



# Inaugural Rehabilitation Psychology Postdoctoral Fellowship *at Shepherd Center*

2023 – 2025



Shepherd Center

2020 Peachtree Road, NW  
Atlanta, GA 30309-1465  
404-352-2020 [shepherd.org](http://shepherd.org)

## Letter to Applicants

### *Dear Prospective Applicant:*

We are excited to invite you to apply for our inaugural postdoctoral fellowship in rehabilitation psychology. Our programming, faculty, and planning result from more than five years of preparation. We are fully prepared and committed to offering state-of-the-art, top-tier training in rehabilitation psychology. Shepherd Center is one of the premier rehabilitation facilities in the U.S., and training here is collaborative. Additionally, we are growing! We are currently amidst a comprehensive campaign to expand the footprint, facilities, and services available to our patients and families. You are invited to join a diverse, interdisciplinary group of students, trainees, residents, and fellows to meet your training and professional goals. Our program follows the Baltimore Conference Guidelines for postdoctoral training in rehabilitation psychology. Our bar is set high, but we are committed to providing you with the preparation, support, and mentorship needed to attain professional licensure and certification by the American Board of Professional Psychology in Rehabilitation Psychology.

It would be impossible to think about the upcoming recruitment season without consideration of COVID-19 and its national impact on healthcare and, likely, your training. COVID-19 has led our field to embrace telepsychology and new technologies on a national level and changed how we interact with patients. It has also changed how traditional training and the internship year went for most of you. In many respects, we were very fortunate at Shepherd Center that we were able to continue to train, function, and adapt with limited service interruption, both in-person and via telepsychology. As we enter into 2022-2023 and recruit for our next incoming class, your experience and education needs will guide our training for you.

We have one rehabilitation psychology fellowship position available for 2023-2025. The fellowship includes several structured didactic training activities, including Neurorehabilitation Seminar, Diversity Seminar, Neuroimaging Seminar, Professional Development, and Clinical Case Conference. Many of these experiences are shared with the clinical neuropsychology fellowship (two fellows) and student trainees. Supervision is provided in individual and group formats, and all fellows receive two or more hours per week of direct supervision. Trainees are expected to contribute actively to the interdisciplinary learning environment. We follow a scientist-practitioner model of training and provide a wide range of opportunities for fellows to be involved in research with faculty and engage in independent research projects.

This fellowship's core clinical patient population is inpatients and outpatients with spinal cord injury and newly acquired spinal cord diseases. Additional minor clinical rotations and patient populations include brain injury, multiple sclerosis, acute and chronic pain, neuromedical/surgical, complex concussion, and military veterans and first responders with our SHARE Military Initiative. Additional external rotations with other local hospitals and providers may also be available, based on interest.

After you have read about our training program, please feel free to contact us if you have further questions. We will be conducting interviews both online and in-person, as well as at the 2023 Rehabilitation Psychology Conference if needed. Our first fellow will be integral to shaping the future of training at Shepherd Center, and we look forward to working with you.

Sincerely,



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**Director of Training**  
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Punam.Rahman@Shepherd.org



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Gary A. James, Psy.D.  
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## Mission

The Shepherd Center Rehabilitation Psychology Fellowship provides postdoctoral training that conforms to the Baltimore Conference Guidelines on Specialty Education and Training in Rehabilitation Psychology. Our two-year fellowship program also develops and educates the fellow in competencies necessary for state licensure, specialty practice in rehabilitation psychology, and board certification by the American Board of Professional Psychology (ABPP) in Rehabilitation Psychology. The fellow will function as a member of the interdisciplinary treatment teams and provide assessment, treatment, and consultation services.

## 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 & World Report among the top 10 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.

The typical patient age range is 16 to 80, although patients from 12 to 90 years old are not uncommon. Shepherd Center is accredited by both The Joint Commission and the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation (CARF). Shepherd Center 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](https://shepherd.org/about).



“My favorite part about working at Shepherd Center is that I love being a member of a team of smart, creative, and passionate people! I love being able to teach and learn from others. I love feeling like my contributions can help make a difference in patients' lives and those of their family members.”

***-Jill Koval, Ph.D., ABPP, Department of Psychology***

## Our Training Program

One fellowship opening is available for the 2023-2025 training year. Fellows' specific interests and training goals are considered while structuring rotations. Collectively, fellows will have a balance of assessment, intervention, and consultation, reflecting prototypic contemporary rehabilitation psychology practice in inpatient and outpatient settings.

*The fellow will be trained and evaluated in the foundational and functional rehabilitation psychology competencies adopted by the ABRP board in 2019.*

Foundational Competencies	Functional Competencies (Assessment & Intervention)	Functional Competencies: Consultation	Functional Competencies: Advocacy	Functional Competencies: Consumer Protection
Specialty Identification	General Principles	Peer	Client/Patient	Federal Legislative Statutes
Professionalism	Sensory-Perceptual, Motor Language, and Cognitive Function	Community and Organization	Disability Issues	State Legislative Statutes
Reflection Practice/ Self-Assessment/ Self-Care	Adjustment to Disability: Individual			Community Health and Safety Resources
Scientific Knowledge and Methods	Adjustment to Disability: Family			
Relationships	Sexuality			
Ethical and Legal Principles/ Standard/Statutes and Policy	Substance Abuse			
Individual and Cultural Diversity	Pain			
Interdisciplinary Systems	Vocational/ Educational Issues			
Evidence-Based Practice	Behavior Management			

Shepherd Center provides ample opportunities to develop and apply these competencies, particularly given the interdisciplinary team models and focus on patient- and family-centered care. The balance between assessment, intervention, and consultation is particularly crucial in our setting and offered to the fellow to ensure they are developing into a strong professional who advocates for themselves and their discipline in interdisciplinary settings and on the local, regional, and national levels.



## Two Year Program Outline

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Year 1: Inpatient SCI/D Unit	<b>September to February:</b> Onboarding and Introduction to Rehab Psychology fellowship with <b>Punam Rahman, Psy.D., ABPP</b> - 4 <sup>th</sup> Floor SCI						<b>March to May:</b> <b>Katie Harris, Psy.D.</b> - 5 <sup>th</sup> Floor SCI			<b>June to August:</b> <b>Lauren Thomas, Psy.D.</b> - Comprehensive Rehabilitation Unit		
	Research Integration with <b>Tyler Brown, Psy.D.</b>											
Year 2: SCI Day Program	<b>September to February:</b> Onboarding and Introduction to SCI Day Program and Outpatient with <b>Tyler Brown, Psy.D.</b>						<b>March to August:</b> Consultation with <b>Jill Koval, Ph.D., ABPP</b> Minor rotations will start once a week (either as one rotation for six months or two rotations for three months each).					
	Research Integration with <b>Tyler Brown, Psy.D.</b>											

Clinical service requirements vary depending upon the specific clinical rotation and supervisor. In general, the fellow maintains a clinical caseload consistent with Baltimore Guidelines and State of Georgia requirements for postdoctoral training necessary for licensure and board certification.

Each year, fellows participate in a minimum of 60% clinical activity, including assessment, intervention, and consultation duties. The fellow's specific interests and training goals are considered while structuring rotations. The fellow will complete rotations in both inpatient and outpatient settings with clinical responsibilities appropriate to the rotation.



## 1<sup>st</sup> Year Rotations: *Spinal Cord Injury/Inpatient Program*

The fellow will be embedded in the Spinal Cord Injury/Disorder Inpatient Program. This program extends across two hospital floors (20 beds and 35 beds) dedicated to patients with diagnoses including traumatic spinal cord injuries, non-traumatic injuries (e.g., spinal tumors), and spinal cord disorders and diseases (e.g., transverse myelitis, Guillain-Barre Syndrome), as well as patients with dual diagnosis (ABI and SCI).

**Primary Supervisors:** Punam Rahman, Psy.D., ABPP; Katie Harris, Psy.D.; Lauren Thomas, Psy.D.

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Year Rotations: *Shepherd Spinal Cord Injury (SCI) Day Program*

The fellow will be embedded within Shepherd Center's post-acute SCI settings (Shepherd SCI Day Program and Outpatient). The Day Program provides comprehensive outpatient rehabilitation services to individuals with spinal cord injury and other neuromuscular conditions to increase the level of independent functioning at home, work/school, and in the community.

**Primary Supervisor:** Tyler Brown, Psy.D.; Jill Koval, Ph.D., ABPP

## Assessment & Intervention

Psychological care aims to facilitate individual and family adjustment to health status and address psychological issues that may affect rehabilitation progress. These may include issues related to substance use, grief and loss, psychiatric conditions, mental status changes, dual diagnosis, or pain management. Intervention competencies include formulation and execution of treatment plans, individual and family therapy, and design and implementation of family and patient educational programs.

**1<sup>st</sup> Year Rotation:** Fellow will also lead two adjustment groups per week, one for patients and the other for family members.

**2<sup>nd</sup> Year Rotation:** Fellow will lead the patient adjustment group "Roll With It."

In addition, fellow may have the opportunity to provide clinical supervision in both assessment and intervention of graduate students completing rehabilitation psychology practicum rotations under the guidance and direction of program faculty. Additionally, fellow will be expected to present internally as well as externally during their 2 years of fellowship.

## Interdisciplinary Systems

The fellow is embedded within the interdisciplinary neurorehabilitation teams, which include physicians, residents, case managers, speech-language pathologists, physical therapists, occupational therapists, nursing, chaplains, recreation therapists, psychology, and other disciplines. The fellow will consult with physicians, staff, patients, and families regarding cognitive, behavioral, and emotional issues. The fellow participates in medical rounds, multi-disciplinary team conferences, and educational programs during the rotation. They may also have an opportunity to participate in pain management education and interventions and collaborate with a pain psychologist.

## Minor Rotations

Below is a list of possible available supplementary and minor rotations. Of note, additional opportunities for minor rotations may be available or developed based on individual interests. Some minor rotations may not be available every year, and some may require state licensure for participation. If the fellow is in satisfactory standing, they are expected to complete either two minor rotations (equivalent of one day per week for a three-month duration at rotation site) or one major rotation (equivalent of one day per week for a six-month duration at rotation site) during the second year.

### Outpatient Brain Injury Rotation

#### *Primary Supervisors:*

Valerie Ellois, Ph.D,  
Kristian Nitsch, Ph.D.,  
and Gary James, Psy.D.

The fellow participates in clinical, educational, and research components of the post-acute ABI program.

**Assessment & Intervention:** The fellow is exposed to chronic neuropsychological disorders and syndromes with the primary objective of developing a comprehensive understanding of the long-term sequelae of cognitive and emotional function following ABI. During the rotation, the fellow acquires competencies in cognitive assessment, intervention, and consultation. Assessment competencies are similar to those skills addressed during the dual rotation, focusing on capacity determination, considerations for family education, and community re-entry. Intervention competencies addressed during this rotation include individual, family, and group psychotherapy, provision of psychoeducation related to ABI and substance use, as well as design, execution, and monitoring of neurobehavioral plans. The fellow's role may include leading educational and process groups, carrying a small therapy caseload, completing cognitive evaluations, and creating behavior plans.

**Interdisciplinary Systems:** The fellow will consult with rehabilitation team members and physicians and provide education regarding the cognitive, behavioral, and emotional consequences of ABI.

### Mild Traumatic Brain Injury (Concussion) Rotation

#### *Primary Supervisors:*

Kirsten Allen, Psy.D., ABPP,  
Katie McCauley, Ph.D., and  
Gregory Brown, Psy.D.

The fellow will gain experience working with concussion injuries in both veteran and civilian populations.

**Assessment & Intervention:** The fellow will learn about comprehensive assessment and treatment for individuals with persisting symptoms following concussion, focusing on return to play, return to learn, and return to work. Through this rotation, the fellow will gain a better understanding of concussion and contributing factors to persisting symptoms in military and civilian populations. The fellow will provide individual and group treatment and education to clients and family members, provide education for the treatment team and implement behavioral interventions as necessary. Opportunities for cognitive assessment may also be available.

**Interdisciplinary Systems:** The fellow will consult with rehabilitation team members and physicians and provide education regarding cognitive, behavioral, and emotional consequences of mild traumatic brain injury.

## Multiple Sclerosis Rotation

### Primary Supervisors:

Susan Shwartz, Ph.D., ABPP

The fellow will gain experience learning about the diseases, effects, and disease progression of multiple sclerosis.

**Assessment & Intervention:** The fellow will learn to conceptualize and provide cognitive assessment and therapeutic interventions with individuals with MS.

**Interdisciplinary Systems:** Consultation opportunities are also available through participation in the interdisciplinary teams and shadowing physicians and mid-level providers in rounding during clinics.

## Pain Clinic Rotation

### Primary Supervisors:

Wendy Magnoli, Ph.D.

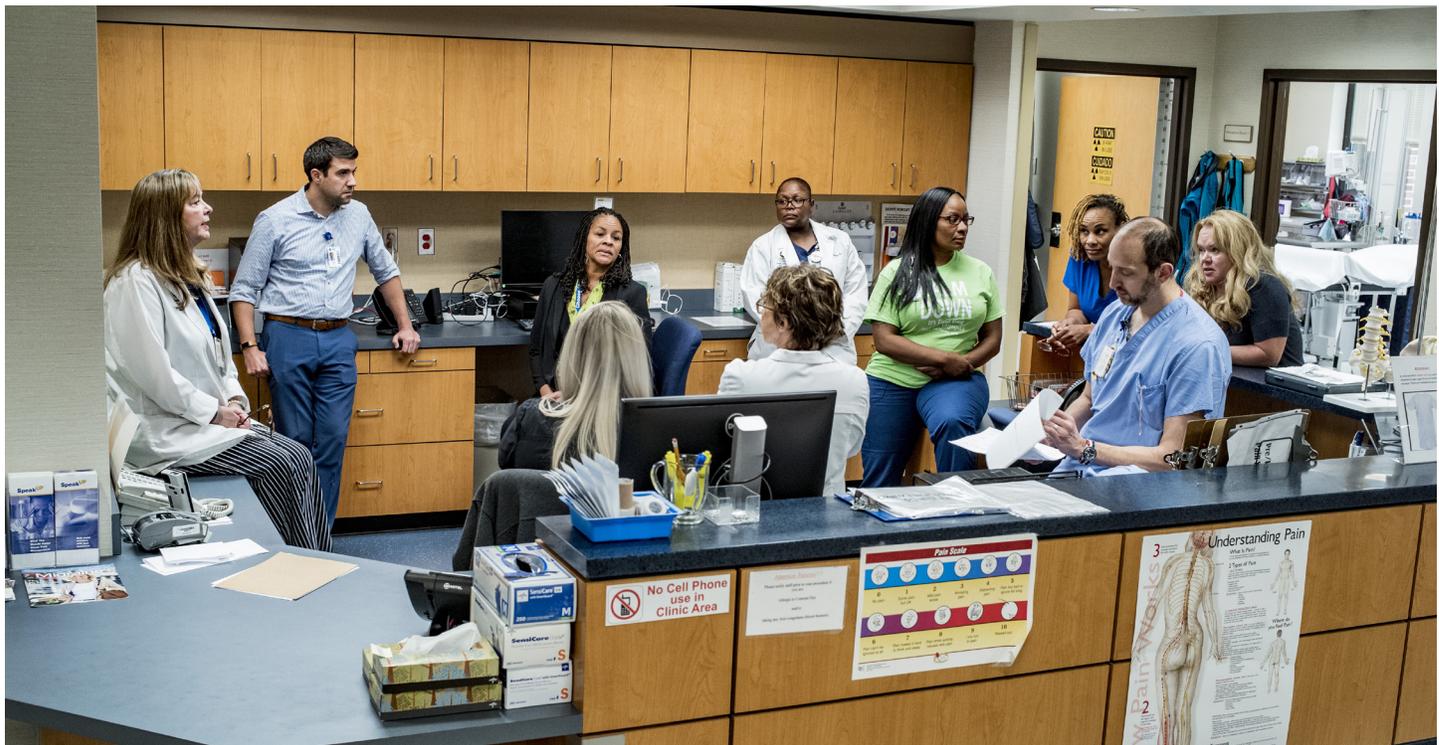
The fellow will learn to provide pain management services to all patient populations at Shepherd Center.

**Assessment & Intervention:** The fellow will provide pain management consultation to our inpatient teams and patients. The fellow will have the opportunity to provide group education and therapy, individual therapeutic interventions, and family education and intervention. The fellow may also have the opportunity to observe surgical pain management interventions.

**Interdisciplinary Systems:** The fellow will work with our dedicated pain management psychologist and will be embedded in the interdisciplinary treatment team.

For the comprehensive list and bios of all faculty members and other members of the Psychology Department, please refer to:

▶▶▶▶ [shepherd.org/patient-programs/specialty-programs/psychology/staff](http://shepherd.org/patient-programs/specialty-programs/psychology/staff)



## Research Opportunities

Numerous research studies are being conducted across all programs at Shepherd Center. The fellow will be expected to contribute to research throughout their two years of training and identify individual research interests. Ample support is available for training and mentorship in research methodologies, statistical approaches, and guidance with writing and submitting publications, posters, or talks to represent the fellow's work and Shepherd Center. The Shepherd Center Noble Learning Resource Center (NLRC) is an excellent resource available to families, staff, and fellows with a librarian on staff to assist with literature searches and obtaining articles. Shepherd Center research department consultations are available by appointment, as needed. Access to SPSS and REDCap for database management is also available. Interdisciplinary research is highly encouraged. Regular meetings will involve project development, research article reviews/critiques, and ongoing project and database updates.

In 2022, Shepherd Center was awarded a \$500,000 three-year grant. *Keeping Adolescents and Young Adults Connected*, (KAYAC) from Andee's Army to research, plan, develop, and implement a peer support training program and app specifically for adolescents with neurological injury or disease. Part of this grant was to foster clinical research and implementation opportunities for our Rehabilitation Psychology Fellows. The fellow will be an integral part of the successful design, implementation, and dissemination of the feasibility and continuity of this unique program. Progress has been made to date with forming focus groups with teenage patients and their families to identify target areas for intervention after community re-entry. We have also partnered in training with the Christopher and Dana Reeve Foundation and Kessler Rehabilitation Center to encourage simultaneous growth and collaboration. This is a pioneering study, as there are currently no publications to date regarding how to effectively and responsibly train adolescent peer supporters for adolescent patients with neurological injury. The fellow will be expected to contribute to all aspects of this program throughout their two years of training, and submit to at least one peer-reviewed presentation/poster/publication under the guidance and approval of their primary supervisor.

Additional research opportunities are abundant and will be supported based on the fellow's progress and interests in training.

## Didactic Opportunities

Through didactic and experiential training, the fellow develops a strong understanding of the study and application of psychological knowledge and skills on behalf of individuals with disabilities and chronic health conditions to maximize health and welfare, independence and choice, functional abilities, and social role participation, across the lifespan. Additionally, the fellow will expand their knowledge in basic psychological principles, research methodology, psychometrics, general clinical psychology, and practice and professional issues. Please note that the Rehabilitation Psychology fellow will be attending these didactics with the two Neuropsychology fellows.



### **Neurorehabilitation Seminar**

The Neurorehabilitation Seminar is a collaborative, joint training seminar for both the clinical neuropsychology fellows and the rehabilitation psychology fellow. Fellows and faculty regularly present on foundational neurorehabilitation topics, present relevant cases, and discuss and critique neurorehabilitation psychology literature. Combined didactics are on the first and second week of the month (neurorehabilitation topics). The third didactic of the month will be more focused on Neuropsychology areas, and the fourth will be focused on Rehabilitation Psychology areas.

### **Neuroimaging Seminar**

To allow for greater fellow collaboration and teaching opportunities, Wellstar Medical Group's APPCN training faculty have opened their neuroimaging seminar to the Shepherd Center fellows to join remotely. The neuroimaging seminar spans the two years of the training program and is led by neuropsychologists from Wellstar Medical Group. The seminar is held on the first and third Friday from October to July of each year. Each year, there will be residents in their first (junior) and second (senior) years of training attending the seminar. The fellows will be expected to present and actively participate throughout the two years.

### **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.

### **Diversity Sequence**

Attention to diversity and multicultural factors is actively encouraged and supported throughout all activities. Specific issues of import to the fellows and those that are relevant to our work at the Shepherd Center are highlighted during the Diversity Sequence over the summer months. Guest speakers from the community will meet with fellows and staff to discuss local history, their work with particular groups, or important information to consider when working with specific cultural groups (e.g., religious groups, individuals with particular disabilities, ethnic/racial groups, immigration status, clinical groups)



## Neuroanatomy Courses

### Marquette University

In the summer following the first year of training, the fellows 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.

### Morehouse School of Medicine

Fellows have the opportunity to attend classes and laboratories associated with the Medical Neurobiology course at the Morehouse School of Medicine. This course is typically offered from March through May. Fellows are encouraged to review the course syllabus once it is available and to select lectures and labs that are of interest and work with their schedule at Shepherd Center. They can review their choices with their supervisor for final approval. Topics include but are not limited to gross anatomy of the brain, meninges, brain stem, spinal cord, cranial nerves, hypothalamus, and applied anatomy. This is a medical course, so the focus is primarily neuroanatomy and neuropathology, with some emphasis on implications for functional presentation and treatment.

### Additional Opportunities

The fellow will also have the opportunity to attend various grand rounds depending on year and availability, such as CME Grand Rounds with the medical staff at Shepherd Center. There is ample opportunity to attend local workshops and national conferences. In order to acclimate and prepare the fellow for the ABPP-RP exam, the fellow will participate in both writing practice samples and doing mock oral examination exercises. Fellows are encouraged to be active in professional organizations to promote their professional growth and to represent Shepherd Center and our fellowships.



## 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 rehabilitation psychologists 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 residents 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.



## Exit Criteria

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

- 1** The fellow will be able to provide evidence-based assessment and interventions with individuals and families experiencing problems related to physical and cognitive impairment, ability limitation, and participation restriction that focus on the individual and family functioning, including affective, cognitive, personality, and behavior functioning as well as social, educational, vocational, and recreational participation.
- 2** The fellow will participate in interprofessional collaboration and consultation at the clinical team level, the program level, and the community level to provide comprehensive and effective care for the persons with disability and to maximize rehabilitation team and program functioning.
- 3** The fellow will demonstrate sufficient scholarly activity, e.g., submission of a study or literature review for publication, presentation, submission of a grant proposal, or outcome assessment.
- 4** A formal evaluation of competency in the exit criteria one through three shall occur in the fellowship program.
- 5** The fellow is eligible for licensure in the state/province where they intend to practice.
- 6** Eligibility for board certification in Rehabilitation Psychology by the American Board of Professional Psychology.
- 7** Successful completion of the Examination for Professional Practice in Psychology (EPPP) part one is expected by December of the second year but must absolutely be completed before the completion of the fellowship.



## Specialty Training Criteria

Shepherd Center's postdoctoral fellowship program abides by the structural and programmatic standards identified in the Baltimore Conference Guidelines. Below are these assurances and how our program addresses each point.

**1** The faculty is comprised of two or more formally designated training faculty, at least one of whom has achieved an advanced level of competence in rehabilitation psychology, such as the American Board of Professional Psychology (ABPP) diploma, fellow status in APA, or Canadian Psychological Association (CPA), a record of clinical and research productivity in the specialty, or other evidence of professional competence and leadership in the specialty.

*As of the latest update to this booklet, four board-certified clinical rehabilitation psychologists are on staff.*

**2** Training takes place at a formal, organized program, based in or affiliated with a nationally accredited or certified institution, agency, or consortium (e.g., CARF, Joint Commission) that provides direct interdisciplinary services (in an interdisciplinary model) to individuals with rehabilitation needs.

Shepherd Center is accredited by the Joint Commission and the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities.

*Additionally, Shepherd Center is a designated Spinal Cord Injury Model System and Traumatic Brain Injury Model System by the NIDILRR.*

Patients with spinal cord injury, brain injury, multiple sclerosis, spine and chronic pain, and other neurological conditions are treated by a large interdisciplinary team, including recreational therapy, assistive technology, peer support, and vocational counseling. Training will include at least two supervisors during any one training year. In addition to case-based supervision, the trainee will have a mentor during the entire training period who provides guidance regarding overall professional career development.

### HR Benefits

- ▶ Stipends are based on the NIH-fellowship rates that calculate years of post-graduate experience.
- ▶ **Year One:** \$55,937
- ▶ **Year Two:** \$57,056
- ▶ Eligible for comprehensive health, dental, and vision insurance, as well as basic life and disability insurance.
- ▶ 24 days of paid time off per year.
- ▶ 403b plan and match
- ▶ Qualify for PLSF loan forgiveness

### Department Benefits

- ▶ Professional development funds are available for conference presentations and travel .
- ▶ 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.*
- ▶ Educational days for licensure exams

*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:

“The food and coffee scene, the Georgia Aquarium, and driving distance to great places.”

– *Dr. Alex Alverson, Clinical Neuropsychologist, ABI Inpatient Unit*

“There is a lot of diversity in terms of Atlanta residents, as many people are transplants. I really think this adds to the cultural and identity diversity that thrives in the Atlanta area, making it feel very welcoming to people from all backgrounds.”

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

“I love how Atlanta has been steadily expanding its walking/biking trails (e.g., the Beltline). It makes the city more pedestrian/biker friendly and connects neighborhoods.”

– *Dr. Susan Schwartz, Clinical Neuropsychologist, Outpatient Neuropsychology Clinic, and Co-Training Director, Neuropsychology*

“Hiking up Stone Mountain’s walk-up trail to greet the sunrise is a thrill that never gets old!”

– *Jane DeMaria, Psychometrist*

“Atlanta is travel accessible, has great festivals and activities, and I could easily afford rent close to work in great, fun neighborhood.”

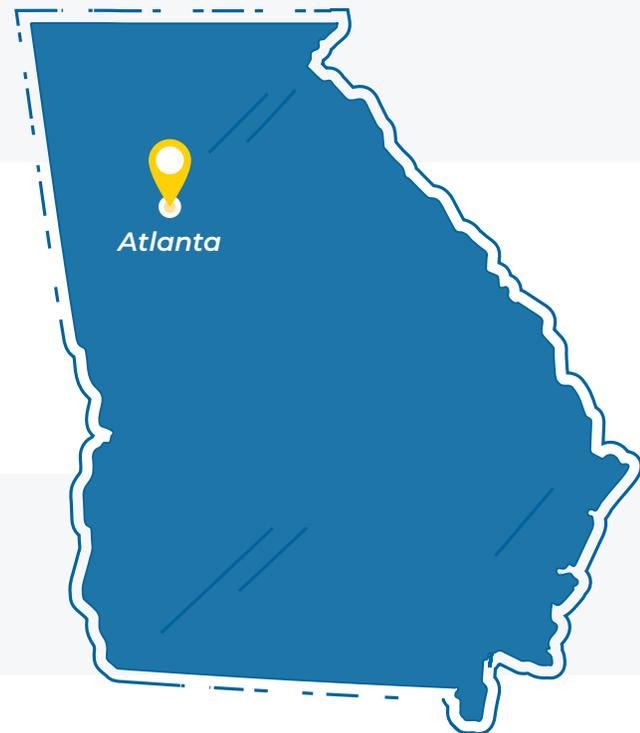
– *Dr. Laurie Baker, Director, Department of Psychology (Shepherd Center neuropsychology postdoctoral fellow, 2009-2011)*

“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 Co-Training Director, Neuropsychology*

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

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



## Awards and Accreditations



Spinal Cord Injury Model System and Traumatic Brain Injury Model System

### Eligibility

*Applicant must meet the following prerequisites to be considered for our postdoctoral training program:*

- 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 fellowship
- 2** Completion of an APA/CPA-accredited psychology internship program
- 3** In compliance with APA/CPA, all persons hired will be required to verify identity and eligibility to work in the United States and to complete the required employment eligibility verification form upon hire. Shepherd Center is unable to commit to sponsoring H-1B visas at this time.

We encourage you to apply prior to the Dec. 15<sup>th</sup> deadline because we anticipate receiving applications in November of the year prior to the start date. Invited applicants are strongly encouraged to interview with us in person at Shepherd Center, as this allows you to view the facility and meet the faculty. We also conduct interviews at the mid-winter rehabilitation conference in February. ***Fellows typically begin training the Tuesday after Labor Day, but this date is negotiable.***

### Application Checklist

*Submit the following documents scanned into a single compressed PDF file via email to [Punam.Rahman@shepherd.org](mailto:Punam.Rahman@shepherd.org).*

- Letter of interest, including training and clinical experiences and an explanation of your specific interests in our fellowship program.
- Curriculum Vitae.
- One de-identified case\* discussing conceptualization and assessment/intervention summary, preferably one relevant to our clinical populations. \*Page limitation under five pages.

*The following materials should also be submitted directly from the source to [Punam.Rahman@shepherd.org](mailto:Punam.Rahman@shepherd.org) or mailed to: **Dr. Punam Rahman, 4th Floor, Shepherd Center, 2020 Peachtree Rd NW, Atlanta, GA 30309.***

- Unofficial graduate school transcripts sent directly from the program. After formal offer and acceptance, the fellow is required to send official transcripts to the Fellowship Director.
- Three letters of recommendation from professionals familiar with your academic or clinical work, at least one of which is from a current supervisor.
- For applicants that have not completed the dissertation defense, a letter from the dissertation chairperson indicating the stage of the research project and the anticipated date of completion. Note: If the dissertation chairperson is also writing a letter as a clinical supervisor, information regarding dissertation status can be included in that letter. No applicant will be permitted to begin fellowship training if their dissertation has not been completed.

***The complete application should be received by **December 15, 2022.** Earlier submissions are preferred.***



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, stroke, multiple sclerosis, spine and chronic pain, and other neurological conditions. Founded in 1975, Shepherd Center is ranked by *U.S. News* among the top 10 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, 280 day program patients and more than 7,100 outpatients each year in more than 46,000 visits.



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