Toronto Rehab, University Health Network
PSYCHOLOGY PRACTICUM OPPORTUNITIES
2012-2013

THE SETTING:

At Toronto Rehab, our goal is to advance rehabilitation and enhance quality of life by pushing the frontiers of rehabilitation science. As a fully affiliated and specialized teaching hospital of the University of Toronto, we do everything humanly possible to generate new knowledge, put it into practice and share our discoveries with others. We are the largest rehabilitation hospital in Canada and train the health care professionals of tomorrow in all areas of rehabilitation and complex continuing care.

Our patients are at the centre of all the work done by every staff member at each of Toronto Rehab's five sites in each of our clinical, research and education programs. We provide a comprehensive range of inpatient and outpatient rehabilitation services and complex continuing care for adults who experience debilitating illness or injury. Each of our clinical areas has grown from strong roots of knowledge, experience, compassion and innovation, and each continues to be at the forefront of rehabilitation science, offering the latest advances in therapies and the highest quality of care.

Toronto Rehab fosters student education by offering a unique environment and comprehensive practical training for individuals preparing for a career in health care. Students gain valuable clinical experience working with and observing patients who face some of the most serious and complex rehabilitation challenges.

Many of the hospital's clinical staff are cross-appointed to the University of Toronto or other institutions and provide instruction to students who are pursuing undergraduate and graduate studies in areas such as chiropody, dentistry, medicine, nursing, nutrition, occupational therapy, pharmacy, physiotherapy, psychology, social work, speech language pathology and therapeutic recreation. Each year, approximately 1,500 students from different academic institutions seek education experiences at Toronto Rehab.
CLINICAL NEUROPSYCHOLOGY PRACTICUM PROGRAM

DESIGN OF THE PROGRAM:

Toronto Rehab accepts two students per year in the Clinical Neuropsychology Practicum Program. Students may be accepted at any one of three levels, defined below. The student will be placed at the most appropriate level based upon previous experience and training. Please note that a student does not necessarily have to complete a Level 1 before a Level 2 placement. Students’ experience will be reviewed to determine the most appropriate placement. A minimum practicum placement consists of 600 hours over an 8-month (September – April) or four month (May – August) period. If deemed appropriate by the clinical supervisor, a student could complete two Levels over the course of two four-month terms (e.g., Level 1: September to December; Level 2: January to April). Students will also have several Toronto Rehab sites/units to choose from, depending on availability.

PLACEMENT ROTATIONS AVAILABLE:

Day Hospital Acquired Brain Injury Service (University Site)
Neurology Service (University Site)
Day Hospital Acquired Brain Injury Service (Rumsey Site)
Cardiac Rehabilitation (Rumsey Site)
Spinal Cord Rehabilitation Program (Lyndhurst Site)

PRACTICUM LEVELS:

Level 1 (Basic): Both M.A. and Ph.D. level students may be appropriate for Level 1 training. At this level, students would be expected to have a solid academic grounding in brain behaviour relationships but would not be expected to have significant clinical experience. Skills to be developed during a Level 1 placement include but are not limited to those listed below. Depending on what skill level the student enters with, it may be the case that more than one four-month placement at Level 1 is required.

- Reading chart notes to extract information regarding patient history, current medication, risk factors for neurological complications, and any other relevant information regarding assessment questions
- Observation of clinical interview process
- Familiarization with commonly administered neuropsychological test instruments
- Administration, scoring and interpretation of results from neuropsychological and psychological tests
- Selection of neuropsychological and psychological tests according to patient and question at hand
- Knowledge of cognitive screening examinations; sensitivity to the complexity of the field of neuropsychology and therefore, to the risks/benefits of brief screening instruments
- Achieving a working knowledge of the clinical manifestations of the major categories of brain injury/disease
- Practical application of neuropsychological test results in team context
- Learning about other disciplines (e.g., observing other therapists)
- Awareness of the ethical considerations and guidelines for professional practice
- Awareness of the implications of multicultural issues upon neuropsychological assessment
- Attendance at rounds

**Level 2 (Applied):** *Only Ph.D. level students are accepted to the Level 2 training placement. At this level, students will have completed at least one four-month Level 1 placement and will have been deemed by the clinical supervisor to be ready for this more applied practicum setting. At this level, students will be more advanced in terms of their clinical skills. During a Level 2 placement, skills to be developed include but are not limited to the following:*

- Formulate assessment questions based on available information
- Plan assessment including selection of tests, test administration, scoring, and interpretation
- Conduct a comprehensive clinical assessment interview including assessment of emotional, social, neurological, and behavioural risk factors for health and illness as well as the impact of the illness on the patient’s emotional, social, cognitive, behavioural status
- Interviewing patient’s family regarding their impressions of patient’s status
- Liaise with patient’s team members regarding physical, emotional, cognitive status
- Write formal assessment reports including history, assessment results, diagnostic impression, formulation, plans for treatment/discharge, referral to other services and follow-up
- Write summaries of neuropsychological and psychological test results specifically for patients and their families
- Communication of results to other health care professionals involved in the care of the patient
- Be sensitive to the complexity of issues involved in participating in a multidisciplinary rehab team
- Provide feedback to the patient and family in collaboration with supervising psychologist
- Know own limitations and be able to identify when to refer a patient to another health care practitioner
- Be aware of major investigative and treatment procedures (e.g., medical, pharmacological, radiological, etc.) related to the patient population being seen
- Apply research findings to clinical practice and identify research questions that develop from clinical practice
- Be aware of the ethical considerations and guidelines for professional practice
• Be aware of the implications of multicultural issues upon neuropsychological assessment
• Attendance at rounds

Level 3: *This level is designed for individuals at the Post-Doctoral level and seeking registration with the College of Psychologists of Ontario.*

• Experiences would be arranged on an individual basis

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**CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGY PRACTICUM – CARDIAC PROGRAM**

The Cardiac Rehab program at TRI offers an excellent practicum opportunity for a student to get an introduction to Health Psychology as it is applied to patients with cardiovascular disease, diabetes, stroke and other chronic health problems. No previous experience is required, but students with previous skills from working in a health care setting will be given priority.

The psychology placement at the **Cardiac Rehabilitation & Secondary Prevention Program** aims to provide the student with the opportunity to develop skills in behavioral medicine, assessment interviewing, psychological testing, individual psychotherapy, counseling, group counseling, and consulting to allied health professionals. Previous testing and psychotherapy experience is an asset.

The practicum student will have the opportunity to observe the provision of psychological services to a variety of patient populations. The clinical population consists of individuals with heart disease, diabetes and stroke, as well as some who are attending the program for prevention and management of health risks. Psychological issues common in our populations include depression, anxiety, insomnia, conflicts in relationships, adjustment issues, chronic stress, substance control problems, and anger management. Patients range from those with excellent premorbid functioning and specific adjustment issues, through to those with complex problems such as pre-existing psychopathology and/or significant longstanding psychosocial difficulties.

Dr. Reitav will be providing an average of 2 hours per week of supervision to the practicum student. Ongoing feedback and a final written evaluation are provided. No stipend is available at this time.

Should you require additional information about the cardiac program, please contact:

Dr. Jaan Reitav, C.Psych., [reitav.jaan@torontorehab.on.ca](mailto:reitav.jaan@torontorehab.on.ca)
CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGY PRACTICUM – SPINAL CORD PROGRAM

The Spinal Cord Rehabilitation Program (SCRP) at Toronto Rehab is the largest spinal cord rehabilitation program in Canada. It offers a unique and diverse practicum opportunity for students interested in clinical psychology and clinical neuropsychology in a rehabilitation/health psychology setting.

The psychology practicum at the SCRP aims to provide students with the opportunity to develop skills in the area of rehabilitation psychology, including clinical interviewing, neuropsychological and psychological testing, individual psychotherapy, as well as in consulting with other health professionals. Previous testing and psychotherapy experience is an asset.

Practicum students will have the opportunity to observe and participate in the provision of psychological services to a variety of patient populations, including inpatients between the ages of 18 to 90 who have been diagnosed with either a traumatic or non-traumatic spinal cord injury (SCI). Experience with an outpatient population might also be available.

Students will gain knowledge in the administration of neuropsychological and psychological assessments, in formulating diagnoses and the provision of cognitive remediation to individuals with either acquired or progressive neurological disorders. Students will learn the application of cognitive and behavioural interventions in areas such as depression, anxiety, addictions, pain management and other problems related to adjusting to injury/illness. The placement will provide valuable experience working on a multidisciplinary team; students will also be provided with opportunities to participate in weekly patient-care planning meetings.

Dr. Bradbury will provide an average of two hours per week of supervision to the practicum student. Ongoing feedback and a final written evaluation will also be provided.

Should you require additional information about the program, please contact:

Dr. Cheryl Bradbury, C.Psych., bradbury.cheryl@torontorehab.on.ca
GENERAL PRACTICUM INFORMATION

EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES:

Inpatient and Outpatient Rounds/Patient Care Planning Meetings
Grand Rounds
Interprofessional Education Placements (IPE)
Brain Injury Education Series
Stroke Education Series
Researcher’s Network Presentations

SUPERVISION AND EVALUATION:

Supervision will be provided by one or more of the staff faculty noted below. All supervising psychologists are registered with the College of Psychologists of Ontario. All written reports and correspondence are reviewed and countersigned by the supervising psychologist. A letter summarizing the practicum student’s achievements is sent to the respective university director of clinical training upon completion of the student’s practicum.

STIPEND:

Unpaid

PRACTICUM ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE:

The program is directed by the Corporate Professional Leader of Psychology, who is responsible for policies and procedures, coordination and quality assurance of the program. A Practicum Committee, composed of selected rotation supervisors, advises her. The Corporate Professional Leader functions as a liaison between Toronto Rehab and each student’s sponsoring university department. She also acts as an advocate and ombudsman for the students as necessary.

APPLICATION PROCEDURE:

Candidates should submit:

1. A curriculum vitae
2. Graduate transcript
3. 2 letters of recommendation from clinical or academic supervisors
4. A cover letter, which should include a description of what the student hopes to achieve from a practicum at Toronto Rehab, and short and long-term career goals.

5. Completed Test Administration Form detailing what tests the student has administered, scored, interpreted and written reports for.

The deadline for receipt of all application materials is **February 1, 2012** for summer (4 month) and full year (8 month) placements. Notification date for applicants is **March 15, 2012**.

Address applications to:

**Lesley A. Ruttan, Ph.D., C.Psych.**
Corporate Professional Leader, Psychology
Toronto Rehabilitation Institute
University Health Network
345 Rumsey Road
Toronto, Ontario
M4G 1R7
416-597-3422 x5309
ruttan.lesley@torontorehab.on.ca

**PSYCHOLOGY PRACTICUM FACULTY:**

Cheryl Bradbury, Psy.D., C.Psych. (Spinal Cord Program, Lyndhurst Site)
Angela Carter, Ph.D., C.Psych. (Neurology Service)
Paul Comper, Ph.D., C.Psych. (UC Day Hospital)
Lidia Domitrovic, Ph.D., C.Psych. (Neurology Service)
Robert Gates, Ph.D., C.Psych. (Neurology Service)
Robin Green, Ph.D., C.Psych. (Research)
Jaan Reitav, Ph.D., C.Psych. (Cardiac Program)
Lesley Ruttan, Ph.D., C.Psych. (RC Day Hospital)
Dalia Slonim, Psy.D., C.Psych. (Neurology Service)
Karen Wiseman, Psy.D., C.Psych. (Neurology Service)