

**ADOLESCENT & YOUNG ADULT
ADVANCED NEUROPSYCHOLOGY ASSESSMENT PRACTICUM
GF STRONG REHABILITATION CENTRE (2025-26)**

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 and the Adolescent Complex Concussion Clinic (ACC3). AYA provides post-acute multi-disciplinary rehabilitation to individuals age 12-24 with acquired brain injury, developmental disorders, neuromuscular disorders, and other neurological conditions. ACC3 provides education multi-disciplinary intervention to youth with a history of complex concussion (e.g. prolonged recovery, multiple concussions, comorbidities).

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

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. The practicum student will 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 somewhat negotiable within the range of 2-3 days per week for 6 to 9 months. The applicant must be available to work on Tuesdays, when patient rounds are held. In order to correspond with Dr. Meachen's schedule, the other days of work must be Wednesday, and/or Thursday (Dr. Meachen does not work at GF Strong on Monday or Friday).

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, in particular: WAIS-IV/V; WISC-5; WIAT-III/4; WMS-III/4; DKEFS; CVLT-3; WRAML-3; CPT-3; TOMM; Word Choice Test; BRIEF-2; BASC-3; ABAS-3; WCST.
2. Experience with neuropsychological assessment case conceptualization, and 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 24, 2025:

1. Cover letter providing a brief summary of training and relevant experience as well as goals for the practicum. Please include total number of integrated assessment reports you have completed at the time of application, as well as summary of relevant coursework.
2. Up-to-date curriculum vitae
3. List of neuropsychological tests with sufficient training/experience to administer independently
4. Brief recommendation letters from two supervisors who can discuss your clinical strengths and areas for development, along with their contact information.

Please email applications to: sarah.meachen@vch.ca

I will conduct interviews in early March and notify applicants on practicum match day (March 24, 2025).