

Student Training Opportunities in Psychology 2024-2025

University Health Network (UHN)

Princess Margaret Cancer Center

Toronto General Hospital

Toronto Western Hospital

Toronto Rehab

**Student Practicum Training Opportunities in Psychology 2024-2025
University Health Network (UHN)**
(Princess Margaret Cancer Center, Toronto General Hospital, Toronto Western Hospital &
Toronto Rehab)

Clinical and research opportunities (unfunded) are available to Psychology graduate students and fellows interested in gaining experience with diverse patient populations on an individual, couple, or group basis. Please note that UHN does not have CPA or APA accreditation for Psychology practicum training at this time. A list of potential placement settings is provided below. Please contact the respective psychologist directly to learn more about their placement options, or for information about available practicum spots or the semester during which practica are available, if not indicated. Please note that all practicum supervisors are members of the College of Psychologists of Ontario (CPO) and as such, adhere to practice standards set out by the CPO.

***INFORMATION IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE SHOULD RESTRICTIONS ARISE
RELATED TO COVID-19.**

**PRINCESS MARGARET CANCER CENTER - DEPARTMENT OF
SUPPORTIVE CARE:**

CLINICAL HEALTH PSYCHOLOGY:

Population: adult survivors of childhood cancer;

Clinical Assessments: psychosocial functioning; distress screening

Clinical Intervention: individual psychotherapy

Research: impact of late effects of cancer and cancer treatment on psychosocial development; transition from pediatric to adult health care; quality of life

Contact: Norma D'agostino, Ph.D. C.Psych. Norma.D'agostino@uhn.ca

Population: urologic cancers: prostate, testicular, kidney, bladder cancer patients

Clinical Assessments: health psychological assessment

Clinical Intervention: individual psychotherapy; couple therapy; sex therapy

Research: health-related quality of life and survivorship in cancer patients

Contact: Andrew Matthew, Ph.D. C.Psych. Andrew.Matthew@uhn.ca

Dr. Matthew and Dr. D'agostino co-supervise all students. Number of practicum spots for Fall-Winter 2024-25 = 2

YOUNG ADULTS WITH CANCER:

Population: Younger adults with cancer (<45 years), outpatients

Assessment: Clinical intake assessment conducted with new patients. Note that this practicum is primarily focused on intervention.

Intervention: cognitive-behavioural, acceptance and commitment, and supportive approaches, primarily individual with some group work (i.e., co-leading/leading patient support groups)

Research: Psychosocial aspects of living with cancer as a young adult; program development (fear of cancer recurrence, [in]fertility distress). Students may have opportunities to get involved in research, but this is not guaranteed and would occur outside of clinical placement hours.

Contact: Aliza Panjwani, Ph.D. CPsych. Aliza.panjwani@uhn.ca.

Number of spots for 2024-2025 practicum: 1; taking Ph.D., level students only

NEUROPSYCHOLOGY

Population: brain tumor patients; adult survivors of childhood cancer; young adult cancer survivors.

Clinical Assessments: neuropsychological assessment

Clinical Intervention: education; recommendations/strategies

Research: neurocognitive outcomes in cancer survivors; late effects of cancer treatment on neurocognitive function; circadian rhythms and cancer

Contact: Kim Edelstein, Ph.D. C.Psych. kim.edelstein@uhn.ca

Number of practicum spots for Fall-Winter 2024-25 = 1; taking Ph.D. level students only

Population: adult cancer survivors

Research: neurocognitive outcomes of cancer survivors, psychoeducational and cognitive rehabilitation

Contact: Lori Bernstein, Ph.D. C.Psych. lori.bernstein@uhn.ca

Number of practicum spots for Fall-Winter 2024-25 = 0; taking on research students only

TORONTO GENERAL HOSPITAL:

CARDIOLOGY

Population: adult patients with cardiovascular conditions

Clinical Assessments: psychophysiological tests (e.g. vagal-heart rate modulation and baroreflex sensitivity) during reactivity/recovery from mild-to-moderate psychological and physical stressors; cognitive-emotional adjustment to cardiovascular disease; quality of life; and lifestyle behaviors

Clinical Intervention: individual, group and e-health in the context of the health psychology/behavioral cardiology clinical service. Treatment modalities include cognitive-behavioral therapy, motivational interviewing, and biofeedback.

Research: (i) Efficacy of Behavioral Neurocardiac Training with vagal-heart rate biofeedback for patients with hypertension or chronic heart failure; (ii) cardiovascular reactivity/recovery following physical or psychological tasks; (iii) e-counseling to augment risk reduction for cardiovascular disease.

Contact: Robert Nolan, Ph.D. C.Psych. rnolan@uhnres.utoronto.ca

Number of practicum spots for Fall-Winter 2024-25 = 0; not taking student this coming year

ANESTHESIA & PAIN MANAGEMENT

TRANSITIONAL PAIN SERVICE AND EHLERS-DANLOS SYNDROME CLINIC

This rotation offers a unique opportunity to train in **two** specialized health-psychology clinics: The Transitional Pain Service and the Ehlers-Danlos Syndrome Clinic. Time spent in each clinic will be determined in collaboration with the student, based on availability, clinic needs, and students' training goals.

Transitional Pain Service :

Population: Outpatient adults suffering from acute and chronic pain at Toronto General Hospital's Transitional Pain Service, specializing in post-surgical pain.

Clinical Assessments: A brief assessment is completed prior to psychological intervention.

Clinical Intervention: Acceptance and commitment therapy, mindfulness and clinical hypnosis for pain management, psychoeducation. Intervention is delivered individually.

Research: Impact of novel pre- and post-surgical behavioural interventions on pain, distress, disability, and use of opioid medication

Ehlers-Danlos Syndrome Clinic

Population: Toronto General Hospital has one of the few clinics in the world specializing in treating people with Ehlers-Danlos Syndrome (EDS), a rare connective tissue disorder. EDS leads to joint dislocations, chronic pain, fatigue, gastrointestinal symptoms, and more. People living with EDS report a high prevalence of depression, anxiety, and emotion dysregulation. *Clinical Assessments:* Each patient seen by psychology undergoes an intake assessment, with an emphasis on biopsychosocial conceptualization.

Clinical intervention: Acceptance and commitment therapy; dialectical behaviour therapy skills group. Opportunities to engage in gut-focused clinical hypnosis for GI distress. Treatment is primarily group-based but there are also opportunities for individual intervention.

Research: Psychosocial features of EDS/HSD; Health-related quality of life in EDS/HSD; Impact of behavioural interventions on quality of life and symptom management

Contact: Max Slepian, Ph.D., C.Psych. maxwell.slepian@uhn.ca

Alternate Contact: Molly McCarthy, Ph.D., C.Psych. molly.mccarthy@uhn.ca

Number of practicum spots for Fall-Winter 2024-25 = 2

Number of practicum spots for Summer 2024 = 1

EATING DISORDER PROGRAM, CENTRE FOR MENTAL HEALTH

Population: Adults with Anorexia Nervosa, Bulimia Nervosa, Other Specified Feeding and Eating Disorder (OSFED), and Avoidant/Restrictive Food Intake Disorder (ARFID), as well as comorbidities including Anxiety Disorders, Mood Disorders, Substance Use Disorders, Posttraumatic Stress Disorder, and Personality Disorders. This is an intervention and assessment practicum.

Clinical Intervention: Our program currently provides a full range of treatment intensities for adults with eating disorders. Our program provides cognitive behaviour therapy (CBT)-based treatments, and includes inpatient, intensive outpatient, and individual therapy services. Our services focus on evidence-based treatment and trauma-informed care. The practicum provides opportunities for training in individual and group CBT, and there may be opportunities for group DBT.

Clinical Assessments: The practicum provides opportunities for training in structured clinical interviewing and diagnostic assessment.

Research: Our program conducts research on the etiology and maintenance of eating disorders, treatment efficacy and effectiveness, prediction of relapse, relapse prevention. Research opportunities may be available as part of the practicum, but are not guaranteed.

Psychologists:

Rachel Liebman, Ph.D., C.Psych. rachel.liebman@uhn.ca (currently on leave)

Danielle MacDonald, Ph.D., C.Psych. danielle.macdonald@uhn.ca

Michelle Mahan, Ph.D., C.Psych. michelle.mahan@uhn.ca

Shauna Solomon-Krakus, Ph.D., C.Psych. (supervised practice)

shauna.solomonkrakus@uhn.ca

Sarah Royal, Ph.D., C.Psych. sarah.royal@uhn.ca

Kathryn Trottier, Ph.D., C.Psych. kathryn.trottier@uhn.ca

Contact: danielle.macdonald@uhn.ca

Number of practicum spots for Summer 2024 = 1 (preference given for PhD-level students); for Fall-Winter 2024-25 = 1 (note: indicated number of spots are tentative and to be confirmed)

(please note that the practicum will be conducted on-site)

TORONTO WESTERN HOSPITAL:

BARIATRIC SURGERY PROGRAM

The practicum includes the following opportunities:

Assessments (required): semi-structured psychodiagnostic and psychosocial assessments are the focus of this placement.

Interdisciplinary collaboration (required): assessment and intervention involve collaborating with an interdisciplinary team and includes weekly team rounds.

Intervention (optional): (1) Groups: students can observe a variety of patient groups including an educational webinar, Dialectical Behaviour Therapy (DBT) skills group, mindfulness group and a body image group. (2) Individual psychotherapy: students can provide individual treatment to 1-3 patients each week, with a focus on problematic eating behaviour.

Research (optional): The Bariatric Program conducts research on psychological predictors of post-surgery outcomes, the effectiveness of psychological interventions, and other topics related to bariatric care. Students may have opportunities to be involved in research, but this is not guaranteed and would be undertaken outside of the clinical placement.

Psychologists:

Sarah Royal, Ph.D., C. Psych., sarah.royal@uhn.ca

Susan Wnuk, Ph.D. C. Psych., susan.wnuk@uhn.ca

Number of practicum spots: Summer 2024 = 2; Fall/Winter 2024-25 = 2

(Please note that currently this practicum can be completed partially or completely remotely)

NEUROPSYCHOLOGY CLINIC, KREMBIL BRAIN INSTITUTE

Population: neurology/neurosurgery outpatients, primarily in epilepsy and Parkinson's disease but includes other neurological disorders affecting cognition

Clinical Assessments: neuropsychological assessments

Clinical Interventions: recommendations; assessment of suitability for surgery

Research: impact of neurological disorders and neurosurgical/neurostimulation treatment on memory, language and executive functions; functional and structural neuroimaging in neurocognitive disorders; multiculturalism and neuropsychological assessment.

<https://www.twhneuropsych.com/joinourteam>

Psychologists:

Melanie Cohn, Ph.D. C.Psych. melanie.cohn@uhn.ca

David Gold, Ph.D. C.Psych. david.gold@uhn.ca

Marta Statucka, Ph.D., C.Psych. marta.statucka@uhn.ca

Email inquiries should be addressed to marta.statucka@uhn.ca

Number of practicum spots for Summer 2024 = 0; Number of practicum spots for Fall-Winter 2024-25 = 2-3; taking Ph.D. level students only

TORONTO REHAB:

The Telerehab Centre for Acquired Brain Injury and Spinal Cord Rehab sites are part of the Brain and Spinal Cord program at Toronto Rehab. It is a joint placement with students completing 1-2 days per week at each rotation. Applications are reviewed by all psychologists from University and Lyndhurst Sites. This placement occurs on-site. Ph.D. level students only

Email inquiries about this placement can be directed to: Dr. Martha McKay for Spinal Cord and Brenda Colella for TeleRehab Centre

Number of practicum spots for Summer 2024 = 1; Number of practicum spots for Fall-Winter 2024-25 = 1-2

TELEREHAB CENTRE FOR ACQUIRED BRAIN INJURY – UNIVERSITY SITE

Population: adults with wide range of acquired brain injuries, and various neurological disorders – outpatients only (at least 6 months post-injury/chronic stage)

Clinical Assessments: clinical psychological and neuropsychological assessments (in-person)

Clinical Interventions: A number of online, group psychoeducational programs and interventions for cognition and mental health are offered including Goal Management Training, cognitive behavioural therapy based interventions, mindfulness skills training, relaxation skills training and concussion education and symptom management. In addition, the Telerehab centre has a number of research programs focused on treatment outcomes for those in chronic phases of brain injury or other neurological disorders.

Psychologists:

Brenda Colella, M.A., C.Psych.Assoc. brenda.colella@uhn.ca

Liesel-Ann Meusel, Ph.D., C.Psych liesel-ann.meusel@uhh.ca

Robin Green, Ph.D., C.Psych robin.green@uhn.ca

Lesley Ruttan, Ph.D., C.Psych. lesley.ruttan@uhn.ca

SPINAL CORD REHAB, LYNDHURST SITE

Population: adults with spinal cord injury with wide range of concomitant injuries, neurological disorders, various diagnoses. Individuals may present with adjustment, mood, anxiety, trauma, substance use disorders, cognitive, as well as other mental health concerns. Our program focuses on inpatient services, but may include outpatient services as well.

Clinical Assessments: clinical psychological and neuropsychological assessments,

Clinical Interventions: cognitive behavioural intervention; emotion focused therapy; supportive counseling, cognitive remediation, individual and group interventions. Clinical interventions are focused on providing support for adjustment to life altering injury and addressing various symptom presentations.

Psychologists:

Martha McKay, Ph.D., C.Psych. martha.mckay@uhn.ca

Christie Yao, Ph.D., C.Psych. christie.yao2@uhn.ca

APPLICATION PROCEDURE:

To apply for a practicum position in any program, students must electronically submit:

- (1) [UHN Psychology Practicum Checklist](#)
- (2) cover letter (only 1 cover letter is required even if applying to multiple clinics)
- (3) curriculum vitae
- (4) copies of unofficial undergraduate and graduate transcripts
- (5) a listing of Psychological and/or Neuropsychological tests that the student has administered, scored, interpreted and written reports for, and
- (6) two letters of recommendation

Please submit items (1) – (4) as a single PDF to marta.statucka@uhn.ca with “**Psychology Practicum Application**” as the subject header.

In the body of the email, list the clinic that you are applying to (maximum 3).

Letters of recommendations should be emailed to the same address with **your name** in the subject header followed by “**Psychology Reference Letter.**” Please follow these instructions to ensure timely processing of your application.

The deadline for receipt of all application materials is early **February 1, 2024**.
Notification date for applicants is **March 27, 2024**.

If you have questions about the application process or are unable to submit information electronically, please contact marta.statucka@uhn.ca.

***NOTE:**

Health clearance needs to be completed prior to all placements. Supervisor will send information prior to placement about the online student registration system which details the required information. Please note that health clearance is the responsibility of the school/student and won't be done at UHN.

NOTE: UHN Psychology abides by, and expects all applicants and Directors of Clinical Training (DCTs) to abide by, the GTA Clinical Practicum Group rules as follows:

Practicum Notification Day Procedure (Updated Nov 2016)

Responsibility of Site Supervisors

1. Send rejection notifications by electronic mail to all candidates whom you will definitively not be making an offer to at 8:45 am. A copy of this notice must be sent to the applicant's Director of Clinical Training (DCT).
2. Send offer by electronic mail to your first choice(s) candidate(s) at 9:00 a.m. A copy of the offer must be sent to the applicant's Director of Clinical Training (DCT).
3. Do NOT leave your computer.
4. As soon as you hear back from your first choice: (a) if the candidate accepts, then notify all other candidates that the position has been filled; (b) if the candidate declines, then notify your second choice of the offer; (c) if the second choice accepts, then notify the remaining candidates that the position has been filled; (d) if the second-choice candidate declines, then notify your third choice of the offer; (e) and so on and so forth.
5. You are welcome to follow-up with applicants via telephone but all offers and acceptances must be done electronically.

Responsibility of Applicants

1. Turn your computer on at 8:40 a.m. (rejection notifications will go out at 8:45 a.m.).
2. Do NOT leave your computer.
3. You have the right to wait to hear from your 1st choice before making any other decisions.
4. Immediately acknowledge receipt of your offers.
5. Once you hear from your 1st choice, accept the offer immediately.
6. If you do not get your 1st choice, you have the right to wait to hear from your 2nd choice before making any other decisions, etc.
7. Ensure your DCT is kept in the loop by making sure they are cc'd on all your communications.

Responsibility of Directors of Clinical Training

1. Make sure the applicants understand the procedure.
2. Starting at 8:45 a.m., stay in contact with your students by electronic mail to make sure that they are understanding the process as it unfolds live.
3. As soon as students have confirmed acceptance of offers, be sure to update the GTA Practicum Notification Day spreadsheet, so that other DCT's are aware of what spots have been filled.