2020-2022 Post-Doctoral Fellowship
Center for Autism Spectrum Disorders
Children’s National Hospital
The George Washington University School
of Medicine
Washington D.C./Rockville, MD

Psychology Fellowship in Autism Spectrum Disorders
This position will provide focused experience in the evaluation and treatment of, as well as research with, children and adolescents with autism spectrum disorder and related conditions. The fellow will have the opportunity to provide diagnostic, developmental, and neuropsychological evaluations within the context of multidisciplinary teams. Clinical activities will also include advanced training in ADOS-2 / ADI-R and opportunities for individual and group therapy. Weekly didactics, case conferences, and individual and group supervision are all provided. The fellow will participate in ongoing research projects through CASD, which can include neuroimaging, cognitive phenotyping, intervention studies focusing on executive functions, medical populations at risk for ASD, females with autism, and gender variance.

The Center for Autism Spectrum Disorders
The Center for Autism Spectrum Disorders (CASP) is a multidisciplinary center including clinical psychology, neuropsychology, speech/language pathology, developmental pediatrics, child psychiatry, and social work. Trainees include postdoctoral neuropsychology and psychology fellows, pre-doctoral psychology interns and externs, and medical residents and fellows. CASD provides multidisciplinary evaluation and treatment services for children and adolescents with atypical or complicated developmental disorders and their families. The CASD clinic is designed to address the needs of all children with autism spectrum disorders, but specializes in three main areas: 1) Diagnosis and neuropsychological evaluation of children with primary deficits in social cognition, communication, and executive functioning 2) Early diagnosis of children at all levels of functioning, and 3) Evidence-based treatments. Our clinic serves a culturally and clinically diverse population, ranging from toddlers to young adults, and presenting with varying cognitive ability and a wide range of co-occurring clinical conditions, including Autism Spectrum Disorder, Social Communication Disorder, AD/HD, Learning Disabilities, Intellectual Disability, mood and anxiety disorders, as well as neurological, genetic, and medical conditions including epilepsy, neurofibromatosis, cerebral palsy, and congenital heart disease. Our faculty is committed to

About Children’s National
Serving the nation’s children since 1870, Children’s National is a leading clinical and research institution, and is currently ranked sixth among the best children’s hospitals in the country. Children’s National offers services at the main hospital in the District of Columbia and at regional satellites throughout the D.C. area. The Center for Autism Spectrum Disorders 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 Children’s Research Institute (CRI) at Children’s National advances research and education to improve child health and well-being. The research at Children’s National has become a focal point for multi-institutional projects in the metropolitan Washington, D.C. area and nationally. See www.childrensnational.org for more information.

The atrium of Children’s National – main hospital campus
excellence in clinical care and training and is also actively involved in clinical research into the manifestation, assessment, and treatment of ASD.

Training

The Center for Autism Spectrum Disorders (CASD) is a part of the Division of Pediatric Neuropsychology at Children’s National, which also provides postdoctoral training fellowships. The CASD psychology fellow has the unique opportunity to specialize in advanced clinical work and research in ASD, while also learning from and working with neuropsychologists treating children with a range of medical, developmental, and psychiatric conditions.

Clinical Experiences
The fellow will have the opportunity to:

- Provide neuropsychological and developmental evaluations both independently and within the context of multidisciplinary teams (psychiatry, speech/language, neuropsychology).
- Provide diagnostic assessments of young children as part of a multi-disciplinary team to enable access to early intervention services.
- Administer gold standard autism diagnostic measures (ADOS-2 and ADI-R) in clinical and research settings.
- Provide evidence-based treatment.

Didactics
The fellow participates in specialized autism-focused didactics:

- Weekly multidisciplinary meetings that include didactic presentations, guest speakers, and case discussions.
- Weekly assessment and monthly ADOS reliability trainings.
- Two hours of individual supervision weekly.
- Weekly research meetings.

Research
The fellow is funded (usually 25-30% time) to participate in ongoing research projects through CASD, including intervention, behavioral and neuroimaging studies examining executive function and other non-social impairments in autism. CASD currently has grant funding and contracts supporting imaging, behavioral phenotyping, school-based interventions, and gender expression in ASD. 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. Fellows are expected to present at professional conferences and to submit a review paper, chapter, research article, and/or 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 postdoc publications.

Teaching and Supervision Opportunities
The fellow has the opportunity to develop teaching and supervisory skills to prepare themselves for independent practice within clinical and academic medical settings. Fellows are given experience in developing their own supervisory skills with psychology externs and psychometrists. Fellows also present a topic in the didactic lecture series, and may be asked to present in the Core Seminar Series for psychiatry trainees, Psychology Intern Seminar or other presentations within the hospital.

Salary/Benefits
Current salary is $50,004. Children’s National offers an excellent benefits package. Postdoctoral Fellows receive twenty days of annual leave (vacation) per year and accrue sick leave. There are nine paid holidays. We provide a professional expense stipend for conference travel, books,
licensure fees, etc. The hospital offers a selection of health insurance plans, optional dental and vision coverage, flexible spending accounts, employee assistance program, back-up dependent care assistance, optional life and disability insurance. More information is available at childrensnational.org/careers/benefits/. At our Rockville office, fellows have private offices with large windows, free parking, and free exercise facilities in the building. Fellows receive psychometrist support for their testing cases. We maintain scoring and statistical 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 consider applicants who have completed APA-approved doctoral programs in a relevant area of psychology (usually Clinical Psychology) and an APA-accredited pre-doctoral internship. Applicants should have substantial child-clinical or pediatric psychology experience, including prior clinical and/or research experience with youth with autism spectrum disorders. Graduate course work and training should include developmental and/or neuropsychological assessment.

Candidates should submit the following in one email by January 3, 2020:

- Letter of interest addressing clinical and research experiences
- Curriculum vitae
- 3 letters of recommendation
- Graduate transcript
- 2 de-identified assessment reports written by the applicant

Email complete application packages to:
Dr. Cara Pugliese
E-mail: cpugliese@childrensnational.org
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Associated Faculty and Staff
- Abigail Brandt, MA, CCC-SLP, Speech and Language Pathologist
- Colleen Morgan, MA, CCC-SLP, Speech and Language Pathologist
- Amy Youmatz, MA, Psychometrist
- Kelly Register Brown, MD, Child and Adolescent Psychiatrist
- Shalinee Khurana, MD, Developmental and Behavioral Pediatrician
- Cathy Scheiner, MD, Developmental and Behavioral Pediatrician

Selected Recent Publications by Our Postdocs
Reflecting work done during fellowship with us
(postdoc names in bold).


