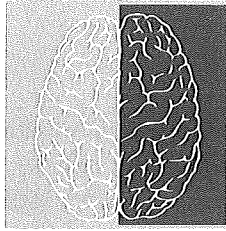


**LOLA BOGYO, PH.D.**  
*CLINICAL NEUROPSYCHOLOGIST*

**ROYAL GRUENEICH, PH.D.**  
*CLINICAL NEUROPSYCHOLOGIST*

**MELANIE MACE, PSY.D.**  
*CLINICAL NEUROPSYCHOLOGIST*



# NEUROPSYCHOLOGY SERVICE, P.A.

## ABOUT YOUR NEUROPSYCHOLOGICAL EVALUATION

**Purpose of Evaluation:** Neuropsychological evaluations may be requested by a physician, a case worker, a psychologist, a teacher, an attorney, an insurance company, a teacher, or by someone else involved in the patient's care. Sometimes patients themselves request an evaluation. The purpose of the evaluation may be to help understand what is causing a person to have certain kinds of problems (e.g., with memory, attention, or behavior); to understand how the person's brain has been affected after some kind of injury or illness (e.g., a brain injury or a stroke or cancer); or to understand the person's individual strengths and weaknesses to help with rehabilitation planning, educational planning, or vocational planning.

**What Is It Like?** The examination process includes an interview, observations, and formal testing. The examination is very thorough and it is common for patients to feel tired by the end of the day. The testing involves answering a lot of questions, doing paper-and-pencil tasks, solving puzzles, drawing things, remembering things, thinking about things, and completing questionnaires. Some of the tasks will see how fast you are and how well you can concentrate. Some tasks will involve seeing how strong or coordinated you are, or how well you can perceive things by sight or touch. Some look at how well you understand what is said to you, or how well you can express yourself to others. Some tests look at how well you read, write, and do math. The examination may also include understanding some of your feelings. Most of these tasks are interesting and enjoyable, though some are quite hard.

The particular set of tests you will be given will be picked by the neuropsychologist especially for you, to help understand your unique set of problems, or to help answer questions your physician or the referring person has asked. The tests are designed to determine which parts of your brain, and which of your "cognitive functions," are working well, and which are not working as well as they should be.

Part of the evaluation will involve having you tell your own story about your illness or what has happened to you. You may have already told this over and over again to many different people, but it is one important way the neuropsychologist can get to know you, understand what is happening, and what might have caused it. It is often very helpful for the neuropsychologist to talk to family members as well.

The evaluation is sometimes scheduled for a whole day (9 a.m. to 5 p.m., with a one hour lunch break), or it may be one half-day or multiple half-days. You will be given breaks as needed. If you need to stop earlier than planned due to fatigue or some other reason, the evaluation can be completed at a later date.

Sometimes the neuropsychologist does all of the testing with you, and other times he or she will have an assistant do some or all of the testing. The neuropsychologist is always in charge, and is the person who chooses the tests, interprets the test results, and writes the report.

**How Do I Prepare For It?** We need to obtain information about you before the day of the appointment, such as your medical and mental health history, which we will discuss with you when the appointment is made. We will ask you to obtain this information and send it to us, or have you sign releases for other professionals to send us this information. We will also send you a questionnaire to complete about your background and your problems, which should be returned to us prior to the appointment.

For the evaluation itself, there is nothing you need to do by way of studying or practicing. The best preparation is to get a good night's sleep, and to try to arrive feeling rested and relaxed. You may bring snacks, drinks, or coffee if you'd like. Please dress comfortably as you'll be sitting most of the time. If you have any special needs, please let us know ahead of time so we can accommodate them. If you wear glasses or hearing aids, be sure to bring them with you. Please take all of your medications the way you usually do, on the morning of the evaluation. Our building is fully handicapped-accessible, and has an accessible bathroom.

**Will I Find Out the Results?** A "feedback" session will be scheduled within 2-3 weeks of the evaluation, where the neuropsychologist will go over the test results with you, and will discuss his or her overall conclusions and recommendations. You are free to bring anybody you would like with you to this meeting, which could take anywhere from 30 minutes to 2 hours. The full written report is usually given to you at this meeting, or shortly thereafter. It is also at the feedback session that you (or your representative) can decide who should get copies of the report.

**Who Pays For It?** Your insurance company may pay for all or some of the cost of the evaluation, depending on your insurance company and your policy. For patients relying on insurance benefits, we will check your insurance coverage ahead of time and ask that you pay your part up front; usually, this will be a small part of the estimated bill, but sometimes (for instance, if you have a large, unmet deductible) it will be the entire estimated bill. This will be discussed with you at the time the appointment is made. Sometimes another agency, an attorney, or someone else will be paying for the evaluation. In any case, you are ultimately responsible for any balance that is not covered by another payor. For further information regarding billing and payment policies, please read the enclosed *Consent to Evaluation* form or contact our office.