

Pouria Akbarikoli

Tehran, Iran • +98 (901) 392-9695 • Pouria.akbari1369@gmail.com
linkedin.com/in/pouria-akbari • pouriaakbari.com

Summary

Experienced cognitive science specialist and product manager with over 8 years of work in cognitive assessment, rehabilitation, neurotechnology development, and applied brain-behavior research. Strong background in scientific leadership, cognitive protocol development, and large-scale clinical project implementation, including international collaborations.

- **Research & Clinical Leadership:** Lead specialist in cognitive assessments for the WW-FINGERS Iran project; Head of Research at the Brain and Cognition Clinic and Lab; primary researcher of two major 2025 systematic reviews on theta-burst stimulation (TBS) in Alzheimer's and Parkinson's disease; and **lead designer and clinical implementer of the newly published cognitive rehabilitation protocol now being applied to 30 patients in the clinic.**
- **Innovation & Entrepreneurship:** Co-founder and scientific member of five cognitive startups (Synapse, Cortex, ChelCheli, VR-Cognitive Games, NeuroKid); designer of award-winning neurotechnology products including ChelCheli; creator of 9 cognitive tests and 12 training modules; and author of Iran's first cognitive training workbook for older adults, currently used in the WW-FINGERS project.
- **Academic & Professional Impact:** Instructor and Teaching Assistant in cognitive rehabilitation since 2021; developer and lecturer of professional courses in rehabilitation tools, aging-related cognitive decline, and digital rehabilitation platforms; **scientific committee member of the Iran Alzheimer's and Dementia Association**; invited speaker at national and international neuroscience, neurotechnology, and brain-mapping congresses.

Education

M.Sc. Cognitive Science (Cognitive Rehabilitation)

Institute for Cognitive Science Studies, Tehran (2017–2020)
GPA: 4/4 (19.25/20)

Thesis: Effects of binaural beats and isochronic tones on working memory and focused attention.

B.Sc. Electrical Engineering

Guilan University (2010–2015)

Research Interests

Cognitive Assessments Rehabilitation Neurostimulation Dementia, Stroke, TBI

Cognitive Games VR

Publications

Book

- **Cognitive Training Workbook for Older Adults** — currently used in the WW-FINGERS Iran international project.

Journal Papers (Published)

- **Cognitive Rehabilitation for Improving Cognitive Functions and Reducing the Severity of Symptoms in Adult Patients with Obsessive–Compulsive Disorder: A Systematic Review of Randomized Controlled Trials** — Basic and Clinical Neuroscience.
- **Combining Cognitive Remediation and Metacognitive Therapy for Improving Cognitive Functions and Reducing Symptom Severity of Adult Patients with OCD in Tehran, Iran: Study Protocol for a Randomized Controlled Trial** — Springer Nature, 2025.

Journal Papers (Under Review)

- **Alzheimer's Disease and the Therapeutic Potential of Theta Burst Stimulation: A Systematic Review of Preclinical and Clinical Studies**
- **Clinical Safety and Efficacy of Theta Burst Stimulation in Parkinson's Disease: A Systematic Review**

Work Experience

Brain and Cognition Clinic & Lab — Cognitive Assessment & Rehabilitation Specialist (2017–Present)

- Conducted 1000+ standardized cognitive assessments (CANTAB, Vienna, WMS, RBMT-3, MoCA, ACE, WCST, IVA2...).
- EEG, tDCS, rTMS operator for clinical and research protocols.
- Supervisor of rehabilitation team; designer of personalized therapy programs.
- Head of research group and consultant in cognitive science methodologies.
- Member of the WW-FINGERS Iran protocol design team.
- Currently implementing the published cognitive rehabilitation protocol on **30 patients** in the clinic.

Cognotech Accelerator — Co-Founder (2019–2022)

- Manager of scientific startup evaluation in cognitive science and neurotech.
- Developer of training programs for cognitive product teams.
- Organizer of national neurotechnology innovation events.

Startups (Co-Founder & Scientific Lead)

- **Synapse Neuroscience Platform** — Neuroscience education, Brain Bee competitions, Brain Awareness Week
Website: <https://irsynapse.com>
- **Cortex Cognitive HR Platform** — Online cognitive evaluations & AI-based training system
Website: <https://cor-tex.app>
- **ChelCheli Cognitive Game** — First Persian competitive cognitive game for elderly (13,000+ users)
Website: <https://chelcheliapp.com/>
- **VR Cognitive Games** — VR-based cognitive tasks and rehabilitation tools
Website: <https://xrmedics.ir/>
- **NeuroKid** — Online cognitive rehabilitation app for children with autism
Website: <https://neurokid.app>

Professional Projects & Contributions

- Performed cognitive assessments for **1500 participants** in private-sector projects.
- Organizer of large-scale cognitive science congresses in Iran.
- Designer of cognitive tasks for VR platforms, mobile apps, and HR assessment tools.
- Statistical analyst and product manager in multiple neurotechnology startups.

Teaching Experience

- Cognitive Rehabilitation course for Psychiatry Residents (Iran University of Medical Sciences) — 2021–Present
- Instructor for cognitive rehabilitation internships (ICSS) — 2021–Present
- Courses taught: Cognitive Rehabilitation Tools • Cognitive Rehabilitation in Aging • Online Cognitive Rehabilitation Platforms

Memberships

- Scientific Committee Member — Iran Alzheimer's Association

Awards & Honors

- ChelCheli**: Best Serious Game of 2021 (Iran National Computer Games Foundation); Winner of the Chakh Scientific Award (2021); Best Game Design Award (University of Tehran); First place in the national geriatric startup competition; Selected by Tehran Municipality for the Memory League initiative.
- Cortex**: Top startup award in the national HR innovation competition.
- Author of Iran's first cognitive training workbook for older adults, now used in an international clinical project (WW-FINGERS Iran).
- Contributor and invited speaker at over **10 national and international** neuroscience, neurotechnology, and brain mapping conferences.
- Selected participant at the International School of Cognitive Rehabilitation & Brain Stimulation (USA collaboration).

Skills

Python SPSS Statistics WordPress Photoshop Cognitive Task Design EEG
tDCS rTMS Cognitive Assessment Tools Cognitive Rehab Software

Languages

IELTS Academic: L 6.5 | R 7.0 | W 6.5 | S 6.5 | Overall 6.5

Hobbies

Mountaineering • Nature • Board Games • Literature • Cinema • Cooking • Volunteering