



Children's National®

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

Assessment Training at Children's National Hospital

We offer a 12-month, 16-hour a week, pre-doctoral externship practicum in pediatric neuropsychology and clinical psychology involving opportunities for neuropsychological assessment in children/adolescents with medical complexity and/or neurodevelopmental disorders including Autism Spectrum (ASD), and ASD diagnostic evaluation through young adulthood. 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 or clinical psychologist. While the positions themselves are unpaid, we do anticipate being able to offer a **\$1000 stipend** to assist with transportation costs.

About Children's National

Children's National Hospital, based in Washington, D.C., was established in 1870 to help every child grow up stronger. Today, it is the [No. 5 children's hospital in the nation](#) and ranked in all specialties evaluated by U.S. News & World Report. Children's National is home to the Children's National Research Institute and Sheikh Zayed Institute for Pediatric Surgical Innovation. It 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.

The patient population at Children's National is culturally and racially diverse, providing trainees with the opportunity to work with families from a variety of backgrounds. **At Children's National, we stand for diversity, equity and inclusion.** We strive to foster, nurture and sustain a culture where everyone feels welcomed and respected at work and we champion these values in our community. Our continued commitment to each other and all the families we serve is central to our mission. 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. **Students who**

have fluency in Spanish may be able to work with a bilingual supervisor and gain experience in conducting evaluations in Spanish.

Collectively, the Division of Pediatric Neuropsychology and the Center for Autism includes 20 faculty neuropsychologists, 7 clinical psychologists, 6 post-doctoral fellows, and multiple pre-doctoral interns and externs. CASD's multidisciplinary team also includes speech therapists, psychiatrists, and social workers. 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. Multiple faculty members have attained or are currently pursuing board-certification in neuropsychology (ABPP/ABCN).

Clinical Training Opportunities (18-26 externs):

- General Neuropsychology
- Safe Concussion Outcome, Recovery & Education (SCORE)
- Center for Autism (CASD)
- Gender, Autism, and Neurodiversity Program (CASD and Gender Development Program)
- Inpatient Neuropsychology
- Spanish/bilingual Assessment

**Additional treatment experiences may be available pending an extern's interests, experience level, and availability.

Training 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. Additional opportunities through the larger medical center include hospital Grand Rounds, Behavioral Medicine Grand Rounds, Neuroscience Seminar, Neuroradiology Rounds, Epilepsy team meeting, shadowing a neurologist, etc. Many of these meetings are available over video teleconference. Students can also access monthly trainings through the Psychology Department on practicing with Latinx families and providing psychological services in Spanish.

Although the externship focuses on clinical activities, there are also opportunities to participate in clinical *research* for advanced students.

Neuropsychology/CASD 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 and adolescents, as well as those with a specific interest in the specialty of pediatric neuropsychology, either with a broad range of patient populations (General) or a focused population (SCORE and CASD).**

A *typical assessment training week* for General or CASD neuropsychological evaluations 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. Externs are generally expected to be on-site for two full (8-hour) days, though some supervisors/clinics may allow for some remote participation on the student's non-clinic day provided expectations are being met. SCORE and CASD externs have two clinic days, with supervision and didactics interspersed.



 **We help children
grow up stronger.**

Pediatric Neuropsychology / General Neuropsychology (8-12 externs)

This track provides broad, general training in comprehensive pediatric neuropsychological assessment to children and adolescents. The extern receives exposure to a range of pediatric populations with neurodevelopmental (e.g., ADHD, learning disabilities, genetic conditions, etc.) and/or medical/neurological disorders (e.g., epilepsy, brain tumors, stroke, etc.). Our patients are typically school-age through late adolescence, with some 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. **This track is best suited to advanced practicum students or students with a strong interest/career goals in neuropsychology.**

An additional *add-on opportunity for inpatient assessment* is available for an advanced extern with additional time availability.

Opportunities for Bilingual/Spanish neuropsychological assessment may be available to a qualified student.

Possible Locations: Rockville, Takoma (DC), Main Hospital or HSC campus (DC), PG County/Lanham.

Center for Autism (CASD) (8-12 externs) The Center for Autism offers externship positions across a diverse set of experiences.

For the incoming training year, 2 of our CASD supervisors can provide training in Spanish/bilingual evaluations. Applicants with fluency in Spanish, at any level, are strongly encouraged to apply.

Evaluations may be full-day or half-day assessments, depending on factors such as age, medical complexity, and referral questions. Apart from direct testing experience, externs can expect to gain experience with clinical interviewing, report writing, providing feedback, and consultation with families. All evaluation experiences may include autism diagnostic assessment (e.g., exposure to, and potential training in the administration of the Autism Diagnostic Interview-Revised, the Autism Diagnostic Observation Schedule-2, and/or the Childhood Autism Rating Scale-2).

Listed below are the types of experiences externs may be exposed to at CASD.

- **Neuropsychological Evaluation:** Training and experience providing comprehensive neuropsychological evaluations for school-age children to young adults. Individuals seen either have an established autism diagnosis or a question of autism, and may present with medical, genetic, and/or psychiatric complexity. These full-day assessments include a broad range of standardized measures and neuropsychological assessment tools. **This experience is best suited for advanced students with prior evaluation experiences.**
- **Targeted Diagnostic Evaluation:** Experience providing targeted, abbreviated batteries for school-age children to young adults. Individuals seen have a primary diagnostic question of autism. Apart from autism diagnostic measures, these half-day assessments may include testing and/or screening of relevant areas of functioning (e.g., cognitive screener using the WASI, social-emotional functioning). **This experience is best suited for students who primarily seek autism diagnostic experience.**
- **Infant/Toddler Evaluation:** Experience in providing diagnostic evaluations with toddlers. Evaluations may be multidisciplinary (e.g., with developmental pediatricians, speech/language pathologists). Evaluations include autism diagnostic testing and may include developmental assessment (e.g., Bayley, Mullen). **These experiences are best suited for students with an interest working with very young children.**

- **Developmental Evaluation:** Trainees will gain experience and facility in the assessment of young children with a history of developmental delays and/or a diagnostic question of autism. Young children may also present with medical and genetic complexity (e.g., Down Syndrome, Rare Genetic Disorders, Congenital Heart Defects). These half-day evaluations may include a range of standardized measures (cognitive assessment, ADOS-2), as well as out-of-level, developmental assessment (e.g., Bayley, Mullen). Some of these evaluations are multidisciplinary (e.g., with developmental pediatricians, speech/ language pathologists). **These experiences are best suited for students with experience with young children and an interest in developmental disabilities.**
- **CASD Gender, Autism and Neurodiversity:** Externs who pursue this optional elective will receive training in the common intersection of autism and gender diversity. They will work with the Gender and Autism Program team and learn about gender-related assessment and characterization of intersecting autism/neurodivergence. Externs will receive training in the WPATH Standard of Care 8. This optional elective includes training in assessment and/or intervention.

Supplementary *add-on* intervention opportunities: Manualized outpatient group therapy experiences in CASD may be available pending trainee experience, interest and availability. Groups typically address executive function skills, social skills, and may include preschool, school and middle school-age, or teenager/transition age youth. CASD may have limited opportunities for training in individual therapy. Training in intervention is supplementary to the primary assessment placement; CASD is not offering a primary intervention track this training year.

Additional experiences available to all CASD externs: weekly multidisciplinary team evaluation discussions, case conferences, and didactic seminars with our neuro/clinical psychologists, child psychiatrists, and speech and language pathologists.

Possible Locations: Rockville, PG County/Lanham (Neuropsychology evaluation only); Takoma (DC)

Pediatric Neuropsychology/ Concussion and Mild Traumatic Brain Injury (SCORE) (2-3 externs)

The Safe Concussion Outcome, Recovery & Education (SCORE) Program at Children's National evaluates, monitors, and manages the care of children and adolescents with sport and non-sport related concussions (mild Traumatic Brain Injury; mTBI). This externship provides a foundation of training in general pediatric neuropsychology in a *multidisciplinary* clinic with a focused patient population. Externs will be specially trained to provide *focused evaluation & develop empirically based treatment plans* through the Safe Concussion Outcome, Recovery and Education (SCORE) Program within the Division of Neuropsychology. The extern can participate in didactics, including presentations by various medical professionals (e.g., emergency department, sports medicine, neurology, athletic trainers) regarding evaluation and treatment of mild TBI/ concussion. **This experience may be best suited to novice students and/or students with a particular interest in sports concussion or Traumatic Brain Injury.**

Possible Locations: Takoma (DC), Rockville, Annapolis, PG County/Lanham, Silver Spring, Salisbury.

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, who have completed coursework in assessment, and have had prior externship experience with testing, and direct clinical experience with children.

Other **CASD** placements are appropriate for doctoral students with less assessment training or experience, but draw on the student's broader *prior clinical training and experience*. 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 positions and supervisors depending on their expressed training interest, schedule availability, and prior experience. Children's National is committed to training of students from diverse backgrounds.

Application Procedure

Use our online portal to submit your application!



<https://redcap.link/2025CNHNeuropsychologyExternship>

Complete an Application Form online and upload supporting documents. *If you want to start the application and finish it later, please note your "return code" and enter it ('Returning?' link at upper right of page) when you come back to the site later to avoid duplicate applications.* You may apply to one or all tracks with the same application.

All materials are DUE on January 28, 2024

Materials to be uploaded to the online portal:

- Letter of interest/Cover letter. Please tell us about your clinical interests and goals for externship.
- Curriculum Vitae
- List of test measures administered (identify which measures were administered to patients vs research and number of administrations; practice administrations do not count)
- Graduate transcripts (unofficial)






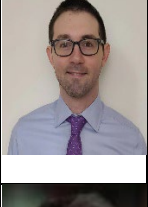



Materials to be emailed separately:




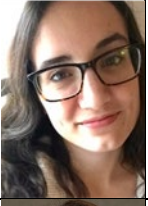

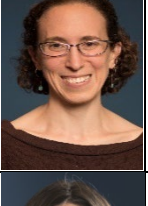
- Two letters of recommendation. Ask your letter writers to email these directly to:
Phyllis Ngmlokie-Abayateye
PNGMLOKIEA@childrensnational.org












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.

Children's National Faculty

	<p>Madison Berl, PhD, ABPP-CN Neuropsychologist Division Research Director Interests: Epilepsy, neuroimaging, plasticity of cognitive functions MBerl@childrensnational.org</p>
	<p>Angela Bollich, PhD Neuropsychologist Interests: ASD evaluation and treatment for individuals from school age through adulthood; executive function; language development ABollich@childrensnational.org</p>
	<p>Caitlyn Cap, PsyD Neuropsychologist Interests: cognitive rehabilitation/remediation, late effects of brain tumor and CNS cancer treatments, development and evaluation of clinical care models. CCap@childrensnational.org</p>
	<p>Emily Carlson, PhD Neuropsychologist Interests: brain tumor, NF1, sickle cell disease, social determinants of health. EJCarlson2@childrensnational.org</p>
	<p>Ann Clawson, PhD Neuropsychologist Interests: Autism spectrum disorders and common medical/neurodevelopmental comorbidities, sex differences in the neuropsychology of autism AClawson@childrensnational.org</p>
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	<p>Cole Hague, PhD Neuropsychologist Interests: Neuroimmunology, complex medical/genetic conditions CHague@childrensnational.org</p>
	<p>Serene Habayeb, PhD Clinical Psychologist Interests: ASD evaluation & treatment, cultural issues, community integration of clinical services for ASD SHabayeb@childrensnational.org</p>

	<p>Anne Inge, PhD Clinical Psychologist Division Clinical Director Interests: Diagnostic, neurodevelopmental, and neurocognitive assessment of ASD AInge@childrensnational.org</p>
	<p>Laura Kenealy, PhD, ABPP-CN Neuropsychologist Training Director; Director, Executive Function Clinic. Interests: ADHD, executive function, learning disorders, training in neuropsychology. LKenealy@childrensnational.org</p>
	<p>Lauren Kenworthy, PhD Neuropsychologist Division Chief Director, Center for Autism Interests: Non-social ASD phenotypes, genotypes, and treatment LKenwort@childrensnational.org</p>
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	<p>Marissa Miller, PhD Clinical Psychologist Interests: Diagnostic and neurodevelopmental assessment of ASD; neurodiversity and neurodivergence; executive functioning psychoeducation and intervention MMiller4@childrensnational.org</p>
	<p>Ashley Muskett, PhD Clinical Psychologist Interests: Anxiety, assessment, and treatment of non-speaking and partially verbal youth, crisis care for Autistic youth. AMuskett@childrensnational.org</p>
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	<p>Deborah Potvin, PhD, ABPP-CN Neuropsychologist Interests: Autism Spectrum Disorders, early diagnosis of ASD, preschool assessment DPotvin@childrensnational.org</p>
	<p>Allison Ratto, PhD Clinical Psychologist Assistant Clinical Director Interests: Autism Spectrum Disorders, developmental evaluations, cultural factors in assessment; Spanish-language assessment ARatto@childrensnational.org</p>

	<p>Srishti Rau, PhD Neuropsychologist Assistant Training Director Interests: Autism Spectrum Disorder and its prevalence in medically complex children SrRau@childrensnational.org; 301-765-5434</p>
	<p>Rod Salgado, PhD Clinical Psychologist Interests: Autism Spectrum Disorders, developmental evaluations, health equity, Spanish-language assessment RSalgado@childrensnational.org; 202-715-5463</p>
	<p>Jacqueline Sanz, PhD, ABPP-CN Neuropsychologist Director, CANDO Program Interests: Congenital heart disease, genetic and metabolic syndromes; Spanish-language assessment JSanz@childrensnational.org</p>
	<p>Jyssica Seebeck, PhD Neuropsychologist Interests: Intersection between medically complex conditions and autism spectrum disorder. JSeebeck@childrensnational.org</p>
	<p>Leigh Sepeta, PhD Neuropsychologist Interests: Epilepsy, neuroimaging, acquired brain injury, plasticity of cognitive functions, inpatient neuropsychological assessment. LSepeta@childrensnational.org</p>
	<p>John Strang, PsyD Neuropsychologist. Director, Gender and Autism Program Interests: Transgender/ gender diverse youth assessment/ research, Autism Spectrum Disorders, transition to adulthood JStrang@childrensnational.org</p>
	<p>Christina Thomas, PhD Neuropsychologist Interests: Oncology, concussion, neuropsychological functioning in medical disorders. CThomas2@childrensnational.org</p>
	<p>Christopher Vaughan, PsyD Neuropsychologist Assistant Director, SCORE program Assistant Research Director Interests: Concussion, test/ measure development, executive functioning CVaughan@childrensnational.org</p>
	<p>Karin Walsh, PsyD Neuropsychologist Director, Brain Tumor Program Interests: Hematology/Oncology (neuro-oncology), Neurofibromatosis Type 1, anxiety and cognition KWalsh@childrensnational.org</p>

Recent Representative Publications

Selected recent publications by our team

- Boutzoukas, EM, Crutcher, J, Somoza, E, Sepeta, LN, You, X, Gaillard, WD, Wallace, GL, Berl, MM (2020). Cortical Thickness in Childhood Left Focal Epilepsy: Thinning Beyond the Seizure Focus. *Epilepsy & Behavior*; 102:106.
- Habayeb, S., Kenworthy, L., De La Torre, A. *et al.* (2022) Still Left Behind: Fewer Black School-Aged Youth Receive ASD Diagnoses Compared to White Youth. *J Autism Dev Disord*. doi: [10.1007/s10803-021-05118-1](https://doi.org/10.1007/s10803-021-05118-1)
- Kenworthy L., Verbalis A., Bascom J., daVanport, S, Strang JF, Pugliese C *et al* (2022). Adding the missing voice: How self-report of autistic youth self-report on an executive functioning rating scale compares to parent report and that of youth with attention deficit hyperactivity disorder or neurotypical development. *Autism*, doi: 10.1177/13623613211029117
- Loblein H, Vukmirovich P, Donofrio M, & Sanz J (2022). Prevalence of neurodevelopmental disorders in a clinically referred sample of children with CHD. *Cardiology in the Young*. doi:10.1017/S1047951122001469
- Ramsey K, Vaughan C, Wagner B, McGuire J & Gioia G. (2021) Impact of Self-Efficacy and Affective Functioning on Pediatric Concussion Symptom Severity. *Journal of the International Neuropsychological Society* doi:10.1017/S1355617720001320
- Ratto, AB, Reimann, G & Nadwodny, N. (2022) Dual Language Learning Predicts Improved Executive Functioning in Youth with Autism. *J Autism Dev Disord* .doi: 10.1007/s10803-021-05356-3
- Rau S, Whitman ET, Schauder K *et al.* (2021) Patterns of psychopathology and cognition in sex chromosome aneuploidy. *J Neurodevelop Disord*. doi: 10.1186/s11689-021-09407-9
- Rau S, Skapek MF, Tiplady K, Seese S, Burns A, Armour AC, Kenworthy L. (2020). Identifying comorbid ADHD in autism: Attending to the inattentive presentation, *Research in Autism Spectrum Disorders*, 69, doi: 10.1016/j.rasd.2019.101468.
- Root JM, Sady MD, Gai J, Vaughan CG & Madati PJ (2020) Effect of cognitive and physical rest on persistent post-concussive symptoms following a pediatric head injury. *The Journal of Pediatrics*, doi: 10.1016/j.jpeds.2020.07.049
- Sanz JH, Anixt J, Bear L, Basken A, Beca J, Marino BS, *et al*; (2021). Characterization of Neurodevelopmental and Psychological Outcomes in Congenital Heart Disease: A research agenda and recommendations from the Cardiac Neurodevelopmental Outcome Collaborative. *Cardiology in The Young*, 31 (6): 876 - 887.
- Sharkey CM, Mullins LL, Clawson AH, Gioia AR, Hawkins MAW, Chaney JM, Walsh KW, Hardy KK (2021) Assessing neuropsychological phenotypes of pediatric brain tumor survivors. *Psycho-Oncology*; doi: 10.1002/pon.5692.
- Strang, J. F., Wallace, G. L., Michaelson, J. J., Fischbach, A. L., Thomas, T. R., Jack, A., ... & Yang, J. S. (2023). The Gender Self-Report: A multidimensional gender characterization tool for gender-diverse and cisgender youth and adults. *American Psychologist*. DOI 10.1037/amp0001117
- Walsh KS, del Castillo A, Kennedy T, Karim AI, & Semerjian C (2020). A review of psychological, social, and behavioral functions in the RASopathies. *Journal of Pediatric Neuropsychology*, 6, 131-142. doi: 10.1007/s40817-020-00088-1