Why do 'eh'BPP Board Certification anyway?
Acknowledgements

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For additional SPS webinars on the board certification process, please visit https://theaacn.org/relevance-2050/relevance-2050-webinar-series/

Your feedback is very important to us, please complete a short survey following this webinar. Books will be raffled among responders.
Ronak Patel, Ph.D., C.Psych., ABPP-CN

PhD in Clinical Psychology at Ryerson University
Predoctoral Internship at Baycrest Centre for Geriatric Care

Clinical Neuropsychologist and Assistant Professor
Department of Clinical Health Psychology (CHP)
Rady Faculty of Medicine
University of Manitoba

- Specializes in neuropsychological assessment and neurorehabilitation of stroke and traumatic brain injury
- Teaches, supervises CHP’s interns, and does research using neuroimaging in different clinical populations.
Overview


2. ABC’s, steps, strategies, and resources.

3. Meet board-eligible and -certified Canadians and colleagues.

4. Q & A
Why bother? Benefits, common questions, and testimonials
Benefits to the Public & Profession

- Physicians become specialty experts by being board certified in their medical specialty, thereby **meeting the highest practice standards**.

- ABPP/ABCN establishes standards for competence:
  - Board certification is the highest benchmark of competency to practice clinical neuropsychology

- While Neuropsychology is a well-recognized specialty, the term “neuropsychologist” has little legal protection.
  - How to determine that a psychologist is competent to practice neuropsychology?
“My supervisors and many of the neuropsychologists I respect are not board certified - why should I be?”

- Relative to medical field, board certification in psychology is relatively new, especially in Canada.
- ABCN has been growing very rapidly and exceeds any other ABPP specialty.
- It’s a new day!
- Of the 2,890 North American members of INS, 50% are ABCN board-certified.
- Of the 3,846 members of SCN, 36% are ABCN board-certified.
Testimonials

Expertise

• “Deepened my understanding of the interplay between brain-behavior relationships”
• "Going through the process will help you expand, consolidate, and refine your knowledge as a practitioner or researcher in neuropsychology"
• “I honestly have never felt more competent in my skills than after studying, especially for topics like neuroanatomy and pathology”

Confidence

• “Choosing to do a post-doc was the best decision I made for my career! Coming out of internship, I felt like I knew how to conduct a neuropsychological evaluation, but I really learned how to be a pediatric neuropsychologist on fellowship”
• “My fellowship/post-doctoral training gave me the confidence to ‘hit the ground running’ when I started as a staff neuropsychologist.”
• “Increased my own knowledge base, self-confidence and respect from colleagues”
• “Made my transition to independent practice feel seamless”
Benefits to the Practitioner: Credibility

• Board certification is:
  ■ Considered the norm in medical specialties and used increasingly in allied health professions (e.g., pharmacy, nursing).
  ■ A rightful aspiration in Neuropsychology to be equally regarded by other professional specialties.

• ABPP/ABCN board certification:
  • Identifies you as a specialist vetted by peers.
  • Differentiates you from generalists calling themselves neuropsychologists and giving ‘NP tests.’
Networking

• “Connects you with a wider community of experts in neuropsychology, which also promotes improved practice and better delivery of clinical care.”

• “Current fellowship supervisors become mentors, future colleagues, and research collaborators, and also provides an opportunity to work more closely with clinicians, who have extensive experience and knowledge in the field.”

Medical legal or forensic practice

• Lawyers know about Board Certification and will use it to establish credibility in the courtroom.

• Makes it easy to meet criteria as an expert witness.
Benefits to the Practitioner: Better Pay, Job Security & Mobility

- In the U.S., ABCN-certified neuropsychologists earn 1/3 more, on average, and are more satisfied.

- Some institutions specifically link bonuses, promotions, and hospital privileges to board certification.

- Simplified credentialing/licensing.

- Many U.S. hospitals and private practices are requiring ABPP board certification at hire or within a few years of hire.
Examples of Hospitals and Private Practices requiring ABPP

Mayo Clinic
U Virginia Health System
U Conn
Univ Utah
Kennedy Krieger/JHU
MD Anderson Cancer Ctr
Dell Medical School (Tx)
CHLA/USC Keck
Hackensack U
Miami Children’s Hosp
Children’s Healthcare ATL
Tampa General Hospital
Minnesota Epilepsy Group (PP)

U Michigan
Emory Univ/Healthcare
Wayne State Univ
North Shore Univ System
Nationwide Children’s Hosp
U Kansas Health System
Stanford Health Care
NYU Langone (Dept Neurology)
Seattle Children’s Hospital
Children’s Hosp CO
Advent Health Orlando
Brigham & Women’s Hosp
Houston Neuropsychology Assoc (PP)
• “I recognized that completing a post-doc would potentially help increase chances of accessing career opportunities across Canada and the US, thus increasing flexibility and mobility.”

• “By completing my fellowship, I was able to apply to neuropsychologist positions at medical centres across the U.S., where it is a requirement for employment that you are eligible for board certification.”
There was a period that applicants had to wait but this is no longer the case.

Once a candidate completes necessary training and licensure requisites, they are considered board-eligible.

Pass rate for early career neuropsychologists is higher than for those out of training longer.
The preparation process for seeking board certification is time-consuming.

- ABCN’s goal is to facilitate the process, making it as attainable as possible.

- **Early Entry Application** allows grad students to apply for ABPP while in training.
  - **Early Entry Board Certification**: Graduate students, interns, or residents are eligible to start the ABPP board certification process early! To be eligible, an individual must not yet be licensed as a psychologist and must be a student in/graduate of an APA or CPA-accredited or ASPPB/NR designated doctoral program.

- Many resources are currently available, including ABCN 1:1 “mentors” if candidate does not have one in their community.
ABC’s, steps, strategies, and resources
ABPP: Governing body comprised of 15 affiliated specialty psychology boards, including the American Board of Clinical Neuropsychology (ABCN)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Behavioral &amp; Cognitive</th>
<th>Clinical Child &amp; Adolescent</th>
<th>Clinical Health</th>
<th>Clinical</th>
<th>Clinical Neuropsychology</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Counseling</td>
<td>Couple &amp; Family</td>
<td>Forensic</td>
<td>Geropsychology</td>
<td>Group</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Organizational &amp; Business</td>
<td>Police &amp; Public Safety</td>
<td>Psychoanalysis</td>
<td>Rehabilitation</td>
<td>School</td>
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Clinical Neuropsychology

- American Board of Clinical Neuropsychology (ABCN, 1981)
  - Develop and implement assessment procedures.
  - Oldest credentialing standard for neuropsychologists.
  - Fastest growing ABPP board, with 1,479 specialists to date.
  - Has the only ABPP subspecialty: Pediatric Neuropsychology (2014), with 120 subspecialists to date.

- American Academy of Clinical Neuropsychology (AACN, 1996)
  - Membership organization focused on advocacy and education.
  - Comprised of ABPP/ABCN-certified neuropsychologists and associate members/students.
  - Legally separate from ABPP and ABCN.

- Association of Postdoctoral Programs in Clinical Neuropsychology (APPCN, 1992)
  - Programs meet the training requirements outlined by the Houston Conference.
  - Each program is led by an ABCN-certified neuropsychologist.
ABCN Steps and Cost (USD)

(1) Application - $125* (or $25 for early entry)
(2) Written Examination - $300
(3) Practice Samples - $250
(4) Oral Examination - $450

ABPP and other organizations provide **scholarships**!
(Visit [ABPP foundation](http://example.com) for a complete list).
Application and Credential Review – Basic Eligibility Criteria

- A doctorate in Psychology (clinical, counseling, educational, etc.).

- A state/provincial license to practice psychology.

- Specialty training in Neuropsychology:
  - In general, training needs to conform to Houston Conference Guidelines.
  - Specific training criteria for Canadian applicants available at the ABCN website (see Canadian Guidelines).
  - Association of State and Provincial Psychology Boards (ASPPB) will “bank” your credentials for free as you complete your training and licensure.
Canadian Applicants for ABPP/ABCN Board Certification (Canadian Guidelines)

- [https://theabcn.org/canadian-guidelines/](https://theabcn.org/canadian-guidelines/)

- Didactic, academic and clinical training experiences at the Doctoral and Internship level, including same Knowledge Base and Skills outlined by the Houston Conference Guidelines.

- **2-year** full-time post-doctoral training supervised by a clinical neuropsychologist and access to an academic medical center to participate in didactics and training opportunities (e.g., patient/medical rounds, imaging training, etc).
  - OK to be clinically supervised at one training site and to attend didactics at another site.

- Supervised practice should allow exposure to and experience with a broad range of medical/neurological disorders and training in various neuropsychology services (e.g., assessment, report-writing, consultation, feedback, and intervention).
Canadian Applicants for ABPP/ABCN Board Certification

- Provides more flexibility for those seeking out comparable supervisory and training experiences where formal residency/fellowship programs do not yet exist. Important things to consider:
  - You and your fellowship supervisor should draft a training plan at the outset with ABCN criteria in mind (i.e., a structured programmatic training plan and didactics, with every case supervised by a neuropsychologist) 
    - NOT an informal on-the-job experience or independent practice with some supervision.
  - Document your post-doctoral training and how this meets ABCN criteria.
  - Applications are reviewed on a case-by-case basis and the more information you can provide, the better.
Resources To Guide Your ABPP Preparation

- Society for Clinical Neuropsychology (SCN aka APA Division 40).
  - Houston Conference Guidelines and the following related publications are available at SCN Education Advisory Committee Website:
    1) Taxonomy for clinical neuropsychology.
    2) Entry-level competencies in clinical neuropsychology.
    3) Education and training in clinical neuropsychology.

- Association of Neuropsychology Students & Trainees (ANST): www.scn40.org/ANST.
What is the Taxonomy?

This taxonomy lays out consistent terms and descriptions for four levels of education and training that doctoral, doctoral internship, postdoctoral, and postlicensure programs should use to describe their offerings.

**Major Area of Study**
Describes the highest level of education and training offered by the specialty.

**Emphasis**
The level of education and training just below Major Area of Study. Offers a structured, in-depth opportunity for knowledge acquisition, practical experience, and scientific study in a given specialty area.

**Experience**
Goes beyond simply acquainting a student with a specialty but offers less knowledge acquisition and practical training than an Emphasis.

**Exposure**
A limited education and training opportunity that acquaints an individual with that specialty area.

What the Taxonomy Does

» Provides consistent set of terms and definitions related to education and training in health service psychology specialties.

» Establishes a structure for the use of these terms within the education and training sequences for each specialty.

**Training Directors**
Provides a set of easy-to-use terms to accurately describe the specialty training they offer.

**Students and Trainees**
Offers “truth in advertising,” enabling accurate comparison of specialty training opportunities across programs.

**Psychologists**
Facilitates decision-making related to scope of practice and identification of training gaps if interested in re-specialization.
The following organizations have directories with doctoral, internship, and fellowship programs with various levels of education and training in clinical neuropsychology in Canada and the U.S.:

- Canadian Psychological Association
- Canadian Council of Professional Psychology Programs
- Association of Psychology Postdoctoral and Internship Centers
- Society for Clinical Neuropsychology
- Association for Internship Training in Clinical Neuropsychology
- Association of Postdoctoral Programs in Clinical Neuropsychology

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Major Area of Study</th>
<th>Internship</th>
<th>Postdoctoral</th>
<th>Post-licensure</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Doctoral¹</td>
<td>1) At least 50% of training time in clinical neuropsychology AND 2) didactic experiences consistent with Houston Conference guidelines for knowledge⁵ and skill⁶.</td>
<td>11) Two-years full-time (or the equivalent) of formal training in clinical neuropsychology, with relevant didactic, clinical, and research activities (including assessment and intervention that incorporate neuropsychological theories, perspectives, or methods and exposure to related healthcare disciplines).</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emphasis</td>
<td>Two neuropsychology courses² AND 2) two clinical neuropsychology practica³</td>
<td>&gt;30% and &lt;50% of experience in clinical neuropsychology supervised by a clinical neuropsychologist.</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Experience</td>
<td>One or two neuropsychology course(s)² AND 2) one clinical neuropsychology practicum³</td>
<td>&gt;10% and &lt;30% of supervised experience in clinical neuropsychology</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exposure</td>
<td>One neuropsychology course² OR 2) one clinical neuropsychology practicum³</td>
<td>5% - 10% of supervised experience in clinical neuropsychology and/or didactic training.</td>
<td>Any hours of CE in clinical neuropsychology</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

NOTE: As per APA guidelines all supervision in clinical neuropsychology must be provided by persons with competencies in clinical neuropsychology, aka, a clinical neuropsychologist.
Resources To Guide Your ABPP Preparation

ABPP (www.abpp.org)

✔ An overview of ABPP and what board certification means to psychology and the public.
✔ A summary description of the ABPP and ABCN requirements.
✔ Important forms that you will need at each step of the ABPP/ABCN certification process.
ABCN (www.theabcncn.org)

✔ A description of ABCN and advantages to board certification.

✔ A detailed description of the ABCN requirements.

✔ An overview of the examination process.

✔ A listing of examination dates and deadlines.

✔ Answers to “frequently asked questions”

✔ Links to the application materials at the ABPP site and study materials at the AACN site.
Resources To Guide Your ABPP Preparation (cont).

AACN (www.theaacn.org)

✔ A description of the AACN and its mission.

✔ Information on relevant educational programs.

✔ Information re: AACN mentorship program.

✔ Clinical Neuropsychology Study Guide and Board Review.

✔ AACN-sponsored seminars on the ABPP/ABCN certification process at the major neuropsychology conferences.

Resources To Guide Your ABPP Preparation (cont.)

BRAIN (http://brain.aacnwiki.org)

✔ Study outlines, flash cards, mock exams, and sample study schedules.

✔ A listserv comprised of peer neuropsychologists who are already boarded or who are working through the process (need to be licensed to join).

✔ Advice on how to approach each step of the certification process (both via the website and the listserve).

✔ For listserv members, coordinated study and support groups for the ABPP/ABCN written and oral examinations.
Board Certification in Clinical Neuropsychology

A Guide to Becoming ABPP/ABCN Certified Without Sacrificing Your Sanity

Second Edition

Kira E. Armstrong, PhD, ABPP
Dean W. Beebe, PhD, ABPP
Robin C. Hilsabeck, PhD, ABPP
Michael W. Kirkwood, PhD, ABPP
Meet board-eligible and board-certified Canadians and colleagues
Dr. Ronak Patel

Training
- PhD - Ryerson University: Clinical Psychology
- Internship - Baycrest Centre for Geriatric Care (2014)
- Post-Doctoral Training/Experience - Department of Clinical Health Psychology, University of Manitoba (2014—2016)

Work:
- Clinical Neuropsychologist & Assistant Professor, Department of Clinical Health Psychology, University of Manitoba (2014 to present)

ABPP Timeline:
- Credential Review - May 2017
- Written Exam - December 2019
- Approval of Case Samples/Reports - July 2020
- Oral Exam - November 2020
Dr. Octavio Santos

- Originally from Colombia and trained/licensed in the U.S.:
  - Clinical Psychology PhD at University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee
  - Internship at South Texas Veterans Health Care System
  - Fellowship at Mayo Clinic Florida (2019)
  - Licensed Psychologist in Florida

- Moved to Canada in Dec 2019:
  - Applied to 6 neuropsych jobs across Canada and knocked on tons of doors
  - Staff neuropsychologist at The Ottawa Hospital
  - Completing supervised practice required by CPO

- ABPP timeline:
  - Credential reviewed passed in 2019 during fellowship
  - Written exam passed in Jan 2021
  - Plan on submitting practice samples in Fall 2021/Winter 2022 and take oral exam in 2022
  - Why bother?
Dr. Amanda LaMarre

Training:
• PhD – University of British Columbia: Clinical Psychology
• Internship – Calgary Consortium for Clinical Psychology (2008)
• Post-Doctoral Fellowship – UC San Francisco Memory & Aging Center (2009-2012)

Work:
• UCSF Radiation Oncology (2012-2014)
• Fraser Health Authority/Vancouver Coastal Health Psychiatry (2014-present)

ABPP Timeline:
• Credential Review in 2015
• Written Exam in 2017
• Practice Samples in 2019
• Oral Exam in 2020
Dr. Emily MacKillop

Training
- Post-Doctoral Fellowship: Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center (BIDMC), Massachusetts Mental Health Center (MMHC), Harvard Medical School (2006-2008)

Work:
- University of Georgia, Department of Psychology Clinical Faculty (PT) (2008-2011)
- Private Practice (PT) Clinical and Neuropsychology (2008-2011)
- Kaiser Permanente, Atlanta, GA (2011-2014)
- St. Joseph's Healthcare Hamilton, McMaster University (2014-current)

ABPP Timeline:
- Credential Review in 2009 (ish?)
- Written Exam in 2010 (on-site at NAN in lovely downtown Vancouver!)
- Practice Samples in 2011
- Oral Exam in 2012
Dr. Lesley Ritchie

Training

- MSc – Carleton University: Neuroscience
- PhD – University of Victoria: Clinical Neuropsychology
- Internship – QEII Health Sciences Centre Neuropsychology Stream (2008-2009; Halifax)
- Post-Doctoral Training/Experience – Department of Clinical Health Psychology, University of Manitoba (2009-2011)

Work:

- Clinical Neuropsychologist & Assistant Professor, Department of Clinical Health Psychology, University of Manitoba (2009-present)
- Private Practice 2011-present

ABPP Timeline:

- Credential Review – 2013
- Written Exam – 2019
- Practice Samples – 2020
- Oral Exam – 2020
Dr. Tricia Williams

Training
- Internship: Hospital for Sick Children, Toronto (2006)
- Post-Doctoral Fellowship: Albert Children's Hospital, Calgary (2007-2009)

Work:
- Staff Neuropsychologist, Hospital for Sick Children (2009-2011)
- Staff Neuropsychologist, Holland Bloorview Kids Rehabilitation Hospital (2012-2014)
- Health Clinician Scientist, Hospital for Sick Children (2014-present)
- Private practice (2009-present)

ABPP Timeline:
- Credential Review in 2009
- Written Exam in 2010
- Practice Samples in 2010
- Oral Exam in 2011
Dr. Emily Duggan

Training
- BA Psychology, Boston University (2009)
- MSc & PhD, Clinical Psychology, Neuropsychology Track, University of Victoria (2014, 2019)
- Internship: Charleston Consortium (2019)
- Post-doctoral fellowship: Johns Hopkins School of Medicine, Division of Medical Psychology, Dept. Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences (2019-2021)

Additional Background
- US Citizen
- Canadian permanent resident
- Vanier Scholar
- Mitacs Globalink Scholar
- SCN ANST Chair, Delegate to CNS and Houston Conference Revision Planning Commission, KnowNeuropsychology Founding Member
- Currently pursuing Maryland licensure
- Planning to pursue ABPP within 1-5 years post-fellowship
Q & A
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