Clinical Externship in Pediatric Neuropsychology & the Center for Autism Spectrum Disorders (CASD)

Training at Children’s National Hospital
We offer a 12-month, 16-hour a week, pre-doctoral externship practicum in pediatric neuropsychology or CASD, that is primarily assessment focused; there is one therapy option in CASD. Our neuropsychology training combines clinical and didactic activities to prepare the trainee to be a good consumer of neuropsychology or for future training and practice as a neuropsychologist. CASD provides expertise in assessment and intervention for children with autism spectrum disorders (ASD) of all ages and abilities.

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 children with a wide range of complex developmental and acquired neurological disorders. 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.

The Division of Pediatric Neuropsychology at Children’s National is under the direction of Gerry Gioia, Ph.D., and includes 16 faculty neuropsychologists, 4 pediatric psychologists, 6 postdoctoral fellows, and multiple pre-doctoral 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 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 greater Washington DC area location, uniquely positions us for involvement in legislative advocacy related to issues such as mild TBI in children and ASD.

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 (ROC) in Rockville, Maryland, and also serve children at the main hospital (Washington, DC) and at satellite locations in Maryland and Virginia.

Clinical Training Tracks/Opportunities:
Assessment: (~20 externs total)
1. General Neuropsychology
2. Center for Autism Spectrum Disorders (CASD)
3. Safe Concussion Outcome, Recovery & Education (SCORE)

Intervention: (1 extern each):
1. Center for Autism Spectrum Disorders (CASD) therapy track
2. Gender, Autism, and Neurodiversity (mixed assessment and intervention) consultation, assessment and therapy track.

Neuropsychology assessment externs learn to administer tests assessing a broad range of neuropsychological functions, including intelligence, attention, executive function, language, visual
processing, learning and memory, social cognition, fine motor skills, and emotional adjustment. Externs are taught to interpret test data, formulate diagnoses and conceptualize each patient's unique pattern of neuropsychological strengths and weaknesses, assist with report writing, and participate in clinical interviews and/or parent feedback conferences when possible. This service works in close consultation with Children's National physicians and multi-disciplinary teams. This externship is designed for students who are interested in developing advanced skills in assessment of children-young adult patients, as well as those with a specific interest in the specialty of pediatric neuropsychology, either with a broad range of patient populations or a focused population (SCORE and CASD).

A typical assessment training week would include one clinic day when the extern will be directly evaluating a patient (child-young adult) and scoring test instruments. The second training day allows for supervision, report writing, and didactics. A typical therapy training week involves seeing patients on both days, individual supervision, multidisciplinary group supervision (e.g., psychology, psychiatry, speech and language), and participation in didactics.

**Pediatric Neuropsychology / General (~8 externs)**

This track provides broad, general training in pediatric neuropsychological assessment to children and adolescents. The extern receives exposure to a wide range of pediatric populations with neurodevelopmental (e.g., ADHD, learning disabilities, genetic conditions, etc.) and medical/neurological disorders (e.g., epilepsy, brain tumors, concussions and other injuries). Our patients are typically school-age through late adolescence, with opportunities to see preschool-aged patients and occasionally young adults. Clinical experiences provide opportunities to develop facility with: test battery selection and administration; process-driven behavioral observations; case formulation; report writing; and involvement in clinical interviews and feedbacks.

Locations include: Children's National Hospital in DC, Rockville ROC, Takoma Park ROC, PG County ROC, Howard County ROC

**Pediatric Neuropsychology/ Concussion and Mild Traumatic Brain Injury (SCORE) (~5 externs)**

This track provides a foundation of general training in pediatric neuropsychology through specific experiences working with children who have sustained mild traumatic brain injuries (TBI)/concussion. Externs will be specially trained to provide focused evaluation & develop behaviorally-based treatment plans through the Safe Concussion Outcome, Recovery and Education (SCORE) Program within the Division of Neuropsychology. The extern will also have the opportunity to participate in didactics, including presentations by variety of medical professionals (e.g., emergency department, sports medicine, neurology, athletic trainers) regarding evaluation and treatment of mild TBI/concussion.

Locations include: Children’s National Hospital in DC, Rockville, Salisbury, PG County ROC, Howard County ROC
Didactic and Professional Development Experiences

Externs will receive approximately 2 hours of individual supervision weekly with their primary supervisor. Externs can attend any and all didactics within the Division of Neuropsychology, CASD, or within Children’s National. We offer a weekly...
neuropsychology seminar that consists of talks by faculty and guest lecturers on topics including structural and functional anatomy, diseases/disorders, psychometrics, legal/ethical issues, case discussions, and journal clubs. CASD also offers a seminar series focused on topics and issues specific to autism spectrum disorders. 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.

Although the externship focuses on clinical activities, there are also many opportunities to participate in research.

Sample Neuropsychology Seminar Topics

| Functional Neuroanatomy | Pediatric Epilepsy | Legislative Advocacy | Executive Function Intervention | Neurocognitive Issues in Brain Tumors and Leukemia | Introduction to Forensic Neuropsychology |

How to Apply

Qualifications:
The general neuropsychology and the CASD neuropsychology assessment placements are primarily advanced child assessment externships, and thus are most appropriate for students in their third year or beyond, have completed coursework in assessment, have had prior externship experience with testing, and direct clinical experience with children.

Some CASD rotations have more focused evaluations and are appropriate for doctoral students at all levels of training, including those with less assessment training or experience. These rotations include ASD Diagnostics, Preschool Evaluations, and Evaluations of individuals with limited language. The externship in the SCORE clinic is appropriate for doctoral students at all levels of training who may have less assessment training or experience, or have a particular interest in working with children and adolescents with mild traumatic brain injuries/concussions or sports-related injuries.

Externs are matched to rotations depending on their expressed training interest, schedule availability, and background.

Materials are due January 31, 2020. The following application materials are required:

- Letter of interest (specify programs of interest or faculty preferences if applicable in your letter)
- Curriculum Vitae
- List of test measures administered (identify which measures were given to patients and number of administrations)
- Two letters of recommendation, preferably emailed: These may be sent directly from the recommender. If you are mailing your application and wish to enclose letters of recommendation, please be sure they are signed, sealed envelopes.
- Graduate transcripts (may be unofficial)

Please direct applications to:
Leigh Pettenati
leharris2@childrensnational.org
Program Coordinator, Neuropsychology
Children’s National Medical Center
Division of Pediatric Neuropsychology
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Rockville, MD 20850
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Our Faculty and Head Psychometrists

Madison Berl, PhD, ABPP-CN
Tracks: General
Neuropsychologist; Research Director, Division of Neuropsychology
Interests: Epilepsy, neuroimaging, plasticity of cognitive functions
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Angela Bollich, PhD
Tracks: CASD
Neuropsychologist
Externship Co-Director
ASD evaluation and treatment, executive function, language development
ABollich@ChildrensNational.org

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

Gerard Gioia, PhD
Tracks: SCORE
Neuropsychologist; Chief, Division of Neuropsychology; Director, SCORE Clinic
Interests: Concussion/ mild TBI, executive function, psychometric development
GGioia@ChildrensNational.org

Kristina Hardy, PhD
Tracks: General
Neuropsychologist
Interests: Pediatric oncology, Neurofibromatosis, ADHD, executive function intervention
KKHardy@ChildrensNational.org

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

Laura Kenealy, PhD, ABPP-CN
Tracks: General
Neuropsychologist; Training Director; Director, Executive Function Clinic
Interests: ADHD, executive function, learning disorders, cognitive function in medical disorders
LKenealy@ChildrensNational.org

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

Julie Newman, PhD, ABPP-CN
Tracks: Score and General
Neuropsychologist; Assistant Training Director; Externship Co-Director
Interests: SCORE/concussion, executive function, cognitive effects of medical disorders
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Deborah Potvin, PhD, ABPP-CN
Tracks: CASD
Neuropsychologist
Interests: Autism Spectrum Disorders, early diagnosis of ASD, preschool assessment
DPotvin@ChildrensNational.org

Cara Pugliese, PhD
Tracks: CASD
Clinical Psychologist
Interests: ASD, transition to adulthood, evidence based intervention research
CPuglies@ChildrensNational.org

Allison Ratto, PhD
Tracks: CASD
Clinical Psychologist
Interests: ASD evaluations, ASD intervention, cultural differences research
ARatto@ChildrensNational.org

Srishti Rau, PhD
Tracks: CASD
Neuropsychologist
Interest: Prevalence of and phenotypes of ASD in medically complex children
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Maegan Sady, PhD
Tracks: SCORE and General
Neuropsychologist
Interests: SCORE/ concussion, traumatic brain injury, neuroimmunology
MSady@ChildrensNational.org
Jacqueline Sanz, PhD, ABPP-CN
Tracks: General
Neuropsychologist
Co-Director, Cardiac Neurodevelopmental Outcomes Program (CANDO)*
Interests: Congenital heart disease, genetic and metabolic syndromes
JSanz@ChildrensNational.org

Justine Schellhammer, MS
Lead Psychometrist

Leigh Sepeta, PhD
Tracks: General
Neuropsychologist
Interests: Epilepsy, acquired brain injury, neuroimaging, plasticity of cognitive functions.
LSepeta@ChildrensNational.org

John Strang, PsyD
Tracks: CASD, Gender, Autism and Neurodiversity Program
Neuropsychologist; Director, Gender and Autism Program
Interests: Transgender youth, co-occurring ASD and gender dysphoria; ASD intervention
JStrang@ChildrensNational.org

Christopher Vaughan, PsyD
Tracks: SCORE and General
Neuropsychologist; Externship Co-Director
Interests: SCORE/concussion, test/measure development
C Vaughan@ChildrensNational.org;

Karin Walsh, PsyD
Tracks: General
Neuropsychologist, Externship Co-Director
Interests: Hematology/Oncology (neuro-oncology), Neurofibromatosis Type 1, anxiety and cognition
KWalsh@ChildrensNational.org;

Meagan Wills, PhD
Tracks: CASD
Clinical Psychologist
Interests: ASD diagnostic and preschool assessments, individual and group treatment, parent training.
MC Wills@ChildrensNational.org
Selected Recent Faculty Publications


Activations Patterns in Focal Epilepsy. Annals of Neurology. 75(3):33-42. Doi: 10.1002/ana.24015. PMID: 24038442


