



Children's National®

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

Assessment Training

We offer a 12-month, 16-hour a week, pre-doctoral externship practicum in pediatric neuropsychology and clinical psychology involving opportunities for neuropsychological assessment of children and adolescents with medical complexity and/or neurodevelopmental disorders including Autism Spectrum (ASD), Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), intellectual, language, or learning disabilities and ASD diagnostic evaluation through young adulthood. Our assessment 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.

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. 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.

Collectively, the Division of Pediatric Neuropsychology and the Center for Autism (CASD) includes 21 faculty neuropsychologists, 8 clinical psychologists, 5 post-doctoral fellows, in addition to 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).

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

Externship Opportunities (18-26 externs total)

- 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

About Children's National Hospital

Serving the nation's children since 1870, Children's National is ranked the #1 pediatric hospital in the DC-MD-VA region and one of the 10 pediatric 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. 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 for more information.



Clinical Experiences

Externs will receive **approximately 2 hours of individual supervision weekly** with their primary supervisor. Externs can attend **didactics** within the Division of Neuropsychology, CASD, or within Children's National more broadly. 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.



Division of Neuropsychology
office in Rockville, MD

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, engage in 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 and/or a focused population (SCORE and CASD).**

A typical assessment training week for externs conducting neuropsychological evaluations in the General or CASD tracks 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.

Although the externship focuses on clinical activities, there are also *supplemental* opportunities to participate in *clinical research* for advanced students pending an extern's interests, experience level, and availability.

Pediatric/General Neuropsychology: 8-12 externs

This externship 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 externship is best suited to advanced practicum students or students with a strong interest/career goals in neuropsychology.

An additional add-on opportunity for **inpatient neuropsychological 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 Theater (DC), Main Hospital or HSC campus (DC), PG County/Lanham.

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* for youth with 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 Theater (DC), Rockville, Annapolis, PG County/Lanham, Silver Spring, Salisbury

Center for Autism (CASD): 8-12 externs

The Center for Autism offers externship positions across a diverse set of experiences.

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: 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: Targeted, abbreviated batteries for school-age children to young adults. Individuals seen have a primary diagnostic question of autism. These half-day assessments may include testing and/or screening of relevant areas of functioning (e.g., cognitive screener using the WASI-II, social-emotional functioning) and autism diagnostic measures. **This experience is best suited for students who primarily seek autism diagnostic experience.**

Infant/Toddler Evaluation: 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: 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 externship position 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.

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, anxiety, 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.*

For the incoming training year, 3 of our CASD supervisors can provide training in Spanish/bilingual evaluations. Applicants with fluency in Spanish, at any level, are strongly encouraged to apply.

Possible Locations: Rockville; PG County/Lanham; Takoma Theater (DC); Fairfax (VA)



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.

How to Apply

Qualifications:

The **General Neuropsychology** and the **CASD Neuropsychology** assessment placements are primarily **advanced child assessment externships**, and 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.

Our services are provided across multiple outpatient locations throughout the Metro DC area. Applicants are asked to carefully consider their ability and willingness to travel to one or more of the following locations when submitting their application. We anticipate a **\$1000 annual stipend** to help reimburse for transportation-related and any other expenses incurred in the process of training with us.

Primary locations for our services are listed below. Not all experiences/services are available at all locations. Other locations may also be included.

Neuropsychology at Montgomery County
15245 Shady Grove Rd, **Rockville, MD** 20850

Takoma Theatre
6833 4th St NW, **Washington, DC** 20012

Prince George's County ROC
2900 Campus Way North, **Lanham, MD** 20706

Annapolis ROC
1730 West St, **Annapolis, MD** 20706

Fight for Children Sports Medicine Center
1 Inventa Place, **Silver Spring, MD** 20910

Northern Virginia
3023 Hamaker Ct, **Fairfax, VA** 22031

Externs are matched to positions and supervisors depending on their expressed training interest, schedule and location availability, and prior experience.

Use our
online portal
to submit your
application!



<https://redcap.link/2026CNHNeuropsychologyExternship>

Complete our 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 January 26, 2026 at 11:59pm

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 and number of administrations; practice administrations do not count)
- ☐ Graduate transcripts (unofficial)

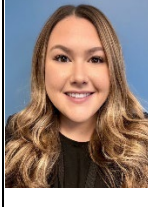
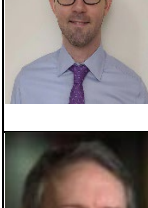
Materials to be emailed separately:

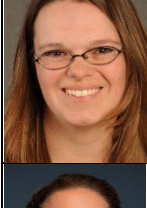
- ☐ Two (2) letters of recommendation.
Ask your letter writers to email these directly to:
Dr. Julie Newman, PhD, ABPP
Assistant Training Director
jnewman@childrensnational.org
with "LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION" in the subject line

Interviews: Interviews will be scheduled directly by the assigned interviewers and will be held virtually in February and March. Offers will be made on a rolling basis. If you have an outstanding offer from another site with a strict deadline to respond we encourage you to contact Dr. Newman or your interviewer(s) to inquire about your applicant status with us before accepting outside offers.

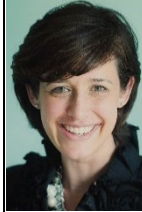
Onboarding requirements: After accepting a position to train with us Children's National requires a physical health screen, proof of immunity for tetanus, diphtheria, pertussis (DTAP), tuberculosis testing, and an annual flu vaccination, all completed at the expense of the student. A background check and drug urine screen is also required. You will be sent information about these requirements (and any others) and how to complete them in the months leading up to your start date. Failure to complete these steps may result in a delay or forfeiture of the externship position.

Neuropsychology & CASD Faculty

	Madison Berl, PhD, ABPP-CN Neuropsychologist Division Research Director Interests: Epilepsy, neuroimaging, plasticity of cognitive functions MBerl@childrensnational.org
	Angela Bollich, PhD Neuropsychologist Interests: Autism evaluation and treatment for individuals from school age through adulthood; executive function; language development ABollich@childrensnational.org
	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
	Emily Carlson, PhD Neuropsychologist Interests: brain tumor, NF1, sickle cell disease, social determinants of health. EJCarlson2@childrensnational.org
	Ann Clawson, PhD, ABPP-CN Neuropsychologist Interests: Autism and common medical/neurodevelopmental comorbidities, sex differences in the neuropsychology of autism AClawson@childrensnational.org
	Kirsty Coulter, PhD Neuropsychologist Interests: Neurodevelopmental conditions in medical populations, especially congenital heart disease. How social drivers of health interact with medical risk. KCoulter@childrensnational.org
	Alan Gerber, PhD Clinical Psychologist Interests: Diagnostic assessment in autistic youth, loneliness and mental health, brief interventions for mental health. AGerber@childrensnational.org
	Gerard Gioia, PhD Neuropsychologist Director, SCORE Clinic Interests: Concussion/ mild TBI, executive function, psychometric development GGioia@childrensnational.org
	Cole Hague, PhD Neuropsychologist Interests: Neuroimmunology, complex medical/genetic conditions CHague@childrensnational.org

	Serene Habayeb, PhD Clinical Psychologist Interests: Autism evaluation & treatment, cultural issues, community integration of clinical services for autistic youth SHabayeb@childrensnational.org
	Anne Inge, PhD Clinical Psychologist Division Clinical Director Interests: Diagnostic, neurodevelopmental, and neurocognitive assessment of autism AInge@childrensnational.org
	Laura Kenealy, PhD, ABPP-CN Neuropsychologist Division Training Director Director, Executive Function Clinic. Interests: ADHD, executive function, learning disorders, training in neuropsychology. LKenealy@childrensnational.org
	Lauren Kenworthy, PhD Neuropsychologist Division Chief Director, Center for Autism Interests: Non-social autism phenotypes, genotypes, and treatment LKenwort@childrensnational.org
	Hayley Loblein, PhD Neuropsychologist Assistant Clinical Director Interests: epilepsy, anxiety and cognitive function in medical disorders. HLoblein@childrensnational.org
	Marissa Miller, PhD Clinical Psychologist Interests: Diagnostic and neurodevelopmental assessment of autism; neurodiversity and neurodivergence; executive functioning psychoeducation and intervention MMiller4@childrensnational.org
	Julie Newman, PhD, ABPP-CN Neuropsychologist Assistant Training Director Interests: concussion, executive function learning issues in medically complex children, performance validity. JNewman@childrensnational.org ; 240-568-7017
	Deborah Potvin, PhD, ABPP-CN Neuropsychologist Interests: Autism, early diagnosis of autism, preschool assessment DPotvin@childrensnational.org
	Allison Ratto, PhD Clinical Psychologist Assistant Clinical Director Interests: Autism, developmental evaluations, cultural factors in assessment; Spanish-language assessment ARatto@childrensnational.org

	Srishri Rau, PhD Neuropsychologist Assistant Training Director Interests: Autism and its prevalence in medically complex children SrRau@childrensnational.org ; 301-765-5434
	Rod Salgado, PhD Clinical Psychologist Interests: Autism, developmental evaluations, health equity, Spanish-language assessment RSalgado@childrensnational.org
	Jacqueline Sanz, PhD, ABPP-CN Neuropsychologist Director, CANDO Program Interests: Congenital heart disease, genetic and metabolic syndromes; Spanish-language assessment JSanz@childrensnational.org
	Jyssica Seebeck, PhD Neuropsychologist Interests: Intersection between medically complex conditions and autism. JSeebeck@childrensnational.org
	Leigh Sepeta, PhD Neuropsychologist Interests: Epilepsy, neuroimaging, acquired brain injury, plasticity of cognitive functions, inpatient neuropsychological assessment. LSepeta@childrensnational.org
	John Strang, PsyD Neuropsychologist. Director, Gender and Autism Program Interests: Transgender/ gender diverse youth assessment/ research, transition to adulthood JStrang@childrensnational.org
	Megan Taylor, PhD Clinical Psychologist Interests: Spanish-language assessment , bilingual autism diagnostic evaluations, autism evaluations for minimally speaking youth, group and individual therapy for autistic youth. MeGraves@childrensnational.org
	Christina Thomas, PhD Neuropsychologist Interests: Oncology, concussion, neuropsychological functioning in medical disorders. CThomas2@childrensnational.org
	Christopher Vaughan, PsyD Neuropsychologist Assistant Director, SCORE program Assistant Research Director Interests: Concussion, test/ measure development, executive functioning CVaughan@childrensnational.org

	Karin Walsh, PsyD Neuropsychologist Director, Brain Tumor Program Interests: Hematology/Oncology (neuro-oncology), Neurofibromatosis Type 1, anxiety and cognition KWalsh@childrensnational.org
---	--

Recent Representative Publications

Limited selection of recent publications from our division

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.