Proposal

The Psychology Department of SUNY Plattsburgh proposes the formation of Spectrum: Institute for Interdisciplinary Clinical Research, Service and Education. Spectrum would be composed of several existing but currently separate programs and clinics located at SUNY Plattsburgh. These clinics include the Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) Center, the Alzheimer’s Disease Assistance Center (ADAC) and its diagnostic clinic for dementia, the Neuropsychology Clinic and Psychoeducational Services, and the Nexus Program for Children with Autism Spectrum Disorders. Each of these programs and clinics offers numerous educational and professional development opportunities for our students as well as much needed psychological, educational and rehabilitation services to residents, schools, community agencies and health care providers in northeastern New York. Although these programs and clinics have been recognized as essential to the region and are considered a part of the Psychology Department, the programs and clinics receive limited fiscal and staff support from SUNY Plattsburgh and the State University of New York. The formation of the Spectrum would provide a mechanism to ensure programmatic longevity, accommodate growth, and help distinguish SUNY Plattsburgh as a premier institution in the SUNY system.

Background and Rationale

The TBI Center, ADAC and its diagnostic clinic for dementia, the Neuropsychology Clinic and Psychoeducational Services, and the Nexus Program for children with autism spectrum disorders have been providing psychological, neuropsychological, educational and rehabilitation services for a region inclusive of 9 to 10 counties in northeastern New York. The services provided by each program and clinic are described in brief:

- **TBI Center** started in 1994 to provide services for children through the age of 21 who sustained a brain injury; in 1996 services were expanded to adults. Today, the TBI Center offers services for children with developmental disabilities, including Traumatic Brain Injury. Numerous services are also offered for adults with an acquired brain injury due to vehicular accident, stroke, seizure disorder, encephalitis or other central nervous system disorder (exclusion: degenerative disorders such as Huntington’s Chorea, Alzheimer’s Disease) that was acquired after birth. Cognitive Rehabilitation to improve attention, memory, information processing, and other cognitive functions is offered; services have been expanded due to funding from United Way.

- **Neuropsychology and Psychoeducational Services Clinic** is an extension of the 30 year old original Psychological Services Clinic and was reorganized and expanded in 2001. The Clinic provides comprehensive neuropsychological evaluations for children and adults who have cognitive and/or behavioral problems presumed to be related to central nervous system dysfunction or possibly damage either from prenatal or birth complications, genetic inheritance, or acquired brain injury. Although the final goal is to provide a diagnosis using DSM-IV-R categories, the emphasis is placed on educating the client and his/her family if applicable as to the manifestations of the disorder and recommending interventions for addressing the problems.

- **Alzheimer’s Disease Assistance Center** opened its doors in 1984 and offers an array of programs and services to support and assist individuals with Alzheimer’s disease or a related disorder as well as their families. Some of these services include Helpline, Support Groups, Caregiver Resource Center, Education and Training, Safe Return Program. The ADAC provides comprehensive assessment and diagnostic
services for dementia as well as education and support for care-giving families. An adult day program and in-service programming are also offered.

- Nexus began in 2003 as an after-school and summer social competence program for children with Aspergers Syndrome and High-Functioning Autism, ages 5 through 16. The after-school program recently expanded to serve more children and to provide workshops and conferences to local families of children with autism and other autism spectrum disorders. Nexus 2, a replication of the SUNY Plattsburgh Nexus program, was established in 2007, on the SUNY Potsdam campus. Nexus 2 is modeled after our program and benefits from Dr. Patricia Egan’s expertise in the areas of consultation and professional training.

The formation of Spectrum would bring together a wide array of services to people ages 5 to 100, increase efficiency, and facilitate expansion of services. For example, an attempt was made in 2006 to offer preschool diagnostic and support services, but lack of physical space as well as limited faculty resources precluded this in-house initiative. With Spectrum, such an expansion to another needy population would more likely be successful.

The formation of Spectrum would also bring together comprehensive educational, training, research, and service opportunities for graduate and undergraduate students participating in the psychology program at SUNY Plattsburgh as well as students participating in other college programs (such as Marketing, Social Work, Human Development & Family Relations, Communication Disorders and Sciences, and Nursing) as occurs currently. Additionally, Spectrum would continue and strengthen the supportive relationships formed between each of the separate clinics and the medical, social services, and educational facilities in the region. The various programs encompassed by Spectrum are already recognized as filling, at least partially, a critical need in the community.

Goals

The goals of Spectrum are as follows:

- To continue the much needed psychological, educational, neuropsychological and rehabilitation services to the local community and upstate New York;
- To provide a center for collaborative and innovative research investigating autism spectrum disorders, Alzheimer’s disease, traumatic brain injury, rehabilitation and therapy, human services and other associated research areas;
- To provide a center for graduate and undergraduate education and training in research, assessment, education and therapeutic techniques used with individuals suffering from psychological and neurological disorders;
- To ensure a mechanism for College-wide interdisciplinary collaboration and coordination for lectures, colloquia, conferences and other didactic programs for our undergraduate and graduate students, faculty, and community;
- To provide opportunities for additional funding sources (e.g., contracts, fee-for-service) through new initiatives such as Concussion Management via CVPH and pre-school Autism Spectrum Disorder assessments; and
- To help distinguish SUNY Plattsburgh as a premier institution in SUNY.
Schematic Conceptualization of Spectrum

Institute for Interdisciplinary

Clinical Research, Service & Education

Proposed Administrative Structure of Spectrum

Dean of Arts & Science

Co-Chairs, Psychology Department

Advisory Committee

Director(s)

Project Directors (ADAC, Nexus, TBI, other)

Institute Administrator

Steering Committee

Clinical Psychologist

Associated Faculty

Project Managers (ADAC, Nexus, TBI, other)

All Associated Clinics

Spectrum:
Institute for Interdisciplinary Clinical Research, Service and Education
Proposed Roles of Faculty and Staff

Associated Faculty: Any faculty member in psychology or any department within the College who is interested in engaging in an ongoing research project, initiating a new research project, and/or developing a project for outside funding is encouraged to collaborate with colleagues directly involved in Spectrum.

Director(s): The Institute Director(s) will be decided upon each academic year from among the Associated Faculty in the Psychology Department by the Department Co-Chairpersons as an annual departmental assignment. The director will receive one-course release per semester or comparable extra service. Current project directors (TBI Center, Nexus, ADAC) will serve as Acting Institute Directors until a single director or co-directorship is established.

Steering Committee: A steering committee will be composed of directors of projects receiving outside funding, Institute Director (if different from project directors), and two Psychology faculty per annual departmental committee assignment. The Steering committee will be responsible for general operating policy, procedure and related matters. Project directors may change over time and/or new project directors added as grant awards increase.

Advisory Committee: In order to ensure the interdisciplinary nature of Spectrum, an Advisory Committee will be developed. Members of the Advisory Committee will include representatives from Spectrum, Arts & Science, Education, Health & Human Services (e.g., Social Work, Communications Disorders & Science, Counseling, Human Development & Family Relations) as well as the School of Business & Economics and Library & Information Services.

Clinical Neuropsychologist or Psychologist: This new position is conceptualized as a clinical faculty line within the Psychology Department; his/her primary teaching responsibilities will revolve around supervision of School Psychology graduate students, School Psychology interns and pre-doctoral interns from the Association of Psychology Post-doctoral and Internship Centers (APPIC), which the Clinic is currently a member. The clinical psychologist will work with clients from the college and community and will head the diagnostic clinics originally associated with ADAC and NCPS. He/she may also teach one class per year or per semester in the graduate or undergraduate program (e.g., Practicum, Learning Disabilities, Neuropsychology or Personality). The clinical psychologist will be responsible for setting up regular didactic programs (e.g., lectures, colloquia, conferences) open to all faculty and students in the College and professionals in the community. Funding for this 12 month tenure track faculty line (Assistant/Associate Professor) would occur in two phases (please see proposed timeline and business plan). It is proposed that 100% of the position be funded by self-generated clinic income for the first two years. At the end of this period the position and the institute would be evaluated; as permitted by the College budget, 50% of the position would then be funded by SUNY Plattsburgh.

Administrator: This new position is conceptualized as managerial with the following responsibilities: (1) managing clinic accounts and income; (2) coordinating insurance preauthorization and school and agency contracts; (3) assuring the smooth and efficient operation of the clinic; and (4) working with NYS programs associated with Nexus, TBI Center, ADAC (i.e., DOH, OMRDD) and other projects established in the future to ensure program compliance.

Proposed Timeline and Business Plan

The Business Plan delineated below is based on three phases and extends across a 5-year period.

Phase I – September 2009 to August 2011 (Years 1 & 2)

The Clinical Neuropsychologist or Psychologist (Assistant/Associate Professor) would be funded exclusively from income generated by Nexus, TBI Center and ADAC for the first two years. The position is a tenure track faculty line within the Psychology Department; rank would be commensurate with experience. The income to fund this position is derived from evaluations associated with each program and supported by the existing need in the area (i.e., waiting list). During this phase, the Psychology Department would like to collaborate with Institutional Advancement for marketing purposes to initiate a campaign specific to the new Institute and its various components. The Advisory Committee will participate in guiding and expanding the interdisciplinary services and programs.

Phase II – September 2011 to August 2012 (Year 3)

As allowed by the fiscal state of SUNY, the salary for the Clinical Neuropsychologist or Psychologist is funded by a split between clinic income (50%) and SUNY Plattsburgh (50%) in order to allow for program expansion. The Institute
Administrator is hired at this time and supported by the clinic. This is a Research Foundation position and will continue as such.

Phase III – September 2012 to August 2014 (Years 4 & 5)

During this period, it is expected that at least one faculty member in the Psychology Department will be retiring. Consistent with staffing needs, it is recommended that this faculty position be replaced by a scientist-practitioner (e.g., Clinical Psychology, Rehabilitation Psychology, Life Span Development Psychology) in order to ensure that the TBI Center and ADAC continue to be directly affiliated with a Psychology Department faculty line. ADAC and the TBI Center currently have staff employed in the capacity of Project Managers; however, these positions are not faculty (SUNY) positions. Continuation of grant awards will depend on a faculty member continuing to serve as Project Director on related grant-funded projects. During this phase another goal is to consolidate the programs physically (i.e., a single location) and operationally (e.g., combining office management staff).

Essential Current and Future Issues: Space issues are a concern for all three programs. The combined clinics will remain in their current locations until this can be resolved. Nexus has an immediate need for space. Support is needed for Spectrum to accommodate the potential increase in Clinic referrals in the areas of preschool assessment for Autism Spectrum Disorders and assessment of mild Traumatic Brain Injury (i.e. concussion) due to the recently developed Section VII (Public High School) Concussion Management Team lead by Phil Volk, Orthopedic Surgeon.

Educational and Professional Development Opportunities

ADAC, Nexus, TBI Center and associated clinics have offered an array of educational and professional development student across campus. Data for three semesters (fall and spring 2008, and spring 2009) are attached. These opportunities will continue and possibly expand under Spectrum

Business Plan

Cash flow for combined Clinic services for 2007 as well as projected cash flow from 2009 to 2011 is in the Excel files.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PROGRAM</th>
<th>Semester</th>
<th>Fieldwork students by department/program</th>
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| Nexus T & Th After-school & summer programs | Fall 08 | - 14 School Psychology graduate students  
- 7 Psychology undergraduate students |
| ADAC | | - 5 Psychology undergraduate students third age  
- 20 nursing students clinical site |
| TBI Center | | - 2 Social Work undergraduate student interns  
  o 1 started Social Club as master project  
- 15 Nursing undergrad students - clinical rotation  
- 4 undergraduate volunteers (not for credit):  
  o 2 Psychology  
  o 2 Child and Family Services |
| Neuropsychology Clinic | | - 8 School Psychology graduate students, practicum site  
- Speech & Hearing Clinic: 5 Case Collaborations with  
- 2 School Psychology graduate interns  
- 2 Counseling graduate assistants |
| Nexus T & Th After-school & summer programs | Spring 09 | - 8 School Psychology graduate students  
- 8 Psychology undergraduate students  
- 1 Marketing undergraduate student (volunteer – not for credit)  
- 1 Communication Disorders student (volunteer – not for credit) |
| ADAC | | - 3 Psychology undergraduate students at the third age  
- 7 other majors at the Third Age  
- 3 School of Business/Marketing |
| TBI Center | | - 2 Psychology undergraduate student interns  
- 2 Social Work undergraduate student interns  
- 1 Art Therapy Intern  
- 20 Nursing undergrad students - clinical rotation  
- 4 undergraduate volunteers (not for credit):  
  o 4 Psychology undergrad students  
- 1 Speech/Communications undergrad student (Community Service) |
| Neuropsychology Clinic | | - 9 School Psychology graduate students, practicum site  
- Speech & Hearing Clinic – 5 case collaborations  
- 2 School Psychology graduate Interns  
- 1 Counseling graduate assistant  
- 1 Communication Disorders graduate assistant |
| Nexus T & Th After-school & summer programs | Spring 09 | - 14 School Psychology graduate students  
- 6 Psychology undergraduate students |
| ADAC | | - 5 Undergraduate Psychology students third age  
- 20 Nursing Students clinical site |
| TBI Center | | - 2 Social Work undergraduate student interns  
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