



Children'sSM
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.

By combining the diverse clinical cases at Children's and the academic strength of Emory, we provide fellows a unique, 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.

This is a unique training experience that combines the diverse clinical cases at Children's and the academic strength of Emory.

Transforming the future of pediatric care

Children's 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 to provide the best possible care to 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.

As Georgia's only healthcare system completely dedicated to kids, we are committed to meeting the increasing demand for advanced pediatric care in our community. On September 29, 2024, Children's opened Arthur M. Blank Hospital, a 446-bed, 2-million-square-foot facility, helping us transform the delivery of pediatric healthcare in our state today—and for generations to come.

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 is what makes us great.

Standing out

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

- With three hospitals, 789 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. 19 in the country.
- The Emory University Department of Pediatrics, the academic partner of Children's, is ranked No. 5 in the country for receiving the most federal research dollars from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) 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. There are also opportunities for inpatient consultations at the new Arthur M. Blank Hospital.

*NIH funding period from Oct. 1, 2023 through Sept. 30, 2024



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 12 neuropsychologists, six of whom are certified through the American Board of Professional Psychology/Clinical Neuropsychology (ABPP/CN). Remaining staff are in the process of pursuing board certification through the ABPP/CN.

Our values

We value, appreciate, encourage and support diversity in our work community.

We value cultural sensitivity in all personal and professional interactions—among peers and colleagues, with supervisors and supervisees, with patients and families—and in our scholarly endeavors.

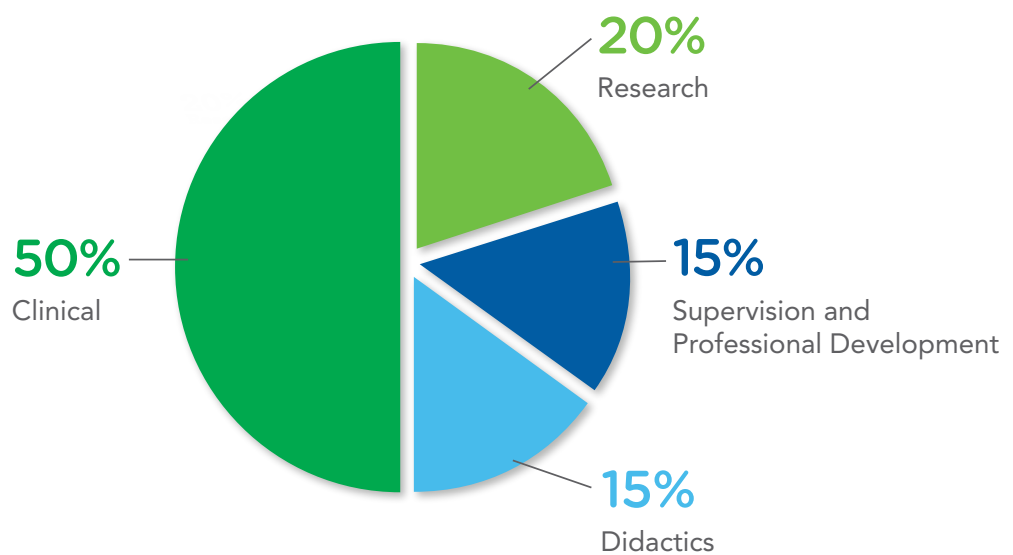
We value a work community in which our members:

- Strive to be culturally sensitive, in the broadest sense, including with regard to age, gender, gender identity, race, ethnicity, culture, national origin, immigration status, religion, sexual orientation, disability, language and socioeconomic status.
- Prioritize having both an awareness of and a sensitivity to individual and cultural diversity in all of their professional and personal encounters and activities.
- Demonstrate awareness of self as shaped by individual and cultural diversity and context, as well as personal assumptions, values and biases.
- Demonstrate an awareness of the interaction of self and others as shaped by individual and group cultural diversity and context.
- Engage in applications of professional psychology's foundational and functional competencies with a recognition of and sensitivity to individual and cultural context.
- Learn about and understand different cultures and worldviews and how others are shaped by individual and group cultural diversity and context.
- Respect one another's culture.
- Create a safe environment to explore cultural similarities and differences and how these influence our experiences, perceptions, values and interactions.



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 Arthur M. Blank 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 Arthur M. Blank Hospital for 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, Turner syndrome, Down syndrome and Fragile X syndrome, as well as mitochondrial disorders and other metabolic conditions.

DEVELOPMENTAL FOLLOW-UP CLINIC

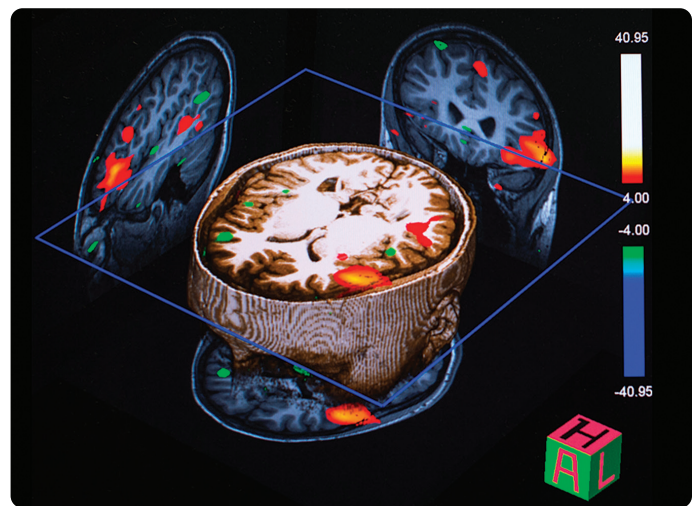
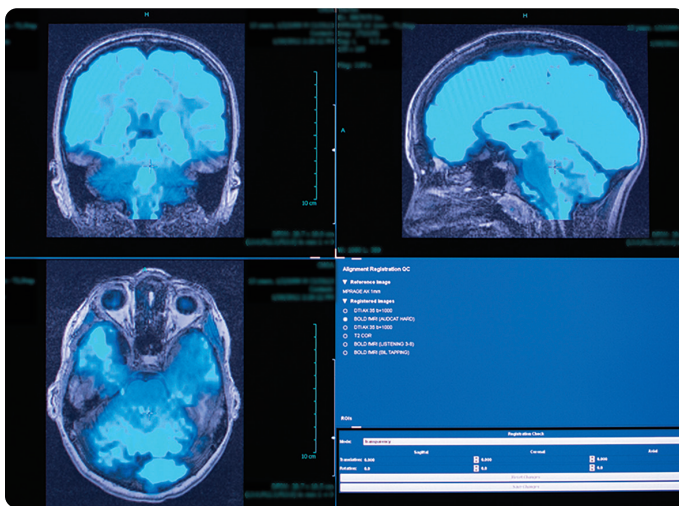
This clinic provides follow-up services for children with a history of premature birth and related perinatal complications. Fellows have the opportunity to participate in neurocognitive evaluations of early school-age children as they transition from early intervention services to school-based programs. 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 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. 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, as well as telemedicine visits.

EARLY CHILDHOOD ROTATION

The early childhood rotation involves seeing patients in the Neurodevelopmental Program and Early Childhood Clinic (ECC). The patient population for this rotation is infants and toddlers 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 inpatient and outpatient settings (CIRU, PICU, NICU, Neuropsychology Clinic). Fellows will receive training on typical and atypical infant and toddler development, risk factors for neurobehavioral outcomes, administration of early childhood assessments and how to guide caregivers through evidence-based interventions and accessing early intervention, as well as preschool special education services.



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.

NEUROIMMUNOLOGY

Fellows will have an opportunity to work with patients with a history of neuro-immunological diseases (e.g., anti-NMDA receptor encephalitis, neuromyelitis optica spectrum disorder, multiple sclerosis, ADEM). Responsibilities will include conducting outpatient screening, as well as brief and comprehensive outpatient assessments.

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/traumatic brain injury, anoxic brain injury, stroke), new-onset illness (e.g., meningitis, 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.

On rehabilitation rotations, fellows will:

- Participate in serial monitoring of cognitive status and ongoing recovery.
- Conduct diagnostic interviews and brain injury education with families.
- Consult and collaborate with the rehabilitation team.
- Complete brief cognitive screenings.
- Conduct 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 returning to school. Fellows may also have the opportunity to conduct consultations and assessments at the newly established Multidisciplinary Concussion Clinic, as well as the Neuropsychology Concussion Screening Clinic, which are both located at the Center for Advanced Pediatrics.

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.

Participate in increasingly challenging clinical, research and professional experiences.

SUPERVISION OF GRADUATE STUDENT EXTERNS

Fellows will have the opportunity to supervise graduate student externs during their first and/or 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 that meets weekly throughout the academic year.

Professional development

Each fellow chooses two 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 of 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 per month and is intended for interns, fellows and faculty. Core components of this seminar include: familiarization with the ABPP/CN board certification process, new research and practice guidelines in neuropsychology, Journal club, case presentation and neuroanatomy.
- **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.
- **Self-Observation, Assessment and Reflection (SOAR) Series:** The goal of this series is to examine biases within our roles as psychologists and neuropsychologists, discuss systematic issues that impact our practice with patients and interactions with each other, and to encourage advocacy and commitment to growth.
- **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).
- **Emory Post-Doctoral Fellowship Seminar:** Fellows will meet monthly with Nadine Kaslow, PhD, ABPP, and other post-doctoral fellows at Emory University and Marcus Autism Center. This seminar focuses on professional development issues, including board preparation and job searching.
- **Brain Cutting:** Brain cutting observations occur once per 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 treatments (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

- **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.
- **Emory Neuropsychology Case Conference:** Fellows have the opportunity to participate in a weekly case conference with postdoctoral fellows in the adult Neuropsychology Program at Emory University in the department of physical medicine and rehabilitation. Fellows will gain experience in adult neuropsychology cases, in addition to observing fact-finding cases and board preparation.
- **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



Phebe Albert, PhD

I received my Bachelor of Arts degree in psychology from the University of Florida and my doctorate degree from Georgia State University in the joint Clinical Psychology and Neuropsychology/Cognitive Neuroscience Program. I then completed an APA-accredited internship in pediatric neuropsychology at Texas Children's Hospital/Baylor College of Medicine and post-doctoral fellowship at Kennedy Krieger Institute/Johns Hopkins Hospital. My research interests include measurement and characterization of cognitive and social profiles of children with neurodevelopmental/neurocognitive disorders. My clinical interests include neuropsychological assessment and differential diagnosis of children with autism spectrum disorder, intellectual disability and genetic syndromes.



Carla Ammons, PhD

I received my bachelor's from North Carolina State University with a major in psychology, followed by a doctorate in medical clinical psychology from the University of Alabama at Birmingham. I went on to complete a predoctoral internship in neuropsychology at Emory University School of Medicine and postdoctoral residency training in pediatric neuropsychology at Children's/Emory University School of Medicine. My clinical and research interests include functional neuroimaging, pre-surgical planning and cognitive remediation.



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, examining biological markers in children with moderate to severe brain injury, and exploring factors impacting recovery from mild traumatic brain injury. I am currently the training co-director of the Pediatric Neuropsychology Fellowship Program.



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.



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 in the outpatient setting with patients 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.



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.



David Marcus, PhD, ABPP

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, as well as the interim director of the department of neuropsychology.



Emily Riggall, PhD

I received my Bachelor of Arts degree in psychology at Carleton College in Minnesota. I earned my doctorate degree from the joint Clinical Psychology and Neuropsychology/Cognitive Neuroscience Programs at Georgia State University. I then went on to complete an APA-accredited internship in lifespan neuropsychology at Emory University and Children's. My research interests include neurocognitive processes underlying reading disorders and response to intervention. Clinically, I am interested in inpatient rehabilitation, as well as early childhood assessment.



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.



Yuri Shishido, PhD, ABPP

I received my bachelor's degree from Indiana University Bloomington with a major in physical science, and I completed my doctoral training at Georgia State University in the joint Clinical Psychology and Neuropsychology and Behavioral Neurosciences Programs. My doctoral internship was completed at the University of California at Los Angeles (UCLA), and two-year postdoctoral residency in pediatric neuropsychology was completed at Kennedy Krieger Institute and Johns Hopkins School of Medicine. My clinical and research interests include the neuropsychological impact of neuroimmunological conditions.



Molly Winston, PhD

I received my bachelor's from Colorado College with a major in neuroscience and my doctoral degree in neuropsychology and child psychology from Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine. My pre-doctoral internship was in pediatric neuropsychology at Emory University School of Medicine and my post-doctoral fellowship was at Children's/Emory University School of Medicine. My research has primarily focused on individual and familial patterns of physiological responses, social attention, and aspects of cognition in fragile X syndrome and autism spectrum disorder. My clinical interests include genetic/metabolic disorders, epilepsy and neurodevelopmental disorders.

Research

Selected publications (2022-2024)

Riggall EA, Slomine BS, Suskauer SJ, Borda A, Lahey S, Ludwig NN. Caregiver and family functioning after pediatric disorder of consciousness: telephone-based outcome assessment. *Brain Inj.* 2024 Jan 28;38(2):99-107. doi: 10.1080/02699052.2024.2304884. Epub 2024 Feb 8. PMID: 38328910

Alfonso D, Ailion A, Semaan N, Davalbhakta E, Bearden DJ. Effects of physical activity on cognition and psychosocial functioning in pediatric epilepsy: A systematic review. *Epilepsy Behav Rep.* 2024 Jul 26;27:100700. doi: 10.1016/j.ebr.2024.100700. eCollection 2024.

Guilfoyle J, **Winston M**, Sideris J, Martin GE, Nayar K, Bush L, Wassink T, Losh M. Childhood Academic Performance: A Potential Marker of Genetic Liability to Autism. *J Autism Dev Disord.* 2023 May;53(5):1989-2005. doi: 10.1007/s10803-022-05459-5. Epub 2022 Feb 23. PMID: 35194728

Koterba, C, **Lee, SM** (2022). Teaching Supervision. In K.J. Stycky, D. Dodin, and S.S. Bush (Eds.), *Supervision in Neuropsychology: Practical, Ethical, and Theoretical Considerations* (pp. 126-156). Oxford, New York: Oxford University Press.

Burns T, Semmel E, Reisner A (2022). A Longitudinal Evaluation of a Penetrating Traumatic Brain Injury Theories of Plasticity and Vulner. *Applied Neuropsychology, Adult.* 10.1080/23279095.2020.1780239

Nayar K, Kang X, Winston M, Wong P, Losh M. A cross-cultural study of visual attention in autism spectrum disorder. *Child Neuropsychol.* 2023 Apr;29(3):413-444. 10.1080/09297049.2022.2094904. Epub 2022 Jul 29. PMID: 35904098

Blackwell, LS, Grell R. Pediatric Traumatic Brain Injury: Impact on the Developing Brain. *Pediatr Neurol.* 2023 Jul 1;S0887-8994(23)00191-1. doi: 10.1016/j.pediatrneurol.2023.06.019.

Gombolay G, Morris M, Loerinc L, **Blackwell LS, Howarth R.** Sleep Characteristics in Pediatric Anti-N-methyl-d-aspartate (NMDA) Receptor Encephalitis: A Retrospective Cohort Study. *J Child Neurol.* 2023 Apr;38(5):298-306. doi: 10.1177/08830738231173603.

Howarth R, Gombolay G, & **Blackwell L.** Assessment of cognitive status in pediatric anti-NMDA receptor encephalitis during inpatient rehabilitation: A retrospective cohort *J Neuroimmunol.* 2023 Mar 15;376:578048. doi: 10.1016/j.jneuroim.2023.578048. Epub 2023 Feb 8.

Ilardi D, Alexander N, Xiang Y, Figueroa **Blackwell L.** Social-environmental factors as mediators of IQ and achievement differences across race groups in adolescents with high risk congenital heart disease. *Child Neuropsychol.* 2023 Nov;29(7):1003-1020. doi: 10.1080/09297049.2022.2117798. Epub 2022 Sep 15. PMID: 36109848

Blackwell LS, Wali B, Xiang Y, Alawieh A, Sayeed I, Reisner A. Prognostic Value of Plasma Biomarkers S100B and Osteopontin in Pediatric TBI: A Prospective Analysis Evaluating Acute and 6-Month Outcomes after Mild to Severe TBI. *Biomedicine.* 2023 Aug 1;11(8):2167. doi: 10.3390/biomedicine11082167. PMID: 37626664

Posters and presentations (2023-2024)

Howarth, Robyn. Impact of Mechanism of Injury on Early Outcomes for Pediatric Patients With Disorders of Consciousness (DOC) Following Acquired Brain Injury During Inpatient Rehabilitation. Poster presented at the 2023 World Congress on Brain Injury Conference in Dublin, Ireland.

Mauer E, Sayeed I, Reisner A, **Blackwell L.** Osteopontin as a Blood Biomarker for Executive Function Outcomes in Pediatric Traumatic Brain Injury. Poster presented at the International Neuropsychology Society 2023 Meeting San Diego, Calif.

Blackwell L. (Symposium Chair). Social Determinants of Health and Disparities in Neurotrauma. Poster presented at the 2024 Symposium at the National Neurotrauma Society in San Francisco, Calif.

Molly Winston, Susan Lee, Neami B. Tedla. Profiles of Neurocognitive Abilities Following Preterm Birth Reveal Subtle Areas of Vulnerability. Poster presented at the International Neuropsychological Society.

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.
- LifeStance Health, Columbia, S.C.

Salary and benefits

The yearly stipend for the fellowship beginning Sept. 1, 2026, is \$62,232 for the first year and \$62,652 for the second year. Fellows receive a comprehensive Children's employee benefits package.

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

Fellows are given three 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 at Scottish Rite and Arthur M. Blank Hospital
- Full access to medical library services, including multiple databases and search engines

Application process

Interested candidates must submit materials by Monday, Dec. 1, 2025.

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), which can be found at: 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.

CONTACT INFORMATION:

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