UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN–MADISON

Department of Neurology

POSTDOCTORAL FELLOWSHIP IN CLINICAL NEUROPSYCHOLOGY

Adult and Pediatric Training Tracks



UW–Madison Neurology and University Hospital campus

neurology.wisc.edu/education-and-training/neuropsychology-fellowship/

Overview and Training Philosophy

PROGRAM AT A GLANCE

- Two-year, full-time fellowship (approximately 4,000 hours)
- Two adult positions and one pediatric position (*next pediatric cycle 2028*)
- Practitioner-scholar training model aligned with Houston Conference Guidelines
- Minimum of two hours of supervision per week
- Approximately 10% of training time devoted to didactics
- Preparation for independent practice and ABPP-CN board certification

Training Directors

Kaitrin Conniff, Ph.D. **Adult Director of Training**	**Alanna Kessler-Jones, Psy.D.** **Pediatric Director of Training**

Training Philosophy

The UW Hospital and Clinics fellowship provides advanced specialty training in clinical neuropsychology within the Department of Neurology. Fellows train alongside neurologists and neurology residents, with clinical experiences designed to strengthen brain-behavior knowledge, diagnostic formulation, consultation, communication, and professional development.

The program follows a practitioner-scholar model. Clinical service is the primary focus, supplemented by structured didactics, supervision, scholarly activity, and interdisciplinary collaboration. The goal is to prepare fellows for careers as clinical neuropsychologists and for pursuit of board certification through the American Board of Professional Psychology (ABPP).

Clinical Environment

Because neuropsychology is housed in Neurology, fellows work in a medical setting with direct exposure to neurological disease, interdisciplinary teams, and specialty conferences. Graduates have pursued positions in academic medical centers, community clinics, and Veterans Affairs settings.

CLINICAL TRAINING

Adult Fellowship

UW maintains two adult fellowship positions and recruits one adult fellow each year, creating a cohort with one first-year and one second-year fellow. Both years include inpatient and outpatient work, multidisciplinary consultation, and independent outpatient evaluations.

Mandatory Rotations

Year 1: Epilepsy Monitoring Unit (EMU)

Inpatient epilepsy / presurgical evaluation

Fellows interview, test, and write brief reports for patients admitted for video-EEG monitoring for differential diagnosis or presurgical evaluation. The service may include up to four evaluations per week. Fellows present findings at the weekly Epilepsy Conference and may participate in Wada evaluations when feasible.

Year 2: Neurology Memory Assessment Clinic (NEUROMAC)

Weekly half-day memory clinic

Fellows evaluate memory concerns accompanied by significant neurologic symptoms or possible early-onset neurodegenerative disease. Responsibilities include battery selection, administration, scoring, interview, report writing, team discussion, differential diagnosis, and recommendations.

Example Weekly Schedules

Schedules are illustrative and vary with referral volume, elective selection, and service needs.

Sample Year 1 Adult Fellow Week

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
AM		EMU	EMU		Didactics
PM	NeuroOncology Clinic	EMU	EMU		Epilepsy Case Conference

Sample Year 2 Adult Fellow Week

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
AM	Stroke Inpatient Rounds	Mental Health Outpatient Clinic		NEUROMAC	Didactics
PM					Movement Disorder Outpatient Clinic

Elective / Specialty Experience Details

Adult fellows may rotate through the following specialty clinics based on training goals, referral volume, and service needs.

Geriatric Memory Assessment Clinic:

Interdisciplinary evaluation of adults age 65+ with memory decline.

Mental Health Clinic:

The Mental Health Clinic occurs once per week (may rotate with other patient samples when volume is low). It is specifically intended for patients referred from a psychiatrist or Behavioral Health provider. These are patients with primary psychiatric histories referred for targeted neurocognitive assessments. Examples include evaluation of memory decline in a patient with longstanding schizophrenia, evaluation of rapid loss of independence in activities of daily living for a patient with poorly controlled bipolar affective disorder, or some other concern of possible underlying neurocognitive comorbidity. This clinic does not accept requests to evaluate for ADHD or Autism, but accepts some broader referral questions such as a lower functioning individual with unclear cognitive problems or history who is struggling in community mental health treatment programs.

Movement Disorders:

Presurgical neuropsychological evaluation for deep brain stimulation and participation in movement disorder conference.

NeuroOncology Clinic:

Neurocognitive assessment of brain tumors with surgical and radiation treatment in order to monitor post treatment outcomes.

Multiple Sclerosis Multidisciplinary Clinic (MS MDC):

This elective occurs one half day per week (may rotate with other patient samples depending on volume) and typically includes two patients who were recently evaluated in a comprehensive multidisciplinary MS clinic and "tuned up" prior to scheduling cognitive testing (i.e., addressing possible need for labs, mood treatment, medication reduction, sleep studies, etc.) *before* being seen by neuropsychology (for approximately 75 minutes of cognitive testing followed by brief interview / feedback right after testing). Reports are briefer than a typical outpatient evaluation.

Stroke:

Acute inpatient rounds/evaluation with follow-up outpatient neuropsychology after discharge.

Transplant Clinic:

Assessment of cognitive and psychiatric factors relevant to hematopoietic stem cell and solid-organ transplant care.

Traumatic Brain Injury Clinic:

Evaluation across mild, moderate, and severe TBI with emphasis on diagnosis, prognosis, treatment planning, and accommodations.

General Outpatient Clinic:

Evaluation of cognitive complaints from referral Family and Internal Medicine. Patients can often be complex due to multiple psychosocial and medical issues.

Pediatric Fellowship (next cycle 2028)

The pediatric fellowship is structured around broad outpatient neuropsychology, brain injury care, epilepsy presurgical evaluation, and multidisciplinary pediatric specialty clinics. Clinical experiences may be adjusted to some degree to support the fellow's career goals.

Primary Outpatient Experience

Broad pediatric neuropsychology

- Typically 2–3 comprehensive outpatient assessments per week.
- Patients range from approximately age 2 through 21.
- Common referral populations include epilepsy, cancer, brain injury, congenital conditions, premature birth, genetic disorders, HIV, cerebral palsy, and learning concerns.
- The service evaluates pediatric epilepsy presurgical candidates; fellows present findings at the pediatric epilepsy case conference.
- Reports emphasize clear, succinct communication to families and providers; psychometrist support is available as clinic resources allow.

Brain Care Clinic

Subacute traumatic and acquired brain injury

This clinic follows children after traumatic or acquired brain injury, including hypoxic/ischemic events and other acquired injuries. Fellows monitor cognitive and psychiatric recovery using brief assessment approaches, with tools that may include the NIH Toolbox and Bayley Scales of Infant Development-IV.

Typical volume: 1–4 patients per week.

Multidisciplinary Clinics

Fellows provide neurobehavioral consultation in specialty clinics, helping determine whether formal neuropsychological assessment or other recommendations are indicated. Multidisciplinary clinics are focused in the areas of:

- Spina Bifida
- Neuromuscular Disorders
- Fontan / Congenital Heart Disease
- Neuro-Oncology
- Neurocutaneous Disorders
- Cancer Survivorship

Didactics, Supervision, and Scholarship

Weekly Neuropsychology Didactics

Alternating lecture and journal club/case presentation

Neuropsychology didactics occur weekly. Each fellow presents at least twice per year for this series.

ABPP-CN Board Preparation

Mock fact-finding and credentialing preparation

The series reviews the board application and credentialing process, emphasizes mock fact-finding, addresses ethics and oral defense topics, and includes writing and defending work samples. Faculty share their own board experiences, including experience as an active oral examiner.

Neuropsychology Grand Rounds

Most Fridays after neuropsychology didactics

An accredited virtual series covering fundamental clinical content through cutting-edge research, with experts from across the UW system and nationally.

Broader Departmental Didactics

Interdisciplinary learning across the medical center

Fellows may attend Grand Rounds in Neurology, Neurosurgery, Geriatrics, Pediatrics, and developmental research. They are invited to neurology resident didactics and twice-weekly neuropathology (brain cutting).

Supervision & Scholarly Activity

Supervision

The program provides a minimum of two hours of supervision per week. Supervision is integrated with clinical work and supports progression toward increasingly independent assessment, consultation, and professional practice.

Scholarly Activity

Fellows complete scholarly activity during training. Opportunities include research and data collection, with particular strength in epilepsy and traumatic brain injury. Products may include publication submissions, presentations, grant proposals, or outcome-assessment projects. See Website for abstracts and project examples.

Faculty

The fellowship is supported by adult and pediatric neuropsychologists within the UW Department of Neurology.

Adult Neuropsychology

Jana Jones, Ph.D.
Director, Neuropsychology Section

Kaitrin Conniff, Ph.D.
Adult Director of Training

Erin Plumley, Psy.D.
Adult Neuropsychology

Eben Schwartz, Ph.D., ABPP-CN
Adult Neuropsychologist

Thomas Wodushek, Ph.D., ABPP-CN
Adult Neuropsychologist

Kaitlin Guston, Ph.D.
Adult Neuropsychology

Bruce Hermann, Ph.D., ABPP-CN
Emeritus Professor

Research Faculty

Bruce Hermann, Ph.D., ABPP-CN
Emeritus Professor

Jana Jones, Ph.D.
Professor

Jane Paulson, Ph.D.
Professor

Jessica Caldwell, Ph.D., ABPP-CN
Associate Professor

Pediatric Neuropsychology

Alanna Kessler-Jones, Psy.D.
Pediatric Director of Training; Medical Director, Pediatric Neuropsychology

Jonathan Mietchen, Ph.D.
Pediatric Neuropsychologist

Sarah Nigro, Psy.D.
Pediatric Neuropsychologist

Eligibility and Application

Eligibility

- Completing or completed an APA-accredited internship with significant neuropsychology experience.
- Doctorate in Clinical Psychology, Counseling Psychology, School Psychology, or an equivalent field completed before fellowship begins.
- Dissertation successfully defended before the start of fellowship.

Application Materials

- Curriculum vitae with current email address and phone number
- Letter of interest
- Graduate transcript (copies accepted)
- Two de-identified sample neuropsychological reports
- Three letters of recommendation, emailed directly by letter writers

Recruitment Details

KEY DATES & POSITIONS

- Application deadline: December 1
- The program does not participate in the APPCN Match and may make offers before the Match rank-list deadline
- One adult fellow is recruited each year
- The pediatric position recruits every other year, with fellowship starts in even-numbered years (e.g., 2026, 2028)

Send Application Materials To

ADULT DIRECTOR OF TRAINING

Kaitrin Conniff, Ph.D.

conniff@neurology.wisc.edu

PEDIATRIC DIRECTOR OF TRAINING

Alanna Kessler-Jones, Psy.D.

kessler-jones@neurology.wisc.edu

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Program Resources and Benefits

Training Sites

University of Wisconsin – Madison, Hospital and Clinics
600 Highland Avenue, Madison WI 53705

ADULT LOCATIONS:
UW Health Eastpark Medical Center
4621 Eastpark Blvd, Madison WI 53718

UW Health 20SP
20 South Park St, Madison 53715

UW Fitchburg
5543 E Cheryl Parkway, Fitchburg WI 53711

PEDIATRIC LOCATIONS:
American Family Children's Hospital
1675 Highland Ave, Madison WI 53705

Waisman Center
1500 Highland Ave, Madison WI 53705

Stipend & Benefits

Current: Year 1 stipend: $63,900 | Year 2 stipend: $64,380

Fellows receive hospital employee benefits including health insurance, 17 vacation days, 8 sick days, and 3 additional days per year for educational needs such as conference attendance, interviewing, professional travel, and board-related activities.

Why UW–Madison?

Training is embedded within a major academic Department of Neurology with close access to medical subspecialties and interdisciplinary teams. Adult training spans epilepsy, memory disorders, movement disorders/DBS, stroke, multiple sclerosis, transplant, TBI, and psychiatric populations. Pediatric training spans complex medical and neurodevelopmental conditions, brain injury, epilepsy surgery, and multidisciplinary specialty clinics. Structured ABPP-CN board preparation is integrated into fellowship didactics, and selected clinical experiences can be individualized to align with career goals.

Living in Madison

Madison combines a walkable university city, lakeside recreation, Big Ten campus energy, and easy access to arts, food, and outdoor spaces.

Campus & City Favorites

Memorial Union Terrace — Lake Mendota views, food, music, and iconic sunburst chairs.

State Street & Capitol Square — Restaurants, coffee shops, bookstores, and the Wisconsin State Capitol.

Dane County Farmers' Market — A signature Madison experience around the Capitol Square, especially spring through fall.

Chazen & Geology Museums — Free museums on or near campus that are easy to visit on a lunch break or weekend.

Badger Athletics — Football Saturdays, volleyball, hockey, and other campus sporting events.

Outdoors & Local Life

UW Arboretum — More than 17 miles of trails for walking, running, birding, and decompressing after clinic.

Allen Centennial Garden — A free public garden near campus and an easy place for a quiet break.

Lakes & Bike Paths — Biking, kayaking, paddleboarding, lakefront parks, and extensive trails.

Henry Vilas Zoo — A popular local attraction and easy option for visitors or a day off.

Olbrich Botanical Gardens — Gardens and seasonal displays on Madison's east side.