



SHORT COURSE: CLINICAL NEUROPSYCHOLOGY AND ASSESSMENT OF ADULTS

Partnering institutions

- Centre for Mental Health, College of Medicine and Health Sciences, University of Rwanda
- Emory Global Health Institute, Atlanta, US

Co-Leads

1. University of Rwanda,

Vincent Sezibera, PhD
Associate Professor of Psychology
Director, Centre for Mental Health, College of Medicine and Health Sciences,
University of Rwanda

- Cindi Cassady, PhD
Clinical Psychologist
CaraesNdera Neuropsychiatric Hospital, Icyizere Centre

2. Emory University

- Suzanne Penna, PhD
Assistant Professor and Training Director
Division of Neuropsychology, Department of Rehabilitation Medicine
- Anthony Y Stringer, PhD
Professor and Director
Division of Neuropsychology, Department of Rehabilitation Medicine
- Jean Ikanga, Ph.D.
Visiting Assistant Professor
Division of Neuropsychology/Department of Rehabilitation Medicine Emory
University
Department of Neurology, University of Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of
Congo.





Aims and Rationale of the Short Course

The aim of the short course is to train the first generation of neuropsychologists in Rwanda to address the specific cultural and medical needs of the community using cutting-edge instructional technology and the expertise of Emory neuropsychologists to fill a crucial gap in the healthcare infrastructure of this developing country. We are proposing a feasibility study to develop two online graduate courses in clinical neuropsychology in Rwanda. The ultimate long-term goal of the study team is to develop a master's degree program in neuropsychology in sub-Saharan Africa, initially partnering with the University of Rwanda as a pilot institution. Since 1998 the University of Rwanda has developed a four-year bachelor's degree in clinical psychology, which has equipped the country with a valuable number of clinical psychologists intervening in different institutions, including health care settings. The field of neuropsychology does not exist in Rwanda, and the ability to evaluate cognitive functioning is critical for diagnosing most neurological and psychiatric disorders, to understand the functional restrictions of a given individual, and to measure the effects of treatment interventions.

Modules description

We are proposing the development of two online courses in neuropsychology; a didactic course entitled "Introduction to Neuropsychology: Early Adulthood to Old Age", and a companion applied course entitled "Adult Neuropsychological Assessment" for use in Rwanda. Both of these courses are modeled after typical neuropsychological assessment courses in graduate programs in the United States, but modified given the online-format, and cultural differences between countries. Anticipated time teaching and grading is consistent with similar courses in the US.

The didactic course "Introduction to Neuropsychology" covers the neuropsychology of attention, perceptual ability, motor function, language, memory, executive function, intellectual functioning and adaptive behavior in adults. The





Objective is for the student to understand neuropsychology theory in each domain, and how various neurological diseases affect performance.

The content is primarily lecture-based, and supplemented by readings. Each lecture topic will be a total of three hours in length, and divided up into 25- 30-minute segments, covering a different aspect of the topic presented.

The applied course will provide a hands-on introduction to adult and geriatric neuropsychological tests and test batteries with the objective of having the student become competent in adult test administration, scoring, and interpretation of results. Tests taught include both Western neuropsychological measures as well as a test battery developed specifically for use in Africa by Drs. Stringer and Ikanga to assess cognition; the African Neuropsychological Battery (ANB^{2,3}). Pre-recorded content includes demonstration of individual tasks, and lectures on scoring and interpretation of test performance. After viewing the demonstrations, students will spend the remainder of the course practicing test administration and scoring of individual tests. Students will then record themselves administering the test to another classmate and submit to the professor for evaluation.

Faculty staff

Emory faculty team is perfectly suited for this endeavor.

- **Dr. Penna** has extensive experience teaching neuropsychology at the graduate level, and has won institutional teaching awards at the departmental level and from the School of Medicine.
- **Dr. Stringer** Is the author of a textbook on neuropsychological diagnosis that has become a contemporary classic. He is a fellow of the American Psychological Association and the National Academy of Neuropsychology, and has been honored by the International Neuropsychological Society for teaching excellence. Further, he has had a teaching award established in





- honor of his contributions to the education of neuropsychologists in the Emory School of Medicine.
- **Dr. Ikanga** is a Congolese national who has completed his graduate education in clinical neuropsychology in the United States. He is the first and only neuropsychologist in Congo. He is currently dividing his time between the US and Congo where he researches culturally appropriate neuropsychological assessment in central Africa, recently publishing a chapter for the Encyclopedia of Clinical Neuropsychology on African Neuropsychology. He is perfectly positioned by virtue of his cultural and national background, as well as his training, to aid in adapting our curriculum to the needs of developing countries in Africa. He will serve as a powerful role model of the neuropsychology professional in Africa. We have partners with psychologists in Rwanda to help launch the program.
- **Dr. Cindi Cassady** is an American clinical psychologist and former Head of the Clinical Psychology Department at the Univ. of Kibungo. Currently, she is a senior psychologist at CaraesNdera Neuropsychiatric Hospital/Icyizere Centre, and will assist in coordinating the courses at the University of Rwanda. She understands both the American and Rwandan educational systems and will be invaluable in coordinating instruction between the two countries.
- **Dr. Vincent Sezibera** is a Rwandan clinical psychologist and Associate Professor, and is the former chair of the Psychology Department at the University of Rwanda. He now serves as the Director of the Centre for Mental Health, College of Medicine and Health Sciences, University of Rwanda. Dr. Sezibera will be integral in ensuring the participation and continued investment of the University of Rwanda in the proposed program.

Teaching methods





Given the current state of the IT infrastructure in Rwanda, and the University of Rwanda specifically (the most technologically advanced university in Rwanda), lectures and demonstration will be shown on a large screen in a classroom setting to students at one time.

To prevent any limitations in internet bandwidth and speed, or zone time differences, lectures will be pre-recorded, since live-streaming may not be feasible all the time. Drs. Cassady and Prof. Sezibera will provide the oversight of IT services in Rwanda during class time and office hours, and to provide general class management including proctoring quizzes and exams and in-class discussions following the viewing of pre-recorded lectures.

Timeline

- July 2019 –August2019: Candidates Application
- August 2019: Candidates selection
- September 2019 – January 2020: Teaching

Requirements to register to short course

- BSc in Clinical Psychology
- English proficiency
- Independent learner, i.e, self-motivated,
- Availability, i.e. commitment to attendance
- Familiarity with online teaching platforms
- Statement of purpose
- Pass the recruitment interview

Facilitation

Travel and UR tuition costs will be covered for all selected candidates attending the course. Selected candidates will be requested to have a laptop to facilitate their learning and access to online teaching materials.





How to apply

Submit an application letter, an updated curriculum vitae and statement of purpose/letter of intent. A printed copy is to be deposited to the office of the Centre for Mental Health, College of Medicine and Health Sciences, UR-Remera Campus. For any question don't hesitate to contact Dr. Vincent Sezibera, Director of the Centre for Mental Health, e-mail : vsezibera@gmail.com, cellphone : +250 788771289

Kigali, July 8, 2019



 **Prof. Vincent Sezibera**

Director Ag., Centre for Mental Health