

## COGNITIVE NEUROLOGY FELLOWSHIP

### ***Duration:***

One year (negotiable, full-time or part-time)

### ***Primary supervisor(s):***

Amy Brodtmann, David Darby

### ***Co-supervisor(s):***

Katherine Buzzard, Patrick Carney, Helen Dewey

### ***Purpose:***

The Cognitive Neurology Fellowship is a one-year elective post for Neurology trainees interested in exposure to behavioural and cognitive neurology via a structured clinical and research program.

### ***Location:***

The fellow will be employed via Eastern Health, and there is the opportunity to combine this training year with exposure to other sub-specialty neurology, especially Neuroimmunology and Stroke.

### ***Key selection criteria:***

Applicants are expected to be able to provide a high standard of patient care, and possess skills in communication, problem-solving, and organisation, as well as the ability to work both independently as well as in a multi-disciplinary team.

### ***Description:***

This post has been enabled by Brodtmann's Dementia Research Team Grant (DRTG). These ***Clinician Trainee Fellowships*** have been structured to allow for clinical training via outpatient and inpatient exposure with a strong research training component. This highly successful approach has kick-started the research careers of clinicians who intend to make a commitment to formal research training after having direct experience with proposed supervisors. It allows interested parties to develop expertise in dementia research prior to embarking on a higher degree. Brodtmann Darby, and Chris Kyndt, together with their multi-disciplinary team, have been

successful in developing the first-ever hospital-based behavioural and cognitive neurology position in Australia.

***Optional training:***

The Fellowship has the option to combine exposure to other sub-specialties, including Neuroimmunology (allowing projects on auto-immune encephalities, etc.), Epilepsy (cognitive sequelae of focal epilepsy syndromes) or Stroke (vascular neurodegeneration). This component requires pre-negotiation with one of the co-supervisors listed. Clinic, inpatient, and on-call duties will be determined by the choice. We have clinics in other units, including Melbourne Health and Austin Health, and excellent relationships with the Victorian Cognitive Dementia and Memory Service allowing potential exposure to these clinics.

The fellow will:

- Attend weekly clinics, managing their own patient load, arranging and following up all imaging and cognitive assessments
- Formulate differential diagnoses and management plans for each patient
- Assess cognitive inpatient admissions and consults, and supervise the junior medical staff attending these patients
- Attend clinical case-conference meetings, presenting patients and participating in multi-disciplinary management
- Contribute to database development and updating
- Gain exposure to clinical research trials including rater training and participation in drug trials via the Eastern Clinical Research Unit
- Attend Neurology ward rounds and clinical meetings
- Attend weekly Neuroradiology Meeting
- Commence mandatory clinical research project (see below)

The research component is jointly hosted at Eastern Health and the Florey Institute for Neuroscience and Mental Health. Formal research training could also include:

- methodological and statistical education for dementia researchers via participation in formal research programs
- interaction with biostatistician for basic and advanced biostatistics training

- development of grant writing skills via participation in grant submission programs and grant writing workshops
- media training and communication development.
- opportunities for community engagement and stakeholder education
- formal mentoring programs, focusing on career progression and development

Trainees will be expected to present their research at Dementia Symposia organised as part of the DRTG. National and international visiting scholars are also hosted, with local seminars allowing trainees will showcase their work and attend visitor master classes as part of the visiting scholar program.

***Salary:***

Two salary scales are offered:

Cognitive Research Fellowship:

This involves a pure cognitive neurology year with *no on-call or added inpatient* component, thereby attracting a simple fellowship stipend: \$85,000 per annum.

Combined Cognitive Fellowship:

This involves participation in the on-call roster (one-in-four), covering inpatient staff with some ward duties, participating in acute stroke calls (where applicable), and added outpatient loading (1-2 more clinics per week). The amount is determined by the Doctors in Training agreement, comparable to a core training year salary.

### Information Brodtmann:

Associate Professor Amy Brodtmann is the only stroke and cognitive neurologist in Australia. She combines a clinical practice with an excellent research track record in cognition, neuroimaging, stroke and dementia. She is the CIA for the NHMRC Vascular Neurodegeneration DRTG and CANVAS project grant (APP1020526) and current Heart Foundation Future Leader Fellow. She is the recipient of many other awards and grants for her work in stroke and dementia, including NHMRC post-Graduate and post-Doctorate Fellowships, and multiple philanthropic grants. She is involved in program selection, abstract review and chairing sessions for the American Academy of Neurology Annual Conference, and on the Scientific Program Committee for ANZAN. She sits on the editorial boards of *Neurology* and *International Journal of Stroke*, and is a frequent invited editorialist, allowing her to influence and lead opinion. She sits on the board and committee Alzheimer's Australia Victoria Dementia Research Grants, the Wicking Strategic Review Panel, and the Australian Frontotemporal Dementia Association.