



CENTER FOR AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDERS

Clinical Psychology Externships

Developmental Assessment, Neuropsychology, and Neuropsychology with Psychotherapy

2019-2020

Description of the Positions

Clinical Psychology and/or Clinical Neuropsychology students are invited to apply for an externship at the Center for Autism Spectrum Disorders (CASD).

Depending on the rotation, the positions offer supervised training in evaluation, consultation, and treatment of toddlers, children, adolescents, and young adults with autism spectrum disorder and related conditions. Children who come to our clinic present with problems including behavioral difficulties and social and communication deficits consistent with autism spectrum disorders. The children may also have comorbid psychiatric conditions, medical conditions, underlying neurological disorders, and/or other genetic disorders.

A typical training week would include one clinic day during which the extern will be directly evaluating a child or adolescent and scoring completed test instruments. The second training day allows for supervision, report writing, and didactics. Externs with an interest in treatment may be involved in these services on one or both clinic days, and could potentially participate in shorter assessments to allow for more involvement in treatment services. These options are dependent on locations/supervisors.

The patient population at Children's National is culturally diverse, providing trainees with the opportunity to work with families from a variety of backgrounds. Externs learn to evaluate and treat children with autism spectrum disorders, along with a range of comorbid conditions, including ADHD, learning disabilities, epilepsy, genetic and neurological conditions, anxiety, depression, OCD and other psychiatric comorbidities. Referral questions most often relate to the child's profile of cognitive strengths

and weaknesses, diagnostic concerns, and educational and therapeutic program planning. Much of our service includes multidisciplinary interactions, particularly with speech/language pathology, psychiatry, and developmental pediatrics.

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 and CASD have their main offices at a regional outpatient center in Rockville, Maryland, and also serve children at the main hospital and at additional satellite locations in Maryland and Virginia.*

Children's National is the pediatric teaching hospital for the George Washington University School of Medicine and Health Sciences. Psychologists at Children's National hold academic appointments in the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences and the Department of Pediatrics at the medical school.

The atrium of Children's National – main hospital campus



The Center for Autism Spectrum Disorders (CASD) is part of the Division of Neuropsychology, under the

direction of Dr. Gerry Gioia. CASD is directed by Dr. Lauren Kenworthy, and includes 7 faculty neuropsychologists, 3 clinical psychologists, 1 child psychiatrist, 2 speech/language pathologists, 2 postdoctoral fellows, as well as multiple predoctoral interns and externs. Our faculty and fellows are involved in grant-funded *clinical research*, and our team contributed numerous publications last year within high impact, peer-reviewed journals. Our 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*.

Clinical Training Experiences

Externs have the opportunity to be involved in a range of clinical and didactic experiences. This includes involvement in comprehensive psychological and neuropsychological evaluations, rapid diagnostic evaluations, and evidence-based treatment. Externs often learn to administer neuropsychological and/or developmental tests, including measures of intelligence, attention, executive function, language, visual processing, learning and memory, social cognition, fine motor abilities, adaptive skills, gold-standard diagnostics, and emotional adjustment. Externs are taught to interpret test data, formulate diagnoses and conceptualize each patient's unique pattern of strengths and weaknesses, assist with report writing, and participate in parent feedback conferences when possible. Externs may have the opportunity to participate in evidence-based individual, group, and family-based treatment of children-adults with ASD, depending on their placement. The externship is designed for students who are interested in developing advanced skills in the assessment (and treatment depending on the rotation) of children-young adult with ASD and related disabilities. Multi-disciplinary teams are an integral part of CASD services so externs regularly have opportunities to interact with providers from other disciplines. Externs have the opportunity to participate in the following clinical experiences:

- Rapid, multidisciplinary diagnostic evaluations for young children (under 5): This service utilizes gold standard diagnostic measures, along with questionnaires and clinical interviewing, to provide same-day diagnostic information and recommendations to families. Externs will gain exposure to the Autism

Diagnostic Observation Schedule-2 (ADOS-2), as well as use of questionnaire and interview data to formulate diagnoses and provide recommendations.

- Neuropsychological evaluation. CASD's neuropsychology program offers comprehensive neuropsychological and diagnostic evaluations for children, adolescents, and young adults on the autism spectrum, or suspected of having an autism spectrum disorder. The extern may gain experience with a broad range of neuropsychological assessment tools and standard autism diagnostic measures, report writing, and providing feedback and consultation with families.
- Comprehensive psychological evaluations for young and intellectually disabled children. CASD offers briefer psychological and diagnostic evaluations for children and adolescents with significant developmental delays who are on the autism spectrum, or suspected of having an autism spectrum disorder. The extern may gain experience with a broad range of psychological and developmental assessment tools as well as standard autism diagnostic measures, report writing, and providing feedback and consultation with families.
- Autism Diagnostics. Children and adolescents maybe seen across a series of visits for a comprehensive, multidisciplinary evaluation or for a standard psychological diagnostic evaluation. Externs have the opportunity to work with the team leader to gain exposure to, and possible training in, autism diagnostic assessments including the Autism Diagnostic Interview-Revised and the Autism Diagnostic Observation Schedule-2, as well as comprehensive psychiatric interviewing.
- Outpatient psychotherapy with children and adolescents with autism spectrum disorders and their families. Externs most commonly have opportunities to participate in group therapy led by faculty or postdoctoral fellows. Groups generally target executive functioning, social skills, and/or transition to adult life. Some externs may have the opportunity to offer individual/family psychotherapy. Common referral issues include executive functioning problems, behavioral problems, anxiety, depression, and family difficulties. Treatment often uses CBT, PCIT, exposure therapy,

executive function training, psychoeducation empowerment, and parent training techniques.

- ASD and Gender Diversity. Externs may also have the opportunity to work with neurodiverse children and adolescents who experience gender diversity or who identify as transgender through assisting with consultations, individual therapy, and group therapy.

Didactics & Professional Development

In addition to direct patient services, externs have the opportunity to participate in a range of didactic and professional development experiences. All externs receive weekly individual supervision with their designated supervisor(s). Externs participate in weekly group assessment supervision, which covers a range of topics related to conducting assessments, including administering and scoring measures, writing reports, and adapting recommendations. CASD externs also participate in the weekly didactic seminar and multidisciplinary team case conference. The seminar reviews a range of topics relevant to research and clinical practice in autism spectrum disorder, and includes presenters from a range of fields. Immediately following the seminar each week is a multidisciplinary team case conference, in which providers present and discuss a complex case with the CASD team in order to clarify diagnostic profile and make recommendations. Externs who are not on-site for these meetings can participate via teleconference.

Although the majority of the externship focuses on clinical activities, there are also many opportunities to participate in research. Faculty at CASD are actively involved in research on interventions for executive dysfunction in ASD and ADHD, transitioning to adulthood, neuropsychological profiles in ASD, gender identity in ASD, and reducing disparities in access to services for ASD.

How to Apply

Qualifications: A strong interest in autism spectrum disorders is required. Formal coursework in child development and assessment is expected. Assessment and therapy experience with children is strongly preferred. Excellent communication skills and the ability to work as part of a team are also presumed.

Applicants who are primarily interested in conducting neuropsychological assessments with this population may apply through this externship, or may also apply for the externship in Pediatric Neuropsychology (*Center for Autism Spectrum Disorders placement*).

Time Requirement: Sixteen hours per week. This externship is a 12-month commitment from July-June (start/finish dates may be adjusted if needed)

Location: Shady Grove Regional Outpatient Center in Rockville, Maryland, Friendship Heights, DC; Upper Marlboro, MD., and possibly Takoma Park.

Materials are due February 8, 2019. The following application materials are required:

- Letter of interest (**include faculty preferences if applicable in your letter**)
- Curriculum Vitae with a list of relevant coursework
- academic transcript (does not have to be official)
- Two letters of recommendation preferably emailed: 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.
- List of test measures administered (identify which measures were given to patients and number of administrations)

To Apply: Send the above information to:

Angela Bollich, Ph.D.
Co-Director of Pre-Doctoral Externship Training
Children's National Health System
Division of Pediatric Neuropsychology
15245 Shady Grove Road, Suite 350
Rockville, Maryland 20850
Email: ABollich@ChildrensNational.org

Our Faculty



Lauren Kenworthy, PhD
Neuropsychologist; Director, CASD
Interests: Non-social ASD phenotypes, genotypes, and treatment
LKenwort@ChildrensNational.org



Angela Bollich, PhD
Neuropsychologist, Externship Co-Director
ASD evaluation and treatment over the lifespan, executive function, language development and interventions
ABollich@ChildrensNational.org



Ann Clawson, PhD
Neuropsychologist
Interests: ASD and common medical comorbidities, sex differences in autism
aclawson@childrensnational.org



Anne Inge, Ph.D.,
Clinical Psychologist, Clinical Director, CASD
Interests: ASD evaluation across age and developmental level; Early identification and Phenotypic Variability in ASD
ainge@childrensnational.org



Deborah Potvin, PhD, ABPP-CN
Neuropsychologist
Interests: Autism Spectrum Disorders, early diagnosis of ASD, preschool assessment
DPotvin@ChildrensNational.org



Cara Pugliese, PhD
Clinical Psychologist
Interests: Autism Spectrum Disorders, transition to adulthood, intervention research
CPuglies@ChildrensNational.org



Allison Ratto, PhD
Clinical Psychologist
Interests: ASD and treatment, cultural differences research, Spanish language services
ARatto@ChildrensNational.org



Srishti Rau, PhD
Neuropsychologist
Interests: Prevalence of and phenotypes of ASD in medically complex children
SrRau@childrensnational.org



John Strang, PsyD
Neuropsychologist
Interests: Co-occurring autism and gender dysphoria, transition to adulthood, autism diagnostics
JStrang@ChildrensNational.org



Meagan Wills, PhD
Clinical Psychologist
Interests: Autism Spectrum Disorders, early identification, parent-child relationships, comorbid anxiety.
MCWills@ChildrensNational.org

Multidisciplinary Team



Kelly Register-Brown, MD
Child Psychiatrist
Extern involvement: Multidisciplinary team assessments, treatment collaboration
KRegisterB@ChildrensNational.org



Abigail Brandt, MA, CCC-SLP
Speech/Language Pathologist
Extern involvement: Multidisciplinary team assessments, treatment collaboration
ABrandt@ChildrensNational.org



Colleen Morgan, MA, CCC-SLP
Speech/Language Pathologist
Extern involvement: Multidisciplinary team assessments, treatment collaboration
CoMorgan@ChildrensNational.org

Selected Recent Faculty Publications

1. Isquith PK, Roth RM, **Kenworthy L**, Gioia G. (2014) Contribution of Rating Scales to Intervention for Executive Dysfunction. *Applied Neuropsychology: Child* 3:197-204. doi: 10.1080/21622965.2013.870014.
2. Lawson, R., Papadakis, A.A., Higginson, C.I., Barnett, J.E., Wills, M.C., **Strang, J. F.**, Wallace, G.L., & **Kenworthy, L.** (2015) Specific Executive Function Impairments Predict Comorbid Psychopathology in Autism Spectrum and Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorders. *Neuropsychology*.
3. Green A.E., **Kenworthy L.**, Mosner M.G., Gallagher N.M., Fearon E.W., Balhana C.D., Yerys B.E. (2014) Abstract Analogical Reasoning in High-Functioning Children with Autism Spectrum Disorders. *Autism Res.* doi: 10.1002/aur.1411
4. **Strang, J.F.**, Anthony, L.G., Yerys, B.E., **Hardy, K.K.**, Wallace, G.L., Armour, A.C. ... **Kenworthy, L.** (2017). The Flexibility Scale: Development and Preliminary Validation of a Cognitive Flexibility Measure in Children with Autism Spectrum Disorders. *Journal of Autism and Developmental Disorders*, 47(8): 2502-2518. doi: 10.1007/s10803-017-3125-y.
5. **Strang, J.F.**, **Kenworthy, L.**, Dominska, A., Sokoloff, J., Kenealy, L.E., Berl, M., Walsh, K., Menvielle, E., Slesaransky-Poe, G., Kim, K.E., Luong-Tran, C., Meagher, H., & Wallace, G.L. (2014). Increased Gender Variance in Autism Spectrum Disorders and Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder. *Arch Sex Behav.* Mar 12. PMID:24619651
6. **Kenworthy, L.***, Anthony, L. G.*, Naiman, D.Q., Cannon, L., Wills, M.C., Werner, M.A., Alexander, K., **Strang, J.**, Bal, E., Sokoloff, J.L., & Wallace, G.L. (2014) Randomized Controlled Effectiveness Trial of Executive Function Invention for Children on the Autism Spectrum.

- Journal of Child Psychology and Psychiatry 55 :374-83. doi: 10.1111/jcpp.12161 *Joint first authors
7. **Kenworthy, L.,** Wallace G.L., Birn R., Millville S., Case, L. & Martin A. (2013) Aberrant neural mediation of verbal fluency in autism spectrum disorders. *Brain and Cognition*, 83, 218-226.
 8. **Kenworthy, L.,** Yerys, B.E., Weinblatt, R., Abrams, D., & Wallace, G.L. (2013) Motor demands impact speed of information processing in ASD. *Neuropsychology*, 27, 529-536.
 9. Anthony L.G., **Kenworthy L.,** Yerys B.E., Jankowski K.F., James J.D., Harms M.B., Martin A., and Wallace G.L. (2013). Intense interests in high-functioning autism and neurotypical development. *Development and Psychopathology*. , 25, 643-652.
 10. Rosenthal, M., Wallace, G.L., Lawson, R., Wills, M.C., Dixon, E. Yerys, B.E., **Kenworthy, L.** (In Press) Impairments in Real World Executive Function Increase from Childhood to Adolescence in Autism Spectrum Disorders. *Neuropsychology*.
 11. Weisberg J., Milleville S.C., **Kenworthy L.,** Wallace G.L., Gotts S.J., Beauchamp M.S., Martin A. (2014) Social Perception in Autism Spectrum Disorders: Impaired Category Selectivity for Dynamic but not Static Images in Ventral Temporal Cortex. *Cerebral Cortex*, 24:37-48. doi: 10.1093/cercor/bhs276.
 12. Etemad Smithson, P., **Kenworthy, L.,** Wills, M., Jarrett, M., **Atmore, K.,** & Yerys, B.E. (2013) Measures of everyday cognitive flexibility and executive control correlates with adaptive behaviors in preschoolers with autism spectrum disorders. *Journal of Autism and Developmental Disorders*. doi: 10.1007/s10803-012-1747
 13. Bal, E., Yerys B.E., Sokoloff J.L., Celano M.J., **Kenworthy, L.** Geidd, J. & Wallace, G.L. (2013) Do Social Attribution Skills Improve with Age in Children with High Functioning Autism Spectrum Disorders? *Research in Autism Spectrum Disorders*, 7:9-16.
 14. Murphy, E. R., Foss-Feig, J., **Kenworthy, L.,** Gaillard, W. D., Vaidya, C. J. (2012) Atypical Functional Connectivity of the Amygdala in Childhood Autism Spectrum Disorders during Spontaneous Attention to Eye-Gaze, *Autism Research and Treatment*. doi:10.1155/2012/652408.
 15. Yerys, B.E., Ruiz, E., **Strang, J.,** Sokoloff, J., **Kenworthy, L.** & Vaidya, C.J. (2012) Modulation of attentional blink with emotional faces in typical development and in autism spectrum disorders. *Journal of Child Psychology and Psychiatry*. doi:10.1111/jcpp.12013
 16. Supekar K, Uddin LQ, Khouzam A, Phillips J, Gaillard WD, **Kenworthy L,** Yerys BE, Vaidya CJ, Menon V. (2013) Brain hyperconnectivity in children with autism and its links to social deficits. *Cell Rep*. 5:738-47. doi: 10.1016/j.celrep.2013.10.001.
 17. You X, Norr M, Murphy E, Kuschner ES, Bal E, Gaillard WD, **Kenworthy L,** Vaidya CJ. (2013) Atypical modulation of distant functional connectivity by cognitive state in children with Autism Spectrum Disorders. *Front Hum Neurosci*. 7:482. doi: 10.3389/fnhum.2013.00482. eCollection 2013.
 18. Oliveras-Rentas, R. **Kenworthy, L.,** Roberson, R.B., Martin, A., & Wallace, G.L. (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.
 19. **Kenworthy, L.** Anthony, L. G., et al. (In Press) *Unstuck and On Target Everywhere* Brookes Publishing, Inc
 20. **Kenworthy, L,** & Anthony, LG (2012). *Understanding and Using Neurocognitive Assessment Results in Children with Neurodevelopmental Disabilities*. In M L Batshaw, N Roizen, G Lotrecchiano (Eds). *Children with Disabilities*, 7th Edition. Baltimore: Brookes Publishing.
 21. Yerys, B.E., **Kenworthy, L.,** Jankowski, K.F., **Strang, J.,** & Wallace, G.L. (2013). Separate components of emotional Go/No-Go performance relate to autism versus attention symptoms in children with autism. *Neuropsychology*, 27, 537-545.
 22. **Kenworthy, L,** Anthony, LG & Yerys, BE (2012). *Executive Functions in Autism Spectrum Disorders*. In E Sparrow & S Hunter (Eds) *Executive Function and Dysfunction: Identification, Assessment and Treatment*. Baltimore: Brookes Publishing.
 23. **Ratto, A.B.,** Anthony, B., **Kenworthy, L.,** Armour, A.C., Dudley, K., & Anthony, L. (2014). Are Non-Intellectually Disabled Black Youth with ASD Less Impaired on Parent Report than Their White Peers?. *Journal of Autism and Developmental Disorders*. doi 10.1007/s10803-015-2614-3
 24. **Ratto, A.B.,** Reznick, J.S., & Brown, L.T. (2014). Cultural Effects on the Diagnosis of Autism Spectrum Disorder among Latinos. *Focus on Autism and Other Developmental Disabilities*. doi 10.1177/1088357615587501
 25. **Pugliese, C.E.,** Anthony, L., **Strang, J.F.,** Dudley, K., Wallace, G.L., & **Kenworthy, L.** (2014). Increasing adaptive behavior skill deficits from childhood to adolescence in autism spectrum disorder: role of executive function. *Journal of Autism and Developmental Disorders*, doi 10.1007/s10803-014-2309-1
 26. **Pugliese, C.E.,** Anthony, L., **Strang, J.F.,** Dudley, K., Wallace, G.L., Naiman, D.Q., & Kenworthy, L. (2015). Longitudinal examination of adaptive behavior in autism spectrum disorders: influence of executive function. *Journal of Autism and Developmental Disorders*, doi 10.1007/s10803-015-2584-5
 27. **Strang, J.F.,** Meagher, H., **Kenworthy, L.,** et al. (2016). Initial clinical guidelines for co-occurring autism spectrum disorder and gender dysphoria or incongruence in adolescents. *Journal of Clinical Child and Adolescent Psychology*, 1-11. . doi 10.1080/15374416.2016.122846