

**San Francisco Neuropsychology, PC  
Postdoctoral Fellowship in Clinical  
Neuropsychology**

**San Francisco  
Neuropsychology**



**Training Brochure  
2021-2023**

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## **POSTDOCTORAL FELLOWSHIP IN CLINICAL NEUROPSYCHOLOGY**

### **San Francisco Neuropsychology, PC**

#### **Overview and Tracks**

San Francisco Neuropsychology, PC (SFN) is currently accepting applications for our Bilingual Spanish Track and the Lifespan Neuropsychology Track of the 2021-2023 Postdoctoral Fellowship training year, which begins on September 1, 2021. SFN is an institute providing neuropsychological assessment, diagnostic services, and treatment to individuals across the lifespan. We serve a broad range of individuals in the Northern California region. In addition to out-of-pocket referrals, we receive referrals from a variety of insurances and medical centers in the area. We are dedicated to the education and training of clinicians interested in pursuing careers in neuropsychology. The primary objective of the fellowship program is to provide training in the neuropsychological evaluation of children, adolescents, adults, and seniors with a wide range of medical/neurological, developmental, and psychiatric disorders.

Bilingual Spanish Track: Approximately 40% of our patients are Spanish speaking or bilingual. The postdoctoral fellow in this track will have the opportunity to conduct comprehensive evaluations in Spanish with bilingual and monolingual Spanish speaking patients across the lifespan utilizing measures specifically normed for this population. The opportunity to assist with Spanish-speaking forensic cases (e.g., criminal, personal injury, and immigration) will also be available. Supervision by a native Spanish-speaking neuropsychologist with experience conducting neuropsychological evaluations in Spanish will be provided.

Lifespan Neuropsychology Track: The postdoctoral fellow in this track will have the opportunity to conduct comprehensive evaluations with patients across the lifespan. Additionally, we receive many referrals for multicultural/bilingual evaluations. Thus, this postdoctoral fellow will have the opportunity to work with a medical interpreter in conducting neuropsychological evaluations with patients who speak a variety of languages, such as Tagalog, Arabic, Cantonese, Mandarin, and Russian.

#### **Neuropsychology Training Model and Goals**

The goal of the Clinical Neuropsychology Postdoctoral Fellowship at SFN is to develop the emerging clinician's independent practitioner skills in a manner that adheres to current standards in clinical neuropsychology. Thus, the training model is structured to reflect as closely as possible the INS/APA Division 40 and Houston Conference Guidelines for postdoctoral training in clinical neuropsychology.

Consistent with these guidelines, the SFN postdoctoral fellowship program entails two years of full-time supervised clinical training and didactic experiences and organized to gradually expose the fellow to increasingly advanced training activities. Training in neuropsychology-related activities comprise a minimum of 50% of the fellow's time. In keeping with Houston Conference guidelines, goals for training include:

- 1) Advanced skill in the neuropsychological evaluation, treatment, and consultation to patients and professionals sufficient to practice on an independent basis
- 2) Advanced understanding of brain-behavior relationships
- 3) Scholarly activity (e.g., submission of a study or literature review for publication, presentation, submission of a grant proposal or outcome assessment)
- 4) Skills needed to teach and supervise trainees developing expertise in clinical neuropsychology

Our training model utilizes a developmental approach. We acknowledge that postdoctoral fellows begin our fellowship with different levels of experience and will work to build upon baseline skills acquired through graduate school training and pre-doctoral internship. Throughout the course of fellowship, the fellow will be encouraged to develop more autonomy and responsibility to ensure readiness. At the completion of the two-year fellowship, the fellow will have the postdoctoral training to be eligible for state licensure and for board certification in clinical neuropsychology by the American Board of Professional Psychology.

Advanced training in clinical neuropsychology is achieved through:

- 1) Focused learning by means of intensive immersion in supervised clinical experiences working with qualified mentors who are experts in clinical neuropsychology
- 2) Didactic training to provide a background and context in the empirical, clinical, and other literatures relevant to clinical neuropsychology
- 3) Opportunity to acquire leadership, program development, and supervisory skills
- 4) Participation in research activities relevant to clinical neuropsychology under the mentorship of neuropsychologists
- 5) Professional development and socialization into the profession and practice of Clinical Neuropsychology, including being treated as a junior colleague and internalizing the role of clinical neuropsychologist and teacher/mentor
- 6) A variety of training opportunities designed to foster multicultural competence and the ability to work effectively with individuals of various ethnic backgrounds, sexual orientation status, and religious affiliations

In our effort to train culturally aware and culturally competent neuropsychologists, our program emphasizes diversity-focused training through didactic seminars, case conferences, and clinical supervision. Cross-cultural assessment is an important value at SFN, and our staff neuropsychologists have expertise in working with patients who come from a wide range of racial/ethnic groups, sexual/gender orientations, and age groups. Our neuropsychology staff provides cross-cultural assessments in Spanish, Cantonese, Russian, Vietnamese, German, Tagalog, and Japanese. All clinical staff members have completed formal postdoctoral training in neuropsychology and are eligible for ABPP-CN certification.

### **Specific Training Settings**

**SFN Outpatient Neuropsychological Assessment:** Supervised training and experience in the assessment and evaluation of individuals ranging in age from early childhood to older adulthood, demonstrating a wide range of presenting problems, is the primary focus of the residency. Patients are referred from neurologists, pediatricians, attorneys, schools, psychiatrists, psychologists, related services (SL, OT, PT), and other specialists. Common patient populations include individuals with ADHD/LD, traumatic brain injury, stroke, dementia, epilepsy, brain tumors, movement disorders, multiple sclerosis, and psychiatric conditions. Opportunities to conduct forensic evaluations are also available (capacity, personal injury, and criminal). Trainees will be expected to participate in all aspects of the evaluation including case preparation and record review, intake evaluations, neuropsychological testing, report writing, feedback to patients and family members, communication and consultation with healthcare professionals and school professionals, and additional case management needs. SFN provides the majority of our neuropsychological services in our centrally-located San Francisco office. Fellows will maintain a caseload of 2-3 clinical patients per week over the course of the 2-year

residency.

Teleneuropsychology: In the wake of the COVID-19 global pandemic shelter in place recommendations, SFN transitioned to teleneuropsychological evaluations via HIPAA compliant Zoom. Trainees participate in all aspects of the evaluation with an expected caseload of 2-3 clinical patients per week over the course of the 2-year residency.

Jewish Home and Rehabilitation Center: Supervised training and experience in the assessment and evaluation of older adults in an inpatient setting. Referrals primarily come from the Acute Psychiatric Hospital and Short-Term and Rehabilitation Services units. These brief neuropsychological evaluations often include assessment of capacity (decision-making, financial, etc.).

### **Didactic Experiences**

Didactics (4-6 hours weekly) include an emphasis on professional development and trainees participate in ABPP exam preparation, journal club, neuroanatomy course, brain cutting, and rounds/seminars at area universities and hospitals. Rounds and didactics will cover topics that are required by ABCN, including basic neurosciences, functional neuroanatomy, neuropathology, clinical neurology, psychological assessment, clinical neuropsychological assessment, psychopathology, and psychological intervention. A list of didactic experiences available are included below:

*SFN Neuropsychology Seminar* (Wednesdays 4:00-5:00 PM): This weekly seminar is designed to provide a comprehensive didactic experience in conjunction with practicum and post-doctoral training at SFN. Topics covered include differential diagnosis, appropriate uses of normative data, neuropathology, neuroanatomy, neurodevelopmental disorders, cross-cultural issues in neuropsychology, and ethics.

*SFN Case Conference* (Wednesdays 2:00-3:00 PM): A case conference/consultation group in which trainees and staff present clinical cases that are challenging or unusual.

*SFN Journal Club* (Wednesday 4:00-5:00 PM once a month): Journal club is held by postdoctoral fellows and providers and focuses on neurological and neuropsychological conditions throughout the lifespan.

*Zuckerberg SFGH Neuropsychology Service Seminar* (every other Thursday 9:00-11:00 AM): Designed in conjunction with post-doctoral training with the ZSFG Neuropsychology Service, this seminar will present topics of particular relevance to individuals practicing in public health and medical settings. The seminar will cover general issues in the practice of neuropsychology, neuropathology relevant to neuropsychological assessment and consultation, practical aspects of neuropsychological and personality assessment (e.g., administration and interpretation), and case conferences.

*California Pacific Medical Center (CPMC) Fact Finding* (Thursdays once a month 1:00-3:00 PM): Fact finding practice and demonstration with board certified neuropsychologist in preparation for board certification.

*UCSF Memory and Aging Center Grand Rounds* (Fridays 8:00-9:00 AM): This weekly didactic series features guest lectures and case presentations covering a wide range of topics pertinent to clinical neuropsychology, including neuroanatomy, neuroimaging, cognitive, behavioral, and physical manifestations of a variety of neurodegenerative disorders, assessment, and clinical intervention.

*UCSF Memory and Aging Center Behavioral Neurology Tuesday Lecture* (Tuesdays 4:00-5:00 PM): This weekly didactic alternates between journal club, research seminar, and mini clinical-pathological case conference formats and covers a wide range of complex topics in neurology and cognitive neuroscience.

*UCSF Memory and Aging Center Clinical-Pathological Case Conference* (Tuesdays Monthly 3:00-5:00 PM): Monthly case presentation lead by a neurology fellow and neuropsychology fellow. The presentation consists of clinical data (neurology exam findings, neuropsychological testing, neuroimaging, genetic data), in addition to neuropathological diagnosis from autopsy.

*VA Palo Alto Brain Cutting* (Twice a Year): This didactic is a live brain dissection in which the neurologist or neuropathologist characterizes the neuroanatomy of each slice as well as neurological syndrome present.

*HNS Cross-Cultural Neuropsychology Webinar* (Last Friday Monthly, 10:00-11:00 AM): A virtual didactic program organized by Dr. Adrianna Strutt of Baylor College of Medicine focusing on cross-cultural/Latino neuropsychology.

*UCSF School of Medicine Brain, Mind, and Behavior: A Remarkable Universe* (Self-Paced Online): This UCSF Osher Mini Medical School Series presents new discoveries in brain sciences that allows us to better understand the interplay of memory, brain, and mind.

*NAN Clinical Neuroanatomy Course* (Self-Paced Online): It is strongly recommended that fellows complete a 15-week online course in Clinical Neuroanatomy offered through the National Academy of Neuropsychology which is approved by the American Psychological Association to offer continuing education for psychologists. The course is free for the trainee as the postdoctoral program pays the tuition. The course combines text readings, online material, video, supplemental thought questions, and student-instructor interactions via an online discussion board. The goal of this course is to provide students with a working knowledge of the basic neuroanatomy and clinical neuropsychological application of such knowledge. 3-5 hours per week is necessary to commit to the course and to pass course requirements students must 1) complete all multiple-choice posttest examinations, earning a cumulative percentage >74% correct and 2) participate in assigned course discussions and activities as judged by the instructor.

### **Opportunities for Research**

Postdoctoral fellows are required to develop and/or collaborate on a research project within the field of neuropsychology during the course of their residency. Resources are available through the SFN research database as well as potential collaborations with community university faculty. Fellows are encouraged to present their work at professional meetings including the International Neuropsychological Society, National Academy of Neuropsychology, and American Academy of Clinical Neuropsychology annual conferences.

### **Training in Teaching and Supervision**

Postdoctoral fellows have the opportunity to supervise practicum students from local APA-accredited doctoral programs who rotate through SFN. This involves teaching basic neuropsychological test administration and conceptualization skills under a graded supervisory model (i.e., supervised supervision with a licensed neuropsychologist).

Fellows will also prepare and give formal didactic presentations on topics related to clinical neuropsychology at least twice yearly as part of the SFN weekly didactic series for trainees and staff.

**Experience in Program Administration/Management/Leadership**

In keeping with the philosophy of postdoctoral fellows as “junior colleagues,” fellows attend the Psychology Staff Meeting, which meets once per month. This meeting focuses on current issues that psychology staff members are facing.

In addition, postdoctoral fellows will be encouraged to participate in program administration, management, and leadership experiences at SFN. The fellow will be provided with opportunities to assist with program development, maintaining and improving service delivery, and facilitating clinic functioning (e.g., helping to coordinate practicum program activities, clinical case-load tracking procedures, organizing training seminars, etc.).

**Program Structure**

The major focus of the training program is to provide supervised experience in outpatient neuropsychological evaluation. Approximately 70% of the fellow’s time is spent in the delivery of clinical services. In addition, in accordance with Houston Conference Guidelines, at least 10% of the fellow’s time will be spent conducting clinical research and at least 10% of the fellow’s time will be spent in educational activities and didactic training.

*Sample Schedule:*

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
General Outpatient Clinical Activities (supervision, staffing, evaluation, scoring)	General Outpatient Clinical Activities (supervision, staffing, evaluation, scoring)  MAC Tuesday Lecture 4-5 PM	General Outpatient Clinical Activities (evaluation, scoring, report writing, supervision)  SFN Case Conference 3-4 PM & Neuropsychology Seminar 4-5 PM	ZSFG Neuropsychology Service Seminar 9-11 AM  General Outpatient Clinical Activities (supervision, staffing, evaluation, scoring)	General Outpatient Clinical Activities (supervision, staffing, evaluation, scoring)

**Supervision and Evaluation**

Postdoctoral fellows receive supervision primarily in an individual format (minimum 2-4 hours per week). All supervision is provided by licensed psychologists with specialty training in clinical neuropsychology. Supervision and evaluation methods include self-report of clinical work, supervision sessions, live observations of patient and/or staff interactions; observation of case formulation and case presentation in supervision and staff meetings; and review of psychological testing protocols and reports.

The fellow and the supervisor will work together to document the fellow's goals for the residency and regularly evaluate progress towards these goals throughout the residency. Supervisors will also ensure that the fellow is meeting goals necessary to function as a skilled and competent independent practitioner. The fellow's primary supervisor will provide a formal evaluation of the fellow's progress twice per year (6 months and 12 months). Fellows will also be asked to evaluate their supervisors at each evaluation period.

### **Requirements for Completion**

Postdoctoral fellowship is a full-time two-year commitment, working approximately 40 - 50 hours/week. Training in neuropsychology-related activities will comprise at minimum 50% of the postdoctoral fellow's time.

In order for postdoctoral fellows to maintain good standing in the program they must:

- For the 6, 12, and 18-month evaluation points, the postdoctoral fellow must obtain evaluation ratings that are indicative of post-doc level competency with clear evidence of progress.
- Not be found to have engaged in any significant ethical transgressions.

In order for the postdoctoral fellow to successfully complete the program, they must:

- By the end of the second training year, obtain evaluation ratings indicating advanced practice proficiency in all competency areas.
- Not be found to have engaged in any significant ethical transgressions.

Upon completion of the SFN Clinical Neuropsychology Postdoctoral Fellowship, postdoctoral fellows will meet all requirements for licensure in the state of California and will meet all requirements for eligibility by ABCN.

### **Stipend & Benefits**

The current stipend is \$35,000 per year. State and federal income tax and FICA are withheld from fellows' checks. SFN covers fellows for malpractice insurance. Fellows are entitled to five vacation days, five federal holidays, and 6.5 days of sick leave. Fellows are provided with retirement account matching.

### **Application Requirements**

Candidates must have completed all requirements for a doctoral degree in clinical psychology from an APA-accredited program prior to beginning the fellowship, as well as completion of an APA-accredited predoctoral internship. Candidates should have well-established clinical and research interests in neuropsychology. Candidates applying to the Bilingual Spanish Track must be fluent in Spanish.

Applicants must submit the following by **December 18, 2020**:

1. A cover letter stating professional and academic preparation and work experience, along with career goals and interests. In the cover letter please indicate which track(s) you are applying to.

2. A recent CV with your contact information and an appendix indicating which assessment measures you have administered, the number of times you have administered each measure, and the number of times you have written reports using those instruments.
3. Unofficial graduate transcripts
4. Three letters of recommendation
5. Two de-identified assessment reports

All application materials should be emailed to:

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## APPENDIX

### Supervisor Biographies

#### **Shelley Peery, PhD (Clinical Director)**

Dr. Shelley Peery completed her doctorate in the Neuropsychology subprogram of the Psychology department at City University of New York at Queens College. She completed her internship at Mount Sinai Medical Center in New York. Her postdoctoral fellowship was completed at New York University Medical Center at the Rusk Institute of Rehabilitation Medicine. She also trained at the Comprehensive Epilepsy Center at NYU and the Alzheimer's Disease Research Center (ADRC) at Columbia University Medical Center (CUMC). Dr. Peery carried out her dissertation research on the recovery of neuropsychological functioning after subarachnoid hemorrhage, a type of stroke, at Columbia under the tutelage of Stephan Mayer, MD, a world leader in the field of neurological intensive care. At the Alzheimer's Disease Research Center, Dr. Peery honed her skills in the neuropsychological assessment of Spanish speakers under the guidance of Jennifer Manly, PhD, a nationally recognized expert in cross cultural neuropsychology. Broadly trained, Dr. Peery is a clinical neuropsychologist qualified to assess individuals with a variety of neurological and psychological disorders. Dr. Peery is also an adjunct faculty member of the University of California, Berkeley Extension, and has taught neuropsychology at the graduate level at Queens College and City College in New York City. Dr. Peery has previously served as the Chair of the Culture and Diversity Committee for the National Academy of Neuropsychology (NAN; 2011-2014) and on the board of directors of the Hispanic Neuropsychological Society (Secretary 2008 – 2012) and the Northern California Neuropsychology Forum (Treasurer 2008-2010, Member at Large 2010-2012) and volunteered with the American Red Cross – Bay Area, Disaster Mental Health team in San Francisco. Dr. Peery is also a member of Division 40 (Neuropsychology) of the American Psychological Association and the California Psychological Association (Division 8 – Neuropsychology). Dr. Peery's interests are in the neuropsychological assessment of Spanish speakers, recovery from acquired brain injury, optimizing brain health and quality of life in senior citizens, decision-making capacity, and forensic neuropsychology.

#### **Aikisha Harley, PhD (Training Director)**

Dr. Aikisha Harley is a licensed Clinical Psychologist and Neuropsychologist. She earned her doctorate degree in Clinical Psychology with a specialization in neuropsychology at Palo Alto University. She completed her pre-doctoral clinical internship training at the VA Loma Linda Healthcare System and a two-year neuropsychology postdoctoral residency at Kaiser Permanente Roseville Medical Center.

Through her various training opportunities, Dr. Harley refined her neuropsychological assessment skills of individuals across the lifespan with various neurological, medical, neurodevelopmental, and psychiatric disorders including neurodegenerative diseases, epilepsy, movement disorders, traumatic brain injury, cancer, ADHD, learning differences, depression, and anxiety. During her postdoctoral fellowship, her training also included pre- and post-surgical evaluations for candidates pursuing deep brain stimulation and temporal lobectomies.

Additionally, Dr. Harley has experience providing psychotherapy to adults and seniors with mood disorders secondary to neurocognitive disorders. Her research interests include medical

neuropsychology, the impact of mood on cognitive functioning, movement disorders, and cognitive aging. Dr. Harley is a member of the International Neuropsychological Society and the Society for Clinical Neuropsychology (Division 40) of the American Psychological Association.

### **Rayna Hirst, PhD (Research Director)**

Dr. Rayna Hirst completed her doctorate in Clinical Psychology, with a specialization in Neuropsychology, at the University at Albany, State University of New York. She completed her internship at the VA Ann Arbor/University of Michigan Healthcare System. Her postdoctoral fellowship was at the Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center, in the Geisel School of Medicine. Her broad and diverse training has prepared her for the assessment of a variety of neurological and psychological disorders. In her clinical practice, she sees adults aged 18 and over (including older adults), for all types of neuropsychological evaluations, including ADHD, learning disorder, psychiatric disorders (e.g., depression, anxiety), medical diagnoses (e.g., multiple sclerosis, Parkinson's disease, traumatic brain injury, neuro-oncology), and dementia.

Dr. Hirst is an Associate Professor and Director of the Neuropsychology Program at Palo Alto University, providing didactic and supervisory education to doctoral students who are training in neuropsychology. Her research focuses on the validity and interpretation of neuropsychological assessment in a variety of clinical disorders. She is a member of the National Academy of Neuropsychology Conflict of Interest Committee, the International Neuropsychological Society, and is Member-at-large and former Treasurer of the Northern California Neuropsychology Forum.

### **Karen Lau, PhD**

Dr. Lau is a licensed Clinical Psychologist and Neuropsychologist. She obtained her doctorate in Clinical Psychology from California School of Professional Psychology and received specialty training in Neuropsychology at the San Francisco VA Medical Center and Santa Clara Valley Medical Center. She completed a pre-doctoral internship in neuropsychology at the Jesse Brown VA Medical Center and the University of Illinois Chicago, and two-year clinical postdoctoral fellowship in the Department of Neurology and Alzheimer's Disease Center at the University of California, Davis School of Medicine. Through her training, Dr. Lau has developed considerable experience providing neuropsychological assessments to individuals with various conditions, including neurodegenerative disease, movement disorders, traumatic brain injury, cerebrovascular disease, cancer, ADHD, and general medical and psychiatric conditions. Her clinical fellowship training also included pre and post-surgical evaluations for candidates pursuing temporal lobectomies and deep brain stimulation. She also gained an incredible appreciation for providing assessments to individuals with diverse cultural backgrounds. She is able to communicate in Cantonese and offers assessment and psychotherapy services in Cantonese and English. In addition to her clinical work, Dr. Lau continues to actively pursue research interests in mild traumatic brain injury and cognitive aging through a research fellowship at the San Francisco VA Medical Center and the University of California, San Francisco. She is a member of the International Neuropsychological Society and the Northern California Neuropsychology Forum.

### **Johanna Rengifo, PhD**

Dr. Johanna Rengifo is a bilingual (Spanish / English) Clinical Psychologist who specializes in Neuropsychology. She is also a certified brain injury specialist (CBIS). She completed her Ph.D. at Palo Alto University, with a double major in neuropsychology and clinical neuroscience in

women's health, in conjunction with Stanford School of Medicine, and a bachelor's degree in psychology from the University of California, Berkeley. She completed her pre-doctoral internship at the Tampa VA and three post-doctoral fellowships in Gero-Neuropsychology at the Miami VA, in Rehabilitation-Neuropsychology at Tampa General Hospital, and in Clinical Neuropsychology at UCSF / Zuckerberg San Francisco General Hospital.

Dr. Rengifo specializes in working with adults and older adults with a wide range of conditions, including medical/neurological diagnoses (e.g., epilepsy, concussion, brain tumor, stroke), traumatic brain injuries, neurodegenerative diseases (e.g. Parkinson's disease, Alzheimer's disease), and comorbid psychiatric conditions (e.g., anxiety, depression, PTSD). She also conducts immigration and political asylum evaluations. Her clinical and research interests include Latino older adults, medical neuropsychology, and positive / health neuropsychology.

Dr. Rengifo is an active member of the Hispanic Neuropsychological Society and served as co-chair of their scientific conference in 2017. She is also a member of the California Psychological Association, American Academy of Clinical Neuropsychology, National Academy of Neuropsychology, and the Northern California Neuropsychology Forum.