

MILESTONES REACHED IN NEURO PSYCHOLOGY



Authored by

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The Neuropsychology Department proudly reached a number of milestones during its inaugural year. Introducing a new discipline to Abu Dhabi presented numerous challenges but even more opportunities to contribute to ACPN's goal of becoming the premiere Neuroscience Center of Excellence in this region. Here are a few highlights of the milestones reached:

I. Establishment of Neuropsychology Clinic (2017)

Dr. Alia joined ACPN in February 2017 to establish the premier neuropsychology practice serving adults and geriatric patients in the UAE. She now provides comprehensive outpatient neuropsychological assessment services to patients from throughout the UAE. Many thanks for Islam and Rana for their support in working with Arabic speaking patients.

II. Generation of Referral Sources (2017- Present)

In addition to internal referrals, clinical teams from 4 major hospitals in Abu Dhabi now refer patients for neuropsychological assessment to Dr. Alia in addition to private practitioners, small private practices, and internal referrals. Referrals are primarily made by neurologists for patients with epilepsy, traumatic brain injury, multiple sclerosis, mild cognitive impairment, and dementia. A small but steady amount of referrals are made by psychiatrists and psychologists for patients with possible ADHD, somatic symptom disorders, and cognitive complaints in the context of psychiatric disorders. Our internal and external referrals are the result of a broad educational program that utilized conference presentations and other avenues to demonstrate the utility of neuropsychological assessment to local physicians. Kudos to our Marketing and Operations teams (Hazem, Amr, Ahmed Moustafa and others) and to our Neurology, Psychiatry, & Psychology

colleagues for helping to make this milestone possible!

III. Secured Insurance Reimbursement Process (2017)

It took a coordinated team effort, involving Neuropsychology, Operations, and our Billing team petition for use of CPT Codes appropriate for neuropsychological assessment.

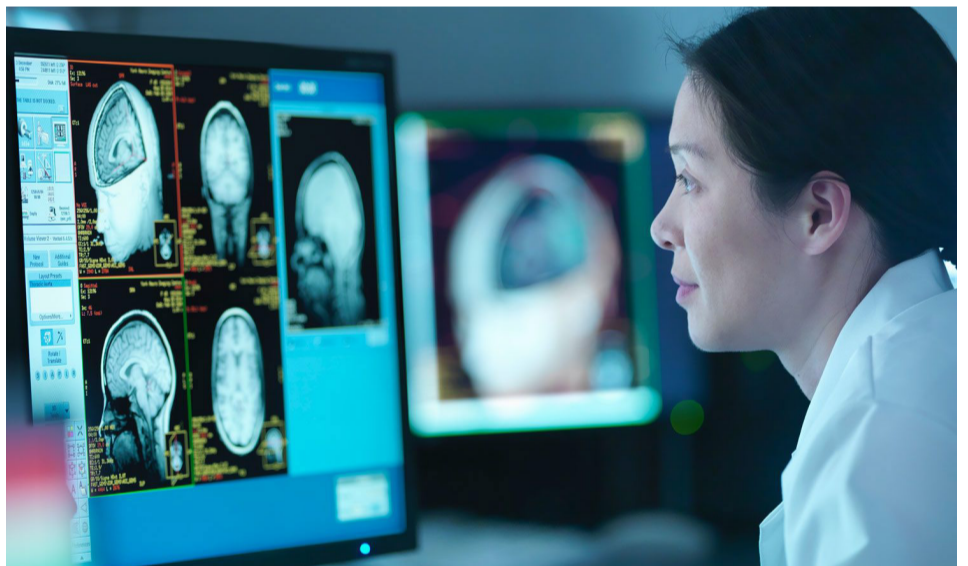
IV. Raise Awareness of Neuropsychology Services (2017 - Present)


Dr. Ammar conducted 1-6 professional and/or patient education presentations per month to increase awareness of neuropsychological services among, clinicians, instructors, insurance executives, and patients/families via CME and other presentation forums. Future goals include providing presentations to Health Authorities and working with them to establish the highest levels of


training and experience for licensure of neuropsychologists in the UAE.


V. Develop Research Initiatives


Dr. Ammar and Ms. Mari Balbous, ACPN Clinical Coordinator, developed translations of the RBANS, Neuropsychological History Questionnaire, and Stroop test, which were subjected to back translation by Dr. Taoufik Alsaadi. An Arabic testing battery suitable for use throughout the adult age spectrum was also assembled by utilizing these, the limited number of empirically validated Arabic measures, and non-language dependent tasks. Future plans include the submission of a research proposal for IRB approval, pilot testing, data collection, statistical analysis, manuscript development, and journal submission. These efforts may be facilitated by securing grant funding for the development of a standardized Arabic neuropsychological battery.



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