About Children’s National Health System

Children’s National Health System, based in Washington, D.C., has served the nation’s children since 1870. Children’s National is one of the nation’s Top 5 pediatric hospitals and is ranked in all specialties evaluated by U.S. News & World Report. Our pediatric academic health system offers expert care through a community-based primary care network and specialty outpatient centers in the D.C. Metropolitan area, including the Maryland suburbs and Northern Virginia. Home to the Children’s Research Institute and the Sheikh Zayed Institute for Pediatric Surgical Innovation, Children’s National is the seventh-highest NIH-funded pediatric institution in the nation. Children’s National is recognized for its expertise and innovation in pediatric care and as a strong voice for children through advocacy at the local, regional and national levels. See [www.childrensnational.org](http://www.childrensnational.org) for more information.

The atrium of Children’s National – main hospital campus

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. These positions offer a major area of study in neuropsychology.

The Division of 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 patient population at Children’s National is culturally diverse, providing Fellows with the opportunity to work with families from a variety of backgrounds. Fellows work with children and adolescents with a wide range of complex developmental and medical/ 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. Many rotations include multidisciplinary interactions. We are particularly known for expertise in mild TBI/ concussion, autism spectrum disorders, and the effects of medical and developmental disorders on executive function. Development of assessment tools and research-based treatments are also areas of unique strength. We are deeply committed to training.

Our faculty and postdoctoral Fellows are involved in grant-funded clinical research, and our team actively publishes in high impact, peer-reviewed journals. Our neuropsychology faculty members are leaders in the field, serving as grant reviewers, chair and committee members, 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. Several faculty members have attained or are currently pursuing board-certification in neuropsychology (ABPP/ABCN).
Available Positions

We have two openings this year, one in each of two focus areas. Applicants are encouraged to apply to both if desired. Please note that both positions offer general neuropsychological training with a range of populations and prepare Fellows for a career that blends clinical, research, and training activities. The positions differ only in the amount of time dedicated to certain rotations, and in the Fellow’s research topic.

In both positions, Fellows generally have two clinical assessment days and one research day per week, with the rest of the time devoted to report-writing, supervision and didactics. Each Fellow gains exposure to a wide range of pediatric populations, with a balance between neurodevelopmental (e.g., ADHD, learning disabilities, autism spectrum disorders) and medical/neurological disorders (e.g., epilepsy, brain tumors, leukemia, concussions). Patients are usually school-aged children through late adolescents, but there are opportunities to see preschool-aged patients according to the Fellow’s interests. Fellows 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. A wide-range of didactic and professional development opportunities (described below) prepare the Fellow for a variety of career opportunities in pediatric neuropsychology.

Position 1: Pediatric Neuropsychology / General

Match Number 8803 – One opening.

This position provides broad, general training in pediatric neuropsychology service to children and adolescents with medical and neurodevelopmental disorders.

Clinical: Fellows see a mix of patients with neurodevelopmental and medical etiologies. See “Clinical Experiences” below for a description of rotations and an example of a 2-year rotation plan.

Research: The Fellow will have one day a week of protected time for research, and will be matched to an existing research project based on interest, experience, and availability. Examples of existing research areas include: hematology/oncology/NF, autism spectrum disorders, congenital heart disease, and cognitive function in other medical populations.

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

Match Number 8805 – One opening.

The Fellow in this position will receive broad-based general training in pediatric neuropsychology, paired with a focus on working with children who have sustained mild traumatic brain injuries (mTBI)/ concussion. Upon completion of training, the Fellow will be well-positioned to pursue a career in general pediatric neuropsychology, and/or to specialize in the rapidly-growing area of pediatric concussion. The

Clinical: About half of the Fellow’s clinical work (1 day per week) will be in providing consultation and evaluation through the Safe Concussion Outcome, Recovery & Education (SCORE) Program within the Division of Neuropsychology. The SCORE Clinic is under the direction of neuropsychologist Gerry Gioia, PhD, one of the leaders in the field of pediatric concussion. The other half of the Fellow’s clinical work will include a range of rotations, working with patients presenting with a variety of neurodevelopmental and medical etiologies. See “Clinical Experiences” below for a description of rotations and an example of a 2-year rotation plan.

Research: The Fellow in this position will have one day per week of protected time for research as part of the SCORE Program’s ongoing research activities. Projects focus on the effects of mTBI in children and the development of new assessment techniques with this population. The Fellow will also be involved in providing brain injury education to schools, parents, medical professionals, and athletic programs and will participate in community outreach activities.
Clinical Experiences
For Fellows in all training positions, approximately 45-65% of time is devoted to clinical work. Fellows typically complete the equivalent of two “clinic days” per week. A clinic day can follow various formats, such as a full neuropsychological evaluation, a more brief/ focused evaluation, or a day in concussion clinic seeing multiple new and follow-up patients. Fellows receive the assistance of our well-trained psychometrists, who administer and score a portion of the assessment, and also work with extern assistants (see Didactics and Professional Development Experiences, below). Fellows receive 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 our Rockville office during their first year. During the second year, Fellows will often divide their time between the Rockville office and the hospital campus in Washington, DC. At both locations, patients are usually seen on an outpatient basis. There may occasionally be opportunities to provide consultation or brief service on inpatient units (e.g., shadowing a faculty member, seeing an epilepsy patient admitted for pre-surgical EEG or cortical mapping).

Clinical Rotations:
Rotations are organized to provide broad experience with neurodevelopmental disorders and a variety of referral questions in Year 1, and in-depth experiences with medical populations (e.g., epilepsy, hem/onc) in Year 2. Fellows with a Concussion focus will spend relatively more time in the SCORE clinic rotation compared to those doing General focus. However, all Fellows can be exposed to most or all of our populations, and we consider individual preferences and goals when assigning rotations 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 (CASD)/ Autism Neuropsychology – Fellows in this rotation evaluate primarily high-functioning children with prior diagnosis of, or a question of, autism spectrum disorder. Some have medical disorders that increase risk of ASD (e.g., epilepsy, genetic syndromes). Fellows conduct neuropsychological evaluations and function as part of a multi-disciplinary team of professionals. Differential diagnosis skills are emphasized, as many children referred to us for a question of ASD do not ultimately receive that diagnosis. Fellows receive individual and group supervision and participate in team meetings, case presentations and didactics. Second-year Fellows can also select optional advanced rotations through CASD, including opportunities to work with very young children (CASD Developmental or Preschool clinic and “Mini-Team” cases) and to provide treatment (group, individual, and/or family therapy) if desired.

Comprehensive Pediatric Epilepsy Program – Fellows participate in weekly multidisciplinary epilepsy team conference in the Neurology department, and provide outpatient evaluations of children and adolescents diagnosed with seizure disorders. Fellows also work with surgical patients to complete pre-surgical baseline assessment and post-surgical follow-up, and may observe Wada evaluation of language and memory functions, cortical mapping, and/ or functional imaging.
Executive Function Clinic – Our faculty are known for expertise in executive functioning. This biweekly clinic provides rapid, focused evaluations of children with suspected attentional and executive function problems. The rotation includes group supervision, and particular training in executive function profiles in ADHD and other neuropsychological disorders.

General Outpatient Service – Children and adolescents seen in the general outpatient service present with a variety of developmental or acquired neurocognitive difficulties. This service captures any referral not coming through one of the other more specific clinics/programs. Referral questions most often involve learning and attention problems.

Hematology/Oncology Program - Fellows provide consultations and evaluations to patients referred through the Hematology/ Oncology and Neurology departments (Brain Tumor Institute). In addition, Fellows obtain clinical experience evaluating children with Neurofibromatosis (NF), and provide consultation within the NF Institute.

Mixed Medical Rotation – This rotation affords the Fellow the opportunity to see cases with a variety of medical etiologies, such as genetic disorders, sickle cell, stroke, AVM, TBI, transplant, cancer, congenital heart disease and neurological disorders.

Safe Concussion Outcome, Recovery & Education (SCORE) Program – This clinic conducts serial, focused neuropsychological evaluations with children and adolescents who have sustained a mild TBI/concussion. Patients are often seen early after an injury, and followed through to recovery. This individualized model emphasizes the integration of cognitive, physical and psychological data to inform comprehensive treatment plans. Fellows may also provide consultation to physicians, educators, athletic trainers, and physical therapists regarding school and return to play/activity issues.

Research
Approximately 20% of the Fellow’s time is protected for clinical research. Fellows are matched to an area of research based on focus area, funding availability, and interest. Current research programs focus on neurocognitive profiles of children and adolescents with developmental and acquired disorders including autism spectrum disorders, epilepsy, concussion/mild traumatic brain injury, brain tumors, genetic disorders (e.g., neurofibromatosis), and congenital heart disease. Several projects include neuroimaging (fMRI, DTI, MRS). Projects that involve multiple populations (e.g., comparing different diagnostic groups, or examining co-occurring diagnoses in one of our study populations) are possible. 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, and to submit a review paper, chapter, research article, 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 some examples of recent postdoc publications.
**Didactic and Professional Development Experiences**

Approximately 15-20% of the Fellow’s time is devoted to didactics and professional development activities.

**Weekly didactic/ professional development meetings:** These meetings rotate each week (each type occurs approximately once a month) and include Division Chief’s Seminars (with Dr. Gioia), group supervision, research meeting, and meetings with the training director.

**Neuropsychology Seminar:** The weekly 90-minute 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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sample Neuropsychology Seminar Topics</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Functional Neuroanatomy Review Series</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pediatric Epilepsy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Language Functions and Aphasia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Executive Function Intervention</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neurocognitive Issues in Brain Tumors and Leukemia</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**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 can be attended via video teleconference on any device.

**Teaching and Supervision Opportunities:** The Fellow will develop teaching and supervisory skills to prepare 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 and autism seminar series, and may be asked to present in other training sessions within the hospital. Fellows also regularly provide community education and outreach at the local level and beyond.

**Sample Postdoc Schedules**

We are often asked how all the above opportunities come together over a two-year period, and what a typical schedule might look like. The examples below are illustrations. Actual schedules will vary depending on program needs and trainee interests. There are opportunities to choose elective rotations in Year 2. For example, Fellows can choose to do preschool assessments and/ or choose medical rotations from among options such as Epilepsy, Hematology/ Oncology, and Mixed Medical rotations.

Fellows participate in multiple rotations at any given time. Rotations vary in both length (6 months or 12 months) and intensity (e.g., cases weekly or twice a month). The most intense rotations may involve a weekly case/ clinic for 12 months. A less intense rotation may be twice-monthly clinic for 6 months. We often use “alternate week” scheduling, so that one case type is on some weeks, and another case type is on the alternate weeks. This allows for variety in a Fellow’s case load/ training experiences, balances demands on trainee and supervisor time, and helps us ensure coverage for different clinics over the course of a year.

**General Focus: Sample Schedule**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Mon</th>
<th>Tues</th>
<th>Weds</th>
<th>Thurs</th>
<th>Fri</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Concussion Clinic</td>
<td>Didactics Supervision &amp; didactics, Team feedbacks, Writing</td>
<td>CASD supervision &amp; didactics, Team feedbacks, Writing</td>
<td>Autism or General Outpatient Case (alt. weeks)</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Mixed Medical Case</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Autism or General Outpatient Case (alt. weeks)</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Epilepsy Case</td>
<td>Didactics Supervision</td>
<td>Main Hospital: Epilepsy Team meeting, Research</td>
<td>CASD Preschool Assessment* or General Outpatient Clinic (alt weeks)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Feedbacks</td>
<td>Feedbacks</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Writing</td>
<td>Hematology/ Oncology Case</td>
<td>Extern supervision</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Research</td>
<td>Mixed Medical Case</td>
<td>Main Hospital: Research, hospital-based rounds/ didactics</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Autism or EF Clinic Case (alt. weeks)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Fall</td>
<td>Spring</td>
<td>Year 1</td>
<td>Year 2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Research</td>
<td>Feedbacks</td>
<td>Fall</td>
<td>Fall</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Mixed Medical Case</td>
<td>Feedbacks</td>
<td>Epilepsy Case</td>
<td>Epilepsy Case</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Writing</td>
<td>Writing</td>
<td>Hematology/ Oncology Case</td>
<td>Hematology/ Oncology Case</td>
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### Concussion Focus: Sample Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Mon</th>
<th>Tues</th>
<th>Weds</th>
<th>Thurs</th>
<th>Fri</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Fall</td>
<td>Concussion Research</td>
<td>Concussion Clinic</td>
<td>Didactics Supervision</td>
<td>CASD supervision &amp; didactics, Team feedbacks, Writing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spring</td>
<td>Fall</td>
<td>Concussion Research</td>
<td>Epilepsy* Case</td>
<td>Didactics Supervision</td>
<td>Main Hospital: Concussion Clinic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Spring</td>
<td>Mixed Med* Case</td>
<td>Feedbacks</td>
<td>Extern / extern supervision</td>
<td>Main Hospital: Concussion Clinic</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*elective rotation

### Salary/Benefits

**Start date** will be Tuesday September 3, 2019. The current salary is $48,434.00 for the first year.

Children’s National Health System 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, and optional life and disability insurance. More information about hospital benefits is available at [childrensnational.org/careers/benefits/](http://childrensnational.org/careers/benefits/). At our beautiful Rockville office, Fellows have private offices with large windows, free parking, and free use of exercise facilities in the building. Fellows receive the support of psychometrists for their testing cases. We maintain scoring and statistical analysis software, and through our academic affiliate, The George Washington University, offer excellent 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 a relevant area of psychology (usually Clinical Psychology), and an APA/CPA-accredited clinical predoctoral internship. Competitive applicants are well-rounded clinicians in the scientist-practitioner tradition, who clearly demonstrate:

- **Strong prior training in neuropsychology** (clinical placements and coursework/didactics) in graduate school and on internship (e.g., a Major Area of Study in Neuropsychology per the taxonomy criteria: [https://www.scn40.org/uploads/4/7/2/2/47220679/taxonomy_clin_neuro.pdf](https://www.scn40.org/uploads/4/7/2/2/47220679/taxonomy_clin_neuro.pdf))
- A clear focus on working with **children and adolescents** in prior experience and career aspirations
- A history of **meaningful participation and productivity in research**. Completion of an empirical dissertation and formal coursework in statistics and research methodology in graduate school are required. Competitive candidates usually have a record of relevant publications and well-developed skills in statistical analysis, and are interested in continuing research on postdoc and beyond.

**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)](http://www.appcn.org) or [NMS (www.natmatch.com/appcnmat or 416-977-3431)](http://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 some slots will be available later in the week for conference attendees. For applicants not able to attend the INS meeting, interviews can be arranged at our Rockville office prior to INS.

Materials are due January 4, 2019. We have an online portal for submitting your documents. You will be asked to complete an Application Form online and to attach your documents. If you start the form and want to return later to complete it, please note your “Return Code” and enter it (“Returning?” link at upper right of page) when you come back to the site later.

There are several ways you can access the Application and Online Portal:
* Click on link: http://j.mp/2OtwRPO OR:
* Go to https://cri-datacap.org/surveys/ and enter the code LCLF94RPH OR:
* Scan this QR Code:  

If you have any difficulties, please email LKenealy@childrensnational.org to request to have the link emailed to you or to ask about submitting your materials another way.

If you wish to be considered for multiple positions with different focus areas at our site (e.g., General and Concussion), please indicate this on your Application and your Letter of Interest. Only one set of materials is required.

Materials to be uploaded to the portal by the applicant:
- Letter of Interest: Please indicate clinical and research interests, goals, and perceived match to our program and focus area(s) of interest
- Curriculum Vitae
- 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, and should be signed by your training director or dissertation advisor (http://appcn.org/doctoral-training-verification). This document to be sent directly from your director or advisor (via email or mail) if preferred.

Materials to be emailed or mailed from other sources:
- Three letters of recommendation sent directly (email preferred) from the recommenders. We do not accept letters sent via the applicant. Mailed hard copies should be signed across the seal of the envelope.
- Official graduate transcripts sent from your graduate institution(s), by mail or email.

Letters of recommendation and transcripts should be sent to:
Laura Kenealy, PhD, ABPP-CN
Division of Pediatric Neuropsychology
Email (preferred): NpsyPdoc@childrensnational.org
Children’s National Health System
15245 Shady Grove Rd, Suite 350
Rockville, MD 20850
fax: 301-765-5497

Questions? Contact Dr. Laura Kenealy at 301-765-5439 or LKenealy@childrensnational.org.
Our Faculty

Madison Berl, PhD, ABPP-CN
Neuropsychologist; Division Research Director
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Gerard Gioia, PhD
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Karim Walsh, PsyD
Neuropsychologist
Interests: Hematology/Oncology (neuro-oncology), Neurofibromatosis Type 1, anxiety and cognition
Contact: KWalsh@childrensnational.org; 202-476-3923

Megan Wills, PhD
New Clinical Psychology faculty member starting fall 2018

Faculty at Children’s National have authored multiple assessment tools, a research-based treatment program for children with autism spectrum disorders, and several apps for concussion recognition and response.
Recent Publications by Our Postdocs

Reflecting work done during fellowship with us (postdoc names are in bold).


