

**ADOLESCENT & YOUNG ADULT  
ADVANCED NEUROPSYCHOLOGY ASSESSMENT PRACTICUM  
GF STRONG REHABILITATION CENTRE (2024-25)**

**Overview**

Dr. Sarah-Jane Meachen, R. Psych. (#2140) is pleased to offer a practicum focused on neuropsychological assessment of adolescents and young adults at G.F. Strong Rehabilitation Centre. Clients will primarily be from the Adolescent Young Adult (AYA) outpatient program, which provides post-acute rehabilitation to individuals age 12-24 with acquired brain injury, developmental disorders, neuromuscular disorders, and other neurological conditions. Consultations or brief assessments with the Adolescent Complex Concussion Clinic (AC3) may also form part of the practicum.

**About G.F. Strong & Role of Psychology**

G.F. Strong Rehabilitation Centre serves the rehabilitation needs of persons referred throughout the province. The facility for both inpatients and outpatients is organized according to major programs, including Acquired Brain Injury, Spinal Cord Injury, Neuromuscular Disorders, and Adolescent Young Adult. Psychologists are members of multi-disciplinary teams, working closely with other health professionals, including physiatrists, physiotherapists, occupational therapists, speech and language pathologists, vocational counselors, social workers, recreation therapists, nurses and others. Psychological Services at G.F. Strong help the client and family in various aspects of the rehabilitation process. Using their knowledge of brain behaviour relationships, personality, coping & adjustment, behaviour and organizational systems, Psychologists provide direct service (including assessment, consultation, and intervention) as well as support to the treatment team. More information about G.F. Strong can be found at [www.vch.ca/gfstrong/index.htm](http://www.vch.ca/gfstrong/index.htm)

***This specific practicum is focused on the Adolescent Young Adult outpatient program, and will have a predominantly neuropsychological assessment focus.***

**Practicum Clinical Training Experiences**

The successful applicant will primarily conduct neuropsychological assessments in the context of multi-disciplinary rehabilitation for adolescents and young adults with neurological conditions and injuries. Common referral questions include return to school/work planning, assistance with treatment planning, monitoring change over time, etiology of cognitive issues (e.g. neurological vs. psychiatric), and assessment for program eligibility (e.g. intellectual disability, learning disorders). In addition to cognitive testing, assessments require integrating the clinical impressions of colleagues in allied health, translating findings to real-world performance, recognition of cognitive and psychological barriers to rehabilitation goals, and identification of interventions. Practicum students can expect to be involved in interviewing, test administration and scoring, case conceptualization, and report writing. They will also gain experience providing comprehensive feedback to clients and their families, assisting them to better understand their strengths and weakness in the context of their rehabilitation goals and providing practical management strategies/treatment recommendations. Practicum students will also be expected to interact with their multi-disciplinary team colleagues to clarify referral questions, gain perspective on clients' functioning, as well as communicate neuropsychological assessment findings and facilitate their application to guide treatment. Depending on their days of work, the practicum student will ideally attend weekly patient rounds. Depending on availability, interest, clinical preparation, and other factors, the successful applicant may have the opportunity to participate in other aspects of Psychology Services at GF Strong, including group cognitive rehabilitation (e.g. Memory Skills Group) or group psychological interventions (e.g. Emotion Skills Group), or possibly some experience within our adult and/or inpatient programs.

### **Other Didactic Opportunities**

Depending on their workdays, trainees will have the opportunity to participate in a range of clinical rounds, seminars, and lectures offered at GF Strong or nearby institutions (e.g. BC Children's Hospital, UBC). These opportunities may include neuropsychology rounds, neuropsychiatry rounds, neuroscience grand rounds, physical medicine and rehabilitation grand rounds, and child psychology rounds.

### **Structure and Design**

Practicum placements ideally will begin in the second week of September 2022 (negotiable). The duration, hours per week, and days of work are negotiable within the range of 2-3 days per week for 6 to 9 months. Ideally, the successful candidate will be available Tuesdays as this is when Adolescent Young Adult patient rounds are held.

### **Stipend**

None available

### **Application Requirements**

Suitable applicants will have

1. Considerable experience with administering and scoring a variety of common neuropsychological tests for adolescents and adults.
2. At least some experience with neuropsychological assessment report writing for adolescents and adults (at least five comprehensive assessments).
3. Basic psychotherapeutic skills, as demonstrated through intervention coursework with a practicum component and/or prior practicum training.
4. Relevant graduate level coursework in neuropsychological assessment (of children and adults), brain behaviour relationships, neuroanatomy, etc.
5. Experience in a hospital setting and with complex cases is an asset

### **Application Process**

Please submit a package containing the following by Monday, February 26, 2024:

1. Cover letter providing a brief summary of training and relevant experience as well as goals for the practicum
2. Up-to-date curriculum vitae
3. List of neuropsychological tests with sufficient training/experience to administer independently
4. Names and contact information of **two references**, who can speak to your **clinical** strengths and weaknesses.

Please email applications to: [sarah.meachen@vch.ca](mailto:sarah.meachen@vch.ca)

We will conduct interviews in early March and notify applicants on Monday, March 25, 2024.