Fellowship in Clinical Neuropsychology

Department of Neurology
Alzheimer’s Disease Research Center
Epilepsy Center

University of Alabama at Birmingham

General Overview: Since 1992, the Division of Neuropsychology of the Department of Neurology at the University of Alabama at Birmingham has offered a Fellowship in Clinical Neuropsychology. The Fellowship is currently two years and focuses on adult neuropsychology, with specializations in geriatric neuropsychology and the neuropsychology of epilepsy. Fellows have the opportunity for diverse clinical, research and didactic experiences. The Fellowship is based in the Department of Neurology’s Clinical Neuropsychology Laboratory, and is closely associated with the Memory Disorders Clinic at the UAB School of Medicine, the UAB Alzheimer’s Disease Research Center (NIA funded), and the UAB Epilepsy Center. Daniel Marson, J.D., Ph.D. (Fellowship Director) and Roy Martin, Ph.D. are the preceptors for the Fellowship. Dr. Marson specializes in the neuropsychology of dementia and related disorders, and Dr. Martin focuses on the neuropsychology of epilepsy.

Structure of Fellowship: The Fellowship provides specialized training in clinical neuropsychological assessment of adults, research training and experience in the areas of dementia and epilepsy, and multiple didactic opportunities. About 50-70% of a Fellow’s time is currently devoted to clinical activity, with research comprising 30-45% and didactics approximately 5-10%. The Fellow spends four days of the week working with Dr. Marson and his staff, and one day each week working with Dr. Martin.

Clinical Activity: Fellows receive a broad and intensive training in adult clinical neuropsychological assessment. Emphasis is placed on the writing of comprehensive, concise, and responsive reports.

Outpatient referrals come from the Department of Neurology, UAB Memory Disorders Clinic, UAB Epilepsy Center, Division of Geriatric Medicine, other medical departments at UAB, and from physicians in a several hundred mile radius of Birmingham. Inpatient referrals come from the three Neurology inpatient services (stroke service, epilepsy service, and the general service). Adult patients present with a broad spectrum of neurological disorders, including dementia, epilepsy, multiple sclerosis, Parkinson’s disease, tumor, stroke, head trauma, and also psychiatric disorders. There are also occasional opportunities to see children with conditions such as head trauma, learning disability, and adjustment disorders.

By virtue of the Fellowship’s affiliation with the UAB Memory Disorders Clinic, Alzheimer’s Disease Research Center, and Epilepsy Center, Fellows will have the opportunity to develop particular knowledge and special expertise with Alzheimer’s disease and epilepsy patients. Fellows will also have the opportunity to become involved in forensic cases involving issues of personal injury, competency, and criminal responsibility.

Research Training: Research training and activity are an important part of the Fellowship. At least one day a week will be devoted to such activity. Numerous opportunities exist for Fellows to become involved in ongoing NIH funded research in competency assessment, the neuropsychology of dementia, and the neuropsychology of epilepsy. Dr. Marson’s research has focused on instrument development and assessment of financial and medical decision making capacity in
different neurocognitively impaired patient populations. Dr. Martin’s research has focused on
cognitive change in post-surgical epilepsy patients, quality of life, and measurement of
malingering. Fellows will be involved in a variety of scholarship activities, including poster and
platform presentations, manuscript submission, and grant writing and assembly.

**Didactic Opportunities:** A variety of weekly didactic opportunities are available to Fellows.
These include Neurology Grand Rounds, Neuropsychology Case Conference, Epilepsy Case
Conference, Geriatric Clinical Conference, Center for Aging Scientific Seminar, and brain cutting.

**Supervision:** Weekly supervision is provided by Dr. Marson and Dr. Martin. Supervision is done
in both a structured and informal manner.

**Sites of Fellowship Training:**

*Clinical Neuropsychology Laboratory:* The Clinical Neuropsychology Laboratory is a clinic in the
Department of Neurology at UAB. The Laboratory is a busy service, with one staff
neuropsychologist (Daniel Marson, J.D., Ph.D.), two Fellows, a clinic coordinator, four full-time
psychometricians, a secretary, and a number of graduate and undergraduate trainees. The
Laboratory, housed within the main hospital building, has a patient waiting room, three testing
rooms, three staff offices, five personal computers, and work stations for psychologist assistants.
The Laboratory also has a satellite clinic housed in the Kirklin Clinic.

*UAB Epilepsy Center:* The UAB Epilepsy Center has one staff neuropsychologist (Roy Martin,
Ph.D.) and a psychologist assistant who together conduct a variety of evaluations of patients with
epilepsy. These include inpatient, outpatient, pre- and post surgical, and WADA evaluations.

Additional Questions: Please call Dr. Marson at (205) 934-2334, or contact him by email at:
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