



Association of Postdoctoral Programs in Clinical Neuropsychology

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

March 2016 Washington, D.C.

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 of 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 has been focused on several 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 postdoc recruiting, funding for training, and specialty training.

Update on APPCN activities

Membership: APPCN now has 72 members.

Outreach: In the past year, APPCN sent a representative to APA's Education Leadership Conference the past two years. APPCN also has liaisons to CCTC, the Interorganizational Steering Committee on Education and Training (ISET), and the Clinical Neuropsychology Synarchy (CNS).

General training issues:

APPCN is hosting Neuropsychology Postdoctoral Summit at the summer AACN conference where there will be moderated discussions about postdoctoral training/APPCN match, neuropsychology competencies, and increasing diversity in APPCN/neuropsychology training.

APPCN has developed a Competency based curriculum guidelines for member programs and is working to develop access to online educational materials for member programs.

APPCN is involved with the Clinical Neuropsychology Synarchy (CNS) on developing practice guidelines for different neuropsychological disorders, as well as competency-based approaches to training.

APPCN will again “watch and learn” from the APPIC programs that use a centralized application portal system for post-doctoral applications.

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. Postdoctoral recruitment continues to be problematic for the specialty of neuropsychology because not all programs participate in the match. Students are increasingly concerned about the pressure exerted by non-match programs to accept their offer before having an opportunity to complete all their interviews, and some have explored options of changing or challenging the non-match programs on these early offers.

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Submitted On behalf of the APPCN Board of Directors