

Beechwood NeuroRehab



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Post-Doctoral NeuroPsychology Fellowship Program

Beechwood NeuroRehab (BNR) is a community-integrated post-acute rehabilitation program serving the needs of individuals suffering from acquired cerebral disorders, including traumatic brain injuries, non-traumatic brain injuries and other neurological disorders. **BNR**, a program of the *Woods* Organization, is based in the historic borough of Langhorne, in Bucks County, Pennsylvania. Located between the cities of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania and Trenton, New Jersey, **BNR** is easily accessible by the major highways serving the Greater Delaware Valley, as well as by regional railway and by bus.

Mission: The mission of **BNR** is to assure that individuals with brain injury are able to engage in productive and satisfying roles. This is accomplished through comprehensive NeuroRehabilitation Therapies and individualized, supported plans for living and working. **BNR** recognizes and respects the needs, desires, and rights of people served, their families, and funding representatives, and strives to fulfill their expectations for high-quality brain injury rehabilitation and life-long living programs.

Philosophy: **BNR's** philosophy is to provide the best possible services and supports to individuals with neurological disabilities by incorporating innovative rehabilitation treatments along with the most current technology and evidence-based research. A person-centered, transdisciplinary approach is used to develop compensatory strategies designed to maximize each individual's ability to participate in meaningful roles in their home and community. **BNR** is a national leader in promoting advocacy, with many staff involved with the American Congress of Rehabilitation Medicine, the Brain Injury Association of America, the Brain Injury Association of Pennsylvania, the Pennsylvania Brain Injury Advisory Board, the Brain Injury Alliance of New Jersey, and the Brain Association of Delaware.

History: **BNR** was launched in 1979 as Beechwood Rehabilitation Services. Since then, the program has consistently grown and developed, providing specialized services to thousands of adults. **BNR** has maintained accreditation from the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation (**CARF**), the "gold seal" of rehabilitation practice since 1994. **BNR** was noted

in the publication *Professional Case Management*, as one of the top post-acute neuro-rehabilitation facilities in the United States. Today the program continues to evolve with the development of a transdisciplinary neurofunctional approach. The addition of a Brain Injury Clubhouse program further enhances the wide array of options for productive daily activity for its Members. **BNR's** ability to serve individuals with a wide range of functional levels enables individuals to move through a continuum in order to achieve their highest level of functioning.

Post-Doctoral Fellowship Program Description: **BNR** is offering one full-time Post-Doctoral Fellowships in neuropsychology. The Post-Doctoral training program is designed to meet the criteria set forth by the Houston Conference on Specialty Education and Training in Clinical Neuropsychology. Upon completion of the fellowship, trainees will have gained the necessary clinical skills for independent practice in neuropsychology, as well as the knowledge base to pursue board certification in clinical neuropsychology.

The Post-Doctoral Fellowship in NeuroPsychology at **BNR** will provide multiple opportunities for professional growth and development to help the candidate prepare for a career in the field as an independent practitioner. Post-Doctoral Fellows will develop their skills to be able to carry out comprehensive neuropsychological evaluations with a range of patient populations, including adults, children, and adolescents who have had any type of acquired brain injury or other neurological disorder. Training opportunities also include working with the Connect NeuroEd Program, and performing NeuroVocational and NeuroFunctional Evaluations as part of a transdisciplinary team. Post-Doctoral fellows participate in formal didactics and professional development opportunities such as experience providing supervision to pre-doctoral trainees.

In addition, the Fellowship focuses on developing skills in providing cognitive rehabilitation therapy, and consultative services. The Fellow will have the opportunity to interact with **BNR's** medical specialists, including Internal Medicine, Physiatry, Neurology, and Psychiatry. The Fellow will be assigned to work in transdisciplinary teams comprised of NeuroPsychologists, Physical Therapists, Occupational Therapist, Speech & Language Therapists, Cognitive Rehabilitation Therapists, Rehabilitation Nurses, and Brain Injury Case Managers. As part of the training the Fellow will learn how to develop leadership roles when working in transdisciplinary teams.

Fellowship Curriculum: Fellows will already have advanced skill sets in the domains of assessment, treatment and consultation. Based upon the level of competency determined when the Fellow begins, an individual professional development plan is crafted to enhance the Fellow's knowledge base and skill sets in the core areas of neuropsychological assessment, treatment and consultation. The Fellow will be offered coursework and the opportunity to receive a national certification provided through the Academy for the Certification of Brain Injury Specialists (ACBIS). Didactics will be offered regarding working with the

transdisciplinary team with the aim of enabling the Fellow to lead transdisciplinary teams prior to the completion of the Fellowship. The Fellow will work closely with the other brain-injury specialists developing holistic skills which are seamlessly applied while working in concert with other professionals. The importance of making contributions to the community through advocacy will be developed in tandem with the Fellow's growing professional skills.

Responsibility for Oversight: The Executive Director, the Clinical Director, and the Senior Neuropsychologist have each worked in the field of brain injury rehabilitation for over 30 years, and will share responsibility for the Fellowship Program. The Fellow will also have the opportunity to receive mentorship from other **BNR** NeuroRehab Therapists. The Fellow will receive weekly face-to-face individual supervision and will attend the weekly meeting of the Clinical NeuroRehab Therapies Department. In addition, protected time will be apportioned so the Fellow can absorb new literature or attend seminars and workshops devoted to expanding the knowledge base of treating individuals with neurological involvement.

Goals for the Fellow: The overall goal for the Fellow is to develop sophistication in the following core areas:

1. **Proficiency in the Administration, Scoring and Interpretation of Neuropsych Assessment and NeuroFunctional Assessment.** The Fellow will demonstrate such proficiency in conducting traditional neuropsychological assessment instruments assessing a range of neurocognitive functions including problem-solving, perception, memory, and executive reasoning prowess. The Fellow will develop proficiency in conducting NeuroFunctional assessments including situational assessment of individuals in various settings including the individual's residence, work site, and other community settings. All Neuropsychological Assessments, whether traditional or functional will fit into the Neurofunctional Assessment model, a model which helps to identify the individual's core cognitive assets and limitations as they pertain to the development of compensatory strategies and techniques.
2. **Proficiency in the Application of Treatment and Intervention Strategies and Techniques, derived from Transdisciplinary Assessments and Evaluations.** The Fellow will become expert at working with individuals to maximize their use of cognitive strengths in response to difficulties they experience in the demands of daily living and productive daily activity. By developing strategies and supports, the Fellow will assist individuals in becoming an active member in the community and pursuing activities of their choosing. Skill development will focus on developing strategies to help individuals become productive and to engage in social roles and relationships in a meaningful way.
3. **Proficiency and Enhancement of Professional Advocacy and Communication Skills.** This will enable the Fellow to work in a seamless manner with the individuals served, family members, and funding representatives. Fellows will be trained in the basics of

advocacy and will develop competencies that enable the candidate to assume a leadership role within the transdisciplinary team and within advocacy organizations at the national, regional, and local levels.

4. ***Proficiency in the Development of Skills required to Identify and Effectively Manage High Risk Behaviors.*** Fellows will develop skills in crisis intervention, and for assessing individuals who are at risk for engaging in behaviors that place the individuals served, other stakeholders, and the public at risk. The will also learn skills in assessing competency and the need for guardianship or power of attorney.
5. ***Proficiency in the Development of Supervisory Skills.*** The candidate will have the opportunity to provide supervision to pre-doctoral colleagues and graduate students who are completing practicum training in professional psychology.
6. ***Proficiency in Application of the Ethical Standards .*** The Fellow will be trained in the American Psychological Association's (APA) Ethical Principles of Psychologists and Code of Conduct, as well as associated professional guidelines, state law and regulations that guide and direct the practice of psychology, as well as In individual and group supervision as well as in Clinical Department and NeuroPsychology Section meetings, ethical principles will be reviewed as they apply to working with the persons with acquired brain injury. This includes but is not limited to the topics of confidentiality, informed consent, crisis intervention, assessment of risk to the individual and to the public as well as securing records in a manner which protects the confidentiality and privacy of those individuals served.
7. ***Proficiency in Understanding the Importance of Objective Analysis of the Outcomes.*** The Fellow will be trained in the basics of program evaluation methods and will have responsibilities for analyzing both individual and program outcome measures.
8. ***Proficiency in Designing, Developing and Presenting Research Findings.*** The Fellow will be allocated time for outcomes research and will be afforded opportunities to present at local and regional workshops and seminars.

General Clinical and Administrative Responsibilities: Post-Doctoral Fellows will attend all clinical and administrative meetings and may attend medical rounds with specialists as arranged by the Director of Health and Wellness. Post-Doctoral Fellows are expected to complete documentation and billing in a timely, professional manner. All documents completed by the Fellow must be co-signed by one of the Fellowship Co-Directors and/or those licensed psychologists who provide supervision for a specific and defined function performed by the candidate.

Orientation: Post-Doctoral Fellows will be required to complete two orientations prior to initiating work duties on site. The first orientation is conducted through the Woods Training Department and the second orientation will be completed through each **BRN** department.

For more information please contact Dr. Drew Nagele dnagele@woods.org