Children's Healthcare of Atlanta

EMORY UNIVERSITY

Pediatric Neuropsychology Fellowship Program

Partnering for a unique experience

Children's Healthcare of Atlanta and Emory University School of Medicine offer pediatric neuropsychology fellowship training to promising neuropsychologists interested in an outstanding experience at an academically productive and clinically robust center.

We offer a unique training experience that uses the diverse clinical cases at Children's and the academic strength of Emory to provide a comprehensive training program in pediatric neuropsychology. There are also opportunities to collaborate with our research affiliates, including the Georgia Institute of Technology, Georgia State University, University of Georgia, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), to employ cutting-edge technology in understanding brain-behavior relationships.

The Pediatric Neuropsychology Fellowship Program at Children's is part of the Association of Postdoctoral Programs in Clinical Neuropsychology (APPCN) and is designed to meet guidelines set forth by the Houston Conference on Specialty Education and Training in Clinical Neuropsychology.

A unique training experience that uses the diverse clinical cases at Children's and the academic strength of Emory

our history and future

Children's Healthcare of Atlanta is one of the only pediatric institutions in the nation that has existed for more than a century. From our focus on family support and treating the whole child to our specialized equipment and techniques, we are tireless in our pursuit of providing the best possible care for kids.

In 1998, Scottish Rite Medical Center (founded in 1915) and Egleston Children's Health Care System (founded in 1928) merged to form Children's Healthcare of Atlanta. In 2006, Children's assumed responsibility for the management of services at Hughes Spalding Children's Hospital. Marcus Autism Center became a subsidiary of Children's in 2008, and today we are one of the largest pediatric clinical care providers in the country.

As Georgia's only healthcare system completely dedicated to kids, nothing makes us prouder than delivering the best care and outcomes possible for kids' futures. In 2025, Children's will open Arthur M. Blank Hospital, a 446-bed, 1.5-million-square-foot hospital, which will transform the delivery of pediatric healthcare in our state.

As an employer, our goal at Children's is to be a place where people feel valued for their professional and personal contributions and to be a model for diversity and inclusion. We demonstrate our commitment to diversity in our employment policies and practices, training programs and recruitment. We celebrate our differences because we know that what makes us unique, makes us great.

Standing out

Children's has a meaningful presence in the community, and the country has taken note.

- With three hospitals, 673 licensed beds and more than 1 million annual patient visits, Children's is one of the largest pediatric clinical care providers in the country.
- U.S. News & World Report has recognized our Neurology and Neurosurgery Program as No. 11 in the country.
- Seramount has included Children's on its list of "100 Best Companies" for 18 consecutive years.
- Emory University's Department of Pediatrics (DOP), the academic partner of Children's Healthcare of Atlanta, is ranked No. 4 in the country for receiving the most federal research dollars from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) in 2021 for pediatrics departments.

Locations

The department of neuropsychology has two locations: the Medical Office Building at Scottish Rite Hospital and the Center for Advanced Pediatrics. The postdoctoral fellow will be placed at either location, depending on the rotation. The first year of training is primarily at the Center for Advanced Pediatrics, while the second year is primarily at the Medical Office Building. However, the fellow may have clinical or research responsibilities at either location during both years.

about the program

Building skills

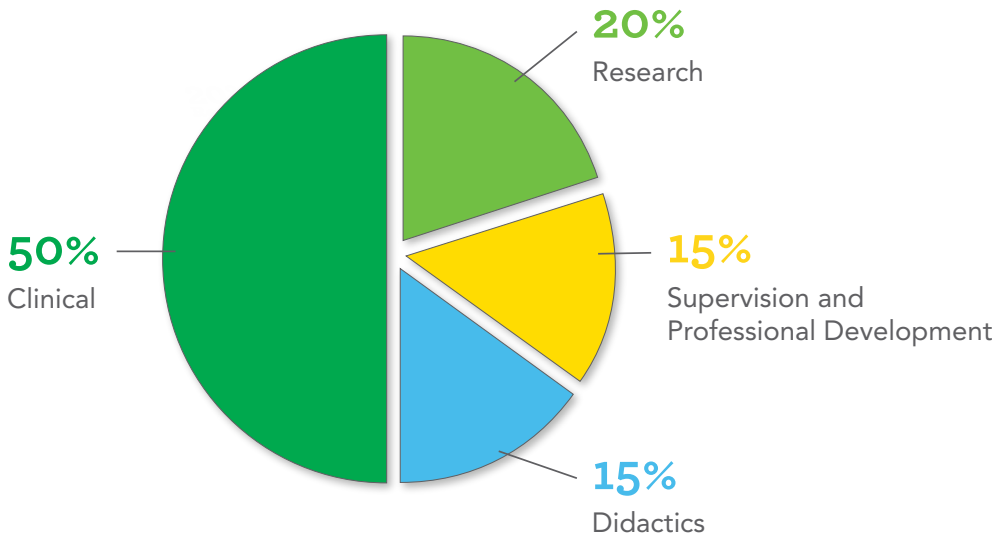
The Pediatric Neuropsychology Fellowship Program builds competency in the assessment and treatment of children who have a wide range of central nervous system and developmental disorders, while also providing opportunities to pursue research interests. The patient population ranges from newborns to young adults. Upon completion of the two-year, full-time program, fellows will have gained the necessary clinical and research skills required for independent practice and academic pursuits in pediatric neuropsychology. They will also obtain the necessary experience required to pursue board certification.

The Children's neuropsychology team

Our neuropsychology department includes 13 neuropsychologists, nine of whom are certified through the American Board of Professional Psychology/Clinical Neuropsychology (ABPP/CN), and four pediatric psychologists who work with patients in rehabilitation and cardiac services. Remaining staff are in the process of pursuing board certification through ABPP/CN.

Fellowship training

The fellows' training is divided across clinical, research, supervision and professional development, and didactics as follows:



Fellows complete four six-month rotations, in addition to ongoing clinical, didactic and research experiences. The following is a sample rotation schedule across the two years of training:

Year 1		Year 2	
Rotation 1	Rotation 2	Rotation 3	Rotation 4
Outpatient genetics and cardiac	Epilepsy and cognitive remediation	Inpatient Rehabilitation Program and epilepsy	Day Rehabilitation Program and Concussion Clinic

Clinical rotations

Cardiac

Fellows will participate in the assessment of children with a history of acquired and congenital heart disease, heart failure and heart transplant at Egleston Hospital. Outpatient assessments occur through the Cardiac Neurodevelopmental Program with Children's Healthcare of Atlanta Cardiology to support school planning and monitor developmental concerns. Inpatient assessments are completed at the Egleston Hospital on patients with increased risk for acquired brain injury caused by cardiac arrest, heart failure and heart transplant.

Genetics

Fellows will assess and work with children with genetic and neurodevelopmental conditions, both in the outpatient setting and as part of multidisciplinary teams within hospital clinics. Patient populations include children with neurofibromatosis, tuberous sclerosis, 22q deletion syndrome and Turner syndrome, as well as mitochondrial disorders and other metabolic conditions. There will also be opportunities to work with patients through programs in the Emory genetics department, including the eXtraordinarY Kids Clinic, which serves patients with X and Y chromosome variations as well as children with Fragile X syndrome or Down syndrome.

Developmental Follow-Up Clinic

This clinic provides follow-up services for children with a history of premature birth and related perinatal complications. Fellows have the opportunity to participate in neurocognitive evaluations of early school-age children as they transition from early intervention services to school-based programs. Experiences include exposure to neonatal course and intervention, interdisciplinary consultation, parent education and support, cognitive and developmental screening, and exposure to the implementation of special education services.

Cognitive Remediation Program

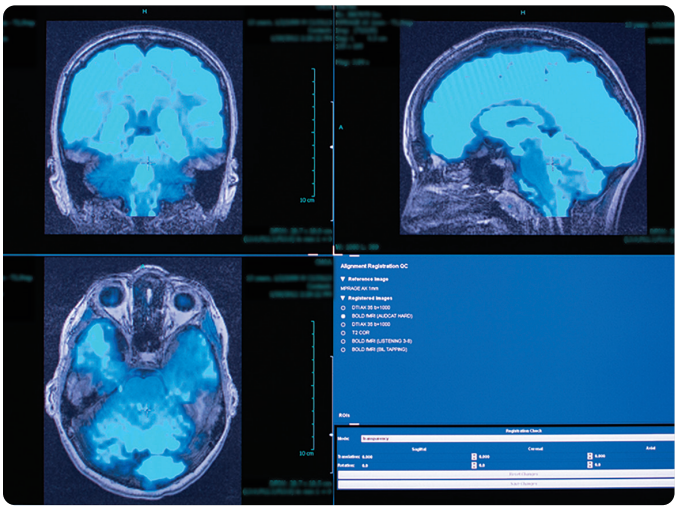
Fellows will have the opportunity to participate in the summer Cognitive Remediation Program, which is offered to outpatients with neurological disorders who have been evaluated and found to have particular executive deficits that could negatively affect their transition of care to adult medical providers. The program consists of pre- and post-testing, in addition to an eight-session module of cognitive behavioral intervention to promote skill acquisition in home living, health and medication, school or social domains. Parents are taught to give assistance using graduated guidance and to implement a reinforcement program. In the summer, this program gives fellows an opportunity to be the first-line supervisor of the student-therapists and to work with patients directly. Fellows will also have an opportunity for school consultation as needed.

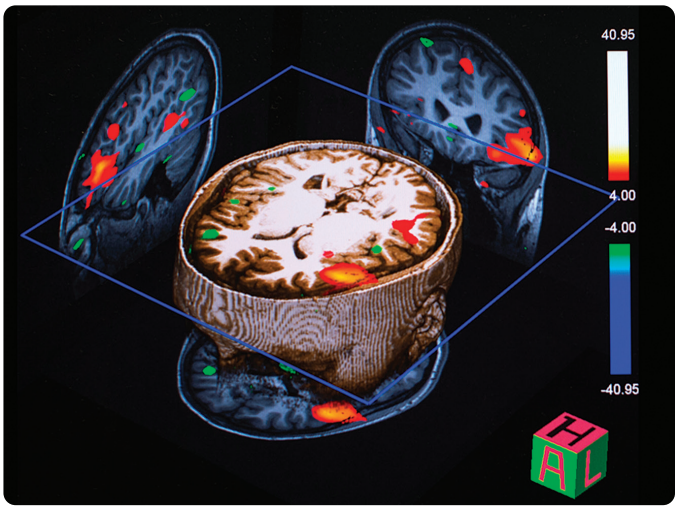
Early Childhood Rotation

The early childhood rotation involves seeing patients in the Abusive Head Trauma (AHT) Neurodevelopmental Program and Early Childhood Clinic (ECC). The patient population for this rotation is infants and toddlers (3 to 4 years of age) with a wide variety of acquired brain injuries (TBI/AHT, anoxic brain injury, brain tumors, stroke, brain infections). Experiences include diagnostic interviews, neurobehavioral assessment, report writing and feedback as well as brain injury education with caregivers that may occur in the in- and outpatient settings (CIRU, PICU, NICU, Neuropsychology Clinic). Fellows will receive training regarding typical and atypical infant and toddler development, risk factors for neurobehavioral outcomes and administration of early childhood assessments and how to guide caregivers about evidence-based interventions and accessing early intervention, as well as preschool special education services.

Bilingual Assessment Program

Fellows with proficiency in Spanish will have the opportunity to evaluate Spanish-speaking patients using Spanish-language instruments normed on Spanish-speaking populations under the supervision of a bilingual neuropsychologist (Dr. Bearden). To conduct these evaluations, fellows must first successfully complete a Spanish proficiency exam at Children's. These evaluations are typically conducted on an outpatient basis and include patients with a variety of diagnoses, including epilepsy, congenital heart disease, genetic disorders and others. Evaluation findings inform management of developmental concerns and academic planning in the context of patients' unique medical, linguistic and cultural backgrounds.





Epilepsy

The epilepsy rotation will include pre- and post-surgical assessments, as well as general inpatient and outpatient assessments of patients with epilepsy. In addition, fellows will be exposed to a number of epilepsy diagnostic procedures and attend a monthly interdisciplinary surgical conference that includes epileptologists, neurologists, neurosurgeons, neuropsychologists, neuroradiologists, physiatrists, social workers and child life specialists. Exposure to a number of technologies may be available, including advanced neuroimaging, DTI, EEG and functional MRI (fMRI). When available, fellows may be able to observe a Wada test and/or other neurosurgical procedures. Fellows will also help facilitate the Epilepsy Support Group, which occurs once per month at the Children's Support Center.

Inpatient Rehabilitation Program

Our Inpatient Rehabilitation Unit, accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF), is a 28-bed inpatient unit that provides intensive rehabilitation therapies for patients who require ongoing medical management and intensive neurorehabilitation. Patient diagnoses include acquired injuries (e.g., traumatic brain injury, anoxic brain injury, stroke), new-onset illness (e.g., meningitis or encephalitis, brain tumors), and various neurodevelopmental and chronic neurological conditions (e.g., spastic cerebral palsy, spina bifida, intractable epilepsy).

Day Rehabilitation Program

The Day Rehabilitation Program provides continued rehabilitation therapies on an outpatient basis for patients who no longer require inpatient medical management. Many patients transition to the program following discharge from the Inpatient Rehabilitation Program. Patients participate in therapies Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Fellows will provide the following services on the rehabilitation rotations:

- Serial monitoring of cognitive status and ongoing recovery
- Conducting diagnostic interviews and brain injury education with families
- Consulting and collaborating with the rehabilitation team
- Completing brief cognitive screenings
- Conducting neuropsychological evaluations to facilitate discharge planning and school re-entry

Concussion Program

Fellows will have an opportunity to conduct targeted evaluations and provide treatment services for children and adolescents who are recovering from concussions. In order to promote healthy coping skills, services might include a combination of diagnostic intake, formal assessment and education to assist with adaptive coping and return to school. Fellows may also have the opportunity to conduct consultations and assessments as part of the newly established Multidisciplinary Concussion Clinic as well as the Neuropsychology Concussion Screening Clinic, which occur at the Center for Advanced Pediatrics building.

Ongoing clinical experiences

Inpatient consultations

Fellows assist in covering inpatient consultations throughout the hospital. Consults may come in from neurologists, neurosurgeons, physiatrists, pediatricians or other medical specialists with a specific and targeted question to address. Typical referral questions include medication monitoring, medical decision-making capacity, differential diagnosis and how psychological factors may impact cognitive status.

learning to lead

Supervision

All supervising faculty are licensed in Georgia and have staff appointments at Children's and academic appointments at Emory. Fellows will work with a variety of faculty members, typically two over each six-month period. Fellows receive at least two hours of individual supervision a week.

The developmental model:

- Fellows meet with their supervisors at the beginning of the fellowship to assess established and APPCN competencies and define specific goals.
- Fellows are then provided with increasingly challenging clinical, research and professional experiences while gradually gaining greater independence over the course of their fellowship.
- Goals are reviewed at least every three months.
- The ultimate goal is to prepare the fellow for independent practice in pediatric neuropsychology.

Increasingly challenging clinical, research and professional experiences

Supervision of graduate student externs

Fellows may have the opportunity to supervise a graduate student extern in their second year. During this period, fellows are supervised using a hierarchical supervision model. The goal of this experience is to help the fellows develop competencies in various supervisory roles while also receiving close guidance and regular, timely feedback regarding their supervisory activities.

Group supervision

Participation in group supervision focuses on presenting cases, reviewing current research and receiving feedback on job talks when preparing for job interviews. Fellows also lead a basic neuropsychology seminar for externs and interns.

Professional development

Each fellow chooses two job mentors who assist in developing a career path and goals, and in securing a job. Fellows meet with their mentors regularly (monthly is advised) and receive guidance with networking throughout their job searches. To further aid in their professional networking endeavors, all fellows are expected to be active in at least one national professional neuropsychology organization.

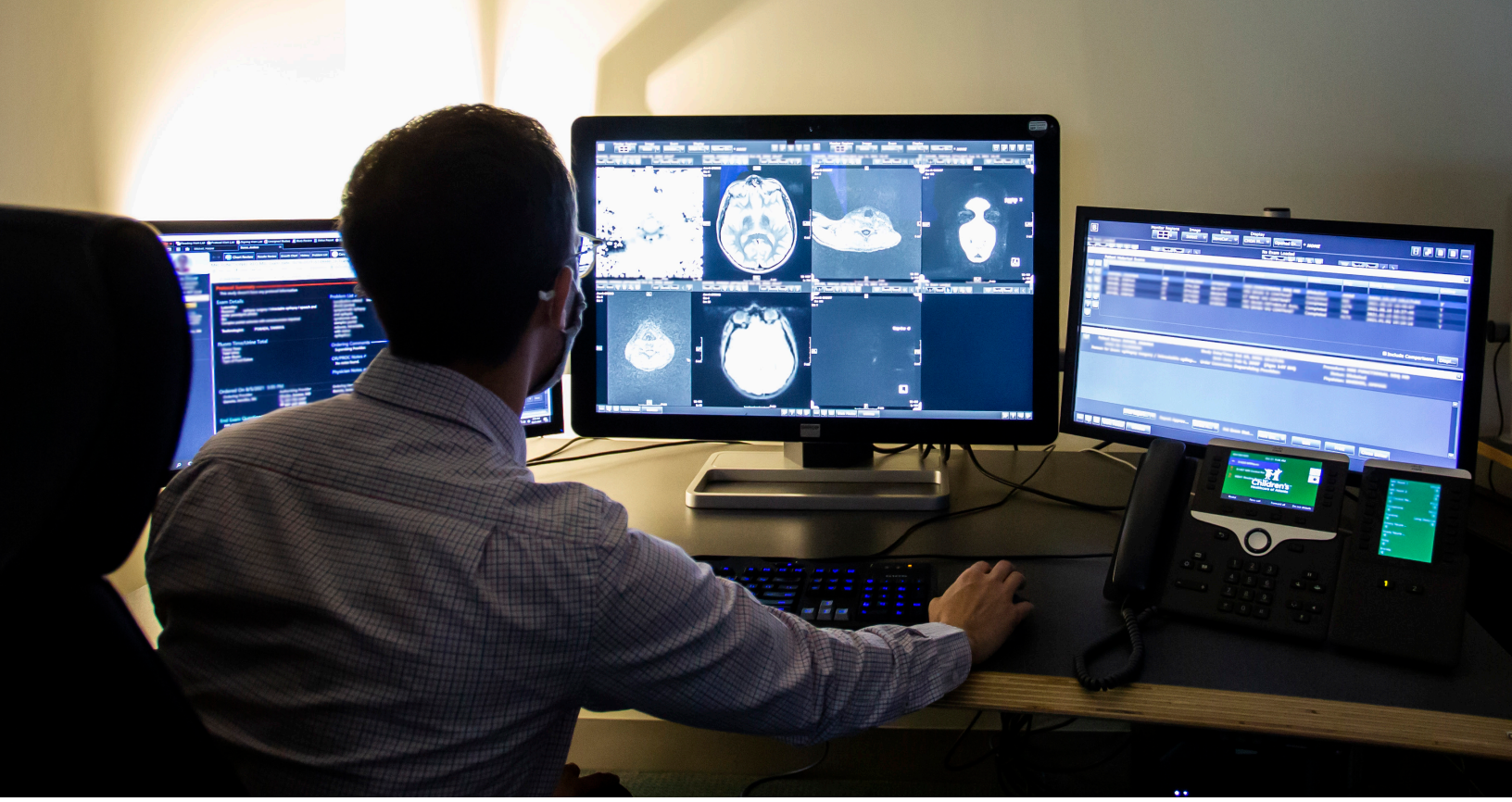
By the completion of the fellowship, all fellows will have more than the requisite 1,500 hours supervision and direct service experience needed for licensure in Georgia and other jurisdictions that fall within the rubric of the Association of State and Provincial Psychology Boards. In addition, all fellows are required to sit for the written part of the national licensure examination, Examination for Professional Practice in Psychology (EPPP), during the two-year fellowship. Most fellows choose to complete this requirement during the latter part of their first year.

Didactics

The goal of required and recommended didactics is to prepare fellows for independent clinical practice, academic research and the ABPP/CN boarding process.

Required

- **Advanced Pediatric Neuropsychology Seminar:** This seminar occurs twice a month and is intended for interns, fellows and faculty. It targets the different components of the ABPP/CN board certification process, in addition to new research and practice guidelines in neuropsychology. Journal club, case presentation and neuroanatomy are core components of this seminar.
- **Basic Pediatric Neuropsychology Seminar:** Fellows assist in coordinating this weekly seminar geared toward training graduate students by covering various topics related to test administration and scoring, interpretation of data, neuropathology, ethics and professional issues.
- **Race and Diversity Seminar:** The Department of Neuropsychology coordinates a monthly didactic seminar addressing topics of race and diversity. Examples of recent discussion topics have included how to speak with children about race, disparities in inpatient hospital care, issues related to working with interpreters and racial disparities in school suspensions and retention.
- **Board Certification Preparation/Fact Finding:** This monthly series provides preparation for the ABPP-CN boarding process. "Examinees" will be provided a case by a boarded member of the faculty to simulate aspects of the oral examination (fact finding, ethics vignette, practice samples).
- **Brain Cutting:** Brain cutting observations occur several times each semester and are led by Children's neuropathologist Matt Schniederjan, MD.
- **Morbidity and Mortality Conference (Inpatient Rehabilitation Program rotation):** This conference is led by the rehab medical team. Residents present cases on specific medical conditions, complications (e.g., management of post-traumatic seizures, pressure ulcers), and treatment procedures (e.g., adherence with baclofen pumps). It also explores ways to improve quality of patient care and current clinical pathways.
- **Weekly Rounds (Inpatient Rehabilitation Program and Day Rehabilitation Program rotations):** Fellows participate in weekly rounds to discuss patient progress, ongoing needs and estimated length of stay for intensive rehabilitation.



Encouraged

- **Pediatric Neuroradiology Conference:** The monthly conference led by neuroradiologists and neurosurgeons typically features cases involving brain tumors, neuro-ophthalmological disorders, spinal cord disorders and intracranial abnormalities. Various neuroimaging procedures (e.g., DTI, MR spectroscopy, FLAIR sequences) are also discussed as they relate to the case being presented. Fellows are expected to present at least one case at the conference during their training.

- **Epilepsy Surgical Conference:** The monthly conference identifies and reviews clinical information to make surgical recommendations for patients with intractable epilepsy, resection of a brain tumor or lesion. This conference includes a multidisciplinary group that reviews the EEG, MRI, fMRI, DTI, fi tracking, SPECT/PET, MR spectroscopy, neuropsychological evaluations and social work assessments.

- **Grand Rounds at Emory:** Grand Rounds may be attended in any department at Emory. Renowned researchers and clinician-researchers present their work and take questions. The training director distributes the Grand Rounds schedules for all the relevant departments by email in August.

research

Extensive research collaborations exist with Emory, Marcus Autism Center, the CDC, Georgia Tech and Georgia State. Fellows are required to participate in and/or develop a research project in the field of pediatric neuropsychology. Fellows are expected to:

- Participate in paper and/or poster presentations at national conferences.
- Submit a manuscript to a peer-reviewed journal by the end of their two years.
- Participate in all steps of the research process, including securing Institutional Review Board approval and maintaining current Collaborative Institutional Training Initiative certification.

our team and interests

Donald J. Bearden, PhD

I received my bachelor's from Georgia State with a major in psychology and a minor in sociology. I continued my graduate work there, completing my master's in clinical psychology and doctorate in the joint Clinical Psychology and Neuropsychology and Behavioral Neurosciences programs. My pre-doctoral internship in pediatric neuropsychology was completed at the University of California, Los Angeles, and Semel Institute for Neuroscience and Human Behavior. I completed my fellowship in pediatric neuropsychology at Boston Children's Hospital and Harvard Medical School. My research and clinical interests include pediatric epilepsy, complex neurological disorders, sickle cell disease and associations among pain, and emotional and neurocognitive problems in children and adolescents.

Laura S. Blackwell, PhD, ABPP

I completed my bachelor's in psychology at Emory University and master's in child development at Tufts University. I completed my doctorate at the University of Miami and specialized in pediatric clinical psychology. I went on to a pre-doctoral internship at Kennedy Krieger Institute and Johns Hopkins School of Medicine, with primary rotations in neuropsychology and pediatric psychology. I then completed my two-year fellowship in pediatric neuropsychology at Boston Children's Hospital and Harvard Medical School. My clinical work includes outpatient evaluations with children and adolescents who have been through our rehabilitation programs with a focus on mild to severe traumatic brain injury. I am currently the Director of the Pediatric Neurotrauma Lab, a translational lab with a focus on biomarker discoveries in pediatric head trauma. My research interests include measuring and predicting outcomes following pediatric acquired brain injury, characterizing the recovery trajectories of children with disorders of consciousness and examining early predictors of outcome, examining biological markers in children with moderate to severe brain injury, and exploring factors impacting recovery from mild traumatic brain injury.

Thomas Burns, PsyD, ABPP

Board-certified subspecialist in pediatric neuropsychology

I received my Bachelor of Arts from the University of Pennsylvania with a major in the biological basis of behavior. I completed my doctorate in clinical psychology from the Georgia School of Professional Psychology in Atlanta. My pre-doctoral internship in neuropsychology was completed at the Medical College of Pennsylvania and St. Christopher's Children's Hospital in Philadelphia, Pa. I received board certification through ABPP in clinical neuropsychology and clinical psychology as well as specialization in pediatric neuropsychology. My fellowship was completed at Children's. I am the Director of Neuropsychology, and my research and clinical interests involve neuropsychological evaluations for patients diagnosed with intractable epilepsy (Wada and cortical mapping), traumatic brain injury, concussion and birth trauma. I have grant funding through neuroimaging projects with patients who are diagnosed with a concussion, epilepsy and sickle cell disease.

Ashley Fournier-Goodnight, PhD, NCSP, ABPP

I earned my Master of Arts in school psychology at Sam Houston State University. I then worked for a year in the public school system as a licensed specialist in school psychology and completed credentialing as a Nationally Certified School Psychologist. I earned my doctorate in school psychology with an emphasis in neuropsychology at Texas Woman's University and completed my internship at the Fort Worth Independent School District and Cook Children's Medical Center. I completed my postdoctoral fellowship at St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. I currently work in the Inpatient Rehabilitation and Day Rehabilitation programs. My clinical and research interests include assessment and intervention following acute acquired and traumatic brain injury, school re-entry and programming for children who are chronically ill and medically fragile, and early childhood assessment and intervention.

Cortney Fritz, PhD

I supervise pediatric neuropsychological assessment in the Inpatient Rehabilitation and Day Rehabilitation programs. I received my bachelor's in psychology from Middlebury College. I spent four years working as a middle school special education teacher and earned a master's in special education at San Francisco State University. I then completed my doctorate at Georgia State University in the joint Clinical Psychology and Neuropsychology and Behavioral Neurosciences programs. My pre-doctoral internship was completed at the University of New Mexico School of Medicine. I then completed a two-year postdoctoral fellowship in pediatric neuropsychology at Kennedy Krieger Institute and Johns Hopkins School of Medicine. My clinical and research interests include assessment and intervention following acquired and traumatic brain injury, as well as pediatric cancer and stroke.

Elyssa Gerst, PhD

I supervise pediatric neuropsychology cases related to congenital heart disease, concussion and other neurodevelopmental and neurological disorders in the outpatient setting. I completed my doctoral training at the University of Houston. My doctoral internship was completed at Children's Hospital Colorado and my two-year postdoctoral residency in pediatric neuropsychology was completed at Children's National Health System. My research and clinical interests include cognitive development in children with complex medical histories, the impact of congenital or acquired neurological disorders on neuropsychological functioning, and supporting optimal outcomes in children and adolescents.

Robyn Howarth, PhD, ABPP

I completed my undergraduate degree in psychology and studio art at Indiana University. I spent six years working in the public school system as a teacher and earned master's degrees in elementary education and psychology from the University of Denver and Columbia University, respectively. I then completed my doctorate in counseling psychology at the University of Iowa. My pre-doctoral internship was completed at the Children's Hospital of Michigan and Wayne State School of Medicine, and my postdoctoral fellowship in pediatric neuropsychology was completed at St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. I primarily work with children and their families through our Inpatient Rehabilitation and Day Rehabilitation programs. I also conduct outpatient evaluations to monitor recovery over time. My primary clinical and research interests include examining the neurocognitive effects of acquired brain injury, such as TBI, brain tumors and anti-NMDA receptor encephalitis; promoting positive coping and adjustment after an acquired brain injury; and developing targeted interventions, particularly during the early phase of recovery. I am currently the Training Co-Director of our Pediatric Neuropsychology Fellowship Program.

Dawn Ilardi, PhD, ABPP

Board-certified subspecialist in pediatric neuropsychology

Before beginning graduate school, I worked as a neuroimaging and behavioral science researcher at the Yerkes Primate Research Center. I completed my doctorate in clinical psychology at Emory. For my internship, I completed the general track of the Emory and Grady Health System program. A minor rotation in pediatric neuropsychology at Children's led to my decision to complete a two-year fellowship in neuropsychology at Children's. I received board certification through ABPP in clinical neuropsychology and certification in pediatric neuropsychology. During my fellowship and as an early staff member at Children's, I focused on the inpatient and outpatient rehabilitation population with acquired, traumatic and chronic medical diagnoses that affect brain health. I also began outcome research with the cardiac population. With the collaboration of cardiology leaders at Children's, we have created the Cardiac Neurodevelopmental Program for children with cardiac disease. I am also part of the multidisciplinary team for heart transplant. My role is to provide outpatient evaluations to address preschool, school-age and adult transition planning. I also provide inpatient consultation after heart transplants, heart failure and cardiac surgery. My current research interests are related to neuropsychological outcomes and risk factors associated with complex heart disease and heart transplant, such as stroke, seizures, prematurity and genetic disorders. I am also involved with national and international cardiac follow-up groups to help build clinical programs, patient advocacy and multisite research collaborations.

Jackie Kiefel, PhD

I completed my undergraduate degree in psychology at the University of Texas. I then completed my doctorate at City University of New York, N.Y. My pre-doctoral internship was completed at Mount Sinai Hospital in New York City, working with children with psychiatric and learning disorders. My postdoctoral fellowship in pediatric neuropsychology was completed at Nationwide Hospital and The Ohio State University College of Medicine. At Children's, I work primarily with outpatients with neurological compromise or those born with a genetic condition associated with neuropsychological problems, such as Duchenne muscular dystrophy and neurofibromatosis. I also have become involved in evaluations for children who have sustained a concussion. My primary clinical and research interests include examining the neurocognitive and behavioral effects of muscular dystrophy and examining the neuropsychological outcomes and feasibility of a medication monitoring program.

David Marcus, PhD, ABPP

Board-certified subspecialist in pediatric neuropsychology

I received my doctorate in child psychology from the University of Minnesota. My pre-doctoral internship was completed at Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, and my postdoctoral fellowship in pediatric neuropsychology was completed at Children's National Medical Center. I received board certification through ABPP in clinical neuropsychology and certification in pediatric neuropsychology. My areas of interest include pediatric epilepsy, spina bifida, genetic and metabolic disorders and pediatric concussion. I am currently the Training Co-Director of the Pediatric Neuropsychology Fellowship Program.

Susan McManus Lee, PhD, ABPP

I received my bachelor's in psychology from Emory. I then completed my doctorate at Georgia State in the joint Clinical Psychology and Neuropsychology and Behavioral Neurosciences programs. My pre-doctoral internship was completed at Kennedy Krieger Institute and Johns Hopkins School of Medicine, with primary rotations in neuropsychology and pediatric psychology. I then returned to Atlanta to complete my two-year fellowship in pediatric neuropsychology at Children's and Emory. I am the coordinator of the pediatric neuropsychology rotation for the Pre-Doctoral Internship Program through the Emory Internship Program. I conduct outpatient evaluations to monitor cognitive development in children and adolescents with traumatic brain injury, encephalitis, hypoxic/ischemic brain injury, stroke and epilepsy. I have a clinic in which I follow children with a history of premature birth and related perinatal complications, conducting neurocognitive evaluations to monitor development and provide appropriate interventions as children reach school age. I also provide inpatient consultation and neurocognitive screening following acquired brain injury and acute changes in neurological or medical status. My clinical and research interests pertain to functional outcomes following perinatal and birth-related injuries, and other acquired brain injuries, in addition to acute assessment and intervention to improve neurobehavioral adjustment and academic success.

Nneka Morris Alexander, PhD, ABPP

I completed my undergraduate degree in psychology at Hampton University and doctorate in clinical psychology at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro. I obtained specific pediatric training through completion of my pre-doctoral internship at the University of Florida and postdoctoral fellowship at Emory. During my internship, I provided inpatient consultation-liaison services and participated in outpatient interdisciplinary clinics for a variety of medical diagnoses. Through my fellowship, I worked for the solid organ transplant services at Children's. I currently serve as the Pediatric Psychologist for the cardiac service line at Children's. My clinical responsibilities include providing psychological support to families with children hospitalized in the cardiac unit. I also conduct outpatient neurodevelopmental assessments for infants and toddlers with congenital heart disease through the Cardiac Neurodevelopmental Program. My research interests focus on parenting and emotion regulation in children with chronic illness.

Kathleen O'Toole, PhD, ABPP

Board-certified subspecialist in pediatric neuropsychology

I completed my doctorate in school psychology with a specialization in developmental neuropsychology at Georgia State. My pre-doctoral internship was completed in school psychology at Emory. I then completed a postdoctoral fellowship in developmental neuropsychology in the psychology department at Georgia State. Prior to my doctoral training, I completed a Master of Medical Science in communication disorders at Emory. I received board certification through ABPP in clinical neuropsychology and certification in pediatric neuropsychology. I conduct outpatient evaluations with particular interest in working with children and adolescents with epilepsy, cancer, premature birth and developmental disorders. I also conduct intervention in the form of cognitive remediation to improve executive functioning for pre-adolescents with neurological disorders. My research interests focus on transition of medical care from pediatric to adult medical specialists for children with neurological disorders.

Kim E. Ono, PhD, ABPP

I completed my bachelor's in psychology at Harvard University. I then completed my doctorate at the University of Miami in the Child Clinical Program. My pre-doctoral internship was completed at Emory, with rotations in pediatric, adult and geriatric neuropsychology. I stayed in Atlanta to complete my two-year postdoctoral fellowship in pediatric neuropsychology at Children's and Emory. I recently joined the neuropsychology department at Children's. I primarily conduct outpatient and pre- and post-surgical evaluations to monitor cognitive development in children and adolescents diagnosed with epilepsy. I participate in screening and consultation at the New Onset Seizure Clinic. I also conduct fMRI language and motor mapping for surgical candidates. My clinic and research interests pertain to developmental trajectories and risk and/or protective factors in neurological populations.

Alexis M. Quinoy, PhD

I completed my bachelor's in psychology with a minor in Spanish for native speakers at the University of Florida. I then earned a master's and doctorate in clinical child psychology at Virginia Commonwealth University. I completed my pre-doctoral internship at Children's Hospital Colorado, where I was the Pediatric Primary Integrated Care Psychology Intern. I then completed my postdoctoral fellowship at the University of Florida Health Division of Medical Psychology. I recently joined the neuropsychology department at Children's as a pediatric psychologist, and I work in the Inpatient Rehabilitation Program and Day Rehabilitation Program. My clinical and research interests include pediatric rehabilitation psychology, chronic illness and pain, pediatric primary care psychology, infant mental health and development, complex trauma and post-traumatic stress disorder, emotion regulation, parent training, cognitive behavior therapy, and anxiety and related disorders.

Matthew J. Schniederjan, MD

I earned my Bachelor of Arts in psychology and doctorate at the University of Oklahoma. I completed my residency training in anatomic and clinical pathology and fellowship training in neuropathology at Emory, after which I joined Children's as its first staff Neuropathologist in 2011. I diagnose all neurosurgical and muscle biopsy specimens at Children's and review all autopsy neuropathology material, in addition to periodically covering the adult neuropathology services at Emory. My clinical and research interests include the genetics and epigenetics of pediatric brain tumors, pediatric autopsy neuropathology, familial tumor syndromes and neuropathology education.

Kindell R. Schoffner, PsyD

I received my Bachelor of Science in psychology from Louisiana State University. I then received my master's and doctorate in clinical psychology from the Georgia School of Professional Psychology. My pre-doctoral internship training was at Nationwide Children's Hospital and The Ohio State University School of Medicine in Columbus, Ohio. I continued my training with a postdoctoral fellowship here at Children's and Emory at the Aflac Cancer and Blood Disorders Center of Children's. My professional experience ranges from working with children and families in private practice settings to outpatient medical and inpatient pediatric hospital settings. I am currently the Pediatric Psychologist with rehabilitation services at Scottish Rite Hospital. I provide emotional and behavior assessment as well as individual and family intervention services to patients in the Inpatient Rehabilitation and Day Rehabilitation programs. In addition, I am involved in developing policies and clinical pathways for treatment within rehabilitation services pertaining to systematic behavior modification, spinal cord injury and traumatic brain injury.

Laura A. Wright, PhD

I received my doctoral degree in clinical psychology from Georgia State University. I completed my doctoral internship at Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center and a two-year postdoctoral pain residency at Boston Children's Hospital/Harvard Medical School. As the pediatric psychologist for the Complex Headache Clinic within the Department of Neurology, I complete evaluations and provide outpatient therapy services for children and adolescents with persistent headaches and post-concussive symptoms. My clinical and research interests include pain assessment and treatment, pediatric chronic pain, resilience and adaptation in pediatric populations, and psychosocial factors that influence symptom experience, response to treatment and functional outcomes.

Selected publications (2020-2021)

Wilkinson-Smith, A., **Blackwell, L. S., & Howarth, R. A.** (accepted; in press). Neuropsychological outcomes in children and adolescents following anti-NMDA receptor encephalitis. Child Neuropsychology. doi: 10.1080/09297049.2021.1965110.

Ngo, B., Lapp, S. A., Siegel, B., Patel, V., Hussaini, L., Bora, S., Philbrook, B., Weinschenk, K., **Wright, L. A.**, Anderson, E. J., Rostad, C. A., & Gombolay, G. Y. (accepted). Cerebrospinal fluid cytokine, chemokine, and SARS-CoV-2 antibody profiles in children with neuropsychiatric symptoms associated with COVID-19. Multiple Sclerosis and Related Disorders.

Uhl, K., **Wright, L. A.**, Coakley, R. M., & Logan, D. E. (2021). Psychosocial interventions for pediatric pain management. In B. J. Stevens, G. Hathway, & W. T. Zempsky (Eds.), Oxford textbook of pediatric pain (2nd edition) (pp. 531-546). Oxford University Press.

Cohen, L. L., **Wright, L. A.**, Martin, S. R., Shih, S., & Donati, M. (2021). Procedural pain distraction. In B. J. Stevens, G. Hathway, & W. T. Zempsky (Eds.), Oxford textbook of pediatric pain (2nd edition) (pp. 547-556). Oxford University Press.

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Presentations and posters

Tan, A., Semmel, E., Wolf, I., Hammett, B., & **Ilardi, D.** (February 2020). Implementing standard screening for autism spectrum disorder in congenital heart disease. Poster presented at the 48th Annual Meeting of the International Neuropsychological Society, Denver, Colo.

Cernokova, I., **Burns, T. G.**, **Ono, K. E.**, & Burdette, M. (2020). Emotional and behavioral functioning in adolescents and young adults following a concussion. Poster presented at the 48th Annual Meeting of the International Neuropsychological Society, Denver, Colo.

Cernokova, I., Gordon, A., **Bearden, D.**, & **Ono, K. E.** (2020). Comparing mood, anxiety, and executive functioning in children and adolescents with intractable epilepsy before and after epilepsy surgery. Poster presented at the 48th Annual Meeting of the International Neuropsychological Society, Denver, Colo.

Albert, P., & **O'Toole, K.** (2020). Social and cognitive risk factors in children with liver disease. Poster presented at the 48th Annual Meeting of the International Neuropsychological Society, Denver, Colo.

Krentzel, A. B., **Howarth, R. A.**, & **Blackwell, L. S.** (2020). Long-term cognitive outcomes in a sample of pediatric patients with anti-NMDARE. Poster presented at the 48th Annual Meeting of the International Neuropsychological Society, Denver, Colo.

Blackwell, L. S. (2020) Biomarkers as outcome predictors in pediatric traumatic brain injury. Oral presentation at the Brain Health Research Forum.

For additional information and a list of publications and presentations, please visit choa.org/medical-services/neurosciences/neuropsychology

former fellows

Former postdoctoral fellows are currently employed as neuropsychologists in a variety of settings, including:

- Children's Healthcare of Atlanta, Atlanta, Ga.
- Banner Children's at Diamond Children's Medical Center, Tucson, Ariz.
- Brooks Rehabilitation Hospital, Jacksonville, Fla.
- Pediatric NeuroBehavioral Center of Peachtree City, Peachtree City, Ga.
- California Psychological Institute, Fresno, Calif.
- Trails to Success, Martinez, Calif.
- UCSF Benioff Children's Hospital, San Francisco, Calif.
- Carolinas HealthCare System, Charlotte, N.C.
- The University of Alabama at Birmingham and Children's of Alabama, Birmingham, Ala.
- Seattle Children's Hospital, Seattle, Wash.
- Brain Health Neuropsychology, Morris Township, N.J.
- Children's Hospital of Orange County, Orange, Calif.
- The Cleveland Clinic, Cleveland, Ohio
- The Kennedy Krieger Institute, Baltimore, Md.

salary and benefits

The yearly stipend for the fellowship beginning Sept. 1, 2023, is $54,840. Benefits include full medical, dental and vision insurance.

Paid time off includes 15 vacation days, seven major holidays and four personal floating holidays (prorated based on start date).

Fellows are given two professional days a year to attend conferences (with a stipend if presenting), in addition to a professional day to take the EPPP.

Other benefits available include:

- Free parking.
- Free lunch in the physician dining room when on the Scottish Rite campus.
- A private office.
- Full access to medical library services, including multiple databases and search engines.

application process

Interested candidates must submit materials by Dec. 23, 2022.

The Children's Neuropsychology Fellowship Program participates in the APPCN Resident Matching Program. Visit appcn.org to learn more.

Applications for the program should be submitted electronically through the APPIC Psychology Postdoctoral Application Centralized Application System (APPA CAS). The website is: **appic.org/about-appic/postdoctoral/appa-postdoc-application-information**.

The APPIC Psychology Postdoctoral Application (APPA) is a service of the Association of Psychology Postdoctoral and Internship Centers. APPA allows interns to apply to a number of participating programs offering postdoctoral fellowships through a centralized application process. The fee for applicants to use the CAS is $25 to submit the first application and $15 for each additional application.

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Atlanta

Big city innovation meets small town charm in Atlanta. Full of diverse communities, a thriving arts and culture scene, and plenty of green spaces and sunny, mild weather—it's pretty easy to fall in love with Atlanta.

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- Metro Atlanta is home to nearly 25 Fortune 500 companies.
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- Atlanta is a short drive from mountains, lakes and the gorgeous Atlantic and Gulf coasts.
- A city rich in history and diversity, Atlanta is home to world-class performing arts, music festivals, museums and an eclectic culinary scene. We're also a booming epicenter for a growing list of TV and film productions.
- Our professional sports franchises include the Atlanta Braves (MLB), Atlanta Hawks (NBA), Atlanta Falcons (NFL), Atlanta United FC (MLS) and the Atlanta Dream (WNBA)—as well as a deep-rooted tradition in college sports.

Children's℠ Healthcare of Atlanta

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