



Association of Postdoctoral Programs in Clinical Neuropsychology

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

February 2022

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 postdoctoral recruiting, funding for training, and specialty training.

Update on APPCN activities

Membership: APPCN now has 111 member programs and continues to demonstrate strong growth over the last 5 years, with 3 new programs added in the past 6 months since the previous report.

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.

General training issues:

1. APPCN has developed competency-based curriculum guidelines for member programs that continues to be updated by the committee working on this.
2. APPCN is also involved with the Planning Commission for the updated Houston Conference Guidelines, which is now called the Minnesota Update Conference (MUC). The president, Douglas Whiteside, PhD, ABPP, will be serving as a Steering Committee Member and the APPCN treasurer, Suzanne Penna, PhD, ABPP, is also the treasurer for this conference. Several APPCN members are serving as experts for this conference. The goal of this conference is to revise and update the original neuropsychology training guidelines with particular emphasis on diversity/equity/inclusion, technology, and updated comprehensive competencies.
3. APPCN will continue to work with VAPTC and APPIC regarding deadlines and notification dates to minimize overlap with the APPIC UND.
4. APPCN is also spearheading other 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.
5. APPCN has also facilitated the revision of a mock board certification examination and mock fact-finding cases to assist trainees and member programs.
6. 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.
7. APPCN also began other initiatives this year, including an advisory Ethics Committee to assist programs and postdoctoral fellows with difficult situations.
8. 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.
9. 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 Houston Conference Guidelines and the Taxonomy for Training in Clinical Neuropsychology.

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 2022, APPCN continued the policy adopted for the 2021 match of strongly encouraging all applicant interviews to be conducted virtually, due to pandemic-related restrictions, and programs generally followed this guidance again this year.

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Submitted On behalf of the APPCN Board of Directors

