



**A World-Class, Patient-Centered,  
Integrated Health System**



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## INTRODUCTION

The Doctoral Internship Program in neuro-rehabilitation at Rusk Rehabilitation, New York University Langone Health is an APA accredited program. As a member of the Association of Psychology Postdoctoral and Internship Centers (APPIC), the Training Program follows a Practitioner-Scholar Model of clinical training, incorporating 2000 hours of supervised clinical experiences.

Eight predoctoral interns will participate in a 12-month training program in the year 2023-2024.

The Clinical Predoctoral Internship Program is supported by hospital-based funding.

## THE TRAINING PROGRAM IN CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGY

### Overall Goal of the Training Program

The overarching goal of the Rusk Rehabilitation Clinical Psychology Internship Program is to develop competence in the application of psychological knowledge and practice to clinical problems in a complex medical setting. The Program places particular emphasis on introducing interns to the breadth and variety of professional roles assumed by psychologists, including intensive training in neuropsychological testing, individual and group psychotherapy and cognitive rehabilitation, and staff and family consultation. Integral to an intern's training is becoming an effective member of the interdisciplinary team.

A core focus of intern training is the impact of multicultural values, language, and health literacy on the rehabilitation process. The hospital's multicultural patient population ensures that interns have a fertile training ground to learn about culture and diversity as it informs and interfaces with clinical practice. The clinical work often involves working with underserved and complex medical conditions involving issues of adjustment to physical and cognitive loss and reintegration into the community. As the primary setting for this internship is in a rehabilitation medicine department, emphasis is placed on clinical experiences in working with issues of coping for individuals facing a range of physical, cognitive, and social-emotional challenges. The training involves a strong experiential component.

The goal of our internship is to train and prepare clinical psychology interns to be competitive in obtaining either entry-level positions or further specialized training by the end of the training year. The internship provides a transitional year to apply previously learned knowledge and theories to actual clinical situations and challenges. Interns learn to thoughtfully apply psychological principles to complex and diverse situations in contrast to utilizing prescribed interventions to specific problems. In order to facilitate this generalist perspective, the Rusk Rehabilitation training mission is to provide clinical experiences, didactics, and supervision that prepare interns to develop the critical thinking, self-reflection, interpersonal skills, and attitudes needed to approach problems and professional challenges that will occur during the course of their careers. The generalist perspective includes a broad view of clinical practice in which creative problem-solving of real-life situations is addressed by utilizing evidence based interventions and viewing problems from multiple perspectives. The rich milieu of a large city

rehabilitation setting also allows interns to practice these skills under supervision with patients with simultaneous physical, emotional, cognitive and psychosocial issues in the context of diverse cultural and disability backgrounds.

Psychology interns provide clinical services with patients with complex medical, neurological, physical and co-morbid psychiatric conditions. The most frequent diagnoses include Traumatic Brain Injury, concussion, Long- Covid, stroke, Spinal Cord Injury, and chronic medical illnesses (e.g., cancer, diabetes, cardiac conditions, vestibular disorder, Multiple Sclerosis). Many patients have co-morbid psychiatric diagnoses including PTSD, depression, and anxiety disorders.

### **Training Goals and Objectives**

The overall goal of our Clinical Psychology Internship is to train and prepare interns for entry level or Postdoctoral positions in psychology. Toward that end, the internship has identified 11 overarching goals and objectives for training:

Goals	Objectives
<p><b>Goal #1: Assessment</b></p> <p>Demonstrates appropriate knowledge, skills, and attitudes in the selection, administration, and interpretation of assessments consistent with the best scientific research and relevant expert guidance appropriate for entry level or postdoctoral positions as a professional psychologist</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To acquire knowledge of clinical interviewing and standardized assessment methods including psychological and neuropsychological testing</li> <li>• To acquire skills in integrating data from various sources to conceptualize a patient's cognitive, academic, emotional, and adaptive patterns and to make recommendations for therapeutic interventions</li> <li>• To complete neuropsychological evaluations under supervision including diagnosis/conceptualization, while addressing ethics, diversity, and interpersonal dynamics</li> <li>• To develop an understanding of multicultural diversity and other forms of diversity (e.g., age, disability, socioeconomic status, sexual orientation, gender identity, military status) as they pertain to assessment)</li> </ul>

<p><b>Goal #2: Intervention</b></p> <p>Demonstrates appropriate knowledge, skills, and attitudes in the selection, implementation, and evaluation of interventions that are based on the best scientific research evidence, respectful of clients' values/preferences and relevant expert guidance appropriate for entry level or postdoctoral positions as a professional psychologist</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To develop skills in case conceptualization and setting realistic short- and long-term treatment goals.</li> <li>• Independently creates a treatment plan that reflects the integration of empirical findings and research, clinical judgment, diversity, and patient preferences.</li> <li>• Demonstrates the ability to integrate and reflect on the treatment process, case conceptualization, treatment goals, observation and interaction, and decision points in the session</li> <li>• To develop the intern's ability to document patient's treatment progress using Smart Goals</li> </ul>
<p><b>Goal #3: Individual and Cultural Diversity</b></p> <p>Demonstrates appropriate knowledge, skills, and attitudes about cultural and individual differences in all professional roles appropriate for entry level or postdoctoral positions as a professional psychologist</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To increase the intern's sensitivity to patients with diverse cultural, ethnic, language, sexual orientation, age, gender identity, religious, and disability backgrounds</li> <li>• To increase the intern's ability to modify assessment and treatment approaches to integrate diversity perspectives</li> <li>• Demonstrates effective collaboration with the patient and their families in a manner sensitive to equity and issues of inclusion</li> <li>• Reflects on the intersection of equity and inclusion factors, identifying the impact on the treatment process along with ways to address it (e.g., culturally appropriate services, adapting one's manner, seeking consultation)</li> <li>• Demonstrates knowledge, skills, and attitudes about cultural and individual differences in its multiple forms, including issues of racism, discrimination, acculturation distress, microaggressions, gender bias, religious differences, and socioeconomic disparities.</li> </ul>

<p><b>Goal #4: Understanding the Consumer's Perspective</b></p> <p>Develops competence in understanding of the consumer's perspective and unique needs across the continuum of care from onset of disability to successful community reintegration appropriate for entry level or postdoctoral positions as a professional psychologist</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To develop an intern's understanding of the consumer's perspective and their varying needs across the continuum of care after the onset of disability</li> <li>• To increase the intern's ability to discuss disability issues with patients and their families</li> <li>• To increase awareness of community resources for individuals with disabilities</li> </ul>
<p><b>Goal #5: Ethical and Legal Standards</b></p> <p>Demonstrates appropriate ethical and legal knowledge, skills, and attitudes in all professional roles appropriate for entry level or postdoctoral positions as a professional psychologist</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To develop the ability to identify and respond to ethical challenges within clinical practice</li> <li>• Describes clinical cases in a way that clearly identifies and integrates the ethical and legal issues involved, including an ethical decision-making model</li> <li>• Independently identifies and proposes resolution(s) related to an ethical and legal issue(s) on a complex clinical or profession situation utilizing good clinical judgment</li> </ul>
<p><b>Goal #6: Professional Values, Attitudes, and Behaviors</b></p> <p>Demonstrates professional behaviors and attitudes, including reflecting on, critically evaluating, and improving one's own professional performance appropriate for entry level or postdoctoral positions as a professional psychologist</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identifies, reflects on, discusses, and manages emotional reactions to challenging clinical or professional situations</li> <li>• Monitors and reflects on one's attitudes, values, and beliefs, both during and after professional activities, in a way that identifies challenges and conflicts with those values, along with ways to address them</li> <li>• Advocates with compassion for clients and their families</li> </ul>



<p><b>Goal #7: Communication and Interpersonal Skills</b></p> <p>Demonstrates the ability to communicate effectively, interact appropriately, and develop meaningful and helpful relationships in all professional roles appropriate for entry level or postdoctoral positions as a professional psychologist</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identifies any treatment ruptures, impasses, or difficulties that emerged in a clinical service relationship and reflects on that process and resolution</li> <li>• Presents at case conferences or didactic presentations, tailored to the audience including being receptive to feedback from the participants and incorporating it into the treatment plan</li> <li>• Demonstrates clarity and coherence in clinical documentation</li> </ul>
<p><b>Goal #8: Consultation and Inter-Professional/Interdisciplinary Skills</b></p> <p>Develops appropriate knowledge, skills, and attitudes regarding inter-professional and interdisciplinary collaboration in relevant professional roles appropriate for entry level or postdoctoral positions as a professional psychologist</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide relevant, practical, and helpful recommendations to the interdisciplinary team</li> </ul>
<p><b>Goal #9: Research</b></p> <p>Demonstrates appropriate knowledge, skills, and attitudes to incorporate and evaluate scientific research, making appropriate use of scientific methods and findings in all professional roles appropriate for an entry level position as a professional psychologist</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identifies and critically reviews the relevant scientific literature to referral questions and patient populations literature as they relate to clinical practice</li> <li>• Integrates evidence-based research into clinical assessment and patient care</li> </ul>
<p><b>Goal #10: Supervision</b></p> <p>The intern will develop competence in understanding theories and methods of supervision appropriate for entry level or postdoctoral positions as a professional psychologist</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To increase intern's receptivity and openness to diverse supervisory styles during the training year</li> <li>• To increase the intern's knowledge of models and techniques of supervision, role conflicts in supervision, and ethical issues arising in supervision supported by evidence based practice</li> <li>• Articulates a supervision model for oneself, with reflection on how it could be applied</li> <li>• Incorporates issues of diversity into the discussions of supervision</li> </ul>

<p><b>Goal #11: Theories and Methods of Evaluation</b></p> <p>The intern will develop competence in theories and methods of evaluation appropriate for an entry level or postdoctoral positions as a professional psychologist</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provides thoughtful feedback on the strengths and weaknesses of the program</li> <li>• Provides constructive written and verbal feedback on the strengths and weaknesses of the clinical supervisors</li> <li>• Collaborates with faculty to enhance program effectiveness</li> </ul>
<p><b>Goal #12: Leadership Development</b></p> <p>The intern will learn leadership principles and develop the competence to apply these principles within the rehabilitation setting and community at large.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To develop and demonstrate an understanding of the 5 Practices of Exemplary Leadership</li> <li>• To increase the intern's knowledge of growth vs fixed mindset and the application to the training environment.</li> <li>• To develop leadership skills to foster growth in confidence in clinical skills and navigating the professional environment.</li> <li>• Collaborates with faculty and trainees in discussions of self-development, multiculturalism and leadership, mentorship, professional development, crucial conversations and imposter-syndrome.</li> </ul>

### **The Mission of the Training Program**

The Rusk Rehabilitation Clinical Psychology Internship Program is sponsored by New York University Langone Health (NYULH). The Program's mission is congruent with that of the larger Medical Center. The mission of the Medical Center is to promote the relief of human suffering caused by disease and disability through education, research, and patient care. In all activities, the Medical Center maintains the highest standards of excellence and consideration of the dignity of the individual. The Medical Center supports the goal of NYU Langone Grossman School of Medicine to merge the best traditions of the past with the most relevant content and vital teaching methods of the present, instill a respect for one's profession and the patients served, provide for the continuing education of professionals throughout their careers, and foster an atmosphere of learning for all staff.

The Medical Center places the patient at the center of all efforts. The foundation for implementing the mission of the Medical Center includes the values and importance of patient/consumer satisfaction, mutual respect, and creating and sustaining an environment that encourages change, responsiveness, participation, education, research and financial



responsibility. NYULH strives to provide the highest level of healthcare through the facilitation of a learning environment so that all employees can continue to strive and achieve their optimum performance consistent with the institutional mission and goals.

### **Philosophy of the Program**

The Rusk Rehabilitation Clinical Psychology Program internship uses the Practitioner-Scholar Model, emphasizing the integration of state-of-the-art scientific inquiry and scholarship with a practical application of scholarly knowledge. It is the integration of knowledge directly applied in the clinical setting that creates the foundation of the training program. The primary emphasis in training a practitioner-scholar is the delivery of effective treatment that takes into account individual, cultural, ethical, and societal considerations. Service delivery is a critical vehicle through which training occurs, but it is secondary to the educational emphasis of the Program. The model stresses the importance of multiple ways of knowing in the practice of psychology and the development of self-reflection and awareness, flexibility, and openness to learning. Interns are trained to think critically and engage in scholarly inquiry. There is a value placed on the intern as a consumer of research and the importance of generating knowledge through practice and scholarly activities, thus utilizing evidence-based interventions. The importance of personal and professional growth is emphasized in all aspects of the training program. The model depicts learning as a relational and reciprocal process.

Consistent with the overall philosophy of rehabilitation and the mission of NYULH, the Training Program deeply respects and values the individuality and uniqueness of each intern and staff member. Our program is predicated on the belief that clinical work is enhanced when we utilize a compassionate and broader view of what it is to be a person including human variations and differences. Our clinical competence is improved through an integrated and nuanced understanding of the complex forces that influence an individual's psychosocial development, including cultural, social, historical, economic and political factors. Professional growth requires thoughtful self-reflection as we expand beyond our own worldview, reduce the impact of our biases, and learn to see the world through the perspective of others.

All of the supervisors work on-site and in close proximity to the interns. The supervisors are readily available to interns as teachers, supervisors, mentors, consultants, and colleagues. We seek to convey a flexible and respectful attitude toward intern's questions and concerns and believe that staff accessibility is a critical component in optimizing the quality and depth of the training year. Interns are encouraged to take responsibility for their own learning by identifying individualized learning goals, through self-reflection and self-evaluation, taking an active role in program and curriculum development, and by providing feedback and evaluation of their supervisors and training experiences. The Program strives to instill interns with the skills and attitudes expected of well-qualified and ethical clinical psychologists.

We believe the Internship Program is a mutual learning experience. The interns bring a fresh perspective of new ideas, theories and research interests from their graduate school training and prior practicum experiences that provide an opportunity for supervisors to keep pace with new trends in the field. Differences in the intern's life experience, cultural background, value system, theoretical orientation, and career goals are important dimensions that add depth to the learning atmosphere in the program. The interns also provide a vital level of energy and enthusiasm to the supervisory process. We encourage and appreciate the interns' contributions to our growth as supervisors.

Training is provided through an “apprenticeship” model in which interns gain skills and knowledge by working side-by-side with supervising psychologists. All of our supervisors have major patient care responsibilities and many of them provide leadership in training, consultation, research and administrative roles. Because treatment is provided by interdisciplinary teams in most clinical settings, interns also have frequent and close contact with clinicians and trainees from many disciplines. This apprenticeship model allows for frequent direct observation of supervisors, as well as immediate consultation, feedback, and teaching. Interns receive regularly scheduled and intensive supervision that challenges them to thoughtfully explore and reflect on their clinical decisions. While styles of supervision vary from service to service, direct observation is the most common source of supervisory information.

The interns are viewed as junior colleagues. We value their training and seek to protect their learning needs by minimizing their involvement in hospital administrative issues. We strive, however, to explain how different political and economic forces at the Medical Center impact clinical decision-making, programmatic changes, and team process. Decisions must be made by taking into considerations time pressures, pragmatic considerations, cultural issues, as well as Medical Center and community resources.

The internship in our rehabilitation setting poses unique challenges that differ from those in typical mental health settings. An intern training in a rehabilitation hospital is challenged by incorporating new models of treatment. Interns learn to integrate aspects of clinical psychology, neuropsychology and neuroscience, health psychology, special education, and systems theory in order to meet these challenges. The clinical psychology component focuses on increasing the patient’s ability to utilize internal resources to manage the psychological and interpersonal stressors experienced following injury or illness. The neuropsychology component stresses a process approach and a search for patient’s strengths and resiliency, whereas the health psychology perspective emphasizes the development of flexible coping, problem solving, emotional self-regulation, and stress management strategies. The systems approach reflects the importance of how disability and illness interact with the patient’s value system, worldview, and culture. These four components of our educational philosophy are consistent with the overall mission of Rusk Rehabilitation, which employs a systematic and individualized approach to assist individuals with disabilities to return to the community at their maximum level of functioning.

## PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT THROUGHOUT THE TRAINING YEAR

A major goal of the Training Program is to increase the autonomy of the interns as their competencies evolve during the training year. The process can be conceptualized as a four-stage process within all components of the Training Program.

### Progression in Supervision

Throughout the training year, interns progress through four stages of supervision with progress dependent on each intern’s clinical background and prior training.

**Level I:** At the start of each rotation, an intensive site-specific orientation is provided. Implicit in this process of learning through clinical experiences is an expectation of intern’s readiness to learn how, why, and when to intervene.

**Level II:** As competency in the basic responsibilities of a given rotation develops, supervisors will gradually expand the range of clinical opportunities and interventions expected of the intern.

**Level III:** Once a repertoire of interventions is established, the supervisor shifts to one of anticipatory planning of treatment, joint problem solving and review of short- and long-term treatment strategies, with an intern expected to set priorities for discussion within supervisory sessions.

**Level IV:** As autonomy in planning clinical interventions is achieved, supervision shifts toward a consultation model.

### **Progression with Didactic Seminars**

**Level I:** To ensure a common theoretical and practical foundation at the start of the training year, a two-week orientation is provided. The orientation program focuses on the acquisition of basic assessment tools, the role of the psychologist on the rehabilitation team, and review of the Policies and Procedures of the Training Program.

**Level II:** Initial seminars focus on core issues in the rehabilitation setting, basic assessment strategies, and clinical interventions needed for initial competencies during inpatient and outpatient rotations.

**Level III:** Seminars shift focus to intensive reviews of the psychological and cognitive issues of specific diagnostic groups (e.g., Traumatic Brain Injury, stroke). There is an emphasis on specific therapeutic interventions (e.g., psychotherapy, cognitive remediation, and staff and family consultation).

**Level IV:** Interns present more integrated case presentations in neuropsychological assessment, individual, group, and family psychotherapy, and cognitive remediation as the year progresses.

### **Progression in Clinical Interventions**

Supervisors assign clinical cases with concern for the complexity of each referral and the intern's ability to address treatment needs.

**Level I:** Interventions are initially focused on clinical interviewing and basic assessment.

**Level II:** The intern's responsibilities are expanded to include individual and group psychotherapy, in-depth neuropsychological assessment, cognitive remediation, and patient/family consultation.

**Level III:** Interventions are expanded to include more complex clinical cases and family interventions.

**Level IV:** Interns are expected to demonstrate increasing autonomy in planning interventions and assume greater leadership.

### **Progression as a Rehabilitation Team Member**

**Level I:** Interns are initially introduced to the roles and functions of rehabilitation team members. The role of the psychologist as team and family consultant is discussed.

**Level II:** Interns observe their supervisor's roles within evaluation and re-evaluation conferences, team and family consultations, initial intakes, and test feedback sessions.

**Level III:** Under supervision, interns assume greater independence during evaluations and re-evaluation conferences, team and family consultations, initial intakes, and neuropsychological testing feedback sessions.

**Level IV:** Under supervision, interns become independent in their presentations at evaluation and re-evaluation conferences, team and family consultations, patient/family education and intake and feedback sessions.

## THE CONTEXT OF THE TRAINING PROGRAM

### **New York University Langone Health**

Located in the heart of New York City, NYULH is one the nation's premier centers of excellence in health care, biomedical research and medical education. For over 170 years, NYU physicians and researchers have made numerous contributions to the practice and science of health care. The Medical Center consists of the NYU Langone Grossman School of Medicine, including the Smilow Research Center, the Skirball Institute of Biomolecular Medicine and the Sackler Institute of Graduate Biomedical Sciences; the three hospitals of NYU Hospital Center including: Tisch Hospital, a 726-bed acute care general hospital, Rusk Rehabilitation, the first and largest facility of its kind, and NYU Langone Orthopedic Hospital, a leader in musculoskeletal and neuro-rehabilitation care; the Ambulatory Care Center, and such major programs as the NYU Cancer Institute, the NYU Child Study Center, the Hassenfeld Children's Center for Cancer and Blood Disorders, NYU Langone Hospital – Brooklyn, NYU-Winthrop Hospital, and NYU Langone Orthopedic Center. The Helen L. and Martin S. Kimmel Pavilion was opened in the summer 2018. Rusk Rehabilitation experts were involved in the building's design and development with a vision that includes the latest rehabilitation technology.

The Medical Center is one of the main resources for federally funded medical research in the country. Past and present discoveries and innovations include vaccine development for malaria and hepatitis and major biomedical advances in genetic and metabolic disorders. The Medical Center is active in neuroscience research, including clinical studies to diagnose and treat Alzheimer's and Parkinson's disease, Traumatic Brain Injury, and stroke. Rusk Rehabilitation has four CARF-accredited programs in the areas of adult brain injury, adult inpatient, pediatric specialty, and adult track specialty inpatient.

### **Department of Rehabilitation Medicine**

Rusk Rehabilitation strives for excellence in comprehensive rehabilitation by providing holistic and integrated patient care through the utilization of the interdisciplinary team approach. The Psychology Department and Training Program utilize this holistic approach to patient care. Drawing on his experience treating wounded soldiers during World War II, Dr. Howard A. Rusk, the founder of the Rusk Institute of Rehabilitation Medicine, developed what has become the key philosophy of rehabilitation medicine of treating the entire person. This philosophy identifies the individual as a person with emotional, psychological, social and spiritual needs - not just as

someone with an illness or disability. This enables the clinician to facilitate the maximum level of functioning by the delivery of the highest quality of patient care and treatment.

As an integral part of New York University Langone Medical Center (NYULH), Rusk Rehabilitation has a legacy of training all members of the interdisciplinary rehabilitation team. Rusk Rehabilitation claims several distinctions: It has trained more medical residents in rehabilitation medicine, more physical and occupational therapists, and more rehabilitation psychologists than anywhere else in the world. In fact, graduates of our medical residency program chair 23 rehabilitation departments across the country.

Among its many innovations, Rusk Rehabilitation was the first rehabilitation facility to incorporate both psychologists and social workers, treat children with disabilities, and actively involve family members in the rehabilitation process. Numerous treatment programs have been developed at Rusk Rehabilitation from the results of decades of cutting edge clinical rehabilitation research, including vocational training for individuals with disabilities, treatment for aphasia, the use of prosthetics to replace limbs lost to amputation, vestibular therapy for inner ear disorders, driver education for disabled individuals, treatment of visual neglect and inattention following stroke, and the use of cognitive rehabilitation following brain injuries. These programs are the forerunner of today's rehabilitation medicine model of care.

Rusk Rehabilitation has been meeting the needs of high-need populations from all cultural and ethnic backgrounds by treating children, adolescents and adults with congenital and neurological conditions. Besides Rusk's world-class inpatient rehabilitation services, Rusk specializes in a variety of outpatient rehabilitation services for adults and children including a holistic day treatment program for TBI, Concussion Center, vestibular therapies, cancer treatment, all of which have a psychology presence and opportunities for the doctoral interns.

Interns are fully integrated into interdisciplinary teams involved in each of Rusk's specialized programs/settings. These teams include physiatrists, occupational, physical, speech and language and recreational therapists, vocational counselors, nurses, and social workers who work together to develop individualized treatment programs enabling patients reach maximum potential and level of independence. The overall goal of rehabilitation is the revitalization of the patient's power to live a meaningful life; thus patients and their families are viewed as active participants in the rehabilitation process.

Rusk Rehabilitation's educational efforts have spanned the globe with ongoing international programs. In China, Rusk continues a growing partnership with Qingdao Hospital, where it conducts training visits on the delivery of sports medicine, orthopedic rehabilitation, and neuro-rehabilitation care.

Rusk Rehabilitation has a long history of multidisciplinary collaborative clinical research partnerships. As director of psychology research, Dr. Joseph Rath coordinates psychology's participation in research collaborations across NYU Langone Health and other institutions. Current clinical research projects include the Rusk Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) Model System (Dr. Tamara Bushnik, Principal Investigator), funded by the National Institute on Disability, Independent Living, and Rehabilitation Research (NIDILRR). As one of only 16 centers funded nationwide, Rusk's TBI Model System plays an important role in building the national capacity for high-quality treatment and research serving people with moderate-to-severe TBI, their families, and the communities in which they live. Other ongoing clinical research collaborations include a series of advanced neuroimaging studies for outpatients with concussion or mild TBI (Drs. Yvonne Lui and Sohae Chung, Principal Investigators), funded by the National Institute of

Neurological Disorders and Stroke (NINDS); the development and evaluation of navigation technology designed to expand workplace access for people with blindness and low vision (Dr. J. R. Rizzo, Principal Investigator), funded by the National Science Foundation (NSF); and a randomized controlled trial of computer-assisted cognitive remediation for adults with moderate-to-severe TBI (Dr. Gerald Voelbel, Principal Investigator), conducted in collaboration with NYU Steinhardt's allied health faculty. Psychology's participation in such cutting-edge clinical research is geared toward breaking down barriers to care for people living with disabilities and their families, particularly in diverse communities.

The APA-approved training program is housed within the Department of Rehabilitation Medicine devoted solely to the treatment of individuals with acquired physical and cognitive disabilities. The world's first university-affiliated facility devoted entirely to rehabilitation medicine, Rusk Rehabilitation is among the most renowned center of its kind for the treatment of adults and children with disabilities - home to innovations and advances that have set the standard in rehabilitation care for every stage of life and for every phase of recovery.

The Department of Rehabilitation Medicine has inpatient services for adults with acquired physical and neurological conditions. Individuals with physical disabilities who could benefit from intensive rehabilitation (three hours per day) are candidates for admission to the inpatient services at Rusk Rehabilitation. There are also extensive outpatient rehabilitation services for adults and children, along with specialized programs in Traumatic Brain Injury, Long-Covid, concussion, vestibular and cardiac conditions, and cancer. The Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation Residency Program is one of the largest of its kind in the United States with clinical rotations encompassing a broad range of specialties including electromyography and orthotics, prosthetics, and bionic medicine.

### **Adult Services**

#### **Inpatient Services at NYU Langone Orthopedic Hospital**

The Department of Rehabilitation Medicine's adult inpatient 48-bed rehabilitation services are located in a state-of-the-art facility at Rusk at NYU Langone Orthopedic Hospital (at 17th Street and Second Avenue in the Gramercy Park neighborhood of Manhattan), which has a long history of specializing in neuro-rehabilitation, neurological diseases and adult and pediatric orthopedic surgery and orthopedics. There are specialty designated Neuro-rehabilitation programs for patients with stroke and acquired brain injury (traumatic and non-traumatic), and programmatic services for patients with Spinal Cord Injury and other medically complex conditions, and musculoskeletal disorders. Our psychology team provides psychological and neuropsychological assessment of neurobehavioral and cognitive dysfunction, along with psychosocial and emotional functioning, psychotherapy and neurocognitive interventions to patients, and support and consultation to their families. Psychology staff regularly participates in interdisciplinary patient care meetings. Staff consultation for the interdisciplinary specialist team members of the Rehabilitation and Neuro-rehabilitation staff is also a major focus, and the psychologists function as active members of the rehabilitation team that collaborate in the care and treatment of the patient. The programs are designed to provide a therapeutic and individualized plan of care for each patient.

#### **Inpatient Services at Tisch Hospital, NYULH**

Rusk Rehabilitation's 22-bed Cardiopulmonary Rehabilitation/Medically Complex Program at Tisch Hospital offers a model of acute rehabilitation designed to enhance the well-being of



patients with a wide range of complex cardiac, pulmonary, neurological, chronic illness, liver, lung, kidney, and face transplants, and limb loss. Consultation liaison services also are provided throughout Tisch Hospital to medically and neurologically complex patients to assess whether they would benefit from neuro-rehabilitation interventions. Cardiopulmonary rehabilitation tends to involve some of the most medically complex patients with advanced heart conditions including those with implantable medical devices such as left ventricular assist devices (LVADS) and pacemaker defibrillators.

### **Outpatient Services at Rusk-Ambulatory Care Center of NYULH**

The adult outpatient services are in the Ambulatory Care Center on 38<sup>th</sup> Street, between 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenues (ACC) that houses a variety of outpatient services. The Rusk Adult Outpatient staff provides interdisciplinary treatment to individuals with acquired or congenital brain injury as well as those with complex medical diagnoses requiring rehabilitation. Neuro-rehabilitation services are offered to individuals with acquired brain injury with diagnoses of Traumatic Brain Injury, Long- Covid, Post-concussion Syndrome, stroke, epilepsy, brain tumors, Multiple Sclerosis, and Parkinson's disease. Medical rehabilitation services are provided to persons with various conditions including Spinal Cord Injury, Multiple Sclerosis, vestibular disorders, cardiac conditions, cancer, Lyme disease, Chronic Fatigue Syndrome, lymphoma, chronic pain syndromes, women's health issues, and limb loss.

### **Pediatric Services**

#### **New York University Langone Medical Center**

The pediatric interns will provide comprehensive outpatient neuropsychological and psychological evaluations and treatment with infants, children and adolescents from 3 months to 21 years in various settings at NYU Langone Health including Hassenfeld Children's Cancer Center, NYU-Langone Brooklyn, Langone Orthopedic Hospital, and the Neonatal Follow-Up Clinic. The service helps children and adolescents with learning difficulties, cognitive challenges, attention and memory issues, and emotional concerns, as well as facilitating school reintegration in collaboration with the Department of Education. The most common diagnoses include Traumatic Brain Injury, epilepsy, cardiac conditions, prematurity, and cancer. Treatments include individual therapy and family consultation.

#### **Outpatient Services at NYU Langone Orthopedic Hospital**

Pediatric interns will provide comprehensive outpatient neuropsychological evaluations at Rusk Rehabilitation at NYU Langone Orthopedic Hospital (at 17th Street and Second Avenue in the Gramercy Park neighborhood of Manhattan), which has a long history of specializing in neuro-rehabilitation, neurological diseases and adult and pediatric orthopedic surgery and orthopedics. Neuropsychological evaluations are provided to children and adolescents from 2 years to 21 years with a range of medical, neurologic, neurodevelopmental, and psychiatric concerns. The most common diagnoses include prematurity, cerebral palsy, epilepsy, cancer, cardiac conditions, genetic disorders, traumatic brain injury, acquired brain injury (e.g., stroke, encephalitis, AVM), and neuromuscular disorders. Interns will see a full spectrum of traumatic brain injury ranging from mTBI/concussion to moderate and severe TBI. The pediatric interns will be supervised by pediatric neuropsychologists and will regularly engage in interdisciplinary collaboration with speech-language pathologists, occupational therapists, physical therapists, and medical providers.

## THE CLINICAL INTERNSHIP EXPERIENCE

### Clinical Rotations and Placement

For calendar year 2023-2024 eight interns will be selected. Six of the interns will be on the Adult Track and two interns will be on the Pediatric Track for the entire year. The internship starts on September 1, 2024. The interns receive supervision from a minimum of two supervisors per rotation.

#### **Adult Track**

Three of the adult track interns will spend six months on the Adult Outpatient Service and six months on the Neuro-rehabilitation Inpatient Service at NYU Orthopedic Hospital/ Inpatient Cardiopulmonary/Medically Complex Service.

Interns at the Tisch Hospital Adult Inpatient Cardiopulmonary/Medically Complex Service provide brief neuropsychological evaluations, individual and family psychotherapy and cognitive remediation and staff and family consultation.

On the Adult Inpatient Neuro-rehabilitation Service at NYU Orthopedic Hospital, interns conduct brief neuropsychological evaluations, individual and family psychotherapy and cognitive remediation, as well as co-lead neurocognitive and neurobehavioral groups and provide staff and family consultation.

The 6-month rotation on the Adult Outpatient Service will focus on neuropsychological evaluations, individual psychotherapy, and individual and group cognitive remediation with patients experiencing Post-concussion Syndrome, Traumatic Brain Injury, Long-Covid, stroke, cardiac conditions, cancer, and vestibular disorders. Interns provide integrated approaches to psychotherapy and cognitive remediation, family consultation and co-lead cognitive remediation, stress management, and psychosocial groups.

All of the adult interns will have the opportunity to work at the Steven and Alexandra Cohen Military Family Clinic conducting neuropsychological evaluations and cognitive remediation while they are on the Adult Inpatient Services.

#### **Pediatric Track**

The two pediatric interns will spend the entire year at various outpatient programs through NYU Langone Medical Center providing comprehensive neuropsychological testing, individual psychotherapy, staff and family consultation with infants, children, and adolescents with a variety of diagnoses including prematurity, cancer, epilepsy, Acquired Brain Injury, and a variety of chronic health conditions. Interns conduct comprehensive neuropsychological evaluations with a strong emphasis on treatment recommendations and reintegration back to school.

The pediatric interns will spend 12 months providing neuropsychological evaluations at Rusk Rehabilitation, NYU Langone Orthopedic Hospital in Manhattan (6-months are 2 days/week and

6 months are 3 days/week). There is a 6-month neuropsychology rotation at NYU Langone Brooklyn (1 day/week). Interns will spend twenty percent of their time working in the Pediatric Psychology for Integrated Behavioral Health at Hassenfeld Children's Hospital.

## **The Training Curriculum**

### **Orientation Program**

The interns participate in a comprehensive two-week orientation program at the beginning of the internship year. The orientation is designed to acquaint them with rehabilitation medicine and the role of the psychologist in the rehabilitation setting. The program includes a series of lectures on the various types of disabilities seen in the medical center (e.g., Traumatic Brain Injury, Stroke, epilepsy, and cardiopulmonary conditions), the roles and interventions provided by different healthcare professionals, and core psychological issues presented by individuals with physical and cognitive disabilities. Topics include dealing with trauma and loss, the impact of disability on the family, countertransference issues, principles of cognitive remediation, and stress management interventions.

### **Seminars**

Interns attend four hours of seminars per week for the remainder of the academic year. The seminars reflect of the overall philosophy of the program, to train interns in generic psychology skills that can be utilized in any setting, as well as specific psychology skills related to the practice of neuro-rehabilitation psychology.

#### **Continuous Case/Cultural Sensitivity and Awareness/Professional Development Seminar**

Dr. Robert Gordon directs this seminar, which includes psychotherapy peer supervision, diversity and cultural sensitivity, disability awareness, and professional development. The focus of the seminar is on understanding and utilizing countertransference reactions as well as negotiating the multiple roles of an intern in a rehabilitation setting. The seminar integrates existential-humanistic, interpersonal, and relational psychotherapeutic approaches including presentations on dream interpretation, dealing with issues of hope, trauma, and loss, and meaning in life. There are lectures on psychotherapy with different cultural groups. The seminar also includes presentations by patients with various diagnoses to provide education and increase awareness of the challenges of living with a disability across the continuum of care, as well as discussion of professional issues including starting a private practice, supervision, and ABPP certification.

#### **Neuroanatomy and Adult Brain-Behavior Relationships Seminar**

Dr. David Erlanger, a Board Certified Clinical Neuropsychologist, directs this seminar. Part I focuses on neuroanatomy and brain-behavior relationships, reviewing the organization of the nervous, sensory and motor systems, biochemical activity of the brain, cortical organization, functions and disorders of the various parts of the brain, and a review of psychometric principles and neuropsychological test properties.

Part II of the seminar is devoted to Neuropsychological Testing. There is a review of neuropsychological test data with pediatric and adult disorders commonly seen in a rehabilitation setting, such as Traumatic Brain Injury, vascular disorders, cortical and subcortical dementias, infectious processes, autoimmune diseases, brain tumors, metabolic and endocrine

disorders, Alzheimer's disease, and stroke. Each intern presents one neuropsychological testing case during the year. Interns learn to identify pattern of strengths and weaknesses in test data and develop recommendations based on test findings.

### **Cognitive Remediation Seminar**

Dr. Donna Langenbahn coordinates this seminar. Topics include models of cognitive remediation and intervention strategies to address attention, executive functioning, memory, organization, problem-solving and visual/spatial difficulties. After a review of the evidence based literature on each of the major cognitive domains is discussed, case presentations by outpatient staff will demonstrate the application of cognitive remediation to individuals with acquired brain injury. Interns will present clinical cases during this seminar and participate in cognitive remediation labs.

### **Family Therapy Seminar**

Drs. Leo J. Shea III coordinates this seminar. The interns participate in an extensive series of didactics and experiential exercises that include the history and theory of multiple family therapy approaches, consultation with family, practical case studies, and role-playing. The seminar focuses on treating families in a clinical and a medical/rehabilitation setting. The interns will present clinical cases during the year.

### **Cultural Sensitivity and Diversity Module**

Dr. Felicia Connor leads this training module focusing on topics including cultural considerations in assessment, sociocultural factors and cognitive development, barriers in treatment and health care/coverage, health disparities, health beliefs, and the experience of immigrants and refugees.

### **Psychological Aspects of Clinical Disorders in Rehabilitation Module**

Dr. Karen Langer coordinates this module involving presentations on unawareness, anosognosia, emotional aspects of denial and awareness, psychotherapeutic treatment of denial of disability, and hemi-attention and neglect.

### **Pediatric Consultation & Behavioral Interventions**

Our pediatric neuropsychologists will present a series of lectures on topics related to consultation/liaison interventions including developing and implementing behavioral plans, co-treatment, patient advocacy, supporting family members and incorporating sexuality within the context of disability.

### **Leadership Module**

Dr. Felicia Connor coordinates this year long series of interactive lectures on topics related to the role of leadership in rehabilitation psychology including principles of leadership, application of growth mindset vs. fixed mindset, management of daily habits, intersection of culture and leadership, professional development, mentorship and leadership development skills beyond the internship setting. This series of lectures will include role-plays, trainee led seminars and guest speakers from the community.

## COVID ACCOMODATIONS

Hospital-wide safety precautions will continue to be implemented across services including masks, sanitizing procedures, and limiting the numbers of patients in the waiting area. In response to Covid; patients reserve the option to receive individual and group therapy services through telehealth.

## INTERN SELECTION CRITERIA

If you are interested in pursuing an internship at Rusk Rehabilitation, please visit the APPIC website ([www.appic.org](http://www.appic.org)) to access the **AAPIC Online** via the **Applicant Portal** and submit your electronic AAPIC internship application. A completed application will consist of the following:

The Rusk Clinical Psychology Intern Program follows the standard APPIC Matching Program guidelines. On-line information including graduate school transcript (original not required), curriculum vitae, psychotherapy case presentation, a neuropsychological or psychological evaluation, three letters of reference (two of the letters should be from clinical supervisors) should be **submitted by November 7, 2023**. The psychotherapy case can be a treatment summary.

***Please indicate in your cover letter which track(s) you are interested in (e.g., child or adult).***

### **APPIC Matching Codes**

147512	Adult Track	6 positions
147514	Child Track	2 positions

\*For the matching program, applications can either rank one track or rank order both of the tracks. **Please note this information in your cover letter.**

We will follow the guidelines of the APPIC Matching Program.

Each applicant will receive an email by December 15, 2023 regarding their interview status. All of the interviews for the 2023-2024 will be done remotely through WebEx or Zoom. Each applicant will be interviewed by the Director of Training, a psychologist, and an intern. Applications by candidates coming from Clinical, Counseling, School, Neuropsychology and Health Psychology Programs (Ph.D. and Psy.D) are accepted. Applicants from APA-approved programs are strongly preferred.

Candidates must have completed all academic course work and comprehensive examinations leading to a doctoral degree prior to the start of the internship. We prefer candidates who have completed a significant part of the dissertation prior to internship (e.g., completed data collection). A minimum of 600 hours of supervised practicum experience in psychotherapy and

testing in child or adult settings dealing with psychological, physical, cognitive and health related issues are required prior to start of the internship. It is highly desired, one of the experiences be in a hospital setting with prior rehabilitation. We prefer candidates to have completed at least ten integrated psychological or neuropsychological reports. Knowledge of neuropsychological testing obtained during formal coursework is required for this internship.

Candidates from minority and/or disability backgrounds or who are fluent in another language are strongly encouraged to apply. This internship site agrees to abide by the APPIC policy that no person at the training facility will solicit, accept, or use any ranking-related information from any intern applicant.

## **BENEFITS & HUMAN RESOURCES**

### **Compensation and Benefits**

The annual stipend is \$30,000. The stipend is paid every two weeks.

- Medical Coverage options include the following: two United Healthcare (PPO) options, two Health Maintenance Organizations (HMOs-Empire & HIP) and one Exclusive Provider Organization-Oxford EPO. Medical benefits begin immediately.
- Dental Plan options include the following: Delta Dental PPO, Met Life PPO Plus, Cigna DHMO Plan
- Vacation: 15 days, plus 4 personal days and 5 professional days
- Access to Medical School and University libraries and Medical School lectures
- Reduced fee for New York Sports Club and Verizon Wireless and concerts, shows, and sporting events in New York City

### **Physical Examination**

Interns will be given a physical examination during the summer prior to beginning their internship as part of the Human Resources process as required by public law as a condition of employment.

## **CULTURAL DIVERSITY & STATEMENT OF NONDISCRIMINATION**

### **Cultural and Individual Diversity**

The Program is committed to supporting cultural and individual diversity and does not discriminate on the basis of race/ethnicity, color, religion, sex, marital status, gender identity, gender expression, national origin, ancestry, age, sexual orientation, disability, or veteran status in its recruitment and retention of interns, postdoctoral fellows, faculty and staff. We welcome applicants from various racial, ethnic, sexual orientation, religious and cultural backgrounds, as



well as those with physical disabilities. Its didactic and experiential training are designed to foster an understanding and sensitivity of cultural and individual diversity as they relate to professional psychology. The patient population and staff at the Medical Center are culturally and individually diverse.

### **Statement of Nondiscrimination**

NYULH is committed to ensuring equal opportunity. Its equal opportunity/nondiscrimination policy is designed to ensure that employees, interns, faculty and supervisors understand their rights and responsibilities. The Medical Center's discrimination complaint procedure is designed to ensure that concerns are handled in a timely and responsive manner. Equal Opportunity is a legal right of all persons to be accorded full and equal consideration regardless of protected class with regard to all terms and conditions of employment (e.g., hiring, promotion, layoff, demotion, termination, access to training, educational programs and financial aid).

## **THE TRAINING PROGRAM FACULTY**

The Training Program Faculty represents a broad diversity of clinical training and expertise to the Department, which is reflective of their respective doctoral training in clinical, counseling, child clinical/school, and neuropsychology. Faculty members are involved in direct clinical practice, clinical supervision of interns and presentations within the training program, as well as within the larger professional community. In addition, the faculty serves on a variety of departmental and hospital wide committees, publish, conduct research, and assume active leadership in varied professional organizations (e.g., Division 22 of APA, American Congress of Rehabilitation Medicine, etc.). Thus, the faculty of the training program is well positioned to train and serve as role models for future psychologists in the field.

### **Directors of Training**

**Felicia B. Connor, Psy.D., (ABPP)** is the Director of Intern Training and a Supervisor on the Adult Outpatient Service (Rehabilitation Psychology) in Clinical Psychology. She is Board Certified in Rehabilitation Psychology and a member of cohort 14 for Leadership Institute for Women in Psychology (LIWP) for APA. She is active in the pediatric and adult task force group for American Congress of Rehabilitation Medicine (ACRM) and Division of Rehabilitation Psychologist. She supervises interns in the area of cognitive remediation and psychotherapy. She co-leads several groups with interns including group cognitive remediation, stress management and psychosocial skills for Multiple Sclerosis. Dr. Connor's special interests include Leadership development, Traumatic Brain Injury, Multiple Sclerosis, cognitive remediation, neuropsychological testing, concussion across the lifespan, cognitive behavioral therapy in TBI and Multiple Sclerosis and adjustment, interpersonal therapy, and individual and family therapy. She has published in the areas of cognitive remediation in children and presented in the areas of COVID-19 and concussion, multicultural barriers to rehabilitation, special considerations in the evaluation of individuals from diverse backgrounds, tele-health in rehabilitation, and leadership development. She presents to the interns on topics related to multicultural sensitivity, leadership development, mentorship skills and tele-health.

**Joseph Ricker, Ph.D., ABPP** (Clinical Neuropsychology & Rehabilitation Psychology), is the Director of Psychology at Rusk Rehabilitation at NYU Langone Health and Professor of Rehabilitation at NYU Grossman School of Medicine. Prior to coming to NYU, Dr. Ricker was the Director of Psychology and a Vice Chair of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation at the

University of Pittsburgh Medical Center from 2003 until 2013. Dr. Ricker has also previously worked at Kessler Rehabilitation (1999-2003) and the Rehabilitation Institute of Michigan (1993-1999). He earned a Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology from Wayne State University. He has been a member of the Board of Directors of the American Academy of Clinical Neuropsychology, the American Board of Clinical Neuropsychology and the American Board of Rehabilitation Psychology. Throughout his career, Dr. Ricker has provided inpatient neuropsychological and psychological evaluation and treatment, as well as outpatient clinical neuropsychological and psychological evaluations with adults that have experienced neurological injury and neuro-medical conditions. His program of research deals with the correlates and outcomes of cognitive impairment, recovery, and rehabilitation following brain injury (TBI), and other neurological disorders (e.g., multiple sclerosis). His current research projects include the examination of altered cerebral blood flow, in conjunction with functional connectivity studies, as they relate to impaired episodic and working memory after brain injury. Research programs include the use of technologies such as functional MRI (fMRI), positron emission tomography (PET), diffusion tensor imaging (DTI), and functional near infrared spectroscopy (FNIRS). Over the past 17 years, he has been the Principal Investigator of four NIH-funded grants that have examined human brain injury, including two NIH R01-funded projects that use fMRI and fMRI+DTI to study cognitive and functional aspects of TBI. Dr. Ricker is the author of 74 peer-reviewed scientific articles, 22 book chapters, and editor or co-editor of four books. He has been a member of the editorial boards of five scientific journals, including the *Journal of Head Trauma Rehabilitation*, *Journal of Clinical and Experimental Neuropsychology*, *The Clinical Neuropsychologist*, *Rehabilitation Psychology*, and *Archives of Clinical Neuropsychology* (for which he currently serves as an Associate Editor). He has been a grant reviewer for multiple federal agencies and other research foundations, including the National Institutes of Health, the Department of Veteran Affairs, the Department of Defense, the National Multiple Sclerosis Society, and the Ontario Neurotrauma Foundation.

### **Consultant to the Intern Training Program**

**Robert M. Gordon, Psy.D.** in Child Clinical/School Psychology, Yeshiva University, Ferkauf Graduate School of Psychology. Dr. Gordon is a consultant to the intern training program. He was the Director of the Intern Training Program from 1995-2021 and the Co-Director from 1987-1994. He received a certificate in Psychoanalysis and Psychotherapy, Adelphi University. Dr. Gordon was the Co-Director of Intern Training from 1987-1994 and Director of Intern Training from 1995-2021. He is on the editorial board of the *Journal of Infant, Child, and Adolescent Psychotherapy*. His special interests include ethics, forensic testing, supervision, and integration of neuropsychology, existential, rehabilitation, and relational models. He has published in the areas of existential and relational approaches during COVID-19 with patients with preexisting medical conditions, supervision in hospital settings, psychotherapy with children and adolescents with physical disabilities, pain management, dream interpretation, parental coping strategies of physically disabled and premature children, relational psychoanalysis, and the use of projective tests in neuropsychological testing. Dr. Gordon coordinates the Continuous Case, Cultural Sensitivity and Disability Awareness and Professional Development Seminar.

**Joseph F. Rath, Ph.D.** in Counseling Psychology, Fordham University. He is Director of the Postdoctoral Fellowship Training Program in Rehabilitation Research and Associate Director for Psychology Research. Dr. Rath is past president of Division 22 (Rehabilitation Psychology) and Chair of the American Psychological Association's (APA) Committee on Disability Issues in Psychology, Consulting Editor for the journal *Rehabilitation Psychology*, and recipient of the Harold Yuker Award for Research Excellence from APA's Division of Rehabilitation Psychology.

He has over a decade of research experience on federally funded projects and private foundation grants and has served on scientific peer-review panels for the Department of Defense and the National Institute on Disability, Independent Living, and Rehabilitation Research. He is Project Director or Co-Investigator on several research projects funded through grants from NIDRR, NIH, and Department of Defense. Dr. Rath holds a certificate in rational-emotional therapy and his major interests include integrating cognitive and emotional interventions in cognitive rehabilitation, CBT for individuals coping with chronic illness or disability, neural network changes following brain injury, training of psychologists with disabilities, and sociocultural diversity issues in rehabilitation psychology. He has published peer-reviewed journal articles, book chapters, and abstracts, as well as presented at national and international conferences in the areas of acquired brain injury, problem solving, emotional self-regulation, and rehabilitation psychology. He presents to the interns in the area of evidence based problem solving approaches to cognitive rehabilitation.

### **Senior Faculty**

**Catherine Atkins, Ph.D.** in Clinical Psychology from Fairleigh Dickinson University. Supervisor, Cardiac/Complex Medical Conditions Inpatient Service. Dr. Atkins supervises interns in the area of assessment, psychotherapy and cognitive remediation. Her special interests include neuropsychological assessment and intervention, disorders of consciousness, Traumatic Brain Injury, adjustment disorders following a variety of medical diagnoses, positive and health psychology, and existential, interpersonal and cognitive/behavioral psychotherapy. She presents to the interns in the area of inpatient rehabilitation, psychology assessment, diagnosis, and documentation.

**David Biderman, Ph.D.** in Clinical Health Psychology, Yeshiva University, Ferkauf Graduate School of Psychology. Program Manager, Adult Outpatient Psychology Service, Brain Injury Day Treatment Program. Dr. Biderman supervises interns in the areas of individual and group cognitive remediation and psychotherapy. His special interests include neuropsychological and functional assessment and intensive holistic neuropsychological rehabilitation. He has published in the areas of Traumatic Brain Injury and ego-identity and HIV.

**Barbara Cicero, Ph.D.** in Neuropsychology, City University of New York. Program Manager, Adult Outpatient Service. Dr. Cicero's special interests include neuropsychological testing, Multiple Sclerosis, cognitive remediation, and working with military veterans and their families.

**Ilana Grunwald, Ph.D.** in Neuropsychology, City University of New York. Senior Psychologist, Adult Outpatient Service. Dr. Grunwald's coordinates neuropsychological testing on the Adult Outpatient Service and supervises interns in testing. Her special interests include neuropsychological assessment and working with patients with voice disorders. She has published in the areas of Traumatic Brain Injury, emotions, and animal assisted psychotherapy. She lectures to the interns the area of neuropsychological testing in a rehabilitation setting.

**Donna Langenbahn, Ph.D.** in Clinical Psychology, University of Kentucky. Dr. Langenbahn is Coordinator of the Adult Outpatient Service. Her interests include assessment, cognitive remediation, psychotherapy with brain injured patients, and rehabilitation of Spanish-speaking individuals. Dr. Langenbahn coordinates the Cognitive Remediation Seminar. She has published in the areas of evidence based cognitive remediation and problem solving in acquired brain injury. She is a member of the American Congress of Rehabilitation Medicine's Communication Committee, Publication Committee and Brain Injury's Interdisciplinary Special Interest Group, and the New York Neuropsychology Group's Bilingual Task Force.

**Faculty Supervisors**, provide supervision and/or presentations in ongoing seminar

**Elizabeth Bistrong, Ph.D.** in Clinical Psychology at University of Virginia. She is a Staff Psychologist in the Department of Rehabilitation Medicine and Clinical Assistant Professor at NYU School of Medicine. Dr. Bistrong completed a postdoctoral fellowship in pediatric neuropsychology at Henry Ford Health System. She supervises pediatric interns in the outpatient pediatric neuropsychology rotation at NYU Langone Health Orthopedic Hospital. Areas of clinical interest include pediatric genetic disorders, congenital heart defect, and congenital and acquired brain injury.

**Shinakee Gumber, Ph.D., (ABPP-RP)** in Clinical Psychology, Bowling Green State University. Postdoctoral Fellowship at Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai Medical Center. Senior Psychologist, Brain Injury Day Treatment Program. She supervises interns in individual and group cognitive remediation. Dr. Gumber has published in the areas of Traumatic Brain Injury and fatigue and complementary and alternative treatments in TBI. She is a member of the cultural competency committee. She presents to the interns on sexuality with patients with TBI and ABPP certification in rehabilitation psychology.

**Alaina B. Hammond, Psy.D. (ABPP-RP)** in Clinical Psychology, George Washington University. Staff Psychologist, Adult Inpatient Service, Brain Injury Rehabilitation Program. Dr. Hammond completed a two-year fellowship in rehabilitation psychology at the Hospital for Special Care in Connecticut. She supervises interns in acute rehabilitation services at NYU Langone Health Orthopedic Hospital and has previously supervised students in rehabilitation intervention and neuropsychological assessment. Her clinical and research interests include adjustment to medical illness, stroke, acquired brain injury and the impact of stress on health behaviors.

**Kenneth Hartline, Psy.D. (ABPP-CN)** in Clinical Psychology at Pepperdine University Graduate School of Education and Psychology. He is Supervisor of Adult and Pediatric Psychology, NYU Langone Orthopedic Hospital. Dr. Hartline completed his internship at Rusk Rehabilitation at NYU Langone and his neuropsychology fellowship at Children's Hospital Los Angeles. Prior to returning to NYU, he was on faculty at University of Southern California, Keck School of Medicine. He was the lead neuropsychologist at the neurological institute at Children's Hospital Los Angeles. Areas of clinical interest include pediatric epilepsy, concussion, and TBI as well as adult inpatient neuro-rehabilitation.

**Yuen Shan Christine Lee, Ph.D. (ABPP-RP)** in Clinical Psychology (Health Emphasis), Yeshiva University, Ferkauf Graduate School of Psychology. Senior Psychologist, Adult Outpatient Service. Dr. Lee supervises interns in neuropsychological testing and integrative approaches to cognitive remediation and psychotherapy. Her special interests include concussion, Traumatic Brain Injury, cross-cultural issues related to neuropsychological assessments and neurorehabilitation interventions, and positive psychology. She presents to the interns in the area of cross-cultural issues in rehabilitation and neuropsychology. She has written in the areas of Traumatic Brain Injury, concussion, headache, and cardiovascular health. She is a member of the Intern Training and Education and Cultural Competency Committees.

**Cara Levitch, Ph.D.** in Clinical Psychology with specialization in Neuropsychology from Fordham University. She is a Staff Psychologist in the Department of Rehabilitation Medicine and Clinical Assistant Professor at NYU School of Medicine. Dr. Levitch completed her

fellowship in pediatric neuropsychology from Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center. She supervises pediatric interns in the outpatient pediatric neuropsychology rotation at NYU Langone Health Orthopedic Hospital. She has published multiple articles on pediatric cancer, sports-related head injury, and treatment-resistant depression.

**Gianna Locascio, Ph.D. (ABPP-CN, RP)** in School Psychology with Specialization in Neuropsychology, Rutgers Graduate School of Professional Psychology (GSAPP), Director of Pediatric Neuropsychology at NYU Langone-Brooklyn and Clinical Associate Professor of Neurology and Child/Adolescent Psychiatry at NYU School of Medicine. She is Board Certified in Clinical Neuropsychology, the Subspecialty of Pediatric Neuropsychology, and Rehabilitation Psychology. She is also a Certified School Psychologist. Dr. Locascio offers interns a joint minor training rotation in clinical evaluations of children and adolescents with a wide range of neurological and rehabilitation disorders. She has published multiple articles and a book on pediatric cognitive rehabilitation.

**Becky Lois, Ph.D.** serves as the Director of Pediatric Psychology for Integrated Behavioral Health at Hassenfeld Children's Hospital, NYU Langone Health, where she leads a multi-disciplinary team in building sustainable programs for youth and families coping with chronic medical conditions. She oversees the psychosocial support services for all of HCH's ambulatory subspecialty clinics, including the divisions of hematology/oncology, pulmonology, cardiology, adolescent medicine, endocrinology, nephrology, infectious disease, gastroenterology, allergy, and genetics. She is also Clinical Associate Professor of Child & Adolescent Psychiatry at NYU and provides teaching and supervision to doctoral-level psychology students and medical residents in training including the pediatric interns at Rusk.

**William Lu, Psy.D.** in Clinical Psychology and Neuropsychology, Yeshiva University, Ferkau Graduate School of Psychology. Senior Psychologist, Adult Outpatient Services. His special interests include Traumatic Brain Injury, sleep and memory processing, mindfulness, neuropsychological testing, and cognitive remediation. Dr. Lu has published in the areas of Traumatic Brain Injury and sleep and memory processing. He is a member of the Cultural Competency Committee.

**David McCabe, Ph.D.** in Clinical Psychology-Neuropsychology, the City University of New York. Senior Psychologist, Adult Outpatient Service. Dr. McCabe completed a two-year APPCN-certified clinical neuropsychology fellowship at Henry Ford Health System in Detroit, Michigan. He supervises interns in individual and group-format cognitive remediation. His clinical and research interests include Traumatic Brain Injury, stroke, and neurological disease. Dr. McCabe also has experience providing emotional support and psychoeducation to family members of individuals who have aphasia. He is a member of the Intern Training and Education Committee.

**Ferzeen K. Patel, Psy.D. (ABPP-RP)** is a Clinical Psychologist from Nova Southeastern University. Staff Psychologist, Adult Inpatient Services, Brain Injury Rehabilitation Program. Dr. Patel completed a one-year fellowship in Neuro-Rehabilitation from the University of Kansas Medical Center. She supervises interns in acute inpatient rehabilitation psychology services at NYU Langone Health Orthopedic Hospital and has previously supervised students in outpatient neurorehabilitation counseling and neuropsychological assessment. Her clinical and research interests include Traumatic Brain Injury, Disorders of Consciousness, stroke, and memory disorders. Dr. Patel has served on the board for Division 22 as Early Career Professionals Representative and is the APA program chair for 2021 and 2022.



**Leo J. Shea III, Ph.D.** in Clinical Psychology, Carlos Albizu University. Senior Psychologist, Adult Outpatient Service. His special interests include Lyme disease, Traumatic Brain Injury, and forensic testing. Dr. Shea lectures to the interns in the areas of family therapy, forensic testing, and Lyme disease.

**Lucia Smith-Wexler, Ph.D.** in Clinical Psychology (Health Emphasis), Yeshiva University, Ferkauf Graduate School of Psychology. Senior Psychologist, Adult Outpatient Service. Dr. Smith-Wexler's clinical work focuses on providing culturally relevant and sensitive psychological services to Latino and Spanish-speaking patients. She also supervises bilingual Spanish-speaking interns in the provision of rehabilitation psychology and neuropsychological testing to Latinos. Her special interests include ethnic minority issues in rehabilitation, culturally competent neuropsychological test administration, and health psychology. She has written about ethnic minority rehabilitation disparities and spoken about her clinical experiences working with Latino patients at the national conference level. She lectures to the interns on cross-cultural issues in rehabilitation and neuropsychology. Dr. Smith-Wexler is a member of the Intern Training and Education and Cultural Competency Committees.

**Amanda Spray, Ph.D.** in Clinical Psychology (Health Emphasis), Yeshiva University, Ferkauf Graduate School of Psychology. Training Director, The Steven and Alexandra Cohen Military Family Clinic at NYU Langone Health (NYULH). She completed her Predoctoral Internship in General Psychology and Postdoctoral Fellowship in Clinical Health Psychology and Primary Care Based Mental Health at the VA NY Harbor Healthcare System, Manhattan Campus. Dr. Spray specializes in working with veterans and their families and providing treatment to individuals with comorbid psychological and physical illness. She supervises interns at the Steven and Alexandra Cohen Military Family Clinic at NYULH.

**Linnea Vaurio, Ph.D.** in Clinical Psychology (Neuropsychology emphasis), SDSU/UCSD Joint Doctoral Program. She completed her internship at UCLA, and post-doctoral fellowship in at the NYU Comprehensive Epilepsy Center, both with an emphasis in neuropsychology. She is a clinical neuropsychologist, working at the Steven A Cohen Military Family Clinic at NYU. Dr. Vaurio specializes in evaluating and providing remediation for cognitive deficits as a result of Traumatic Brain Injury and other neurological and developmental factors in former military personnel. She supervises interns in the area of neuropsychological testing with veterans.

**Joanna Wolfson, Ph.D.** in Clinical Psychology, Fairleigh Dickinson. Senior Psychologist, Adult Outpatient Service. Dr. Wolfson completed her internship at Rusk Rehabilitation and postdoctoral fellowship at the Manhattan VA in health psychology/primary care. Dr. Wolfson supervises interns in the areas of health psychology, integrating cognitive remediation and psychotherapy, and interdisciplinary collaboration. Her special interests include behavioral health interventions, and CBT for mood/anxiety difficulties related to TBI, vestibular conditions, and other medical illness. She presents to the interns on integrated healthcare, health anxiety, and motivational interviewing. She is a member of the Intern Training and Education and Cultural Competency Committees.

**Michele Zaccario, Ph.D.** in Clinical Psychology, Fairleigh Dickinson University. She is an Associate Professor of Psychology at Pace University in New York City where she teaches in both the doctoral and undergraduate programs, and currently serves as the Co-Director of Undergraduate Psychology - NYC campus. She is also a consultant practitioner and researcher within the Pediatric Department of New York University's Langone Medical Center (NYULMC) – Division of Neonatology working with high risk infants and young children. Dr. Zaccario completed both a Predoctoral Internship and Postdoctoral Fellowship in Clinical Pediatric



Psychology and Neuropsychology at Rusk Rehabilitation-NYULMC. Her areas of clinical specialty and research include the neuro-developmental follow up of premature and developmentally at-risk infants, and the neuropsychological assessment of neurologically impaired and medically fragile children.

**Aliza Jacob, Ph.D.** in Clinical Psychology with emphasis in Neuropsychology, Graduate Center of the City University of New York at Queens College. Dr. Jacob completed a two-year post-doctoral fellowship in clinical neuropsychology at North Shore University Hospital, Northwell Health within the Department of Neurology. Dr. Jacob's clinical work focuses on treatment and assessment of individuals with acquired brain injury, stroke, and neurologic conditions with a special interest in neurorehabilitation in epilepsy. She supervises interns in neuropsychological assessment and lectures on professional development in neuropsychology.

**William Tsang, Psy.D.** in Clinical Psychology, William Paterson University. Psychologist, Adult Outpatient Service. Dr. Tsang completed a two-year APPCN-certified clinical lifespan neuropsychology fellowship at Stony Brook University Hospital in Long Island, NY. Dr. Tsang is an affiliated provider for the NYULH Post-COVID Care Program. He conducts neuropsychological assessments and applies knowledge of brain-behavior relationships throughout evidence-based therapies. He supervises interns in the Long COVID treatment and support group. His broader clinical and research interests include ADHD, autoimmune neurologic conditions, Long COVID, memory disorders, PTSD, sleep disorders, and Traumatic Brain Injury.

**Ellen Daniels-Zide, Ed.D.** in Counseling Psychology, Harvard University. Program Manager, Brain Injury Day Treatment Program. Her special interests include holistic neuropsychological rehabilitation, and group and family interventions following acquired brain injury. Dr. Daniels-Zide has published in the areas of holistic neuropsychological rehabilitation, ego identity, and adaptation and treatment outcomes following acquired brain injury.

**Amanda Parker, Ph.D.** in Clinical Psychology (Health Emphasis), Yeshiva University, Ferkauf Graduate School of Psychology. Psychologist, Adult Outpatient Service. Dr. Parker completed her fellowship at the VA NY Harbor Healthcare System with an emphasis in geriatric and health psychology. She supervises interns in individual therapy and has extensive experience with working with psychology trainees. Dr. Parker's clinical work focuses on providing support to individuals and families coping with medical changes as a result of an oncology, neurological, covid-related, or cardiac condition. She also has a special interest and lectures interns on discussing disability and rehabilitation as part of cultural competence and diversity factors within the lifecycle. As such, she consults and conducts research on the topics of perceived injustice and enhancing quality of life for individuals with chronic illnesses.

### **Adjunct Faculty/Other Contributors**

**David Erlanger, Ph.D. (ABPP-CN)** in Counseling Psychology, Columbia University. Adjunct Clinical Instructor. Dr. Erlanger serves as Coordinator of the Neuroanatomy and Adult Brain-Behavior Relationship Seminar. His special interests include neuropsychology, forensic testing, assessment of dementia, and computerized neuropsychological assessment. Dr. Erlanger has published in the areas of the neuropsychology of endocrine disorders, the development and validation of a web-based neuropsychological test protocol for sports-related return-to-play decision making, and gender differences in outcome from sports-related concussion.

**Karen Langer, Ph.D.** in Clinical and Experimental Psychology, Yeshiva University, Ferkauf Graduate School of Psychology. Dr. Langer is the former Program Manager for Psychology Services at Rusk Rehabilitation at NYU Orthopedic Hospital. Her interests include supervision and interdisciplinary team consultation. Dr. Langer co-edited a textbook on psychotherapeutic interventions for adults with brain injury or stroke, was a Guest Editor for the *American Journal of Psychotherapy* on disability, and has published on memory, anosognosia, depression and denial, and topics in history of neuroscience. She coordinates the Psychological Aspects of Clinical Disorders in Rehabilitation Module.

**Philip J. Uy, Ph.D. (ABN, ABPP-RP)** in Clinical Psychology from Fairleigh Dickinson University. Postdoctoral fellowship at the VA New York Harbor Healthcare System. Dr. Uy is the former Senior Psychologist, Medically Complex/Cardiopulmonary (HCC) and neuro-rehabilitation (Langone Orthopedic Hospital) Inpatient Acute Rehabilitation and Adult Outpatient Service. Dr. Uy lectures to interns in the areas of neuropsychology and rehabilitation psychology treatment including cognitive rehabilitation and professional practices. His clinical and research interests include Traumatic Brain Injury, stroke, memory disorders, and neurobehavioral changes secondary to medical/neurological conditions. In addition to rehabilitation neuropsychology, Dr. Uy also has expertise in substance use disorders. He is a board member and the Practice Sample Coordinator for the American Board of Rehabilitation Psychology (ABRP). Dr. Uy is the Co-Chair of APA Division 22 Education & Training Committee. He is a formal member of the Intern Training and Education Committee.

**Judy Creighton, Ph.D.** in Clinical Psychology with emphasis in Neuropsychology, Queens College and The Graduate Center of City University of New York. Dr. Creighton is a former Senior Psychologist, Adult Outpatient Services at Rusk Rehabilitation. Her special interests include neuropsychological assessment and treatment, concussion, Traumatic Brain Injury, and memory disorders. Dr. Creighton supervises interns in the areas of neuropsychological testing and individual cognitive remediation. She has co-led several groups with interns including stress management, group cognitive remediation, and psychosocial skills. She has presented to the interns on topics pertaining to neuropsychological assessment (e.g., memory testing, natural variability of performance on neuropsychological testing), Acceptance and Commitment Therapy (ACT), and Time Pressure Management.

**William J. Waked, Ph.D.** in Clinical Psychology, St. John's University. His interests include psychological assessment, neurocognitive screening, psychological counseling and stress management training for individuals with a variety of cardiopulmonary disorders including those undergoing organ transplantation and those who have experienced toxic-metabolic encephalopathy. He previously headed the Presentation Committee of the Rusk Adult Outpatient Service, which aims to bring in a diversity of psychologists and neuropsychologists for presentations addressing a variety of clinical and research topics pertinent to the fields of rehabilitation psychology, neuropsychology, neuroscience, and physical medicine, and also assists with intern presentations that occur over the course of the academic year. Dr. Waked has presented to interns on assessment and clinical interventions in patients with cardiopulmonary disease with co-morbid neuropsychiatric conditions including toxic encephalopathy.

### **Special Intern Advisory Board**

**Frima Christopher, Ph.D.** in Counseling Psychology, New York University. She is a former Director of Psychology at Coler-Goldwater Hospital. Dr. Christopher is a member of the Intern

Advisory Board and lecturers to the interns on professional issues related to private practice and group psychotherapy.

**Mel Schneiderman, Ph.D.** in Clinical Psychology, Hofstra University. Director of Psychology, New York Foundling Hospital. Dr. Schneiderman's special interests include the assessment and treatment of child abuse.

**Abraham Givner, Ph.D.** in Child Clinical/School Psychology, Yeshiva University, Ferkauf Graduate School of Psychology. He is the former Director of the Combined Clinical Child/School Psychology Program, Yeshiva University, Ferkauf Graduate School of Psychology. Dr. Givner's special interests include cognitive-behavioral therapy and models of training.

### Initial Post-Internship Positions

	2018-2022	
Total # of interns who were in the 5 cohorts	40	
Total # of interns who did not seek employment because they returned to their doctoral program/are completing doctoral degree	0	
	PD	EP
Community mental health center	0	0
Federally qualified health center	0	0
Independent primary care facility/clinic	0	0
University counseling center	0	0
Veterans Affairs medical center	0	0
Military health center	1	0
Academic health center	0	1
Other medical center or hospital	36	0
Psychiatric hospital	0	0
Academic university/department	0	0
Community college or other teaching setting	0	0
Independent research institution	0	0

Correctional facility	0	0
School district/system	0	0
Independent practice setting	2	0
Not currently employed	0	0
Changed to another field	0	0
Other	0	0

Note: "PD" = Post-doctoral residency position; "EP" = Employed Position.

### POST-INTERNSHIP POSITIONS, ADMISSIONS CRITERIA, FINANCIAL AND OTHER BENEFITS

Graduates of our program obtain positions in clinical service, research, and teaching once they have completed their overall training in health service psychology. As can be seen in the following table, our interns typically transition to postdoctoral fellowships after completing the internship. 92% of the interns during the past three years have successfully completed their dissertation and graduation requirements prior to completion of the internship.

### Internship Program

#### **Basic Requirements:**

#### **Intern selection and practicum and academic preparation requirements:**

Candidates must have completed all academic course work and comprehensive examinations leading to a doctoral degree prior to the start of the internship. We prefer candidates who have completed a significant part of the dissertation prior to internship (e.g., completed data collection). A minimum of 600 hours of supervised practicum experience in child or adult settings dealing with psychological, physical, cognitive and health related issues are required prior to start of the internship. One of the experiences should be in a hospital setting with prior rehabilitation experiences in the practica highly desired. We prefer candidates to have completed at least ten integrated psychological or neuropsychological reports. Knowledge of neuropsychological testing obtained during formal coursework is required for this internship.

Candidates from minority and/or disability backgrounds or who are fluent in another language are strongly encouraged to apply. This internship site agrees to abide by the APPIC policy that no person at the training facility will solicit, accept, or use any ranking-related information from any intern applicant.

**Does the program require that applicants have received a minimum number of hours of the following at time of application? If Yes, indicate how many:**

Total Direct Contact Intervention Hours      Yes      500 Hours  
 Total Direct Contact Assessment Hours      Yes.      100 Hours

**Describe any other required minimum criteria used to screen applicants:**

10 integrated reports

**Other Benefits**

- Medical Coverage options include the following: two United Healthcare (PPO) options, two Health Maintenance Organizations (HMOs-Empire & HIP) and one Exclusive Provider Organization-Oxford EPO. Medical benefits begin immediately.
- Dental Plan options include the following: Delta Dental PPO, Met Life PPO Plus, Cigna DHMO Plan
- Access to Medical School and University libraries and Medical School lectures
- Reduced fee for New York Sports Club and Verizon Wireless and concerts, shows, and sporting events in New York City

<b>Financial and Other Benefit Support for Upcoming Training Year*</b>	
Annual Stipend/Salary for Full-time Interns	<b>30000</b>
Annual Stipend/Salary for Half-time Interns	<b>N/A</b>
Program provides access to medical insurance for intern?	<b>Yes</b>
<b>If access to medical insurance is provided:</b>	
Trainee contribution to cost required?	<b>Yes</b>
Coverage of family member(s) available?	<b>Yes</b>
Coverage of legally married partner available?	<b>Yes</b>
Coverage of domestic partner available?	<b>Yes</b>
Hours of Annual Paid Personal Time Off (PTO and/or Vacation)	<b>19 days</b>
Hours of Annual Paid Sick Leave	<b>12 days</b>
In the event of medical conditions and/or family needs that require extended leave, does the program allow reasonable unpaid leave to interns/residents in excess of personal time off and sick leave?	<b>Yes</b>

## ACCREDITATION STATUS

For information pertaining to our program's APA accreditation status, please contact:

The Commission on Accreditation  
American Psychological Association  
750 First Street, NE  
Washington, D.C. 20002-4242  
(202) 336-5979

The Rusk Rehabilitation Clinical Psychology Internship has been accredited since 1955 and is the second oldest accredited internship program in the country and is currently accredited for seven years.

## POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

Policies and procedures for the training program are available at the request of an intern applicant. Key policies and procedures are reviewed with interns during orientation. The interns receive a copy of the Policies and Procedures Manual during the Orientation Program.