***Wellstar Health System***

***Adult Neuropsychology Practicum Description***

**Site Name**: Wellstar Health System – Psychological Services: Adult Neuropsychology Practicum

**Primary Supervisors**: Callie Dunn, PhD, ABPP (Training Director); Kirk Bryant, PhD, ABPP; Stephanie Salinas, PsyD, ABPP; Charlotte Bayer, PsyD, ABPP; Kayla Steward, PhD; Angelina Witbeck, PsyD, Elizabeth LeBlond, PhD (postdoc), Chaniqua Mazyck, PhD (postdoc)

**Location**: 3939 Roswell Road, Suite 200. Marietta, GA 30062

**Setting**:Outpatient ambulatory clinic.

**Referral sources**: The vast majority of referrals come from neurologists although some are from primary care physicians, psychiatrists and physiatrists.

**Patient Population:** Adults 18 and older (average is 68 years) with neurological disorders and/or cognitive complaints. Common referring diagnoses include memory complaints, Alzheimer’s Disease, stroke, epilepsy, Parkinson’s or parkinsonian disorders, and traumatic brain injury/concussion. Pre-DBS evaluations will also be available.

**Practicum Structure**:

* 12-month practicum (e.g., August – August)
* Rotations between supervisors will be determined based on availability of the supervisors and interests of the trainee.
* The goal is for the practicum student to extend their training via didactics, supervision, and engaging in supervised evaluations of approximately 40 patients during the 12-month periods.

* **Clinical Activities**:
  + 1.5 days a week:
    - One day is a “clinical day” during which the student engages in provision of clinical services, including clinical interviews and test administration. If possible, feedbacks of patients the practicum student previously saw would also be held on this day; observing feedbacks of patients the student did not directly work with could also be possible depending on availability.
    - Another half day is a “non-clinical day” reserved for supervision, report writing, and didactics.
  + The student spends approximately the first month learning tests with the psychometrist / postdoc. This involves self-study (e.g., reading test manuals), observing the psychometrist/postdoc administer tests, and practice test administrations with the psychometrist/postdoc.

* + Once testing patients independently, the student preps their own cases during the week prior to the date of the patient’s appointment. This takes place on the “non-clinical day.” Case preparation includes: 1) record review in electronic medical records (EPIC); 2) selecting the proposed test battery based on patient diagnosis and referral questions; 3) briefing the supervising neuropsychologist on the case; and 4) conceptualize and review relevant literature. (This constitutes about 30 minutes of individual supervision on the “non-clinical day.”
* **Supervision**:
  + The student receives a minimum of 2-3 hours of individual supervision per week.
  + Case prep & Case Conceptualization: At least 1 hour per week of formal individual supervision focusing on case prep and case conceptualization, to take place on the “non-clinical” day. The first 30 minutes is for case preparation (described above). Second 30 minutes is for review and conceptualization of cases for whom the student has already completed testing.
  + Supervision of clinical training activities: Additional supervision via direct observation is provided during clinical interview (1 hour) and feedbacks (1 hour), as well as on an on-going basis to ensure proper test administration and assist with clinical decision-making as problems or issues arise.
* **Didactics**:
  + Virtual, synchronous didactics are held on Fridays 11a-12p and either 1p-2p or 10a-11a depending on the week. Participation by the trainee is expected.
    - Didactics cover a range of topics related to neuropsychology, neuroimaging, neurology, psychometric principles, etc., and are based on standards from the *Association of Postdoctoral Programs in Clinical Neuropsychology* (APPCN). Topics include both pediatric and adult presentations on a rotating basis.
      * The student will select a clinical population or topic in which they wish to develop expertise by month 3 of the practicum. With mentorship and direction from supervisor, the student will become familiar with their chosen topic and will present one topic of their choosing in didactics toward the end of the year.

**Evaluation procedures**:

* For a 12-month practicum, evaluations will occur quarterly using the preferred evaluation form of the student’s graduate program. Communication regarding the student’s areas of strength and goals for continued development are provided on an as-needed basis, as well as in formal evaluation. Students are provided on-going feedback regarding performance and progress towards their training goals.

**Grievance Procedures**:

* The student will discuss potential grievances directly with the supervisor. If the situation is such that the student does not feel comfortable with direct communication with the supervisor regarding the matter at hand, then they should contact the graduate program training director to discuss an appropriate and ethical course of action.