



# Association of Postdoctoral Programs in Clinical Neuropsychology

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## APPCN Report to the Council of Chairs of Training Councils (CCTC)

October 2023

### Background

The Association of Postdoctoral Programs in Clinical Neuropsychology (APPCN) is an organization composed of programs offering postdoctoral training in clinical neuropsychology. The purpose of the organization, which was founded in 1992, is to propose and promote the minimal standards for postgraduate training and education in the field of clinical neuropsychology. The guidelines for such training were established by a representative group of training directors from across the United States and Canada at a conference in Houston in 1997. The guidelines approved at that time were later endorsed by all the major specialty organizations in the field. Although not all postdoctoral programs that offer training in the specialty are members of APPCN, many support the training principles of the APPCN membership and participate in the annual match for recruitment of residents. The American Board of Clinical Neuropsychology (ABCN), the ABPP credentialing organization, requires applicants for certification to have completed a postdoctoral residency that offers two years of training.

APPCN is an authoritative source related to professional training in clinical neuropsychology. For over 30 years APPCN has been focused on initiatives to expand membership, develop training resources for member programs, educate students about professional training standards in clinical neuropsychology, and promote and enhance the postdoctoral residency match. APPCN provides member programs with a practice written exam that reflects the content of the ABCN written exam. The written exam is administered at the end of the first year of training and summary statistics are gathered and distributed to programs. APPCN has also developed fact-finding and ethics vignettes for conducting mock oral ABCN exams. The organization has also supported efforts to dialogue with other training organizations on matters of mutual interest, including representation of postdoctoral training on the Commission on Accreditation, coordinated postdoctoral recruiting, funding for training, and specialty training.

### Update on APPCN activities

**Membership:** APPCN now has 111 member programs. 3 programs were added since the last report, but 6 programs also withdrew, typically due to loss of ABPP faculty or program funding/support.

**Outreach:** APPCN is a member of CCTC and sends representatives to the Interorganizational Steering Committee on Education and Training (ISET) and the Clinical Neuropsychology Synarchy (CNS) as

related to training in clinical neuropsychology. Joel Kamper is currently the new chair of the Outreach Committee. The post-doctoral member of APPCN will attend ANST and will be a member on the Multisite Didactic Initiative.

***General training issues:***

1. APPCN is very involved with the Several APPCN members are serving as steering committee members, experts, and delegates for this conference. The Arrendondo Consulting Group has been hired to guide the crafting of competencies based on delegate work and comments from various organizations, and a delegate group is working on an implementation model. APPCN membership strongly supported the emphasis on diversity/equity/inclusion, technology, and updated comprehensive competencies along with continuing the two-year Post-doctoral Fellowship requirement.
2. APPCN has partnered with AACN to fund 38 scholarships to provide funds for each stage of an applicant in the ABPP certification process up to \$4050.00. APPCN is also offering scholarships for members and trainees to attend INS.
3. APPCN has developed competency-based curriculum guidelines for member programs that continues to be updated by the committee working on this.
4. APPCN is forming a task force with AITCN to develop a national practicum level organization for training.
5. APPCN continues to work with VAPTC and APPIC regarding deadlines and notification dates to minimize overlap with the APPIC UND.
6. APPCN continues to spearhead training initiatives to benefit trainees, programs, and the field generally. For example, the Multisite Didactic Initiative (MDI), which was started in 2020, continues to expand this next year. It is currently co-chaired by Amelia Nelson Sheese and Kristen Caraher.
7. APPCN continues to collect data on a revision of a mock board certification examination (end of year one and two) and continues to expand mock fact-finding cases to assist trainees and member programs.
8. APPCN has partnered with AITCN (Association of Internship Training in Clinical Neuropsychology) and developed a webinar series aimed at supervision issues in both adult and pediatric neuropsychological training which was well received by the neuropsychology community.
9. APPCN also continued other initiatives this year, including an Advisory Committee to assist programs and postdoctoral fellows with difficult situations.
10. APPCN initiated a scholarship program for alumni of APPCN Member programs to financially support them through the ABPP examination process if they do not have other means of support.
11. APPCN also provides an annual webinar for applicants who will enter the match for neuropsychology residency. This webinar covers the match process as well as orienting trainees to important training documents in neuropsychology, including the questions about the Minnesota Guidelines and the Taxonomy for Training in Clinical Neuropsychology.
12. At INS in San Diego, a group of APPCN TDs met to discuss holding a conference about training to competencies at the postdoctoral level—Amy Heffelfinger recently sent out a save the date (May 14-15, 2024) announcement with a survey to gauge interest. There will be a registration fee for attendance, which will be lower for APPCN compared to non-APPCN attendees, and the plan is to offer CE credit. Medical College of Wisconsin (MCW) will be the host institution. APPCN has been asked to sponsor the meeting administratively, including serving as the fiduciary entity, sponsoring an APA training grant to be submitted to help fund the meeting, and hosting the registration process. APPCN has also been asked to consider supporting the effort financially, including providing funds to support attendance for TDs who might not be able to afford to attend otherwise, and funding support for the keynote speaker. The Executive Committee discussed this at our August meeting, and Suzanne reviewed funds with an eye toward APPCN's typical annual

operating budget. Based on that discussion, the EC recommends offering to sponsor the meeting and offer financial support as follows: 1) funding up to 5 \$1000 travel awards for APPCN TDs, who would need to apply for these funds 2) contributing up to \$2500 to support the keynote speakers' travel and honorarium. The total cost to APPCN would be \$7500. The goal of this conference is to establish and create a forum for training directors in clinical neuropsychology at the postdoctoral level. In the inaugural conference, conference attendees will leave with a higher conceptual understanding coupled with procedural tools for developing a curriculum that advancing a culture of respect in training that is centered in diversity, equity, and inclusion. This conference will include large group learning, training the trainers, and break out groups.

***Matching Program for Clinical Neuropsychology Postdoctoral Residencies:*** The APPCN Board of Directors continues to consider ways to make the matching program for neuropsychology residencies more effective. For 2023, APPCN adopted the policy having all applicant interviews conducted virtually in January and not connected with NAN or INS to promote equity for trainees. Interviews will be conducted in January. The ranking of candidates in NMS will be due by programs on the 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of February, and notification day will be the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday in February.

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Submitted On behalf of the APPCN Board of Directors