



Postdoctoral Residency in Pediatric Neuropsychology
Department of Psychology
St. Louis Children's Hospital

The Psychology Department of St. Louis Children's Hospital (SLCH) at Washington University School of Medicine (WUSM) announces the availability of one two-year, full-time Postdoctoral Residency in Pediatric Neuropsychology, beginning September 2020. The goal of the program is to train future scientist-practitioners to provide skilled, ethical, and culturally-sensitive neuropsychological services to children, adolescents, and young adults with a wide variety of medical and neurological conditions. Training conforms to the regulations outlined in the INS-APA Division 40 Task Force and the Houston Conference on Specialty Education and Training in Clinical Neuropsychology. The program is a member of the Association of Postdoctoral Programs in Clinical Neuropsychology (APPCN).

Training Activities

Approximately 70% of the resident's time is devoted to clinical activities. The resident will have the opportunity to see a variety of patient populations commonly referred to pediatric neuropsychologists in a major academic medical setting. The patient populations consistently seen in the Psychology Department at SLCH are described below. The resident should expect to evaluate approximately 10 clinical patients per month. The resident conducts his or her own testing for the majority of the patients he or she sees; however, some opportunities to supervise a practicum student or psychometrist may be available.

The major clinical experiences include:

- **The Pediatric Epilepsy Center:** The Pediatric Epilepsy Center is one of the largest and most comprehensive specialized centers for the care of children with epilepsy and seizure disorders in the United States. It is made up of eight pediatric epileptologists, two pediatric epilepsy neurosurgeons, two nurse practitioners, a dietician, and two pediatric neuropsychologists. Residents are provided supervised experience in providing evaluation and consultation services to children and adolescents with a range of epilepsy conditions. This includes pre- and post-surgical epilepsy evaluations, outpatient evaluations, inpatient consultation on the Epilepsy Monitoring Unit, and participation in the weekly Pediatric Epilepsy Surgical Conference. Residents have the option to contribute to on-going neuropsychological research in pediatric epilepsy, and opportunities are available for residents to generate research on their own and/or collaborate with other investigators in the school of medicine. In addition, instruction is provided on intracarotid sodium amytal studies (i.e., Wada tests), with opportunities to participate in the procedures and present results to the remainder of the epilepsy surgical team.
- **Hematology/Oncology (including Pediatric Neuro-Oncology and Sickle Cell Disease):** The Division of Pediatric Hematology/Oncology is a large, comprehensive program dedicated to the treatment of children with blood disorders and cancer. The Division of Pediatric Hematology/Oncology includes the Pediatric Neuro-Oncology Center, which is a multi-disciplinary team committed to the care of children with central nervous system tumors. Residents conduct neuropsychological evaluations of children and adolescents with a variety of medical conditions including brain and spinal cord tumors, leukemia, lymphoma, solid tumors, sickle cell disease, stroke, and aplastic anemia. While the clinical experience primarily involves comprehensive evaluations, the resident also participates in focused pre-and post- bone marrow transplant evaluations, as well as testing for patients enrolled in cooperative research trials through the

Children's Oncology Group. The resident attends regularly scheduled multidisciplinary team meetings for the Pediatric Neuro-Oncology Center, Late Effects Clinic, Bone Marrow Transplant Team, and Sickle Cell Clinic. These teams are comprised of professionals from many health-related disciplines including medicine, nursing, psychology, occupational therapy, physical therapy, and social work.

- **Pediatric Traumatic Brain Injury & Neurorehabilitation:** This experience offers a focus on inpatient and outpatient assessment of children and adolescents with a history of traumatic brain injury ranging from mild to severe. A heavy component involves outpatient evaluation of patients with concussions. Referrals include children with concussions secondary to motor vehicle collisions and falls as well as sport-related concussions often presenting with return-to-play and return-to-school questions. Further, the concussion clinic program offers appointments within one week of referral for patients diagnosed with concussion via the Concussion Clinic. Residents choosing this clinical offering focus on efficiency related to interviewing, testing, scoring, feedback, and report writing while maintaining a high level of quality. Residents also gain experience in neuropsychological consultation to a multidisciplinary neurorehabilitation team and conducting brief neurocognitive screenings to patients on an acute inpatient neurorehabilitation program. Whenever possible, the resident has the opportunity to follow patients seen as inpatients when they return for follow-up evaluation at 9 to 12 months post-discharge. The resident also conducts comprehensive outpatient neuropsychological evaluations for children with remote traumatic brain injuries.
- **General Medical/General Psychiatry:** This clinical experience offers the resident an opportunity to see children and adolescents presenting with a range of neurological disorders and/or general medical conditions that may impact brain development. Residents conduct outpatient neuropsychological evaluations and provide consultation to referring physicians, schools, and families. Potential referrals include hydrocephalus, arteriovenous malformations, meningitis, cerebral palsy, immune deficiency disorders, and more.

The minor clinical experiences may include:

- **Solid Organ Transplant/Congenital Heart Disease:** St. Louis Children's Hospital is at the forefront of pediatric organ transplantation, with active services in kidney, heart, lung and liver transplants. Neuropsychology is regularly involved with the transplant teams, through standard pre-transplant neuropsychological evaluations for most patients, potential post-transplant follow-up, and active participation in multidisciplinary team meetings. For this clinical service line, the resident conducts both targeted and comprehensive neuropsychological assessments and attends multidisciplinary rounds. Neuropsychology is also actively involved in seeing patients with history of congenital heart disease.
- **Genetics (emphasis on Neurofibromatosis Type 1):** Residents have an opportunity to provide outpatient neuropsychological evaluations for patients with genetic conditions with an emphasis on patients referred by the Neurofibromatosis Clinic. The Neurofibromatosis Clinic at Washington University is associated with one of the most active research centers for NF in the country, and residents can choose to pursue clinical research through the center, if interested.
- **Movement Disorders:** SLCH and Washington University Department of Pediatric Neurology are a center of excellence for pediatric movement disorders. Tourette syndrome is by far the most frequently seen diagnosis in this service line, though the resident also gains exposure to less common movement disorders. The resident also has the opportunity to shadow neurologists in the movement disorders clinic in order to gain a deeper understanding of motor systems and various tic manifestations.

Supervision

The resident participates in a minimum of two hours of individual supervision per week. Supervision involves planning of the evaluation, conceptualization of the case prior to parent feedback, review of the effectiveness of the feedback session, and preparation of the final written report. Supervision for each case is provided by one of the pediatric neuropsychologists. Supervision also focuses on professional development and ethical issues.

Didactics

The resident participates in a variety of didactic experiences that occur on a weekly or monthly basis, and these experiences comprise 10-15% of the resident's time.

Didactics include:

- **Neuropsychology Case Conference:** The resident and neuropsychology supervisors take turns presenting clinical cases. The case conference is designed to stimulate discussion regarding conceptualization of the child's test results within the context of his/her history as well as appropriate recommendations for the family to facilitate improvements in his/her overall functioning.
- **Neuropsychology Seminar:** The neuropsychology seminar covers a broad range of topics in line with critical competencies for board certification in clinical neuropsychology, including the ethical practice of neuropsychology in clinical and research settings, culturally-competent neuropsychological care, functional neuroanatomical principles, neuropsychological assessment, behavioral neurology, basic/clinical neuroscience, and neuro-imaging and other neurodiagnostic techniques. Preparation for becoming board certified in clinical neuropsychology through the American Board of Professional Psychology (ABPP) is addressed. Presentations will be divided among the resident, neuropsychology supervisors, and guest speakers from the wider medical school community.
- **Neuropsychology Journal Club:** The resident and neuropsychology supervisors discuss a relevant neuropsychology-related research study or literature review.
- **Professional Development Seminar:** The resident participates in a monthly professional development seminar with the Postdoctoral Residents in Pediatric Psychology and psychologists representing the entire department. The professional development seminar focuses on a variety of topics, including interview techniques, report writing, job search strategies, preparation for the *Exam for the Professional Practice of Psychology* (EPPP), and preparation for licensure.
- **Psychology Department Didactics:** The Psychology Department holds a series of monthly didactics, including a general case conference (therapy or assessment case) and a pediatric/child clinical psychology journal club. The resident is invited to participate in relevant meetings.
- **Grand Rounds:** The resident has the opportunity to participate in relevant weekly Grand Rounds presented by the Departments of Pediatrics, Neurology, Neurosurgery, and Psychiatry.
- **WUSM Neuroscience Course (tentative):** The resident will audit a neuroscience course through the Washington University School of Medicine, likely during Spring of his/her first year of residency.

Research

Consistent with Houston Conference Guidelines, the resident is expected to engage in scholarly activity over the course of the two-year program. Examples of expected activity include submission of a study or

literature review for publication, poster presentation at a relevant conference, or submission of a grant proposal or outcome assessment. The resident may choose to become involved in ongoing research within the neuropsychology service or to develop his or her own research project under the direction of one of the neuropsychology supervisors. Research experiences constitute approximately 10-15% of the resident's time.

The Facility

St. Louis Children's Hospital serves as the primary teaching hospital for Washington University School of Medicine. The Neuropsychology Program is housed at SLCH on the campus of the medical school. SLCH has been consistently ranked as one of the top pediatric hospitals in the country by U.S. News and World Report. Founded in 1879, SLCH is a 250 bed pediatric facility that provides both primary care and specialty services to children in the St. Louis Metropolitan Area and a primary service region covering six states as well as to children from around the nation and the world. The Psychology Department at SLCH consists of 3 full-time and 1 part-time pediatric neuropsychologists and 10 full- and part-time child clinical and pediatric psychologists. The Psychology Department also houses a pediatric psychology fellowship program. The mission statement of SLCH is simple: "We do what's right for kids." We accomplish this mission by providing quality healthcare services for children in a warm, supportive, family-centered environment regardless of ability to pay. The Psychology Department supports the SLCH mission by providing empirically-supported assessment and intervention services to children with emotional/behavioral difficulties and to children with complex medical conditions. The Neuropsychology Program within the Psychology Department provides neuropsychological assessment for children and adolescents between the ages of 2- and 21-years of age with complex medical or neurological conditions. Children from a wide range of racial, ethnic, cultural, socio-economic, and geographic backgrounds are served.

The vibrant hospital and medical center are located in mid-town St. Louis, a city that offers a modest cost of living, a great variety of cultural, recreational, sports and entertainment opportunities, and a high quality of life.

Compensation and Benefits Summary

Salary:

\$47,476/year

Professional Development Funds:

- Early registration fee and airfare to a key conference in the field, at the discretion of the Training Director (1 conference each year)
- \$500 toward other professional development expenses
- Costs for provisional licensure in Missouri

Benefits:

- Medical, dental, and vision insurance
- Term Life Insurance = 1x salary
- 401k up to 100% of 1st percent of salary, and 25% match for next 3% of salary

Time Off:

- 23 days of Paid Time Off
- 3 days each year to attend a key conference in the field, at the discretion of the Training Directors

Accommodations and Support:

- Shared office space with other fellows/trainees
- Phone and computer access, as well as access to Electronic Medical Records
- Full support from Support Staff who manage scheduling appointments, insurance verification, tracking of appointments, and other indirect patient-related care functions

- Access to a variety of library resources through the Bernard Becker Medical Library of WUSM as well as through departmental resources (i.e., departmental access to PsychInfo and other searchable electronic databases)

Application Requirements

Applicants for the Postdoctoral Residency in Pediatric Neuropsychology at SLCH must meet the following requirements:

- Completion of a doctoral degree from an APA or CPA accredited program in one of the health service delivery areas of psychology (e.g., clinical, counseling, school, clinical neuropsychology, or health psychology) OR a doctoral degree in psychology from an APA or CPA accredited program with additional completion of a “respecialization” program designed to meet equivalent criteria as a health services delivery training program in psychology. Applicants must be able to complete all degree requirements (including defense of the doctoral dissertation) by the start date of the fellowship, although the applicant’s university may not have conferred the applicant’s degree by the start date.
- Completion of an APA or CPA accredited doctoral internship which includes rotations specific to neuropsychology (preference to pediatric focus).
- An applicant’s graduate transcript must reflect that the majority of his or her coursework was in the Generic Psychology and Generic Clinical core areas with additional coursework in Brain-Behavior Relationships and Practice of Clinical Neuropsychology areas as specified in the Houston Conference Policy Statement.
- An applicant’s graduate transcript and curriculum vitae must demonstrate clinical training in and competence with research methodology to meet equivalent criteria as a health services delivery professional in the scientist-practitioner model.
- Given that our program is focused on the delivery of neuropsychological services to children, adolescents, and young adults, the applicant’s coursework and curriculum vita should reflect a track record of acquiring a variety of experiences working with this age range.

How to Apply

Applications will be accepted through APPA CAS (<https://appicpostdoc.liaisoncas.com>), with required materials including:

- Cover letter detailing clinical and research interests as well as future career goals
- Official graduate transcript
- Three letters of recommendation
- Curriculum vita
- Two de-identified assessment reports completed by the applicant
- Doctoral Training Verification Form (completed by the applicant’s dissertation chair or the Director of Clinical Training at the applicant’s graduate program; available at http://www.appcn.org/assets/1748/doctorate_verification_form.pdf)

All application materials must be completed and submitted through APPA CAS on or before Thursday, January 2, 2020.

The Postdoctoral Residency in Pediatric Neuropsychology at SLCH is a member of the Association of Postdoctoral Programs in Clinical Neuropsychology (APPCN). The program participates in the APPCN Resident Matching Program (i.e., the “Match”), which is administered by the National Matching Service (NMS). Interested applicants must register for the Match with NMS. Additional information about APPCN is available at www.appcn.org, and additional information about registering with NMS for the

Match is available at www.natmatch.com/appcnmat/. This residency program agrees to abide by all APPCN rules and procedures that govern the Match. This residency program agrees to abide by the APPCN policy that no person at this facility will solicit, accept, or use any ranking-related information from any residency applicant.

Faculty members will be available to interview candidates at the Annual Meeting of the International Neuropsychological Society (INS). Interviews will begin the day before the formal conference and will continue during the conference. Telephone or on-site interviews may be arranged prior to INS for individuals who are unable to attend the conference. Please indicate in your cover letter if you would like to arrange for a telephone or on-site interview prior to INS.

For additional information about the program and Department of Psychology at St. Louis Children's Hospital, please visit the website: <https://www.stlouischildrens.org/conditions-treatments/psychology-services>. Questions regarding the program may be directed to the Program Director:

Suzanne Pierson, Ph.D., ABPP
Email: Suzanne.Pierson@bjc.org

Core Faculty

- Gabriel Araujo, Ph.D., ABPP, Pediatric Neuropsychologist
- Christopher Bosworth, Ph.D., Pediatric Neuropsychologist
- Lisa Harker, Psy.D., Pediatric Neuropsychologist, Program Lead for Neuropsychology
- Suzanne Pierson, Ph.D., ABPP, Pediatric Neuropsychologist, Program Director for the Pediatric Neuropsychology Postdoctoral Fellowship