgical and general epilepsy-related cognitive disorders), movement disorders (including pre-surgical Parkinson’s Disease and essential tremor as well as other movement disorder types), head injury, and stroke. Typical consults are conducted to evaluate the extent to which an individual’s illness impacts cognition, emotion, and functionality to 1) assist in differential diagnosis; 2) track disease progression over time, which often informs treatment decisions; and 3) provide recommendations to patients to improve daily functioning.

Neurosurgery – The Neurosurgery Clinic is staffed by specialized Neurosurgeon faculty who specialize in functional neurosurgery, skull-based and vascular neurosurgery, oncology, and spine. The Neurosurgery Department houses the only gamma knife service within the state of Arkansas, and is one of the few hospitals in the country that offers skull-based surgery. Common referrals include pre-and post-surgical evaluations for brain tumors, aneurysm, and trauma. In addition, all patients being considered for placement of spinal cord stimulators to control chronic pain are required to undergo a cognitive and emotional screening evaluation with Neuropsychology.

Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation (PM&R) – The PM&R program provides comprehensive physician services to individuals with a variety of chronic injuries and disorders including central nervous system injury, neuromuscular and musculoskeletal disorders, and chronic pain. Typical referrals from PM&R often include the assessment of cognitive and emotional functioning in individuals with acute injuries such as TBI or stroke, or more chronic illness such as multiple sclerosis to determine functional abilities and make recommendations regarding ability to return to work, driving, and other daily activities.

Psychiatry – The neuropsychology service receives referrals for a variety of presenting problems from within the Psychiatry Department including differential diagnosis of cognitive decline (pseudodementia versus dementia) as well as dual diagnosis (cognitive decline, mood disorder and medical comorbidities).

Primary Care and Trauma – As the only level one trauma center for adults and academic medical center Arkansas, the neuropsychology service receives referrals across the state from primary care providers and other medical clinics for a wide variety of referral questions including dementia, general memory loss, concussion, and questions of differential diagnosis.

Specialty Areas of Focus – Multidisciplinary Teams

Deep Brain Stimulation (DBS) – The Neuromodulation Program at UAMS was formulated in 2010 under the direction of Dr. Erika Petersen, functional neurosurgeon in the Department of Neurosurgery. Over the course of the past 4-7 years, the program has grown exponentially and developed a strong regional and national reputation; indeed, in 2012 UAMS was identified as the most rapidly-growing center for DBS. We currently rank in the top 50 most active sites nationally.

UAMS is one of only 38 centers in the country with an active program for implementing DBS in severe, treatment refractory obsessive-compulsive disorder. This multidisciplinary team is comprised of two functional neurosurgeons, three Movement Disorder specialty Neurologists, Neuropsychology, and Ethics. This collaboration has led to active research programming with a mission to improve pre-surgical evaluation procedures and post-surgical outcomes. Neuropsychology is an integral component to the Neuromodulation Program; all individuals being considered for DBS implantation regardless of diagnosis (including Parkinson's disease, essential tremor, and dystonia) undergo comprehensive neuropsychological assessment.

Epilepsy – The Arkansas Epilepsy Center at UAMS is the only adult-focused comprehensive level 4 epilepsy center in the state of Arkansas certified by the National Association of Epilepsy Centers (NAEC). The UAMS Epilepsy Center provides multidisciplinary evaluation for patients with seizures and epilepsy. It includes outpatient clinics, EEG laboratory, and an inpatient epilepsy-monitoring unit (EMU), and surgical services. The multidisciplinary team includes experienced fellowship-trained faculty and support personnel from Neurosurgery, Neurology, Neuroradiology, Nuclear Medicine, Neuropsychology, Psychiatry, Pharmacology, and Social Work services. Neuropsychology serves an integral role within this team by providing neurocognitive evaluations for individuals with epilepsy. Neuropsychology is consulted to assist with diagnosis, cognitive and functional impact, treatment recommendations, and as part of the epilepsy surgical team. All individuals being considered for surgical intervention undergo presurgical evaluations with neuropsychology for the purposes of identifying areas of dysfunction that may support the seizure focus, and for determining identifying cognitive or other risks of surgery in the individual. Neuropsychology is consulted in cooperation with Interventional Radiology and Neurology. In some cases Wada testing or functional mapping is requested, which are directed by the Neuropsychology team. These results are discussed during the monthly epilepsy surgical team meetings, and if the patient is approved for surgery, a follow-up postsurgical evaluation is conducted 12 months post-surgery.

Tumor – Neurosurgery regularly treats benign and malignant brain tumors through medication, surgery, radiation therapy, and chemotherapy. UAMS is also the only facility in Arkansas offering non-invasive gamma knife treatment for brain tumors. Neuropsychology is regularly present at brain tumor surgical planning meetings and is consulted for a variety of reasons including pre-treatment baseline evaluations, post-treatment evaluations for functional assessment, and ongoing monitoring of cognitive abilities and emotional functioning for individuals with chronic or recurrent tumors.

Outpatient Therapy

If desired, neuropsychology residents may elect to continue their training in the area of treatment including cognitive rehabilitation and/or individual or group behavioral medicine. Supervision is based on the developmental level of resident, who will have flexibility in the number and types of cases seen.

Didactics

Didactic opportunities unique to the neuropsychology fellowship are offered in addition the general didactics that are scheduled for interns and fellows across the three tracks. They include the following:

- UAMS Neuropsychology Seminar (weekly)
- DBS Surgical Conference (monthly)
- Epilepsy Surgical Conference (monthly)
- Neuro-Oncology/Gamma Knife Conference (weekly)
- Brain Cutting Conference (weekly or as scheduled)
- Neurology Grand Rounds (weekly)
- Movement Disorders Video Conference (as scheduled)
- UAMS/Central Arkansas Veteran's Health System (CAVHS) Neuropsychology Case Conference Seminar (monthly) and additional didactic opportunities with CAVHS Neuropsychology Track as available
- UAMS Neuropsychology/Health Psychology Conference/Journal Club (monthly)
- UAMS Neuropsychology Fact Finding/Journal Club (monthly)
- Other Didactic Opportunities in conjunction with Neurology and Neurosurgery Residents as applicable
- BIRC Journal Club and other lectures as available

Research

Because UAMS is an academic medical setting, the Psychiatric Research Institute/Department of Psychiatry has multiple opportunities for research. Neuropsychology residents will be required to engage in research while completing their training program. This experience is designed to afford residents the opportunity to participate in neuropsychologically-focused research of their choosing from multiple ongoing research endeavors.

The Brain Imaging Research Center (BIRC) is a research center located within the Department of Psychiatry with a 50% research-dedicated 3T MRI. Multiple projects within the BIRC are available for any resident choosing to gain experience in the area functional neuroimaging. Drs. Gess and Kleiner collaborate with Andy James, Ph.D. of the BIRC on the Cognitive Connectome, a project that aims to characterize individual variation in functional neural networks involved in cognition; this project at its foundation seeks to build a database of normal individuals to which various neurologic illness states can be compared including epilepsy and Parkinson's disease. Other research projects focus on improving surgical outcomes in epilepsy and in improving selection criteria for Deep Brain Stimulation. Emerging areas of research for the service also include Multiple Sclerosis. Moreover, the Neuropsychology Service maintains a clinical database for use in future research projects.

The Neuropsychology Clinical Database is a growing database that features clinical cases seen within the clinic. The current database includes raw and norm-referenced neuropsychological data as well as relevant medical and psychosocial information. The sample spans the various disorders seen within the fellowship, with two “sister” databases with pre- and post-surgical data for DBS and epilepsy patients. With appropriate IRB approval, trainees are welcomed and encouraged to access, explore, and conduct research from this database. Furthermore, the database is flexible, such that a trainee with a specific interest may add to the currently collected data.

Other options may be available depending on the interests and funding of faculty members, so Fellowship applicants are encouraged to inquire about ongoing research projects that may compliment their scientific goals and objectives.

Teaching

Teaching and supervision opportunities are available for the residents. Second year residents are involved in the supervision of the Neuropsychology Intern in a tiered supervision model. In addition, first and second year residents have the opportunity to be the primary supervisor of undergraduate research externs who typically spend a year at UAMS conducting independent research projects and learning more about the field of Neuropsychology. Residents have the opportunity to design a curriculum of study for the externs and serve as their research mentor. Finally, residents have the opportunity to present lectures to residents in other departments or to community groups who frequently ask for speakers on a variety of topics related to Neuropsychology.

Faculty

Jennifer Gess, Ph.D., ABPP/CN

Associate Professor

Director, Psychology Training

Georgia State University – 2001

Clinic: Walker Family Clinic

Clinical interests: Epilepsy, brain injury, movement disorders, brain neoplasm, dementia

Research interests: Post-surgical cognitive outcome, the development of fMRI as a clinical tool

G. Andy James, Ph.D.

Associate Professor

University of Florida- 2005

Research Location: Brain Imaging Research Center

Research Interests: Dr. James’s research focuses on refining functional MRI methodology to better model how the brain encodes individual variance in cognition, thus translating this technology to clinical decision making.

Jennifer Kleiner, Ph.D., ABPP/CN

Associate Professor

Director, Division of Psychology

University of Buffalo – 2004

Clinic: Walker Family Clinic

Clinical interests: Movement disorders, multiple sclerosis, dementia, brain tumors, brain injuries

Research interests: Presurgical evaluation for deep brain stimulation, normal variance in fMRI and neuropsychology

Applying to Fellowship

Eligibility Requirements

- On track for successful completion of APA accredited internship in Clinical Psychology, with specialty training in Clinical Neuropsychology prior to start of Fellowship.
- On track for successful completion of APA accredited doctoral program in clinical psychology (preferred) or counseling psychology prior to start of Fellowship.
- U.S. permanent residency

Post-application requirements

- Personal interview either in person or remotely coordinated with the annual meeting of the International Neuropsychological Society
- Successful completion of the neuropsychology matching program

Post-match requirements

- Pass criminal background checks by Arkansas State Police and FBI, including fingerprinting
- Pass pre-employment drug screen (Interns also subject per UAMS policy to random drug screens during internship)

Application Procedure

Application materials should be emailed to Dr. Jennifer Gess, Director of Psychology Training, at gessjenniferl@uams.edu

- Current CV
- Three letters of reference, one of which must be from internship

- Documentation of dissertation status and completion of dissertation by start of fellowship
- Two de-identified reports

The deadline for completed applications is **January 4, 2021**.

Interviews

Interviews will take place in affiliation with INS in San Diego February 2-6. We will contact applicants to schedule an interview once all materials are reviewed.

Stipend and Fringe Benefits

Benefits: The current salary is \$48,000 for the first year and \$50,000 for the second year. Health insurance is available for family or single individual at a reasonable rate. All fees associated with EPPP and the licensure process (preparation materials, fees, etc.) are covered in full by the department. The resident will also receive some support for conference attendance with successful acceptance of a presentation. Vacation, sick leave, and professional leave are standard. The resident will have their own office with up to date technology support.

Psychology trainees are considered Medical School House Staff and participate in all fringe benefits allotted to Medical Interns and Residents as set forth by UAMS and Arkansas Children's Hospital. These include, but are not limited to, paid professional liability insurance coverage, paid hospitalization insurance policy for the intern, plus benefits at nominal cost for dependents.

Contact Information

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