

CASSI Post-Doctoral Fellow Rotation Schedule

Rotation 1a: School-age and Adolescent-age Children (September-February)**

Psychological assessments – 3 evaluations per month

Psychological evaluations focus on assessing cognitive functioning, attention and memory, adaptive skills, social-emotional functioning, and behavioral functioning in school-age and young adolescent children using a range of objective and rating scale measures. Assessments include a diagnostic interview or parent conference prior to testing, onsite testing, and a feedback session following the evaluation. Common questions include level of developmental functioning/presence of intellectual disability, identifying school accommodations, and guiding treatment planning as well as differentiating autism from developmental delays, ADHD, mood/anxiety concerns, trauma, and behavioral disorders.

Diagnostic evaluations – 4-5 evaluations per month

Diagnostic evaluations focus on evaluating the presence of autism as well as common co-occurring conditions including ADHD, anxiety, and behavioral concerns in children, ages 5-12, and adolescents, ages 13-18, who are verbally fluent. Evaluations with children 5-12 years include a diagnostic interview, onsite testing utilizing the ADOS-2, and a feedback session following the evaluation. Adolescent evaluations utilize an extended model that includes the administration of multiple rating scale measures to screen for a broad range of psychiatric conditions and to support diagnostic differentiation. Recommendations to support the successful transition to adulthood are also a focus of these evaluations.

Behavioral/Cognitive Behavioral Therapy – 2-3 patients per week

Fellows receive training in two types of therapeutic intervention: 1) parent training utilizing the RUBI protocol for interfering behaviors in young autistic children and 2) child-directed cognitive-behavioral therapy for school-age and adolescent autistic children targeting common psychiatric conditions such as anxiety, mood dysregulation, and adjustment disorders. CBT training includes exposure to a range of empirically-based protocols, delivered utilizing neurodiversity-affirming strategies. Opportunities to explore other treatment models and protocols are also available based on the fellow's interest.

Group therapy – weekly, 90 minute groups; 12-14 weeks in duration

Fellows co-facilitate a time-limited treatment group with a licensed provider focused on social skill development or specific mental health concerns (i.e., anxiety, executive functioning). Fellows have the opportunity to select their preferred group treatment experience and to elect to co-facilitate additional group therapy models as their schedules allow.

Rotation 1b: School-age and Adolescent-age Children (March-August)

Transition team evaluations – 2 evaluations per month

Transition team evaluations focus on assessment of autistic individuals to clarify their cognitive functioning and to guide supports and services for adult life planning. Evaluations occur in the context of an interdisciplinary team that includes providers from neuropsychology, speech therapy, occupational therapy, and social work. Trainees assist in providing neuropsychological assessments to autistic adolescents and young adults transitioning to adulthood (ages 14-21) and collaborate with other team members to develop recommendations for the family. Common questions include clarifying current cognitive functioning and decision-making capacity, documenting eligibility for services, identifying

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college and work accommodations, and guiding treatment planning for additional concerns (e.g., anxiety, safety, etc.).

Diagnostic evaluation - 2 evaluations per month

See description in rotation 1a

Behavioral/Cognitive Behavioral Therapy -- 3-4 patients per week

See description in rotation 1a

Minor training experience – 4 hours per week

Fellows select from a range of clinical, research, or advocacy/special-education-focused minor training experiences at CASSI and Kennedy Krieger.

Rotation 2a: Young / Early Functioning Children (September-February)

Psychological assessments - 4 evaluations per month

In this rotation, psychological evaluations utilize a developmental, strengths-based approach to evaluate cognitive functioning, attention and memory, adaptive skills, social-emotional functioning, and behavioral functioning in young (ages 3-8) and/or early functioning children. This rotation includes opportunities to apply behavioral management strategies in the context of standardized psychological assessment procedures.

Diagnostic evaluations – 4 evaluations per month

In this rotation, diagnostic evaluations focus on evaluating the presence of autism in young children through age 5 years. These evaluations focus on evaluating the presence of autism as well as common co-occurring conditions including developmental delays, medical conditions (e.g., prematurity), and social-emotional considerations (e.g., trauma exposure, behavioral difficulties). These evaluations include an onsite diagnostic interview, testing utilizing the ADOS-2, and a separate feedback session following the evaluation. In addition to differential diagnosis, accurate ADOS module selection is highlighted as well as use of developmental screening tools to aid in module choice and diagnostic decision making. Recommendations often focus initiating a treatment plan for young children as well as considerations during the transition to school-based services.

Behavioral/Cognitive Behavioral Therapy – 3-4 patients per week

See description in rotation 1a

Rotation 2b: Young / Early Functioning Children (March-August)

Psychological assessments – 2 evaluations per month

See description in rotation 2a

Diagnostic evaluations - 2 evaluations per month

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See description in rotation 2a. In addition, during this rotation, fellows will have the opportunity to conduct these diagnostic evaluations in the context of a multidisciplinary team with a speech therapist, occupational therapist, and social worker.

Behavioral/Cognitive Behavioral Therapy – 3-4 patients per week

See description in rotation 1a

Minor training experience – 4 hours per week

Fellows select from a range of clinical, research, or advocacy/special education-focused minor training experiences at CASSI and Kennedy Krieger.

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