

2022 Neuropsych Program Virtual Open House – Q&A

The following questions were submitted through the Q&A function during the virtual open house. Answers are provided below. If you need further clarification or have additional questions, please feel free to contact **Kristen Votruba, Ph.D., ABPP-CN** at kvotruba@med.umich.edu

Is the clinical/research involvement split (50/50) the same at the VA as it is at Michigan Medicine?

- Both sites commit to approximately 50% clinical work. The remaining 50% is split between research and education time. The clinical time is structured in different ways (UM = 4 outpatient cases per week; VA = more clinic experience/same day assessment focused). Michigan Medicine has “clinic days” in which your four patients are consolidated to allow for more protected time for research and education activities.

Can you elaborate a bit on the use of psychometrists? Are these prac students/interns? The idea of not doing my own testing gives me pause, mostly because of the rich qualitative observations from the testing process. Have fellows found this helpful?

- All of our psychometrists are master’s level clinicians who have worked as psychometrists for many years (many of them 20+ years). They are exceptional in all ways and valued members of our team. Fellows do seem to find the use of psychometrists helpful, as the psychometrist masterfully administers and scores the tests while at the same time remaining in close communication with the postdoc throughout the evaluation and providing excellent behavioral observations. Postdocs are also required to give one test of their choosing and are welcome to give more tests within their interview time to assist in their qualitative understanding of the patient. Using a psychometrist model also allows postdocs to spend individual time interviewing collaterals which provides valuable clinical data.

I believe the Michigan side said they see four patients a week clinically, does the VA side also see four patients a week? Thank you!

- The VA structure is different than the UM side, in that the VA postdoc is involved in more daily clinical activities within active clinics (polytrauma, geriatrics, CLC). Same day brief evaluations are often completed during these experiences. On an outpatient basis, postdocs typically see two outpatients per week at the VA (first year testing themselves, second year with a psychometrist).

Which rotations cross over? Just the rotations listed under 4-month rotations and hospital clinic on the slides?

- No rotations cross-over. Postdocs have a home-base at one site or the other and participate in the rotations that are offered at that site. If they express interest in gaining additional experiences at the other site, we make that work. For example, the three rotations for a UM postdoc comprise 12 months of being on an official rotation. The remaining 12 months is spent focusing on research or other opportunities relevant to a postdoc training plan. If, during that time, a UM postdoc wants to spend one day per week at the VA working in the polytrauma clinic, we will arrange their schedule accordingly. Similarly, VA postdocs will routinely complete the VA rotations but can also gain experience in the Cognitive Disorders Clinic, Epilepsy Clinic, or other training experiences offered at UM.

(VA focused) In addition to assessment experiences, the brochure mentions possible involvement in intervention services. Could you please elaborate on these experiences and if this add-on experience is feasible given other responsibilities

- Intervention experiences are more feasible at the VA, particularly in the Community Living Center (inpatient rehab). The UM side does not offer specific intervention experiences other than routine feedback sessions following clinical neuropsych evaluations that often require use of similar clinical skills.

Also when do the 4-month rotations occur under MM? Do you always do the outpatient clinic + a 4 month clinic at the same time?

- Postdocs at UM will have four outpatient cases throughout their two-year postdoc, regardless of whether they are on a four-month rotation. Being on a rotation does not increase your clinical load. You will still see four patients per week but you will also spend time (a half day per week) working with a particular team (i.e., cognitive disorders team, epilepsy team, ADHD/ASD team) relaying our clinical information to that team. Postdoc rotations at the VA work similarly but typically are six-months long.

At the U, are the 4-month rotations in the different clinics in addition to the General Neuropsychology Clinic?

- Please see answer above.

Thank you for this webinar! Can you speak to the typical demographics of the patients served at Mich Med and VA Ann Arbor?

- Because the University of Michigan and VA Ann Arbor are highly respected institutions, they have large catchment areas but the majority of patients at both sites are from the state of Michigan and northern Ohio (1-2 hours south). The state of Michigan demographic make-up can be found here

[Michigan Population 2022 \(Demographics, Maps, Graphs\)
\(worldpopulationreview.com\)](https://worldpopulationreview.com/michigan-population-2022)

Start date?

- The start date for the UM / VAAHS consortium is September 1, 2023