

# The Amy Brodtmann Cognitive Neurology Fellowship program

*An initiative of the Australasian Cognitive Neurology Association*



**ACNA**

Proposed by: Drs Antonia Clarke, Campbell Le Heron & David Darby

Cognitive neurology is a core component of general neurology practice, yet exposure during training is variable. Early-career clinicians are often required to manage cognitive presentations with limited structured experience. The Cognitive Neurology Fellowship Program ('the Fellowship') addresses that gap through real-world clinical immersion.

## **Purpose**

The Fellowship provides an opportunity for targeted cognitive neurology research and clinical exposure for advanced trainees and early-career clinicians. In addition to fostering career development for the successful applicant, it is hoped that the Fellowship will promote specialisation and clinical research in cognitive neurology in Australia and New Zealand.

The Fellowship will be hosted by a centre of excellence in cognitive neurology clinical practice and/or research, to be chosen by the candidate. This should ordinarily be for a period of at least one month and not in the candidate's home city.

The Fellowship is intended to support the development of practical clinical skills, research engagement, and professional networks in cognitive neurology. Expected outcomes include:

- Improved confidence and structure in cognitive assessment,
- Better recognition and formulation of common cognitive syndromes,
- More appropriate and efficient use of cognitive neurology investigations,
- Introduction to existing and emerging therapies,
- Increased exposure to multidisciplinary and research-active services, and
- Development of professional links with peers and mentors with cognitive neurology subspecialty expertise.

**Value of the Fellowship:** \$15,000 to support costs associated with travel, accommodation, and related costs, with priority for interstate and rural placements.

## **Minimum eligibility criteria:**

Applicants must be:

1. Australian or New Zealand citizens or permanent residents, and
2. Either of the following:
  - a) A current Australian and New Zealand Association of Neurology (ANZAN) Affiliate in Training\*, or
  - b) A full ANZAN member who is within 5 years of being awarded their FRACP.

Applications from candidates training or recently fellowed with other specialty societies (e.g., the Australian and New Zealand Society for Geriatric Medicine) will also be considered provided they can demonstrate the requirements outlined in the application process below.

## **Suggested host institutions:**

It is expected that the proposed candidate will make initial contact with one of the following host sites to discuss and plan a potential fellowship experience.

- Australia:
  - o Victoria:
    - Box Hill Hospital (Prof. Amy Brodtmann; E: amy.brodtmann@monash.edu)
    - Royal Melbourne Hospital (Prof. Amy Brodtmann; E: amy.brodtmann@monash.edu)
    - The Alfred Hospital (Prof. David Darby; E: david.darby@monash.edu)
  - o New South Wales:
    - Royal Prince Alfred Hospital (Prof. Rebekah Ahmed; E: rebekah.ahmed@sydney.edu.au)

\*This Fellowship cannot contribute to the requirements for core training under ANZAN.

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- Southern Neurology (A/Prof. Raymond Schwartz:  
raymond.schwartz@southern-neurology.com.au or  
Dr Colin Mahoney: colin.mahoney@health.nsw.gov.au)
- Queensland:
  - Mater Hospital (Prof. Peter Nestor; E: p.nestor@uq.edu.au)
- South Australia:
  - Royal Adelaide Hospital/Queen Elizabeth Hospital (Dr Cathy Short E:  
cathy.short@sa.gov.au or Dr Christopher Belder; E:  
christopher.belder@sa.gov.au)
  - Flinders Medical Centre (Dr Logesh Palanikumar:  
logesh.palanikumar@sa.gov.au)
- Western Australia:
  - Royal Perth Hospital (Prof. Carolyn Orr; E: carolyn.orr@me.com)
- Northern Territory:
  - Alice Springs Hospital (Dr Antonia Clarke; E: antonia.clarke@monash.edu)
- New Zealand:
  - Christchurch Hospital (Dr Campbell Le Heron; E: campbell.leheron@cdhb.health.nz)

Fellowship host sites are not limited to public health services or academic institutions. ACNA affiliated private practices specialising in cognitive neurology and other non-public institutions are eligible to participate, provided they demonstrate appropriate supervised clinical exposure to cognitive and behavioural neurology presentations and/or involvement in clinical research activities, including clinical trials or trial governance/review processes.

**Application process:**

Applications must include the following information:

1. Detailed description of the proposed fellowship and/or research project to be undertaken during the Fellowship (maximum 2 pages),
2. Confirmation of acceptance by an educational supervisor and head of department at the host institution,
3. Proposed weekly timetable for cognitive neurology exposure and names of consultants attached to the cognitive neurology unit at the host institution,
4. Curriculum vitae of the applicant, including qualifications and experience, relevant research experience and publications,
5. Written reports from two academic or professional referees, and
6. Membership of the Australasian Cognitive Neurology Association (ACNA).

**Assessment process:**

Applications will be assessed by a sub-committee nominated by the ACNA Executive Committee. Applicants will be assessed on the following criteria:

- The plan for the Fellowship, including potential clinical and/or research outcomes,
- Clinical and research experience and publications,
- Referee reports and interview, and
- Impact of the Fellowship for the applicant's clinical practice and/or research exposure.

**Reporting:**

1. The nominated educational supervisor is required to provide written confirmation of satisfactory completion of the Fellowship.
2. The successful applicant is required to provide a report to the ACNA Executive on the outcome of the Fellowship within 6 months of completion, in the form of a short report that can be circulated to the ACNA Membership.
3. The successful applicant is also encouraged to present an interesting case at the ACNA Annual Scientific Meeting.

For further information, please contact Dr Antonia Clarke ([antonia.clarke@monash.edu](mailto:antonia.clarke@monash.edu)).

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