



## Heather McNeely, PhD, CPsych



**HEALTH SCIENCES**  
Psychiatry & Behavioural  
Neurosciences

### Research Work

The ECT Mood and Cognition study involves longitudinal evaluation of psychological and cognitive functioning over a one-year period of follow-up in the context of ECT for depression. Participants undergo evaluation prior to start of ECT, mid-way through ECT, immediately post-ECT and 6 and 12 months post-ECT. There is a large database of psychological, cognitive and ECT treatment data that has been compiled over the last 10 years. Current analyses are determining baseline predictors of treatment response to ECT. The Schizophrenia Research Program involves a series of studies aimed at better understanding psychosocial and functional outcomes in adults with schizophrenia and related disorders. Study one collected psychological, personality and medical information from over 100 outpatients. To date, this work is suggesting that temperamental or trait shyness is a significant predictor of outcomes and this personality characteristic is often overlooked clinically. Study two will involve lab-based social cognition evaluations using both standardized clinical and experimental psychology measures. Study three will involve a pre-post evaluation involving patients with particular psychological characteristics (e.g. high shyness) to participate in a novel treatment program “Integrated Neurocognitive Therapy” which has been shown in European trials to improve quality of life and importantly, negative symptoms, in this population.

### Engagement Opportunities

#### Introductory Level

- Assist with recruiting patients (20 hrs)
- Assist with data entry (20 to 50 hrs)
- Assist with data collection from medical records (20 to 50 hrs)
- Assist with management of medical data, e.g., conversion of neuroleptics to standard equivalents (40 to 50 hrs)

#### Intermediate Level

- Assist with administering research / clinical interviews (50 to 60 hrs)
- Psychological or cognitive test administration (100 hrs)
- Assist with meta-analysis (50 hrs)
- Write a section of a paper, e.g., medication section, or ECT treatment section (10 to 20 hrs)

#### Advanced Level

- Conduct statistical analyses (50 hrs)
- Supervise junior learners (20 to 50 hrs)
- Prepare & present research poster (20 hrs)
- Write manuscript (100 hrs)
- Complete systematic review (100 hrs)

*If you are interested in learning more, please leave your contact information with the Research Office and/or contact Heather McNeely (hmcneely@stjoes.ca).*