



Children's National™

Postdoctoral Fellowship in Pediatric Neuropsychology

Children's National Health System
Washington, DC and Rockville, MD

Training at Children's National

We offer two-year, full time fellowships in pediatric neuropsychology. Our training combines clinical, didactic, and research activities to prepare you for a career in clinical-academic neuropsychology. We are a member of the Association of Postdoctoral Programs in Clinical Neuropsychology (APPCN) and our program is designed to conform to guidelines set forth by the INS-APA Division 40 Task Force and the Houston Conference on Specialty Education and Training in Clinical Neuropsychology.

About Children's National *Serving the nation's children since 1870, Children's National is a leading clinical and research institution, and is the only exclusive provider of pediatric care in the metropolitan Washington area. Children's National offers services at the main hospital in the District of Columbia and at regional satellites throughout the DC area. The Division of Pediatric Neuropsychology has its main office at a regional outpatient center in Rockville, Maryland, and also serves children at the main hospital and at additional satellite locations in Maryland and Virginia.*

The atrium of Children's National – main hospital campus



The patient population at Children's National is culturally diverse, providing fellows with the opportunity to work with families from a variety of backgrounds. Fellows evaluate children with a wide range of complex developmental and acquired neurological disorders, such as autism spectrum disorders, ADHD, learning disabilities, epilepsy (including surgical patients), mild traumatic brain injuries/ concussion, cancer and hematological conditions (leukemia, brain tumor, sickle cell disease), congenital heart disease, neurofibromatosis and other genetic conditions, structural anomalies, and history of neurological insult associated with prematurity, infectious disease, or stroke. Referral questions most often relate to the child's profile of cognitive strengths and weaknesses, diagnostic concerns, and educational and therapeutic program planning. Many rotations include a focus on multidisciplinary interactions.

Our faculty and fellows are involved in grant-funded *clinical research*, and our team contributed over 30 publications last year within high impact, peer-reviewed journals. Our neuropsychology faculty members are leaders in the field, serving as chair and committee members, grant reviewers, and panel experts for national and international societies, research consortiums, and foundations. This high level of expertise, combined with our location in the Washington DC area, uniquely positions us for involvement in *legislative advocacy* related to issues such as mild TBI in children and autism spectrum disorders.

Training Tracks

We anticipate openings in three training tracks this year. Applicants may apply for as many tracks as they wish, but should be able to articulate the fit between their interests/ training goals and each track for which they apply. Please note that all three tracks offer general neuropsychological training with a range of populations and prepare fellows for a career that blends clinical, research, and training activities. Tracks 2 and 3 additionally offer the opportunity to specialize in a rapidly-expanding and highly marketable area of pediatric neuropsychology (concussion and autism spectrum disorders, respectively). The tracks overlap considerably in the experiences available, but differ in emphasis and in research focus.

Track 1: Pediatric Neuropsychology / General

Match Number 8803 – One opening.

This track provides broad, general training in pediatric neuropsychology service to children and adolescents. The fellow receives exposure to a wide range of pediatric populations with neurodevelopmental (e.g., ADHD, learning disabilities, autism spectrum disorders) and medical/neurological disorders (e.g., epilepsy, brain tumors, leukemia, concussions and other injuries). Our patients are typically school-age through late adolescence, with opportunities to see preschool-aged patients according to the fellow's interests. Clinical experiences provide opportunities to develop facility with: battery selection and administration; focused history taking and process-driven behavioral observations; case formulation; provision of feedback; report writing; work with multidisciplinary teams; and consultation with schools.

In this track, fellows are expected to complete approximately two comprehensive evaluations per week. Approximately half of patients will come from the General Outpatient Service and half from specific rotation-related populations (see Clinical Experiences, below, for a description of rotations). The fellow will also actively engage in research and will be funded 20% time for this, with epilepsy or hematology/oncology being the most likely areas of research focus (but other options may be available).



Track 2: Pediatric Neuropsychology/ Concussion and Mild Traumatic Brain Injury

Match Number 8805 – One opening.

The fellow in this track will receive general training in pediatric neuropsychology (similar to description for Track 1) and also will achieve expertise in working with children who have sustained mild traumatic brain injuries (mTBI)/ concussion. This fellow will be specially trained to provide evaluation, consultation and treatment through the Safe Concussion Outcome, Recovery & Education (SCORE) Program within the Division of Neuropsychology. The fellow will also have the opportunity to work with a variety of medical professionals (e.g., emergency department, sports medicine, neurology, athletic trainers, physical trainers) regarding evaluation and treatment of mild TBI/ concussion. With faculty members, the fellow will be involved in providing brain injury education to schools, parents, medical professionals, and athletic programs.

In this track, approximately half of the fellow's clinical activities (i.e., one day per week) are provided through the SCORE clinic. The other half will be a mix of General Outpatient Service and other rotations (such as Autism, EF Clinic, Epilepsy, hematology-oncology; see descriptions below) depending on the fellow's interests and availability. The fellow in this track will be funded 20% for active participation in research on the effects of mTBI in children and the development of new assessment techniques. Thus, the fellow who completes this track will be well-positioned to pursue a career in general pediatric neuropsychology and/ or to specialize in the rapidly-growing area of pediatric concussion.

Track 3: Pediatric Neuropsychology/ Autism

Match Number 8806 – One opening.

The fellow in this track will have a dual focus on becoming a broadly-trained pediatric neuropsychologist, while also developing specialty expertise in the evaluation and treatment of children with high-functioning autism spectrum disorders in the Center for Autism Spectrum Disorders (CASD). Previous experience working with children with autism is required. Fellows in this track provide evaluations within the context of multi-disciplinary teams (including psychiatry, speech/ language, and developmental psychology) and work with children from one year of age through young adulthood. The fellow will also have the opportunity to provide individual and group treatment to children with high-functioning autism and Asperger's Disorder, and will be trained in using gold standard diagnostic measures (the ADI and ADOS). In addition to autism specialty training, the fellow will pursue broader training opportunities in neuropsychological assessment and consultation through the General Outpatient Service and specialty rotations (described below). In the first year, the majority of the clinical work is through CASD. In the second year, the fellow will complete additional rotations (see below) to provide general training in neuropsychology, while also continuing to complete some autism-related assessments. The fellow will conduct research via several ongoing CASD projects, and will be funded for approximately 20-40% time in research. The CASD has federal grant funding in several areas, including an executive function school based intervention program for ASD and neuroimaging of executive functions in ASD. Thus, the fellow who completes this track will be well prepared for a career as a general pediatric neuropsychologist and/ or a specialist in the neuropsychology of autism spectrum disorders.



Clinical Experiences

For fellows in all training tracks, approximately 45-65% of time is devoted to clinical work, which consists of a combination of general outpatient services and rotational or track-specific activities. Fellows typically complete the equivalent of two "clinic days" per week. A clinic day might be a full neuropsychological evaluation, or a day in concussion clinic following multiple patients, for example. Fellows receive the assistance of our well-trained psychometrists, who are available to administer and score a portion of the assessment, and also work with extern assistants (see Didactics and Professional Development Experiences, below). The fellow receives at least two hours of individual supervision per week, plus group supervision, with faculty involvement in cases tailored to the needs of the individual fellow to support growing independence. Fellows typically provide all of their clinical services at the main Rockville office during their first year. During the second year, fellows will often divide their time between the Rockville office and the main hospital in Washington, DC, to allow for completion of hospital-based rotations (e.g., epilepsy, hem-onc).

Clinical Rotations:

General Outpatient Service: All fellows spend a portion of their clinical time providing consultation and neuropsychological evaluation to general outpatients. The proportion of general outpatients is higher in the General track (approximately half of clinical service, especially in the first year) and lower (approximately a quarter) for fellows in the Concussion and Autism tracks. General outpatients come to us from a wide range of referral sources: physicians, professionals, schools, and family members. Patients seen in the general outpatient service include children and adolescents presenting with a variety of developmental or acquired neurocognitive difficulties.



Specialty Rotations: Rotations are organized to provide broad experience with neurodevelopmental disorders and general referrals in Year 1, and in-depth experiences with medical populations (e.g., epilepsy, hem/onc) in Year 2. Fellows in the Concussion track will spend relatively more

time in the SCORE clinic rotation, and fellows in the Autism track will spend relatively more time in autism-related rotations, including neuropsychological and developmental evaluations and treatment. However, all fellows can be exposed to most or all of these populations, and *we take individual preferences and goals into account in order to individualize the training experience.* Each rotation typically offers both didactic experiences (e.g., attending rounds) and experience with a given patient population.

Center for Autism Spectrum Disorders – This rotation provides experience in evaluating primarily high-functioning children for autism spectrum disorders. The fellow will conduct neuropsychological evaluations and function as part of a multi-disciplinary team, which includes developmental psychology, psychiatry and speech and language pathology. Fellows receive individual and group supervision and participate in team meetings, including case presentations and didactics. Fellows have the opportunity to provide school and parent consultation. Fellows (particularly those in the Autism track) can also provide group, individual, and family therapy to patients.

Comprehensive Pediatric Epilepsy Program – The fellow participates in weekly multidisciplinary epilepsy team conference in the Neurology department, and provides consultation and evaluation for children and adolescents diagnosed with seizure disorders. The fellow will also follow surgery candidates through baseline assessment, possible Wada evaluation of language and memory functions, cortical mapping, and/ or functional imaging, and post-surgical evaluation.

Developmental Neuropsychological Evaluation – Multi-disciplinary evaluations of preschool-aged children or those functioning at that

developmental level, mostly referred to the Center for Autism Spectrum Disorders.

Executive Function Clinic – Our faculty are known for expertise in the area of executive function. This rotation provides experience completing rapid, focused evaluations of children with suspected attentional and executive function problems. This rotation includes group supervision and particular training in executive function profiles in ADHD and other neuropsychological disorders.

Hematology/Oncology Program - The fellow participates in clinical and neuroradiology rounds weekly through the Hematology/Oncology and Neurology departments and learns about the cognitive sequelae of these disorders and their treatments. As part of the rotation, the fellow will provide consultations and evaluations to patients referred through the Hematology/Oncology and Neurology departments (Brain Tumor Institute). In addition, the fellow will also obtain clinical experience evaluating children with Neurofibromatosis (NF), and will provide consultation within the NF Institute.

Safe Concussion Outcome, Recovery, & Education (SCORE) Program– This unique “primary care neuropsychology” clinic, situated within the Division of Pediatric Neuropsychology, conducts serial, focused neuropsychological evaluations with children who have sustained mild TBI/ concussions. Active treatment is also provided. The fellow will also provide consultation to physicians, teachers, athletic and physical trainers regarding school and return to play/ activity issues.

Sample Schedule:		
Year 1 Rotations		Year 2 Rotations
General Outpatient Clinic		Epilepsy (6 mo) Hem-Onc (6 mo)
Autism		Developmental Evaluations
EF Clinic (6 mo)	Concussion (6 mo)	General Outpatient Clinic



Research

Approximately 20% (20-40% for Autism track) of the fellow's time will be dedicated to clinical research. Fellows are matched to an area of research depending on track, funding availability, and interest. Current research

programs focus on neurocognitive profiles of children and adolescents with developmental and acquired disorders including autism spectrum disorders, ADHD, epilepsy, mild traumatic brain injury, cancer, genetic disorders (Down's Syndrome, neurofibromatosis), and congenital heart disease. Several projects include neuroimaging (fMRI, DTI, MRS). The fellow is expected to be a productive member of his or her research team and to demonstrate competency for independent research after completing the program. For example, fellows are expected to present at professional conferences, submit a review paper or chapter, or submit a grant application by the end of the residency. Our program includes a research curriculum and monthly research meetings/ seminars to support the development of research skills. Our postdocs are authors on numerous peer-reviewed publications, book chapters, and conference presentations. See below for examples of recent publications.

Didactic and Professional Development Experiences

Approximately 15% of the fellow's time is devoted to didactics and professional development activities.

Weekly didactic meetings: These meetings rotate each week and include Division Chief's Seminars (with Dr. Gioia), group supervision, research meeting, and meetings with the training director.

Neuropsychology Seminar: The weekly neuropsychology seminar series is designed to prepare fellows for professional practice and board certification in neuropsychology. It includes review of major topics in functional neuroanatomy and neuropsychological disorders, as well as legal and ethical issues and fact-finding case seminars.

Sample Neuropsychology Seminar Topics

Functional Neuroanatomy Review

Pediatric Epilepsy

Legislative Advocacy

Executive Function Intervention

Neurocognitive Issues in Brain Tumors and Leukemia

Introduction to Forensic Neuropsychology

Autism Seminar: Fellows participating in the autism rotation will attend a seminar series within the Center for Autism Spectrum Disorders. Fellows who are not currently on rotation are also welcome to attend.

Additional opportunities through the larger medical center include hospital Grand Rounds, Behavioral Medicine Grand Rounds, Neuroscience Seminar, Neuroradiology Rounds, Epilepsy team meeting, brain cutting, observing brain surgery, shadowing a neurologist, etc. Many of these meetings are available over video teleconference in the Rockville office.

Teaching and Supervision Opportunities: The fellow will develop teaching and supervisory skills to prepare him or her for independent practice as a pediatric neuropsychologist within clinical and academic medical settings. Fellows develop their own supervisory skills with psychology externs and psychometrists. Fellows present topics in the neuropsychology seminar series, and may be asked to present in the Core Seminar Series for psychiatry trainees, and/or Psychology Intern Seminar or other presentations within the hospital. Fellows also regularly provide community education and outreach at the local level and beyond.



As a postdoc, Cat McGill, along with supervisor Gerry Gioia, presented at USA Football's Heads Up Ambassador Training in Indianapolis, IN.

Salary/Benefits

Salaries follow the National Institutes of Health salary schedule and for 2013-2014 are as follows:

\$39,264 first year fellow

\$41,364 second year fellow

Children's National Medical Center offers an excellent benefits package. Postdoctoral fellows receive *four weeks of annual leave (vacation) per year*, and accrue sick leave. There are *nine paid federal holidays* and one "floating" holiday (employee can choose). We offer a generous *professional expense budget* for conference travel. The hospital offers health insurance, optional dental and vision coverage, flexible spending accounts, employee assistance program, back-up dependent care assistance, optional life and disability insurance. More information about hospital benefits is available at childrensnational.org/careers/benefits/. At our beautiful Rockville office, fellows have private offices with large windows, free parking, and free 24-hour access to an exercise room in the building. We maintain scoring and statistical analysis software, and through our academic affiliate, The George Washington University, offer online access to library resources including full-text journals.



How to Apply

Qualifications of Applicants: We will consider applicants who have completed APA/CPA-approved doctoral programs in Clinical or School Psychology and an APA/CPA-accredited predoctoral internship. Applicants should have prior training in neuropsychological assessment, and an established focus (in graduate coursework, training, and career goals) on working with children and

adolescents. Our postdoctoral fellows are expected to be productive members of their research team, and as such, candidates should have completed an empirical dissertation, and formal coursework in statistics and research methodology, as part of their graduate program. Strong skills in statistical analysis are highly desirable.



Neuropsychologists at Children's National have authored multiple assessment tools, a research-based program for children with autism spectrum disorders, and several apps for concussion recognition and response.

Application Procedure: Children's National is a member of the Association of Postdoctoral Programs in Clinical Neuropsychology (APPCN) and participates in the APPCN Resident Matching Program (the "Match") administered by the National Matching Service. All applicants must register with the National Matching Service. Information can be obtained from APPCN (www.appcn.org) or NMS (www.natmatch.com/appcnmat or 416-977-3431). This residency site agrees to abide by the APPCN policy that no person at this facility will solicit, accept or use any ranking-related information from any residency applicant.



Interviews for selected applicants will be conducted at the INS meeting in February. Note that the traditional "Interview Day" for postdoctoral positions is the day before the INS conference begins (Tuesday). We will conduct many of our interviews that day, but a small number of slots will be

available later in the week for conference attendees. For applicants not attending the INS meeting, interviews can be arranged at our Rockville office instead.

Applications may be submitted by mail, but electronic submission to npsypdoc@ChildrensNational.org is preferred. **If you email your materials, please do not also send hard copies**. We suggest that you follow up by email or phone call to Dr. Kenealy to ensure all your materials have arrived.

Materials are due January 3, 2014. The following application materials are required:

- Application Form (download from childrensnational.org, or contact LKenealy@ChildrensNational.org for this document)
- Cover Letter: Please indicate clinical and research interests, goals, and perceived match to our program/ track(s) of interest.
- Curriculum Vitae
- Three letters of recommendation: These may be sent separately directly from the recommender. If you are mailing your application and wish to enclose letters of recommendation, please be sure they are in signed, sealed envelopes.
- Graduate transcripts (may be unofficial)
- Two de-identified assessment reports written by the applicant
- The Doctoral Training Verification Form (only required if your doctoral degree is not yet complete). This form is available from [appcn.org](http://www.appcn.org), and should be signed by your training director or dissertation director (<http://www.appcn.org/training.html>).

Please direct applications to:

Laura Kenealy, Ph.D., ABPP-CN

Email for application materials: npsypdoc@ChildrensNational.org

Children's National Medical Center

Division of Pediatric Neuropsychology

15245 Shady Grove Rd, Suite 350

Rockville, MD 20850

phone: 301-765-5430

fax: 301-765-5497

Questions? Contact Dr. Laura Kenealy at 301-765-5439 or

LKenealy@ChildrensNational.org.



Our Faculty



Laura Anthony, PhD

Clinical Psychologist; Associate Director, Center for Autism Spectrum Disorders (CASD)

Interests: Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) diagnosis, ASD intervention, executive function, intervention research

Contact: LAAnthony@ChildrensNational.org; 301-765-5438



Kathleen Atmore, PsyD

Developmental Neuropsychologist

Interests: Developmental evaluations, ASD diagnosis in underserved communities, caring for children with autism in medical settings

Contact: KAtmore@ChildrensNational.org; 301-765-5455



Madison Berl, PhD

Neuropsychologist; Research Director, Division of Neuropsychology

Interests: Epilepsy, neuroimaging, plasticity of cognitive functions

Contact: MBerl@ChildrensNational.org; 202-476-2545



Angela Bollich, PhD

Neuropsychologist

ASD evaluation and treatment over the lifespan, executive function, language development and interventions



Gerard Gioia, PhD

Neuropsychologist; Chief, Division of Neuropsychology; Director, SCORE Clinic

Interests: Concussion/ mild TBI, executive function, psychometric development

Contact: GGioia@ChildrensNational.org; 301-765-5430



Kristina Hardy, PhD

Neuropsychologist

Interests: Pediatric oncology, Neurofibromatosis, ADHD, executive function intervention

Contact: KKHardy@ChildrensNational.org; 202-476-2514



Anne Inge, PhD

Clinical Psychologist

Interests: Diagnostic, neurodevelopmental, and neurocognitive assessment of ASD

Contact: AInge@ChildrensNational.org; 301-765-5690



Laura Kenealy, PhD, ABPP-CN

Neuropsychologist; Training Director, Division of Neuropsychology; Director, Executive Function Clinic

Interests: ADHD, executive function, learning disorders, cognitive function in medical disorders

Contact: LKenealy@ChildrensNational.org; 301-765-5439



Lauren Kenworthy, PhD

Neuropsychologist; Director, CASD

Interests: Non-social ASD phenotypes, genotypes, and treatment

Contact: LKenwort@ChildrensNational.org; 301-765-5441



Catherine McGill, PsyD

Neuropsychologist

Interests: SCORE/ Concussion, advocacy and community outreach, cognitive effects of medical disorders

Contact: CMcGill@ChildrensNational.org; 301-765-5446



Julie Newman, PhD

Neuropsychologist

Interests: SCORE/concussion, executive function, childhood cancers, learning issues in medically complex children

Contact: JNewman@ChildrensNational.org; 240-568-7017



Maegan Sady, PhD

Neuropsychologist

Interests: SCORE/ concussion, executive function, hematology/oncology, sickle cell disease

Contact: MSady@ChildrensNational.org; 301-765-5454



Jacqueline Sanz, PhD

Neuropsychologist; Assistant Training Director

Interests: Congenital heart disease, genetic and metabolic syndromes

Contact: JSanz@ChildrensNational.org; 202-476-5506



John Strang, PsyD

Neuropsychologist

Interests: ASD evaluations, ASD intervention, executive function, intervention research

Contact: JStrang@ChildrensNational.org; 301-765-5447



Christopher Vaughan, PsyD

Neuropsychologist; Externship Co-Director

Interests: SCORE/concussion, neuroimaging, test/ measure development

Contact: CVaughan@ChildrensNational.org; 301-765-5433



Karin Walsh, PsyD

Neuropsychologist, Externship Co-Director

Interests: Hematology/Oncology (neuro-oncology), Neurofibromatosis Type 1, anxiety and cognition

Contact: KWalsh@ChildrensNational.org; 202-476-3923

Selected Recent Publications

Names of postdocs are in **bold**. Please let us know if you'd like to see a longer list of departmental publications.

Bal, E, Yerys, BE, Sokoloff, JL, Celano, MJ, Kenworthy, L, Geidd, J & Wallace, GL (2013) Do social attribution skills improve with age in children with high functioning autism spectrum disorders? *Research in Autism Spectrum Disorders*, 7:9-16.

Berl, MM, Zimmaro, LA, Khan, OI, Dustin, I, Ritzl, E, Duke, ES, **Sepeta, LN**, Sata, S, Theodore, WH & Gaillard, WD (In Press). Characterization of atypical language activation patterns in focal epilepsy. *Annals of Neurology*

Kenealy, L & **Paltin, I** (2012). Disruptive and impulsive behavior disorders. In E Sparrow & S Hunter (Eds), *Executive Function and Dysfunction: Identification, Assessment and Treatment*. Baltimore: Brookes Publishing.

Kenworthy, L, Anthony, LG, Naiman, D, Cannon, L, Wills, MC, Luong-Tran, C, Werner, A, Alexander, K, Strang, J, **Bal, E**, Sokoloff, JL, & Wallace, G (In Press). Randomized controlled effectiveness trial of executive function invention for children on the autism spectrum. *Journal of Child Psychology and Psychiatry*.

Newman, JB, **Reesman, JK**, Vaughan, CG, Gioia, GA (2013). Assessment of processing speed in children with mTBI: A "first look" at the validity of Pediatric ImPACT. *The Clinical Neuropsychologist*, 27(5). 779-793.

Oliveras-Rentas, R, Kenworthy, L, Roberson, RB, Martin, A, & Wallace, GL (2012) WISC-IV profile in high-functioning autism spectrum disorders: Impaired processing speed is associated with increased autism communication symptoms and decreased adaptive communication abilities. *Journal of Autism and Developmental Disorders*, 42:655-64.

Rosenthal, M, Wallace, GL, Lawson, R, Wills, MC, Dixon, E, Yerys, BE, Kenworthy, L (In Press). Impairments in real world executive function increase from childhood to adolescence in autism spectrum disorders. *Neuropsychology*.

Sady, MD, Vaughan, CG & Gioia, GA (2011). School and the concussed youth: Recommendations for concussion education and management. *Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation Clinics of North America*, 22, 701-719. doi: 10.1016/j.pmr.2011.08.008.

Walsh, KS & **Paltin, I** (2012) Neuropsychological effects of pediatric brain tumors and associated treatment. In G Mucci & L Torno (Eds), *Handbook of Childhood Cancer Survivorship: Evidence-Based Practice for Long-Term Care*. Springer.