

Gia M. LaRuffa, Ph.D.
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EDUCATION
September 2002

Yeshiva University; Ferkauf Graduate School of Psychology and Albert Einstein College of Medicine, Bronx, NY
Ph.D. in Clinical Health Psychology
Dissertation: Health Quality of Life in Older Adults at Risk for Dementia (Chairperson: Vance Zemon, Ph.D.)

January 1998

Yeshiva University; Ferkauf Graduate School of Psychology and Albert Einstein College of Medicine, Bronx, NY
M.A. (En Route) in General Psychology

May 1994

State University of New York at Albany, Albany, New York
B. A., Cum Laude; Major: Psychology; Minor: Biology

Post-Doctoral Fellowship

09/02 – 08/04

University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey and Robert Wood Johnson Medical School/Cooper University Hospital; Division of Neurology, Camden, NJ

Responsibilities of this full-time two-year fellowship included conducting and interpreting neuropsychological assessments daily for adolescent, adult, and geriatric in- and outpatients as well as dictating reports and providing feedback on performance to patients, family members, health care professionals, and school personnel. Presenting problems included dementia, traumatic brain injury, stroke, anoxia, Parkinson's disease, seizure disorders, lupus, Lyme disease, brain tumors, learning disabilities, multiple sclerosis, psychiatric, and other medical conditions. Attended weekly neuroscience/neurology grand rounds and shadowed attending neurologist on inpatient neurology consults. Taught fourth-year medical students the fundamentals of neuropsychology.

Supervisors: Andrea J. Casher, Psy.D., A.B.P.P. and Kathy A. Lawler, Ph.D., A.B.P.P.

Internship

7/99 – 06/00

Yale University School of Medicine, Department of Psychiatry
New Haven, CT

A full-time A.P.A. accredited internship at a community hospital that was comprised of two six-month rotations.

Neuropsychology rotation consisted of conducting, interpreting and report writing of neuropsychological assessments with adolescents, adults, and a geriatric population on an inpatient and outpatient basis; member of multidisciplinary stroke team which entailed conducting bedside neuropsychological screenings with stroke patients and attending rounds and MRI readings twice a week; conducted individual psychotherapy with three outpatients; and co-led two women's psychotherapy groups weekly.

Supervisors: Emily Littman, Ph.D., Elizabeth Augustine, Ph.D., and Sidney Horowitz, Ph.D.

Psychotherapy rotation consisted of conducting weekly individual psychotherapy with six to eight outpatients who had either severe, prolonged mental illness, or an acute Axis I diagnosis complicated by comorbid Axis II diagnosis; co-lead a Dialectical Behavior Therapy group and an anxiety disorders group; organized and presented a smoking cessation group for members of the community; and conducted and interpreted psychological assessments with adolescents and adults on an inpatient and outpatient basis.

Supervisors: Seth Segall, Ph.D., Walter Phillips, Ph.D., and K. David Schultz, Ph.D., A.B.P.P.

Both rotations consisted of attending five hours of didactics weekly including neuropsychology and psychotherapy seminars.

CLINICAL EXPERIENCE AND HOSPITAL APPOINTMENTS

10/15 – Present

Albany Medical Center; Albany Medical College, Albany, NY
Department of Neurology

Neuropsychologist and Assistant Professor

Conduct neuropsychological evaluations for adults, including presurgical evaluations for DBS and epilepsy. Assist in teaching Neurology Residents fundamentals of neuropsychology.

01/07 – Present

Private Practice, Latham, NY

Conduct neuropsychological evaluations for adults for referring physicians. Manage all aspects of practice, including billing to insurance companies.

07/06 – 03/08

Ellis Hospital, Schenectady, NY

Consulting Neuropsychologist

Provided brief neuropsychological consultations to medical units as needed.

01/06 – 03/08

Sunnyview Rehabilitation Hospital, Schenectady, NY

Staff Neuropsychologist

Served on neurovascular team, conducting neuropsychological evaluations. Attended multidisciplinary rounds for above team. Led biweekly stroke education group for patients and their families. Conducted neuropsychological evaluations for cardiopulmonary inpatients. Conducted neuropsychological evaluations on outpatients that had been referred to the Hospital by community neurologists, psychiatrists etc. Provided in-services to staff and patients as requested. Assisted in the supervision of third-year psychology graduate student.

09/04 – 12/05

**University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey and Robert Wood Johnson Medical School/Cooper University Hospital;
Division of Neurology, Camden, NJ
Clinical Assistant Professor of Medicine
Clinical Neuropsychologist**

Conducted neuropsychological assessments for adolescent, adult, and geriatric in- and outpatients and provided feedback on performance to patients, family members, health care professionals, and school personnel. Assisted in the supervision of a third-year psychology graduate student. Taught fourth-year medical students the fundamentals of neuropsychology. Attended weekly neuroscience rounds.

SUPERVISED CLINICAL EXPERIENCE (During Graduate School)

10/01 – 07/02

Hunter Holmes McGuire V.A. Medical Center, Department of Defense and Veterans Head Injury Program and Medical College of Virginia, Department of Neuropsychology and Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, Richmond, VA – Neuropsychology Assistant

Responsibilities of this full-time position included neuropsychological evaluation of in- and outpatient brain-injured adults, interpretation and report writing, and individual psychotherapy as needed. Developed and co-led psychoeducational group for inpatients. Provided structured informational interventions for inpatients, including feedback of neuropsychological performance. Reported at weekly multidisciplinary rounds and family conferences on inpatient unit. Provided supervision to Masters-level student as needed. Attended bi-weekly neuropsychology rounds.

Supervisors: Jeffrey Kreutzer, Ph.D., A.B.P.P. and Ron Seel, Ph.D.

08/98 – 06/99

Albert Einstein College of Medicine, Department of Neurology, Bronx, NY – Psychology Assistant for Einstein Aging Study; Principal Investigators: Herman Buschke, M.D., Richard Lipton, M.D. and Martin Sliwinski, Ph.D.

Conducted clinical interviews, formal neuropsychological tests, and experimental memory tests with elderly subjects. Contributed to research protocol by adding quality of life measure which developed into dissertation.

Supervisor: Gail Kuslansky, Ph.D.

07/98 – 03/99

St. Vincent's Hospital Center, Department of Rehabilitation Medicine, New York, NY – Psychology Extern

Conducted diagnostic interviews, individual therapy, neuropsychological screenings, and personality assessments on rehabilitation unit. Reported at weekly multidisciplinary team rounds.

Supervisors: Alizah Brozgold, Ph.D. and Neal May, Psy.D.

- 10/97 – 01/99 **Montefiore Medical Center, Albert Einstein Cancer Center; Psychosocial Oncology Program, Bronx, NY – Psychology Extern**
Individual therapist for cancer patients, survivors, and their families; attended bi-weekly training seminar on psycho-oncology facilitated by Ann Webster, Ph.D.
Supervisors: Fred Foley, Ph.D. and Carole Morgan, Ph.D.
- 03/98 – 08/98 **Bellevue Hospital Center, Traumatic Brain Injury Unit, New York, NY – Psychology Extern**
Conducted and interpreted neuropsychological evaluations, assisted in computerized cognitive remediation, and provided individual therapy on traumatic brain injury unit. Attended weekly multidisciplinary rounds and in-services and neurology grand rounds as offered.
Supervisor: Harold Lifshutz, Ph.D.
- 09/97 – 02/98 **Albert Einstein College of Medicine, Department of Psychiatry; Sound View-Throgs Neck Community Mental Health Center, Bronx, NY – Psychology Extern**
Individual therapist for an outpatient adult. Conducted diagnostic intake interviews and psychological assessments. Presenting problems included personality and eating disorders, substance abuse, major depression, as well as abuse and bereavement issues.
Supervisors: Karen Inghilterra, M.D. and Barbara Herndon, Ph.D.
- 01/97 – 03/98 **Montefiore Medical Center, Department of Neuropsychology, Bronx, NY – Psychology Extern**
Conducted and interpreted neuropsychological assessments with adult outpatients. Experience also consisted of report writing. Presenting problems included seizure disorders, dementia, brain tumor, cerebral aneurysm, multiple sclerosis, and toxic and metabolic encephalopathies. Attended neuropathology rounds.
Supervisor: David Masur, Ph.D., A.B.P.P.
- 09/96 – 07/97 **Ferkauf Graduate School, Behavioral Medicine and Anxiety Disorders Clinic, Bronx, NY – Therapy Practicum**
Individual therapist for an outpatient adult. Supervised in individual and class format.
Supervisor: Carole Morgan, Ph.D.
- 01/95 – 04/95 **Albert Einstein College of Medicine, Department of Epidemiology and Social Medicine, Bronx, NY – Temporary Psychosocial Interviewer**
Conducted semi-structured psychosocial interviews with HIV-positive and HIV-negative women for a multi-site study funded by the C.D.C.
Supervisors: Robert Klein, M.D. and Ellie Schoenbaum, M.D.

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

- 07/00 – 06/01 **Albert Einstein College of Medicine, Department of Neurology, Bronx, NY – Project Coordinator** for Einstein Aging Study; Principal Investigators: Herman Buschke, M.D., Richard Lipton, M.D., and Martin Sliwinski, Ph.D.
Responsible for coordinating a one-year protocol funded by Bristol-Meyers Squibb, which aimed to determine the sensitivity and specificity of a neuropsychological measure with older adults. Responsibilities included recruiting and tracking subjects, neuropsychological testing, and managing database. Contributed to manuscript preparation.
- 10/97 – 08/98 **Albert Einstein College of Medicine; Cancer Center and Department of Epidemiology and Social Medicine, Bronx, NY – Research Assistant** to Petra Lukoshek, M.D., Alyson Moadel, Ph.D. and Carole Morgan, Ph.D.
Involved in the expansion of the Center's Community Outreach Program; attended weekly working group meetings; assisted in developing the methodology and instrument for a research project investigating the cancer beliefs and health behaviors of people living in the surrounding community and assisted in developing coding system for data. Administered survey at community events and assisted with data management.
- 05/97 – 07/97 **Albert Einstein College of Medicine, Department of Epidemiology and Social Medicine, Bronx, NY – Research Assistant** to Carole Morgan, Ph.D. for two-month project on psychosocial needs among oncology patients. Responsibilities included clinic-based survey administration. Developed pre-doctoral research from data set examining characteristics of information seekers.
- 09/96 – 10/97 **Albert Einstein College of Medicine, Department of Epidemiology and Social Medicine, Bronx, NY – Research Assistant** to Thomas A. Wills, Ph.D. for project on adolescent substance use. Responsibilities included school-based survey administration, editing and analyzing data, and assisting in the preparation of manuscripts.
- 01/93 – 05/93 **State University of New York at Albany, Albany, NY - Research Assistant** to Allen Israel, Ph.D. for project on loss and coping. Administered questionnaires to undergraduates and scored, entered and analyzed data. Developed independent research project on locus of control and coping styles.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

- 01/98 – 05/98 **Ferkauf Graduate School, Bronx, NY – Teaching Assistant** for Personality Theory and Assessment
Conducted weekly labs teaching second-year graduate students clinical diagnostic interviewing, the mental status exam, and *DSM-IV*.

09/97 – 12/97

Ferkauf Graduate School, Bronx, NY – Teaching Assistant for Intellectual and Cognitive Assessment.

Conducted weekly labs teaching second-year graduate students skills involved in clinical interviewing, and the administration, scoring, and interpretation of the WAIS-R, WISC-III, and WMS-R. Responsible for correcting test protocols.

OTHER PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

01/95 – 08/95

Ferkauf Graduate School, Bronx, NY – Executive Board Member of the Organization of Psychology Students.

Elected by peers to serve on student government. Served as treasurer and liaison between students, faculty, administration, and medical school library. Assisted in organizing seminars, workshops, and orientation of incoming students.

PUBLICATIONS

Kuslansky, G., Katz, M., Verghese, J., Hall, C., B., Lapuerta, P., LaRuffa, G., & Lipton, R. B. (2004). Detecting dementia with the Hopkins Verbal Learning Test and the Mini-Mental State Examination, *Archives of Clinical Neuropsychology*, 19(1), 89-104.

Moadel, A., Morgan, C., Fatone, A., Grennan, J., LaRuffa, G., Skummy, A., & Dutcher, J. (1999). Seeking meaning and hope: Self-reported spiritual and existential needs among an ethnically-diverse cancer patient population, *Psycho-Oncology*, 8(5), 378-385.

Book Review:

Listening in the Silence, Seeing in the Dark: Reconstructing Life after Brain Injury by Ruthann Knechel Johansen in *Neurorehabilitation*, 2003, 18(3), 277.

Presentations:

Theodore, J.L and LaRuffa, G. (2020, August). Teaching differential diagnosis via classroom role-play using a neuropsychological testing model. Poster presented at the 128th Annual Convention of the American Psychological Association (virtual).

“Memory, Cognition and the Impact of Working and Higher Education on People with Epilepsy.” Presented for the Epilepsy Foundation of Northeastern New York (2017, November).

“The Possible Cognitive and Emotional Effects of Stroke.” Presented for the Guilderland Public Library (2010, May).

“The Possible Cognitive and Emotional Effects of Multiple Sclerosis.” Presented for the Guilderland Public Library (2010, March).

“Memory and aging: What is normal and when to worry.” Presented for the Guilderland Public Library (2007, October and 2009, June).

“Memory and aging: What is normal and when to worry.” Presented for Colonie Senior Services Center/Beltrone Living Center (2007, September)

“Neuropsychological assessment: Strengths and weaknesses.” Presented for the Speech Therapy Department of Cooper University Hospital (2005, June).

“The neuropsychological aspects of the dementias.” Presented at The Department of Medicine Grand Rounds, Cooper University Hospital (2004, December).

“Neuropsychological and emotional aspects of epilepsy and its treatments.” Presented at Neuroscience Grand Rounds, Cooper University Hospital (2004, May).

LaRuffa, G., Zemon, V., Katz, M., & Masur, D. (2004, February). Health quality of life in older adults at risk for dementia. Poster presented at the International Neuropsychological Society, Baltimore.

Moadel, A., Morgan, C., Fatone, A., Grennan, J., Carter J., LaRuffa, G., Skummy, A. & Dutcher, J. (1999, March). Self-reported spiritual and existential needs among an ethnically-diverse cancer patient population. Poster presented at the meeting of the Society of Behavioral Medicine, San Diego.

Wills, T. A., Shinar, O., LaRuffa, G., & Sem, J. (1998, March). Cloninger’s dimensions and adolescent substance use: Mediation through coping motives. Poster presented at the meeting of the Society of Behavioral Medicine, New Orleans.

Wills, T. A., Cleary, S. D., Filer, M. & LaRuffa, G. (1997, August). Temperament prospectively predicts change in adolescents’ self-control. Poster presented at the meeting of the American Psychological Association, Chicago.

Wills, T. A., Cleary, S.D., Filer, M., Shinar, O., Mariani, J., & LaRuffa, G. (1997, May). Temperament and stress-coping variables in early adolescence predict escalation in substance use. Presented at the Society for Prevention Research Symposium, Baltimore.

Reviewing Experience

Ad Hoc Editorial Consultant, *Brain Injury*, 2002

Ad Hoc Editorial Consultant, *Neurorehabilitation*, 2002

HONORS

Marcus Scholarship, 1997-1998; 1998-1999

Berger Scholarship, 1997-1998; 1998-1999

Yeshiva University Scholarship, 1994-1995; 1996-1997

Dean’s List, spring 1992-spring 1994

Psi Chi (Chapter Secretary)

Golden Key National Honor Society

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP

American Psychological Association (APA)

National Academy of Neuropsychology (NAN), Professional member

New York State Association of Neuropsychology (NYSAN)

CURRENT HOSPITAL APPOINTMENTS

Albany Medical Center, Albany, NY

Sunnyview Rehabilitation Hospital, Schenectady, NY

LICENSURE

New York License #015834 (Granted February 2004)

New Jersey License #SI00418800 (Granted September 2004; Inactive)