

UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI, LEONARD M. MILLER SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

## CLINICAL NEUROPSYCHOLOGY

UHEALTH PSYCHIATRY AT MENTAL HEALTH HOSPITAL CENTER

1695 N.W. 9th Avenue, Suite 3302H

Miami, FL. 33136

Days and Hours: Monday – Friday 8:30a.m. – 6:00p.m.

(305) 355-9028 (JMH, Downtown)

[What is Neuropsychological Testing?](#)

[Indications for Neuropsychological Evaluation and Consultation](#)

[Frequent Reasons for Seeking Neuropsychological Services](#)

[Costs to the Patient](#)

[How to Use Our Services](#)

[Getting Test Results and Professional Feedback](#)

### **Neuropsychology Faculty**

- Phillip Harvey, Ph.D., Professor of Psychiatry, Director of the Division of Psychology, Leonard M. Miller School of Medicine
- David Loewenstein, Ph.D., ABPP/CN Professor of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences; Chief of the Neuropsychology Service, Department of Psychiatry & Behavioral Sciences, Leonard M. Miller School of Medicine
- Rene Hernandez Cardenache, Psy.D., Assistant Professor of Psychiatry and Neuropsychology, Leonard M. Miller School of Medicine
- Felicia Gould, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences, Leonard M. Miller School of Medicine
- Rosie E. Curiel, Psy.D., Assistant Professor of Clinical Psychiatry and Neuropsychology, Leonard M. Miller School of Medicine

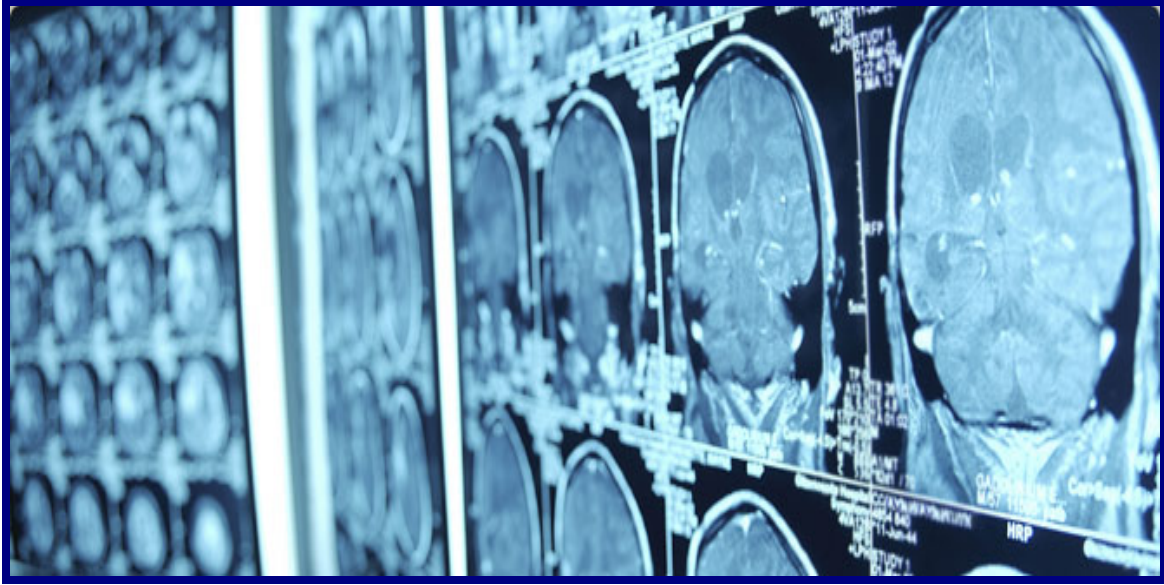
### **Specialty Clinics in the Neuropsychology Service**

- Forensic Evaluation Clinic
- Adult Outpatient Clinic (JMH/Mental Health Hospital Center)
- Concussion/Traumatic Brain Injury Clinic

### Research in the Neuropsychology Service

- Collaborate with Department of Neurosurgery for the treatment of Severe, Obsessive Compulsive Disorder using Deep Brain Stimulation
- In collaboration with Department of Neurology, Huntington's Disease Trial
- In collaborating with the Center on Aging, and Memory Disorders Clinic

### Education in Neuropsychology Service



### **What is Neuropsychological Testing?**

Neuropsychology is the scientific study of the functions of mind as it relates to the workings of the brain. When psychological changes occur as a result of trauma, disease, or aging of the brain, clinical psychologists with specialized training called "Neuropsychologists" examine the relationships between the mind and the brain, to understand how the person's overall functioning has been affected.

Neuropsychological testing is a way of looking at the relationships between the brain and cognitive abilities. These tests are an important part of an overall evaluation, as they provide an objective measure of a person's cognitive & emotional strengths and weaknesses. Using a set of standardized tests and procedures, neuropsychological assessment provides a systematic evaluation of an affected person's intelligence, attention, language, learning & memory, problem-solving ability, visual-motor skills, sensorimotor, and personality/emotional functioning.

A typical evaluation involves a record review, an interview with the patient and family when available, along with the administration of both neuropsychological and psychological tests. Such tests usually involve paper-and pencil, performance measures, and computer-based instruments. Because we serve an ethnically diverse community, such evaluations can be conducted in English or Spanish in our service.

### **Indications for Neuropsychological Consultation**

Neuropsychological consultation plays a major role in diagnosis, treatment, rehabilitation, educational, and vocational planning. It is particularly valuable as an objective measurement of how the person is doing before and after treatment.

Neuropsychological consultation can be beneficial for any case in which cognitive, behavioral, or emotional difficulties are suspected to involve trauma, disease, or aging, and have a negative effect on a person's way of functioning (at work, school or with family & friends). Persons who benefit include those with the following conditions or needs.

- Acquired brain injury (i.e., concussion, traumatic brain injury, stroke, central nervous system infection, brain tumor, hypoxia, or toxic exposures)
- Progressive Degenerative Disease (i.e., Alzheimer's Disease, Parkinson's Disease, Huntington's Chorea, and Multiple Sclerosis)
- Psychiatric conditions with a high index of risk for neurological (i.e., organic) involvement (i.e., chronic alcoholism, schizophrenia)
- Attention, memory, or language problems that affect daily functioning, but for which the causes are unclear, unknown, or poorly delineated (i.e., Adult ADHD)
- Identifying and measuring cognitive abilities of persons who are preparing to undergo a neurosurgical procedure, and re-testing of the person after the surgery (i.e., Pre-Post neurosurgical procedures)

### **Frequent Reasons for Seeking Neuropsychological Services**

- To examine cognitive functioning for Independent Medical Examinations (IME) or other forensic evaluation purposes
- To determine the presence, nature, severity, and extent of cognitive problems related to trauma, illness, or aging

- To provide recommendations that will assist cognitive capacity for returning to work, school, reentering the community, or independent living
- To provide a baseline of functioning to track cognitive and emotional changes overtime
- To assist with differential diagnosis of complex patient presentations suspected of having neuropsychiatric coexisting conditions
- To determine psychological factors (i.e., depression, personality disorders) that may falsely appear as a of brain dysfunction
- To recommend and influence the types of neurorehabilitation services needed to improve the quality of the person's life and care
- To estimate how impaired/recovered the person is compared to their pre-injury way of functioning cognitively or emotionally

### **Costs to the Patient**

Most major insurance companies will pay at least part of the cost for a neuropsychological evaluation. Call us with your insurance information and our friendly billing staff will check on the extent of your coverage for these services.

### **How to Use Our Services**

Referrals for neuropsychological consultations and evaluations may be requested by physicians, other mental health professionals, patients, or by concerned family members in the community. We also accept referrals from inpatient and outpatient clinics. Upon receiving financial clearance from our billing staff, we will schedule an initial consultation and coordinate for testing. In order to schedule an initial appointment please call our Coconut Grove offices at 305 243-3465 or Downtown office.

### **Getting Test Results and Professional Feedback**

Receiving verbal and written feedback is the final step of the process. Results and testing information is tailored to the needs of the patient and the referral source. In general, a comprehensive report summarizing the findings, recommendations for useful treatments, and the likely consequences of the person's difficulties in day to day functioning are delineated for the referral source. This commonly includes useful information to the patient, family, attorneys, teachers, or employers, as to the strengths, challenges & limitations the person will likely have when continuing life after the injury/condition.

## **Neuropsychology Faculty and Staff**

### **Philip Harvey, Ph.D. Professor of Psychiatry & Behavioral Sciences, Chief, Division of Psychology, Director of the Division of Psychology Department of Psychiatry & Behavioral Sciences, University of Miami Miller School of Medicine**



Dr. Philip Harvey is a Professor is a Professor and Chief of the Division of Psychology. His clinical specialties include neuropsychological and functional assessments of the consequences of severe mental illness, traumatic brain injury, and aging. He received his degrees in clinical psychology from State University of New York at Stony Brook and has been continually funded by the National Institutes of Health for many years for his schizophrenia research.

### **David Loewenstein, Ph.D., ABPP/CN Professor of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences; Chief, Division of Neuropsychology, Department of Psychiatry & Behavioral Sciences, University of Miami Miller School of Medicine**



Dr. David Loewenstein, Ph.D., A.B.N.P. is a Professor and Chief of Neuropsychology. He is a Board Certified Clinical Neuropsychologist and an expert in psychological testing. His research focuses on diagnosing and treating cognitive function deficiencies and memory disorders. Dr. Loewenstein is the co-director the Neuropsychology, Post-Doctoral Fellowship Program. He received his doctorate in clinical psychology from Florida State University.

### **Rene Hernandez Cardenache, Psy.D. Assistant Professor of Psychiatry and Neuropsychology**



Dr. Rene Hernandez Cardenache is Assistant Professor of Psychiatry and Neuropsychology. He is currently an approved board candidate by the American Board of Clinical Neuropsychology (ABCN). Dr. Hernandez Cardenache offers forensic neuropsychology services and expert testimony, and co-directs the Post-Doctoral Fellowship Program. His research interests are in traumatic brain injury, Adult ADHD, and Cross-cultural neuropsychology. He received his doctorate in clinical psychology from Pepperdine University.

### **Felicia Gould, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Psychiatry and Neuropsychology**



Dr. Felicia Gould is Assistant Professor of Psychiatry and Neuropsychology and specializes in cognitive behavioral therapy for the treatment of anxiety and depression. Additionally, interpersonal therapy and dialectal behavioral therapy techniques are incorporated for the treatment of interpersonal/ relationship difficulties. Dr. Gould is currently involved in several research studies involving Schizophrenia, Bi-Polar Disorder, and Trauma.

## **Rosie E. Curiel, Psy.D., Assistant Professor of Clinical Psychiatry and Neuropsychology.**



Dr. Rosie Curiel is Assistant Professor of Clinical Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences. Dr. Curiel is a licensed clinical psychologist who conducts neuropsychological evaluations of individuals with diverse neurodegenerative and neurobehavioral conditions. Dr. Curiel also contributes to the Comprehensive Diagnostic and Treatment Evaluation Program. Her research interests include traumatic brain and spinal cord injury, neuropsychological testing of Hispanic minorities, the neuropsychological aspects of emotion, grief and bereavement; and trauma.

In addition, we have a team of highly qualified specialists in Neuropsychiatry, Forensic Psychology, Substance Abuse, and Geriatric Psychiatrists who are available for consultation.

### **Specialty Clinics in the Neuropsychology Service**

**Inpatient Neuropsychological Consultation-**Professional consultation services will be provided throughout the Mental Health Hospital and a primary focus on geriatric issues, differential diagnosis.

**Forensic Evaluation Clinic-** Independent Medical Evaluations needed for workman's compensation, insurance claims, and civil legal proceedings are provided.

**Adult Outpatient Clinic (JMH/Mental Health Hospital Center)-**Faculty see adult patients for neuropsychological evaluation who present with a variety of clinical problems and referral questions. Test battery length and content are generally flexible and dependent on the nature of the referral questions.

**Concussion/Traumatic Brain Injury Clinic-** Faculty evaluate victims of concussions and traumatic brain injury. Specialized neuropsychological testing is used in this clinic delineate cognitive impairment, track cognitive and emotional changes across time, and to provided recommendations prior to returning to work, school, and reentering the community. Evaluations can be completed with both, English and Spanish speaking patients.

### **Research in the Neuropsychology Service**

The Clinical Neuropsychology Service is actively joining forces with the Memory Disorders Clinic in research looking at the early detection of Mild Cognitive Impairment in Alzheimer's Disease, and the development of Brain Fitness programs. Additionally, it is also collaborating with the department of Neurology on a Randomized, Efficacy Study of Dimeodon in patients with Mild to Moderate Huntington Disease.

Most recently, the neuropsychology and psychiatry consultation service has also partnered with the UM/Neurosurgery service in a Deep Brain Stimulation project investigating the efficacy of the procedure in subjects suffering from intractable symptoms of Obsessive Compulsive Disorder (OCD). [See OCD/DBS Description \(Attached\)](#).

### **Education in Neuropsychology Service**

Our service also offers a specialty Post-Doctoral Fellowship in Clinical Neuropsychology that is approved by the Association of Post-Doctoral Programs in Clinical Neuropsychology (APPCN). The goal is to offer advance education and training psychologists specializing in neuropsychology. [See Training in Psychology \(Externship Training\)](#).

The Neuropsychology Service sponsors externs/practicum students from A.P.A. accredited graduate clinical or counseling psychology training programs in Florida to participate in specialized training in neuropsychological assessment. Training is generally tailored to the individual needs of the graduate student; however, training generally involves attending didactics on neuropsychological and psychiatric disorders, as well as training in test administration, scoring, test interpretation, and report writing. The purpose of such training is to enable students interested in the specialty to develop the clinical skills to effectively work with patients suspected to be suffering from neuropsychiatric conditions. [See Education in Psychology \(Externship Training\)](#).

Faculty and staff from the service regularly participate in advancing medical education by providing lectures to medical students, seminars to psychiatry residents, and scholarly presentations to post-doctoral fellows in the Psychology Program.