



**Postdoctoral Fellowship in Clinical  
Neuropsychology and Rehabilitation Research  
2018-2020**

The Postdoctoral Fellowship in Clinical Neuropsychology and Rehabilitation Research is offered through the Brain Injury Research Center (BIRC) in the Department of Rehabilitation Medicine at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, funded in part by the by the National Institutes of Health (NIH), National Institute on Disability, Independent Living, and Rehabilitation Research (NIDILRR), and Centers for Disease Control (CDC). The program follows the scientist-practitioner model of training, with the goal of producing graduates with strong skills in clinical neuropsychology and rehabilitation psychology as applied to a variety of patient populations, as well as advanced skills in rehabilitation research.

The program meets requirements for licensing as a psychologist in New York State and eligibility requirements for board certification in Clinical Neuropsychology and/or Rehabilitation Psychology by the American Board of Professional Psychology (ABPP).

The program has been a member of the Association of Psychology Postdoctoral and Internship Centers (APPIC) since 1994. The program will **NOT** participate in the Association of Postdoctoral Programs in Clinical Neuropsychology (APPCN) Resident Matching Program in 2018.

**There will be 1 funded post-doctoral fellowship position available for the 2018-2020 training period.** Training will begin on Tuesday, September 4, 2018.

Stipend amounts are set by National Institutes of Health guidelines and the current annual stipend is \$50,000. Additional benefits include paid attendance at one professional conference each year and participation in an extensive offering of free or

low-cost seminars, workshops, and courses offered by the School of Medicine on topics such as research methodology and professional development, computer program skills training, and leadership skills and public speaking. Fellows also receive a minimum of 15 vacation days, 12 sick days, and 8 major holidays per year. Health, vision, dental, and malpractice insurances also are provided.

The Medical School Real Estate Office located at 1249 Park Avenue (212-659-9630) can provide information about affordable housing in the area. Below-market rate apartment rentals located in close proximity to the hospital are available to Mount Sinai Postdoctoral fellows. Mount Sinai is easily accessible by public transportation from all surrounding boroughs. Parking at Mount Sinai is available for a reduced fee and may be arranged through the Real Estate Office. Hotel, travel, and entertainment (e.g. Broadway shows) discounts are available through the Recreation Office at 19 East 98th Street (212-241-6660).

### **CLINICAL TRAINING**

Fellows spend at least 50% of their time providing clinical services to patients in the Department's Rehabilitation Neuropsychology Faculty Practice under the supervision of clinical faculty. Fellows conduct comprehensive neuropsychological evaluations to address a variety of referral questions, including diagnostic clarification, designing treatment plans or making recommendations for improving daily functioning, and informing patients' decision-making (e.g. return to work or school). Fellows also provide clinical interventions including cognitive remediation and psychotherapy in individual, family, and/or group formats. Treatment provided within the practice can be either short- or long-term. Cognitive remediation typically involves delivering empirically supported structured exercises and developing compensatory cognitive techniques tailored to each patient. Psychotherapy offered within the practice reflects an integrative but predominantly cognitive-behavioral approach with the goal of educating patients about, and facilitating adjustment to, neurological disability. Clinical training is designed to adhere to the Houston Conference guidelines for specialty training in clinical neuropsychology, and Clinical training is designed to adhere to the Houston Conference

guidelines for specialty training in clinical neuropsychology, and contributes to Rehabilitation Psychology board certification eligibility.

Fellows will mostly see adults with acquired brain injury (TBI, anoxia, stroke) but will also occasionally see individuals with other diagnoses (e.g. dementia, movement disorders, and spinal cord injury), all with or without co-morbid mood and/or adjustment disorders. The practice occasionally accepts children and adolescents, and these patients are assigned to fellows based on fellows' prior experience and/or interest in working with pediatric patients. The variety of clinical diagnoses and symptom presentations of patients referred to the practice, coupled with cultural and socio-economic variety of individuals living in New York City, ensure that fellows gain experience with an extremely diverse patient population.

Clinical training is designed to help fellows develop a sophisticated understanding of brain-behavior relationships, enhance neuropsychological evaluation skills, and provide neurorehabilitation interventions that improve our patients' functional ability, emotional adjustment and overall wellbeing. Weekly individual and group supervision with one or more clinical faculty is provided. Direct supervision is provided for intake/diagnostic interviews and neuropsychological evaluation feedback.

### **RESEARCH TRAINING**

Fellows spend approximately 50% of their time in research activities, working closely with a multidisciplinary team in the Brain Injury Research Center, led by Dr. Kristen Dams-O'Connor. Fellows are involved in nearly every stage of the research process, from project conceptualization, execution, analysis, and dissemination. Fellows contribute to the implementation of existing research studies and complete one or more independent research projects under the mentorship of faculty. Fellows' research efforts are expected to culminate in presentation(s) at national or international conferences and lead authorship of at least one first-author publication and/or grant application (to support further research either during or beyond fellowship training). More information about current and recently completed studies (for which extensive data are available for secondary analysis) can be found at [www.tbicentral.org](http://www.tbicentral.org).

Fellows are expected to demonstrate competence in basic research skills (e.g. scientific literature review, identification of a research question, study design, and familiarity with data analysis and scientific writing) prior to training. Postdoctoral research training is designed to help fellows refine existing skills, apply these skills to rehabilitation populations, and develop additional skills essential for conducting clinical rehabilitation research.

Research training includes active participation in weekly multidisciplinary research meetings as well as seminars in research methodology and in statistical methods. Research training activities include individual and group supervision as well as participation in weekly research planning/progress meetings that include all BIRC staff. In addition, a wide variety of didactic seminars on topics such as effective scientific writing, preparing a competitive grant application, and scientific presentation skills are offered within the larger Mount Sinai community. In addition, fellows have the opportunity to assist faculty in the preparation of manuscripts and center-wide grant applications.

### **DIDACTICS**

Clinical didactics include seminars in neuroanatomy, functional neuroanatomy, clinical neuropsychology, and neurorehabilitation interventions for cognitive and/or emotional disorders. Fellows can attend weekly neuroradiology seminars, neuropathology conferences and brain cuttings offered by the Department of Pathology and grand rounds offered by the Departments of Rehabilitation Medicine, Neurology, and Psychiatry. Fellows can also take advantage of the translational neuroscience seminar series and programs offered through the Friedman Brain Institute and The Translational and Molecular Imaging Institute, including the Brain Imaging and Alzheimer's Disease and Neurodegeneration Clubs. Research didactics consist of regular seminars in research design and statistical methods. Fellows are also involved in teaching and some supervision of pre-doctoral interns in the department's APA-approved rehabilitation neuropsychology internship program.

### **THE TRAINING ENVIRONMENT**

The Mount Sinai Medical Center (MSMC), located on the Upper East Side of Manhattan,

is one of the oldest and largest hospitals in the country, with more than 1,200 beds and approximately 150 outpatient clinics that provide services in all medical specialties and subspecialties. MSMC is the flagship site of the recently formed Mount Sinai Health System, which includes Mount Sinai Hospital, Mount Sinai Brooklyn, Mount Sinai Queens, Beth Israel Medical Center, Mount Sinai West, St. Luke's Hospital, and the New York Eye and Ear Infirmary.

The Mount Sinai School of Medicine, recently renamed the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, was founded in 1852 and has achieved national and international recognition for its programs in education, basic and applied research, and innovative patient care. The School consistently ranks among the top medical schools in the US (#22 for research and #3 for geriatrics, *US News and World Report*).

The Department of Rehabilitation Medicine at Mount Sinai has specialty programs in brain injury and spinal cord injury, which is staffed by more than 110 professionals who provide clinical care services during approximately 85,000 patient visits per year. The department provides comprehensive interdisciplinary physical rehabilitation along a continuum of care that includes acute hospitalization, inpatient and outpatient treatment, and long-term follow-up (e.g. community integration). The department houses training programs for a variety of rehabilitation disciplines, including psychiatry, psychology, physical therapy, occupational therapy, speech therapy, social work, vocational counseling, and therapeutic recreation. Mount Sinai is the only hospital in New York State that is recognized as being a Model System of Care in both TBI and Spinal Cord Injury.

## **TRAINING FACULTY**

**Kristen Dams-O'Connor, Ph.D.**, Associate Professor of Rehabilitation Medicine and Neurology, is a clinical neuropsychologist who specializes in neuropsychological assessment, neurorehabilitation, and cognitive remediation. Her clinical specialization is in working with adults with neurological impairments resulting from TBI, stroke, anoxia, sports concussion, brain tumors, dementia, and movement disorders. Dr. Dams-O'Connor is Director of the BIRC and Project Director of the New York Model System of

Care. Her research focuses on understanding the long-term sequelae of TBI and clarifying the association of TBI with subsequent development of neurodegenerative disease. Her work has focused on applying advanced psychometric methods to rehabilitation outcome assessment tools, measuring long-term outcomes after TBI, TBI in the elderly, and sports concussion. She is principal investigator of multiple federally funded grants from the NIH, Patient Centered Outcomes Research Institute, Department of Defense, and NIDILRR. Dr. Dams-O'Connor received her doctorate in counseling psychology at the University at Albany, State University of New York. She completed a pre-doctoral internship in rehabilitation psychology at the Rusk Institute/NYU Medical Center and a postdoctoral fellowship in Rehabilitation Research and Clinical Neuropsychology at the Mount Sinai School of Medicine.

**Maria Kajankova, Ph.D.**, (Director of Training) is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Rehabilitation Medicine. She is a clinical neuropsychologist specializing in neuropsychological evaluations, cognitive remediation, and psychotherapy with patients experiencing a variety of neurological disorders including stroke, movement disorders, and acquired brain injury. Dr. Kajankova received her Ph.D. in counseling psychology from Fordham University. She completed her pre-doctoral internship in rehabilitation psychology at the Rusk Institute of Rehabilitation Medicine and her post-doctoral fellowship in rehabilitation research and clinical neuropsychology at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai. Her research focuses on qualitative research methods and topics related to pediatric brain injury and rehabilitation, evaluation of concussion policies, and interventions for individuals with TBI and their caregivers.

**Stephanie Kolakowsky-Hayner, Ph.D.**, is an Associate Professor in the Department of Rehabilitation Medicine. She serves as the Director of Spinal Cord Injury Research, a Senior Investigator in the Brain Injury Research Center, and the Director of Rehabilitation Research Education. She is also the Immediate Past Chairman of the Board of the Brain Injury Association of California. She is a member of the Academy of Certified Brain Injury Specialists' Board of Governors and the American Congress of Rehabilitation Medicine Board of Governors. Stephanie is the Vocational-Community Issues Panel Chair for the Brain Injury Association of America and Mount Sinai's

Guidelines for Rehabilitation and Chronic Disease Management of Adults with Moderate to Severe Traumatic Brain Injury development project. She also serves on the Community Advisory Board of the DOD-funded Chronic Effects of Neurotrauma Consortium and as the Co-Chair of the 4th Federal Interagency Conference on Traumatic Brain Injury. Stephanie has over 20 years of progressively independent experience in research related to brain injury, spinal cord injury, stroke, and other neurologic disorders.

**Lisa Spielman, Ph.D.**, is the statistical consultant for the BIRC, a position she has held since 1998. She has served as a senior data analyst for the Geriatric Clinical Research Center at Westchester Division of New York Hospital and for the HIV Clinical Research Program at New York Hospital-Cornell Medical Center. Dr. Spielman consults with private organizations and numerous principal investigators in academic settings on design and statistical analysis for federally funded grants.

**Wayne A. Gordon, Ph.D., ABPP-CN, FACRM**, Jack Nash Professor and Vice Chair of the Department of Rehabilitation Medicine, is Chief of the Neuropsychology and Rehabilitation Psychology Service and Principal Investigator of the TBI Injury Control Research Center. Dr. Gordon received his PhD in Education Psychology from Yeshiva University. Dr. Gordon is board-certified in clinical neuropsychology by the American Board of Professional Psychology and a Fellow in the Academy of Behavioral Medicine Research.

### **Adjunct Faculty**

**Dale Hesdorffer, Ph.D.**, Associate Professor of Clinical Epidemiology at the Mailman School of Public Health at Columbia University, is an epidemiologist whose research interests include seizure disorders, co-morbidity of epilepsy and psychiatric disorders, and the epidemiology of neurological abnormalities among children with febrile seizures. She has been the recipient of NIH and CDC funding. She has been the lead investigator of a Brain Trauma Foundation grant involving several projects, including a prospective cohort study of outcome predictors after severe traumatic brain injury, a survey of compliance with acute care guidelines in trauma centers across the United States, and a quality improvement program for the acute management of severe TBI in

New York State. She also serves as a co-investigator for an NIH-funded data-coordinating center for clinical trials in TBI, where she directs the data input unit.

**David Layman, Ph.D., ABPP-CN**, is a board certified clinical neuropsychologist in independent practice in New York City. He earned his Doctorate in Counseling Psychology, with a Graduate Specialty Certificate in Gerontology, from the University of Kentucky. He completed a two-year Postdoctoral Fellowship in Advanced Neuropsychology and Rehabilitation Research in the Department of Rehabilitation Medicine at the Mount Sinai Medical Center. Dr. Layman specializes in outpatient treatment of individuals and couples dealing with acquired brain injury, and other medical and neurological conditions. His clinical interests include adult neuropsychological assessment, neurorehabilitation, trauma recovery, and individual and couples psychotherapies. Dr. Layman is past-president of the New York State Association of Neuropsychology and is currently active within the organization. Dr. Layman leads a year-long seminar series on “Special Topics in Neuropsychology,” and a monthly seminar in neuropsychological test interpretation using the “Fact Finding” model.

**Janine A. Tiago, Ph.D. ABPP-CN**, is a board certified clinical neuropsychologist and board eligible rehabilitation psychologist in private practice specializing in neuropsychological evaluations, psychotherapy and cognitive remediation. She leads a monthly seminar in neuropsychological test interpretation using the “Fact Finding” model to help trainees prepare for future board certification. Dr. Tiago received her Doctorate in Clinical Psychology with concentrations in Neuropsychology, Child Therapy, and Group Dynamics, from Teachers College, Columbia University, where she is currently Adjunct Assistant Professor of Psychology and Education in the Department of Counseling and Clinical Psychology. She completed a Postdoctoral Fellowship in Neuropsychology and Rehabilitation Psychology in the Department of Rehabilitation Medicine at the Mount Sinai Medical Center. Her areas of clinical interests are in culture and diversity as it impacts clinical practice, as well as psychotherapeutic issues within a rehabilitation setting, including the impact of cognitive deficits on intrapsychic and psychosocial adjustment.



**Suzan Uysal, Ph.D., ABPP-CN**, Associate Professor in the Department of Anesthesiology, is a research psychologist involved in ongoing studies of neurocognitive changes following cardiac surgery. Dr. Uysal is board certified in clinical neuropsychology by the American Board of Professional Psychology. Prior to her current position, Dr. Uysal was a research psychologist in the Department of Rehabilitation Medicine. Dr. Uysal received her Ph.D. in experimental psychology from New York University and a certificate of re-specialization in clinical neuropsychology from the City University of New York. Her areas of specialization include neuroanatomy, neurophysiology, and neuropsychological assessment.

### **APPLYING TO THE PROGRAM**

Individuals with a doctoral degree in clinical or counseling psychology who have training and experience in clinical neuropsychology and/or rehabilitation psychology are strongly encouraged to apply. Candidates should have completed all doctoral degree requirements and be eligible for a limited permit to practice psychology in New York State by the time training begins. Preference will be given to applicants who have completed an APA-approved doctoral program, but candidates from non-approved programs are welcome to apply. Applicants must have completed an APA- or CPA-approved clinical internship.

Individuals with a doctoral degree in an allied rehabilitation discipline (e.g. Disability Studies, Public Health, Sociology), and those from minority and/or disability backgrounds, are encouraged to apply. Preference will be given to individuals who are US citizens or permanent residents, but others may apply if they anticipate being able to obtain the credentials needed to complete the program.

All successful applicants must provide the Office of Postdoctoral Affairs with a copy of their doctoral degree or a letter from their doctoral program's registrar documenting completion of all degree requirements before training begins. In-person interviews are strongly preferred, but interviews via videoconferencing (e.g. Skype, Go-To-Meeting) will be considered on a case-by-case basis for applicants with extraordinary travel limitations. Interviews with faculty and current fellows will be scheduled in January and February.

**Completed applications must be received by January 2, 2018**

Applications must include the following in order to be considered:

1. Cover letter
2. Curriculum vitae that includes citizenship and languages spoken fluently
3. Statement of clinical psychology experience that addresses:
  - a. Prior clinical training/experience, including patient populations served
  - b. Your preferred approach to neuropsychological evaluation and treatment (both cognitive remediation and psychotherapy)
  - c. Goals for clinical training and professional development during fellowship
4. Statement of research experience that addresses:
  - a. Prior research training/experience with data management, research design, and statistics
  - b. Rehabilitation research interests
  - c. Goals for research training and professional development during fellowship
5. Two to four letters of recommendation:
  - a. One or two letters from clinical supervisor(s), e.g. internship training director, AND
  - b. One or two letters from research supervisor(s), e.g. dissertation chair/mentor
6. Graduate school transcript (unofficial accepted for application purposes)
7. One sample neuropsychological report and one treatment case summary (required for applicants with a doctoral degree in clinical or counseling psychology only)
8. Representative copies of abstracts, publications, and/or research presentations

**Applications may be sent via E-mail to:**

Maria Kajankova, Ph.D., Director of Training

Tel: (212) 241-3379

Department of Rehabilitation Medicine

Fax: (212) 241-0137

Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai

[maria.kajankova@mountsinai.org](mailto:maria.kajankova@mountsinai.org)

One Gustave L. Levy Place, Box 1163, New York, New York 10029-6574