



2027 – 2029

Fellowship in Clinical Neuropsychology ***at Shepherd Center***

(APPCN Program Code: 9942)



Shepherd Center

2020 Peachtree Road, NW
Atlanta, GA 30309-1465
404-352-2020 shepherd.org

Dear Prospective Applicant:

We are excited to invite you to apply to Shepherd Center's postdoctoral neuropsychology fellowship training program. Our program is a member of the Association of Postdoctoral Programs in Clinical Psychology (APPCN). Our training program follows the competencies outlined in the Houston Conference Guidelines and will incorporate the Minnesota Conference Guidelines into our training.

We are committed to competency-based training values in all aspects of our program, including diversity, equity, and inclusivity. Our program provides the preparation, support, and mentorship needed to attain board certification by the American Board of Professional Psychology in Clinical Neuropsychology. Our large Psychology department and faculty are passionate about training our future colleagues! In fact, five of our faculty members are graduates of our fellowship program, including our Assistant Training Director, Dr. Vanessa Watorek (2019-2021 cohort).

Shepherd Center is one of the premier rehabilitation facilities in the United States, and training here is collaborative. Additionally, the hospital is growing! We are currently amidst a comprehensive campaign, "Pursuing Possible," to expand the footprint, facilities, and services available to our patients and families.

We are recruiting for one position for the 2026—2028 cohort of the neuropsychology fellowship. This fellow will join two senior neuropsychology fellows and one senior rehabilitation psychology fellow, as well our hospital's first chaplaincy fellow. Our fellows gain experience working with diverse neurological populations, including traumatic brain injury, cerebrovascular disease (stroke, aneurysm, arteriovenous malformation), neoplasm, anoxia, infectious diseases, and multiple sclerosis. Fellows gain experience in both rehabilitation psychology intervention and neuropsychological/neurobehavioral assessment within our interdisciplinary system. We support learning with a variety of structured didactic training activities.

Fellows have the opportunity to complete minor rotations within Shepherd Center's numerous programs or at off-site rotations. We follow a scientist-practitioner model of training and provide wide-ranging opportunities for fellows to be involved in research. After you have read about our training program and explored the provided hyperlinks, please feel free to contact us if you have further questions. We look forward to receiving your application.

Sincerely,



Michelle Jackson, Ph.D., ABPP-CN
Training Director
404-367-1310
Michelle.Jackson@shepherd.org



Vanessa Watorek, Psy.D.
Assistant Training Director
404-350-7553
Vanessa.Watorek@shepherd.org



"My favorite part about working at Shepherd Center is the opportunity and support for growth. I completed my fellowship here, as did many of our staff. I was always supported in my individual career interests, inside and outside of Shepherd Center, and that helped me grow as a professional."

***- Laurie N. Baker, Ph.D., ABPP, Director of Psychology
(Clinical Neuropsychology Postdoctoral Fellow, 2009-2011)***

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“It is such a privilege to support families through their toughest times – it feels like work that really matters. Plus, our leaders know it can be hard, so they encourage the self-care and boundaries that make this work sustainable.”

- Abby Culin, LMFT, Family Therapist – Acquired Brain Injury Unit

Mission

Shepherd Center's clinical neuropsychology fellowship is a member of the Association of Postdoctoral Programs in Clinical Neuropsychology (APPCN) and provides postdoctoral training that conforms to the Houston Conference Guidelines on Specialty Education and Training in Clinical Neuropsychology (Hannay, Bieliauskas, Crosson, Hammeke, Hamsher, & Koffler, 1998), as well as the new Minnesota Conference Guidelines (Stringer et al., 2025).

As an APPCN program we provide training that supports a standardized competency curriculum, streamlined APPCN board certification process, high quality assurance, and a fair and transparent placement process through the National Matching Service. Our fellows are also trained in general psychology competencies to prepare for licensure.

About Shepherd Center

Shepherd Center, located in Atlanta, Georgia, is a private, not-for-profit hospital specializing in medical treatment, research, and rehabilitation for people with spinal cord injury, brain injury, multiple sclerosis, spine, chronic pain, and other neurological conditions. Shepherd Center's mission is to help people with a temporary or permanent disability caused by injury or disease, rebuild their lives with hope, independence, and dignity, advocating for their full inclusion in all aspects of community life while promoting safety and injury prevention.

Founded in 1975, Shepherd Center is consistently ranked by *U.S. News* to be among the top rehabilitation hospitals in the nation. In its more than four decades, Shepherd Center has grown from a six-bed rehabilitation unit to a world-renowned, 152-bed hospital that treats more than 740 inpatients, nearly 280-day program patients, and more than 7,100 outpatients each year in more than 46,000 visits. For the 2024 fiscal year, we served 965 patients through our inpatient programs. With the hospital extension, we will increase our inpatient capacity to 175 beds.

Our patient population includes adolescents, adults, and older adults. Shepherd Center is accredited by both The Joint Commission and the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation (CARF). Shepherd Center is a TBI Model Systems site and is also the largest of 14 SCI Model Systems of Care. Patients travel from across the nation – and even the globe – to Shepherd Center for its innovative brand of neurorehabilitation.

▶▶▶▶ ***Learn more at shepherd.org/about.***

Our Training Program

We will have one or two fellowship openings available for the 2025 - 2027 training year. Each fellow's specific interests and training goals are considered while structuring rotations. Fellows will have a balance of assessment, intervention, and consultation, reflecting prototypic contemporary neuropsychological practice in inpatient and outpatient settings. The fellow will be trained in the 10 competencies for postdoctoral training in neuropsychology (Smith, 2019) listed below.

- | | |
|---|------------------------------------|
| 1. Integration of Science and Practice | 6. Assessment |
| 2. Ethical and Legal Standards/Policy | 7. Intervention |
| 3. Individual and Cultural Diversity | 8. Research |
| 4. Professional Identity and Relationships/Self-Reflective Practice | 9. Teaching/Supervision/Mentorship |
| 5. Interdisciplinary Systems/Consultation | 10. Management/Administration |

Current Fellows

Dominique Ghirardi, Psy.D..

- ***Graduate School*** – Florida Institute of Technology
- ***Internship*** – James A. Haley VAMC
- ***First Year Rotation*** – Pathways Post-Acute, Outpatient Clinic
- ***Second Year Rotation*** – Inpatient ABI
- ***dominique.ghirardi@shepherd.org***

“What most interested me about training at Shepherd was the opportunity to learn about brain behavior relationships through working with patients at different points in the rehabilitation process. With opportunities for therapy as well as assessment and the chance to work with patients with different ABI diagnoses, I can learn about brain injury through a variety of perspectives during my time here.”

Yanelee M. Pérez-Haddock, Psy.D.

- ***Graduate School*** – Albizu University, Miami Campus
- ***Internship*** – RUSK Rehabilitation, NYU Langone Hospital
- ***First Year Rotation*** – Inpatient ABI
- ***Second Year Rotation*** – Pathways Post-Acute, Outpatient Clinic
- ***yanelee.perez-haddock@shepherd.org***

“Shepherd Center stands out for its unwavering commitment to patient-centered care. As a neuropsychology fellow, I have the privilege of integrating comprehensive assessments with personalized treatment within a truly collaborative, interdisciplinary team. Seeing the impact of individualized care on patients’ recovery and independence has been deeply rewarding. Being part of a team that prioritizes dignity, inclusion, and meaningful outcomes makes this fellowship both inspiring and professionally enriching.”

Andrea Mustafa, Ph.D., (junior fellow)

- ***Graduate School*** – University of Houston
- ***Internship*** – Michael E. DeBakey VA Medical Center
- ***First Year Rotation*** – Inpatient ABI
- ***andrea.mustafa@shepherd.org***

“I chose Shepherd Center for the exceptional training with patients who have experienced highly complex acquired brain injuries. I knew this would be a program that challenges me to step outside of my comfort zone and I am looking forward to the growth of my professional identity as a clinical neuropsychologist that Shepherd Center has afforded me.”

Where are our graduates now?

Cohort	Fellow
2016 – 2018	Sean Coad, Psy.D. – <i>Orlando Health Neuroscience Institute</i>
2017 – 2019	Lisa Hoyman, Ph.D., ABPP-CN – <i>Mount Carmel Health</i>
2019 – 2021	Farah Goheer, Ph.D., ABPP-CN – <i>Neurocognitive Specialty Group</i>
2019 – 2021	Vanessa Watorek, Psy.D. – <i>Shepherd Center</i>
2021 – 2023	Fabienne Ellie, Psy.D. – <i>TIRR Memorial Hermann</i>
2023 – 2025	Devon Dawson, Ph.D. – <i>University of Iowa</i>
2023 – 2025	Jane Sutcliff, Psy.D. – <i>Shepherd Center</i>

Primary Rotations

Fellows will complete two major rotations, each lasting one year, as well as minor rotations.

First Year Rotation	Acquired Brain Injury (ABI) Inpatient (one year)
	Month-long SCI rotation
	Selected month-long minor rotation
Second Year Rotation	Shepherd Pathways Post-Acute (one year)
	Outpatient rotation (5-months, 1 day/week)
	Selected month-long minor rotation

Acquired Brain Injury (ABI) Inpatient Rotation

Current Faculty:

Chelsea Day, Psy.D.

Michelle Jackson, Ph.D., ABPP-CN

Jane Sutcliff, Psy.D.

Vanessa, Watorek, Psy.D.

Ronnise Owens, Psy.D., MPH

Fellows are embedded members of the team and work with patients, families, and staff regarding cognitive, behavioral, and emotional issues.

shepherd.org/treatment/conditions/brain-injury/treatment-programs/

Population: Inpatient neurorehabilitation of traumatic brain injury, stroke, anoxic brain injury, tumors, cerebral infection, and other acquired neurologic disorder populations. Primarily adult populations but serve adolescents as well. Fellows have the opportunity to work with patients in Disorders of Consciousness (DOC)

Assessment: Neurobehavioral exams; capacity evaluations; neuropsychological evaluations (i.e., test selection, administration, scoring and interpretation, report writing, and provision of feedback); Coma Recovery Scale-Revised and Individualized Quantitative Behavior Analysis with DOC patients.

Intervention: Neurobehavioral treatment plans; individual, group, and family therapy; family and patient educational programs

Interdisciplinary Systems: Embedded within the interdisciplinary neurorehabilitation team, which is comprised of a treating physician, case manager, speech therapist, physical therapist, occupational therapist, nursing, and other disciplines.

This rotation includes specialized experience with Shepherd Center's Disorders of Consciousness program, including assessing and tracking patient's level of consciousness using evidence-based assessments and providing education to the family. For more info about our DoC program, visit shepherd.org/treatment/conditions/brain-injury/treatment-programs/disorders-of-consciousness/.

Shepherd Pathways Post-Acute Rotation

Current Faculty:

Kristian Nitsch, Ph.D.

The fellow will work with patients, families, and staff as a member of the interdisciplinary team to provide assessment and intervention services at Shepherd Center's post-acute program. Fellows develop a comprehensive understanding of the long-term sequelae following ABI on this rotation.

[shepherd.org/treatment/
services-clinics/pathways/](https://shepherd.org/treatment/services-clinics/pathways/)

Population: Post-acute neurorehabilitation with traumatic brain injury, stroke, anoxic brain injury, tumors, cerebral infection, and other acquired neurologic disorder populations. Primarily adult populations, but serve adolescents as well.

Assessment: The emphasis of post-acute neuropsychological assessments is aimed toward characterizing residual cognitive strengths and weaknesses, assessing readiness to return to work and/or school, decision-making abilities/capacity, medico-legal issues, and readiness to drive.

Intervention: Individual, family, and group psychotherapy, provision of psychoeducation related to ABI, as well as design, execution, and monitoring of neurobehavioral plans.

Interdisciplinary Systems: The fellow serves as a consultant to various interdisciplinary neurorehabilitation teams, which are comprised of a treating physician, case manager, speech therapist, physical therapist, occupational therapist, nursing, and other disciplines.

Outpatient Rotation

Current Faculty:

Kim Ono, Ph.D., ABPP-CN

The fellow will complete neuropsychological evaluations for a wide range of referral questions.

[shepherd.org/treatment/
services-clinics/psychology/](https://shepherd.org/treatment/services-clinics/psychology/)

Population: Internal and external referrals related to Alzheimer's disease and other neurodegenerative conditions, brain tumors, multiple sclerosis, epilepsy, stroke, and traumatic brain injury. May include dual diagnosis (SCI/TBI). Primarily adults, some adolescents.

Assessment: Neuropsychological evaluations (i.e., interview, test selection, administration, scoring and interpretation, report writing, and provision of feedback).

Intervention: Therapeutic interviews and feedback.

Interdisciplinary Systems: Provide feedback to internal and external referring providers. As appropriate, communicate with rehabilitation teams, referring providers, and/or Workers' Compensation case managers.



Minor Rotations

SCI Rotation - required minor during the first year

Fellows have the unique opportunity to observe the various disciplines and unique programs within the SCI Inpatient Unit which could include driver evaluations and sports specialists. Additionally, if the fellow has prior experience with the SCI population, there is possible opportunity to conduct psychotherapy within a rehabilitation psychology model with individuals with dual ABI and SCI diagnoses. In this case, the Fellow will follow some patients throughout their rehabilitation treatment as an integrated team member.

Current Faculty: Punam Rahman, Psy.D., ABPP-RP

▶▶▶▶ shepherd.org/SCI

Multiple Sclerosis Rotation

Consultation opportunities are a focus of this rotation with participation in an interdisciplinary team, as well as through shadowing physicians, mid-level providers, and therapists. Fellows may carry a small therapy caseload of individuals with MS. Fellows may also choose to participate in research and community programs provided by MS Institute staff.

Current Faculty: Kim Ono, Ph.D., ABPP-CN

▶▶▶▶ shepherd.org/MS

Mild Traumatic Brain Injury (Concussion) Rotation

SHARE Military Initiative

The SHARE Military Initiative at Shepherd Center is a comprehensive rehabilitation program that focuses on assessment and treatment for active duty or separated service members and veterans who have served in the U.S. military since September 11, 2001, sustained a mild to moderate brain injury, and have a co-occurring psychiatric diagnosis. The fellow will have the opportunity to provide individual and group treatment, complete neuropsychological testing, provide education to clients and family members, participate in the interdisciplinary treatment team, and implement behavioral interventions as necessary. Fellows will also have the opportunity to directly observe other disciplines on the treatment team and physicians during clinic visits.



The Complex Concussion Clinic

This clinic offers comprehensive assessment and treatment for individuals with persisting symptoms following a concussion with a focus on return to play, return to learning, and/or return to work. The fellow will have the opportunity to provide individual and group treatment, complete neuropsychological testing, provide education to clients and family members, participate in the interdisciplinary treatment team, and implement behavioral interventions as necessary. Fellows will also have the opportunity to directly observe other disciplines on the treatment team and physicians during clinic visits.

Current Faculty: Gregory Brown, Psy.D. and Katie Barros, Ph.D.

▶▶▶▶ shepherd.org/share

▶▶▶▶ shepherd.org/concussion

Comprehensive Rehabilitation Unit (CRU) Rotation

CRU staff work with patients who have sustained a catastrophic injury resulting in an amputation, multiple trauma, spinal cord injury, and/or acquired brain injury. Fellows will get exposure to interdisciplinary activities through patient education classes (e.g., Bladder and Bowel Management), attending interdisciplinary team meetings, and shadowing physician and therapists. Fellows will also have the opportunity to engage in group and individual psychotherapy.

Current Faculty: Lauren Thomas, Psy.D.

Off-Site Minor Rotations

Pediatric Neuropsychology Rotation

Fellows gain experience in the assessment of children with various neurologic disorders. Fellows participate in programs provided by Children's Healthcare of Atlanta (CHOA), including brain mapping and WADA testing of children referred for epilepsy surgery. Goals for exposure and education will be discussed with interested fellows to ensure the training experience meets their needs. For example, past fellows have arranged to focus on Sports Neuropsychology with an emphasis on brief cognitive assessments and return-to-play protocols or pediatric epilepsy. Fellows may also participate in ongoing research.

Private Practice Rotation

Fellows gain experience in neuropsychological assessment and forensic/medico-legal evaluations within a busy private practice setting in the greater Atlanta community with a board-certified neuropsychologist.

Emory Rehabilitation Hospital

Second year fellows have the opportunity to rotate at Emory Rehabilitation Hospital completing pre and post testing as well as inter-operative language mapping for patients with brain tumors. Fellows will conduct brief neuropsychological assessments, as well as more intensive language assessment, and have the opportunity to both observe and participate in intra-operative mapping during surgery. Due to the emergent nature of many of these cases, cortical mapping can occur anywhere between twice monthly to weekly. As such, this rotation is paired with inpatient rehabilitation, which includes neurobehavioral examinations, inpatient neuropsychological assessment, or cognitive screening (or some combination thereof) depending on patient presentation and needs of the team. Typical patient populations include people with acute neurologic or medical disorders in inpatient settings such as acquired brain injury, complex medical disorders, transplant, spinal cord injury, and limb loss.

From Fellow to Faculty

Jane Sutcliff, Psy.D. (2023 - 2025 cohort)



"During my fellowship training at Shepherd, I worked with a wide range of complex clinical populations in inpatient and outpatient settings, while pursuing unique minor rotations that aligned with my interests and professional goals. Learning from supervisors with various styles and backgrounds, along with ongoing seminars, mentorship, and educational opportunities, supported my professional growth and transition to staff neuropsychologist at Shepherd.

Something I love about working at Shepherd Center is being part of a close-knit psychology department with colleagues who are passionate about the field and committed to supporting the growth of our trainees and each other. I value providing a warm, supportive, and collaborative training environment that encourages fellows to build confidence and autonomy while developing their professional identities.

Research Requirements

Research Mentor: Kristian Nitsch, Ph.D.

There are numerous research studies being conducted across Shepherd Center, including efforts within the Acquired Brain Injury program. Additional opportunities may also be identified in other areas such as spinal cord injury, multiple sclerosis, and the SHARE Military Initiative. Fellows will have access to our robust neuropsychology registry database (REDCap) for use in their own investigations and will have the option of engaging in faculty research as part of their two-year-long research rotation. Interdisciplinary research is highly encouraged, with potential opportunities to explore research being conducted by allied health, vocational rehabilitation, and other rehabilitation clinicians. Fellows are encouraged to collaborate. They will participate in regular research meetings which involve project development, research article reviews and critiques, and ongoing project and database updates.

Research Requirements:

Fellows will produce one research project prior to the end of fellowship. Available types of research projects will be based on level of prior research experience and determined with research mentor. Fellows may be eligible to complete a case study, scoping review/meta-analysis, retrospective analysis using existing data, or original research. The timeline for completion will be established based on the project type. Fellows may also have opportunities to collaborate on each other's projects.

Sampling of recent fellow's research projects:

- ▶▶ **Watorek, V.,** Shwartz S., & Day, C. (2021, November). Examining self-awareness in acute stroke and traumatic brain injury populations [Virtual poster presentation]. National Academy of Neuropsychology Conference. <https://doi.org/10.1093/arclin/acab062.121>
- ▶▶ **Elie, F.,** & Nitsch, K.P. (June, 2023). Associations between self-awareness and executive functioning in acute rehabilitation post stroke. Poster presented at American Academy of Clinical Neuropsychology conference, Washington, DC, June 7-10, 2023.

Recent Fellows' Projects

- Examining neuropsychological evaluations as a predictor for return to driving in ABI populations
- Examining the role of different executive functioning profiles on learning and memory in ABI populations.

Additional Research Opportunities:

- Supervision of doctoral students conducting research within the department, pending fellow development and availability of research students.
- Assisting in the management of the department's neuropsychological research database in REDCap.
- Assisting with Institutional Review Board submissions and maintaining institutional research compliance.
- Participation in reviews of manuscripts submitted to peer-reviewed journals under a faculty member's supervision"



Didactic Opportunities

Didactic opportunities expand fellows' existing knowledge base in neuroanatomy, neuropathology, and the neurosciences, and foster the fellow's development as a neuropsychology scientist-practitioner. Given our setting, we approach our didactics through both rehabilitation and neuropsychology lenses, as well as the overlap of these disciplines. Through didactic and experiential training, the fellow develops a strong understanding of brain-behavior relationships and furthers their knowledge in basic psychological principles, research methodology, psychometric issues, and general clinical psychology, as well as practice and professional issues.

A variety of didactic training opportunities are available to the fellow, including:

Neurorehabilitation Seminar

This is a collaborative, joint training seminar for the clinical neuropsychology fellows, rehabilitation psychology fellow, student trainees, and faculty. Fellows and faculty regularly present on foundational neurorehabilitation topics, present relevant cases, and discuss and critique neurorehabilitation psychology literature. Board certification preparation activities are also completed during this time. Fellows will present several times per training year.

Diversity Seminar

The diversity seminar meets monthly and is open only to trainees. The objective of the seminar is to provide trainees with the sensitivity, awareness, knowledge, and skills for multi-culturally competent clinical care.

Professional Development

Fellows will meet with faculty to discuss issues pertaining to career development, job search and experience, and other matters of relevance to development as an independent clinician. Fellows will also meet with the training directors monthly to review professional development scenarios, discuss adjustment to fellowship, review any concerns, and provide feedback.

Neuroanatomy Courses

In the summer following the first year of training, fellows may have the opportunity to attend an intensive neuroanatomy course ("Neuroanatomical Dissection: Human Brain and Spinal Cord") at Marquette University in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. All associated travel and course fees are covered by Shepherd Center. In the event that this course is not offered, other resources will be identified.

Fellows may have the opportunity to attend virtual classes through NAN to build a working knowledge of the basic neuroanatomic structures of the central nervous system. Topics include review of the motor system, somatosensory system, cranial nerves, cerebellum, basal ganglia, limbic structures, ventricles, meninges, and the vascular supply of the brain. This course is optional given the associated time commitment and workload. Fellows must be in good standing and requests to participate must be approved by the training director and department director. If approved, associated fees are covered by the Psychology Department.

Supervision

Supervision is provided in all aspects of the fellow's clinical, research, and teaching activities. All supervising faculty are licensed in Georgia. All fellows are assigned a primary supervisor or supervisors for each clinical rotation. Each week, the fellow will receive one to two hours of individual supervision, in addition to approximately two hours of group supervision obtained through clinical and didactic activities. Additional informal supervision regularly occurs as the fellow manages the demands of clinical services. Styles and modes of supervision vary according to setting. The fellow receives supervision on case presentations, performance in team meetings and seminars, consultative/supervisory work, writing skills, and overall professional conduct. Professional development, career planning, and interviewing skills are also addressed during supervisory sessions. By the completion of the fellowship, all fellows will have more than the requisite 1,500 hours of supervised work experience needed for licensure in Georgia and all other jurisdictions of the Association of State and Provincial Psychology Boards.

Diversity

Shepherd Center is deeply committed to training future neuropsychologists from a culturally competent framework and fostering an environment that is highly sensitive to and appreciative of all aspects of diversity. We believe that increased self-awareness and appreciation for other viewpoints and cultures make psychologists more effective practitioners, scientists, supervisors, and teachers. For this reason, sensitivity to individual differences and cultural humility are integral aspects of our training philosophy. Our overall objective is to provide fellows with the awareness, knowledge, and skills to provide clinical services across cultures and diverse settings. Training is focused on the integration of diversity-related knowledge into clinical services. A specific emphasis is placed on incorporating diversity-related concepts and knowledge into evidence-based assessment and intervention practices. Our fellowship is committed to the Relevance 2050 Initiative.

▶▶▶▶ theaacn.org/relevance-2050/relevance-2050-initiative/

"The resources available to patients, caregivers, and staff at Shepherd is like nothing I have witnessed before in my career. Patient care delivery is so high quality. I feel empowered and supported to provide best practice!"

- *Lauren Thomas, Psy.D., Clinical Neuropsychologist,
Comprehensive Rehabilitation Unit*

Exit Criteria

Successful completion of the training program is reflected by the following accomplishments, as delineated by the Houston Conference Guidelines:

- 1 The fellow demonstrates advanced skill in the neuropsychological evaluation, treatment, and consultation with patients and professionals sufficient to practice on an independent basis.
- 2 The fellow demonstrates an advanced understanding of brain-behavior relationships.
- 3 The fellow demonstrates sufficient scholarly activity via meeting the research requirements.
- 4 Fellows are evaluated using a competency-based model every six months.
- 5 The fellow is eligible for licensure in the state/province where they intend to practice.
- 6 Eligibility for board certification in clinical neuropsychology by the American Board of Professional Psychology.

Program-specific requirement: Successful completion of the Examination for Professional Practice in Psychology (EPPP): Part 1 is expected by December of the second year. Fellow must complete Part 1 before end of fellowship to successfully graduate.

HR Benefits

- ▶ Stipends are based on the NIH-fellowship rates that calculate years of post-graduate experience.
- ▶ **Year One:** \$65,384
- ▶ **Year Two:** \$67,346
- ▶ Eligible for comprehensive health, dental, and vision insurance, as well as basic life and disability insurance.
- ▶ 24 days of paid time off per year.

Department Benefits

- ▶ Professional development funds are available for conference presentations and travel. Requests must be approved by the training director and department director.
- ▶ Three educational days per year to attend conferences.
- ▶ One educational day to take the EPPP. *EPPP test fee reimbursement after successfully passing the exam during fellowship range of dates.*

Other benefits include free parking, access to dictation software, full access to medical library services, and numerous perks (e.g., discounts) in the community.

Metropolitan Atlanta

With a population of approximately 5.9 million, the Atlanta metropolitan area manages to be urban while retaining southern charm and hospitality. Here is why our staff loves Atlanta:

“Atlanta is accessible for domestic and international travel, has great festivals and activities, and as a fellow I could easily afford my rent close to work in a great, fun neighborhood.”

- **Dr. Laurie Baker, Director, Department of Psychology, Neuropsychology Postdoctoral Fellow, 2009-2011**

“Dog-friendly, amazing food, so much greenery even in the city proper, and endless opportunities to be outside (hiking, festivals, walking the city’s beltline, Braves baseball).”

- **Dr. Michelle Jackson, Clinical Neuropsychologist, ABI Inpatient Unit, and Training Director**

“The ability to be outside almost year-round!”

- **Dr. Punam Rahman, Rehabilitation Psychologist, Spinal Cord Program, and Training Director of Rehabilitation Psychology Fellowship Program**

“I love having the chance to be out in nature, not far from great hiking spots, but also close to the city and all that city life can provide, (theatre, museums, great restaurants, comedy clubs, etc.)”

- **Dr. Jill Koval, Rehabilitation Psychologist, Spinal Cord Injury**

“One of my favorite things about living in Atlanta is the easily accessible and abundant nature. There are many incredible ways to enjoy the outdoors, no matter what your interests. Locally, there are many places to hike, golf, fish, kayak, run, and camp. Access to the north Georgia mountains is a two-hour drive and a weekend trip to the Atlantic Ocean and historic Savannah can be easily made with a beautiful drive to the coast.”

- **Dr. Kristian Nitsch, Clinical Neuropsychologist, Shepherd Pathways**

“Atlanta has a great food scene, southern charm, and is a great hub for traveling. There is something here for everyone: from those who love being in the city as well as those who prefer a slower pace of life or being in nature. Overall, the Atlanta community is welcoming and rapidly growing with a wide range of opportunities for people with diverse backgrounds and interests.”

- **Dr. Vanessa Watorek, Clinical Neuropsychologist, ABI Inpatient Unit, and Assistant Training Director**

“I love all the access to events! There are always new restaurants, concerts, sporting events, and even breakout rooms to check out. The city is very green, which makes going for a walk or afternoon drive around the various neighborhoods really pleasant.”

- **Dr. Devon Dawson, Graduated Neuropsychology Fellow**



Application Process

Eligibility

- 1 Completion of doctoral degree, including defense of dissertation, from a clinical or counseling psychology doctoral program accredited by the American Psychological Association (APA) or the Canadian Psychological Association (CPA) before the start date of the residency.
- 2 Completion of an APA/CPA-accredited psychology internship program with Major Area of Study or Emphasis in neuropsychology training/education.
▶▶▶▶ scn40.org/wp-content/uploads/Clinical-Neuropsychology-Taxonomy-Oct-2021-CoS-approved.pdf
- 3 While one's dissertation does not need to be completed at the time of application, no applicant will be permitted to begin fellowship training if their dissertation has not been completed.

Application Checklist

Please submit materials via the APPA CAS portal appicpostdoc.cas.myliaison.com. This is a free service for fellowship applicants. Search 'Shepherd Center' and add us to your program list.

The following documents will be submitted by you to the portal:

- ☐ Cover letter outlining training goals and fit
- ☐ Curriculum Vitae
- ☐ One de-identified neuropsychological report, preferably with our population (if available).
- ☐ APPCN Verification of Completion of Doctorate Form

For applicants that have not completed the dissertation defense, a letter from the dissertation chairperson indicating the stage of research project and the anticipated date of completion. If the dissertation chairperson is also writing a reference letter, information regarding dissertation status can be included in the reference letter. No applicant will be permitted to begin fellowship training if their dissertation has not been completed.

The portal will automatically request official graduate transcripts.

Please provide contact information for three references in the portal. References should be familiar with your clinical/academic/research work and at least one should be a current supervisor.

The complete application should be received by **December 11, 2026.**

All interviews will be completed virtually, in accordance to APPCN recommendations.

All applicants must register with National Matching Services to be ranked for the fellowship at natmatch.com/appcnmat.



Awards and Accreditations

