Postdoctoral Residency in Pediatric Neuropsychology

Kennedy Krieger Institute and
The Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine
Baltimore, Maryland

JOHNS HOPKINS
MEDICINE

Kennedy Krieger

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Kennedy Krieger Institute Pediatric Neuropsychology Residency

Overview

The Center for Neuropsychological and Psychological Assessment (CNaP) at Kennedy Krieger Institute offers postdoctoral residency training opportunities in pediatric neuropsychology.

Through exposure to diverse patient populations in a variety of settings, we aim to develop clinical competencies that prepare graduating residents for board certification in clinical neuropsychology, and to practice competently in a wide range of settings.

The residency program at Kennedy Krieger endorses the Houston Conference guidelines for training in clinical neuropsychology. As such, we support board certification in clinical neuropsychology through the American Board of Professional Psychology (ABPP) as the standard of competency in clinical neuropsychology and as the scientist-practitioner model of training. As the Institute is a participating member of the Association of Postdoctoral Programs in Clinical Neuropsychology (APPCN), our two-year training program adheres to the APPCN guidelines for residency programs in clinical neuropsychology, and it participates in the APPCN residency matching program each year.

Residents spend approximately 70% of their time delivering clinical services and 30% on didactic learning and research experiences.

Our program offers clinical training experiences with a wide range of patient populations, from birth through young adulthood. Children and adolescents are served within diverse settings throughout the Institute, including at our outpatient specialty clinics, the Rehabilitation Continuum of Care and other interdisciplinary settings, such as Kennedy Krieger School Programs and the Center for Autism Services, Science and Innovation (CASSI™).

Residents complete six four-month major rotations with experiences in our outpatient specialty clinics, the Rehabilitation Continuum of Care and additional interdisciplinary settings. The specific major rotations are described on the following pages.

"This residency is unique in that it provides such a wide array of training experiences and exposure to varied clinical populations. I believe that the level and quality of training I received at Kennedy Krieger have prepared me to work with patients at any level of functioning and to address even the most complex cases. It is impossible to quantify how much I learned in two years."

– Neuropsychology resident

Major Rotations: Primary Clinical Experiences

OUTPATIENT SPECIALTY CLINICS

Residents gain experience in outpatient neuropsychological assessment by participating in outpatient specialty clinics. Through their involvement in the outpatient specialty clinics, residents gain experience serving individuals ranging in age from infancy to young adulthood with a wide range of acquired neurological conditions and neurodevelopmental disorders. As part of this experience, residents offer consultation to medical providers, school staff members and families, and are exposed to relevant special education law and its application within the field of pediatric neuropsychology. The specific outpatient specialty clinics are described below.

Congenital/Genetic Conditions

Residents conduct neuropsychological assessments of children and adolescents with a variety of developmental disorders. Patient populations include individuals with more commonly occurring neurologic conditions, such as hydrocephalus, Sturge-Weber syndrome, 22q deletion syndrome, cerebral palsy and spina bifida, as well as patients with rare genetic conditions and metabolic disorders. Providers in this clinic consult with several specialized clinics at Kennedy Krieger, including the Neurology and Neurogenetics Clinic.

Epilepsy/Brain Injury

Residents conduct outpatient neuropsychological evaluations of children with seizure disorders and those who have had neurological injuries. Evaluation types include presurgical, postsurgical and general epilepsy evaluations, as well as follow-up evaluations for individuals who are past the acute phase of recovery from neurological injury. Providers in this clinic work closely with the pediatric epilepsy team at The Johns Hopkins Hospital (JHH) and the rehabilitation team at Kennedy Krieger to ensure comprehensive treatment planning and recommendations.

Oncology

Residents conduct neuropsychological assessments of children and adolescents who are currently undergoing cancer treatment or have survived cancer. Primary patient populations include individuals treated for leukemia and brain tumors, who are typically referred by JHH's Pediatric Oncology Services and Survivorship Program. Evaluation types include preradiation and presurgical baseline assessments and mid- or post-treatment follow-up evaluations. Through assessments, rounds and attendance at the JHH weekly multidisciplinary pediatric neuro-oncology conference, residents gain knowledge of and experience with a variety of cancer presentations and treatment types.

REHABILITATION CONTINUUM OF CARE

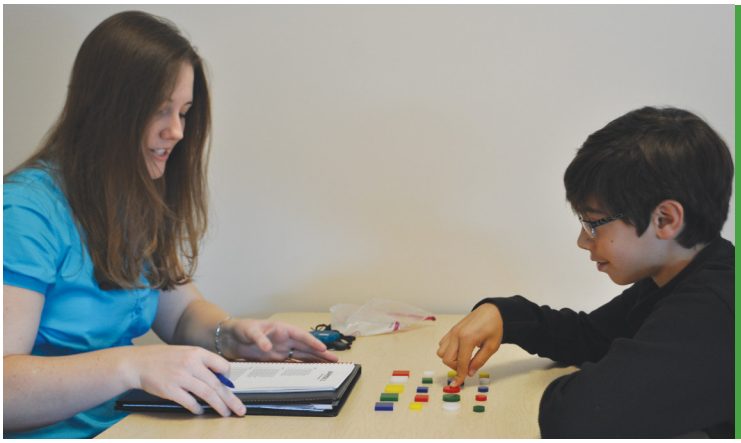
The Rehabilitation Continuum of Care (RCC) provides comprehensive interdisciplinary rehabilitation services to children and adolescents with brain and spinal cord injuries, cerebral palsy (primarily postorthopedic surgery) and other neurodevelopmental disabilities. Residents gain experience in both inpatient and outpatient settings within the RCC.

Inpatient Neurorehabilitation

Within this rotation, residents focus on evaluating and treating children with traumatic or acquired brain injuries who are admitted to the Institute's inpatient rehabilitation unit for neurorehabilitation. Residents are part of an interdisciplinary treatment

"The commitment to teaching and training goes well beyond formal clinical activities and didactics. In daily interactions, the supervisors are intentional about fostering trainees' knowledge and skills in pediatric neuropsychology yet are incredibly supportive and collegial. This creates a training environment that is highly enriching."

– Neuropsychology resident



"One of the main things that attracted me to Kennedy Krieger's neuropsychology program was the breadth and depth provided by the different rotations and the quality of training. Of course, I was also very excited about the research being done here."

– Neuropsychology resident

team, and their responsibilities include conducting neuropsychological evaluations, offering education and recommendations to family and staff members, providing cognitive rehabilitation and supportive psychological services, and assisting with treatment and discharge planning. Residents also evaluate children with a range of other disorders who are admitted to the inpatient rehabilitation unit for a variety of medical conditions, including spinal cord injuries and chronic pain disorders.

Outpatient Neurorehabilitation

This outpatient neurorehabilitation experience provides the opportunity for the resident to be part of two interdisciplinary treatment teams within our RCC. Residents obtain experience in outpatient neurorehabilitation as part of two rotations. During one rotation, residents spend four days a week in a comprehensive day hospital setting (Specialized Transition Program). This rotation also includes one day every other week in an outpatient specialty clinic. During a second rotation, residents spend one day a week in an interdisciplinary clinic (Concussion Clinic). This rotation also includes one day a week in an outpatient specialty clinic. These settings are described as follows:

Specialized Transition Program (STP): STP is Kennedy Krieger's comprehensive rehabilitation day hospital. The program strives to transition children and adolescents undergoing intensive neurorehabilitation back into their homes, communities and schools. Working as part of an interdisciplinary treatment team, primarily with children and adolescents recovering from acquired brain injuries and managing chronic pain conditions, residents' responsibilities include conducting comprehensive neuropsychological evaluations, providing consultation to families and the team, facilitating group-based intervention to adolescents managing chronic health conditions, and assisting with treatment and discharge planning. Based on interest, the resident may also provide individual and group-based psychological and neuropsychological interventions, including cognitive rehabilitation. Opportunities will also be available to work with children diagnosed with a wide range of complex neurodevelopmental disabilities.

Concussion Clinic: The Concussion Clinic is an interdisciplinary clinic that provides focused evaluation and management of mild traumatic brain injuries within a fast-paced clinic setting. Residents work as part of a clinic's treatment team that includes neuropsychologists, physicians (neurologists or physical medicine and rehabilitation physicians), nurse practitioners and nurses. Residents play an active role in decisions regarding returning to sports and other activities following injury, and collaborate with schools and athletic training staff members. Residents in this clinic will follow their patients from initial injury to recovery through serial assessments and consultations.

ADDITIONAL INTERDISCIPLINARY SETTINGS

Kennedy Krieger School Programs

Residents provide assessment and consultation in a nationally recognized, nonpublic special education day school. Residents work with students who have a variety of diagnoses and federal classifications, including autism spectrum disorder (ASD), learning disabilities, emotional and behavioral disorders, speech-language impairments, intellectual disabilities, and other health conditions, such as seizures and traumatic brain injuries. Learning opportunities include special education law and consultation and collaboration with educators and other related service providers in an interdisciplinary setting.

Center for Autism Services, Science and Innovation (CASSI™)

Residents work within an interdisciplinary team of professionals in speech-language pathology, occupational therapy, social work and medicine to provide diagnostic clarification for children with ASD and various other complex medical and behavioral conditions. Residents also participate in independent neuropsychological evaluations and consult with providers, schools and therapists, both within the Institute and throughout the community. Exposure to treatment (e.g., social skills groups) and the Autism Diagnostic Observation Schedule-2 (ADOS-2) is also incorporated into the rotation. The center is a federally funded National Center of Excellence, with research programs actively investigating early detection and intervention for ASD, standards of practice for ASD centers, sensory-motor functioning and a variety of other topics.

Minor Clinical Training

In addition to the major rotations, our program also offers minor rotations (up to one day a week) in specific areas chosen by the resident. Minor experiences can be used to broaden training experiences or provide more in-depth experience in one or two areas. Possible minor experiences are available in the following areas:

Focused Clinical Services: Residents train alongside faculty members who work closely with specialized pediatric populations (e.g., those with epilepsy, cancer or congenital heart disease).

Clinical Programs and Consultation Services: These programs provide residents with opportunities to work within an interdisciplinary treatment team providing neuropsychological evaluations, treatment and consultation (e.g., Center for Spina Bifida and Related Conditions, Brain Injury Follow-Up Clinic, Sickle Cell Neurodevelopmental Clinic, Infant Neurodevelopment Center).

Adult Neuropsychology: Residents train with rehabilitation neuropsychologists through the Johns Hopkins Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation (with emphasis on assessment and treatment of individuals with brain injury, spinal cord injury, transplant, stroke and post-tumor resection) or with adult neuropsychologists in the Johns Hopkins Division of Medical Psychology (with emphasis on assessment and treatment of adult neuropsychiatric conditions, dementia and epilepsy).

Research: Trainees may participate in ongoing research projects involving neurobehavioral assessment of children with central nervous system dysfunction.

Supervision and Evaluation

Postdoctoral residents receive supervision both individually (two hours minimum per week) and in group format (two hours minimum per week). Primary supervision is provided by licensed psychologists with specialty training in clinical neuropsychology, nine of whom are board-certified in clinical neuropsychology through the American Board of Professional Psychology. Five supervisors have additionally obtained subspecialty certification in pediatric clinical neuropsychology. Group supervision focuses on presenting cases, demonstrating new assessment techniques, and

Sample Schedule of Major Rotations for Incoming Fellows

Fellow	Year 1			Year 2		
	Sept.–Dec.	Jan.–Apr.	May–Aug.	Sept.–Dec.	Jan.–Apr.	May–Aug.
1	Outpatient Specialty Clinics	School Programs/ Outpatient	Inpatient Neurorehab	CASSI	Concussion/ Outpatient	STP
2	Concussion/ Outpatient	CASSI	School Programs/ Outpatient	Inpatient Neurorehab	STP	Outpatient Specialty Clinics
3	School Programs/ Outpatient	Outpatient Specialty Clinics	CASSI	STP	Inpatient Neurorehab	Concussion/ Outpatient

reviewing current research and methods. Each resident's major rotation supervisor evaluates the resident's progress every two months and provides written feedback every four months.

Interdisciplinary Training

Support from the Maternal and Child Health Bureau's Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental and Other Related Disabilities (LEND) program has allowed us to create and maintain an interdisciplinary training model. Neuropsychology residents are part of Kennedy Krieger's LEND program, which includes pediatrics, social work, occupational and physical therapy, speech-language pathology, nutrition, neurology, physiatry, psychiatry, education and audiology. Our residents also actively participate in a structured series of interdisciplinary seminars, rounds and clinics. To ensure comprehensive interdisciplinary training, all trainees complete an individualized training plan (ITP).

Didactic Experiences

Neuropsychology trainees participate in a wide range of didactic seminars and grand rounds, both at Kennedy Krieger and through the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine and the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health. Primary didactic training in pediatric neuropsychology is achieved through a weekly series of seminars, including:

- Neuropsychology Seminar
- Professional Development Series
- Neuropsychology Case Conference
- Pediatric Neurology Grand Rounds

See our list of weekly training opportunities and the schedule of neuropsychology seminars and professional development events on Pages 10–12 for details.

Research

Postdoctoral residents are provided with opportunities to participate in or develop their own research projects within the fields of neuropsychology or neurodevelopmental disabilities. While our fellowship is primarily a clinical experience, residents also have the opportunity to present research at national and international meetings, and most have at least one national presentation and one peer-reviewed paper in press by the end of the residency. Research opportunities are available through the mentorship of faculty members and researchers throughout the Kennedy Krieger and Johns Hopkins research community.

See the list of recent publications and descriptions of core faculty members for details on current research opportunities.

Administrative Structure

Dr. Megan Kramer is the director of training for the postdoctoral residency program in pediatric neuropsychology. The postdoctoral program is based in CNaP. Drs. Cynthia Salorio and Alison Prichard are the department's co-directors. Dr. Lisa Jacobson is the director of research. Dr. Beth Slomine serves as the assistant vice president of psychology and oversees psychology training and faculty development in CNaP, CASSI, the Center for Developmental Behavioral Health and the Center for Child and Family Traumatic Stress. Dr. Miya Asato is the vice president of training and directs the Institute's nationally recognized LEND program, which provides graduate-level, interdisciplinary training to clinicians with an interest in neurodevelopmental disabilities.

All training supervisors in the Pediatric Neuropsychology Postdoctoral Training Program have extensive clinical experience in pediatric neuropsychology. Most of our core training supervisors hold academic faculty appointments through either the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences or the Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation at the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine.

Fostering Leadership

The postdoctoral residency is designed to create leaders in the field of neuropsychology. Through didactic learning opportunities and clinical experiences, our residents acquire valuable skills in evidence-based best practices, independent research, teaching, supervision, advocacy and training.

Residents present at Institute-sponsored seminars and at local, national and international conferences. All residents participate in teaching and training activities within CNaP. Residents also receive exposure to supervision of graduate students and doctoral interns.

Benefits

The neuropsychology residency training period begins each year on Sept. 1. The current annual salary for residents is $62,132. Residents receive appointments through the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine. Kennedy Krieger provides individual health insurance benefits. Spousal and family coverage is also available. In addition, Johns Hopkins Medicine University Health Services offers comprehensive ambulatory medical care for residents and their dependents, with services provided by faculty and professional staff members. Residents are entitled to 15 vacation days a year, in addition to the eight annual holidays observed at the Institute. Support for travel and professional conferences is provided. We follow the Johns Hopkins School of Medicine policies for postdoctoral trainees for Health Care and Sick Leave, and for any extended leave, including new child accommodations and non-medical leave of absence. All residents are given individual office space, including a computer with online access to The Johns Hopkins University's medical library system and online full-text access to university journal subscriptions. A full range of scoring programs, dictation software and statistical packages is maintained in CNaP.

Visit **KennedyKrieger.org/Neuropsych-Training** for more information about Kennedy Krieger's Pediatric Neuropsychology Residency Program and application guidelines.

About Kennedy Krieger

In 1967, Kennedy Krieger became the nation's first University Affiliated Program (now known as University Centers for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities, Education, Research, and Service, or UCEDD). It serves today as a model for similar programs throughout the country. It is affiliated with The Johns Hopkins University and is located close to the Johns Hopkins medical campus in downtown Baltimore, Maryland.

Licensed for 70 inpatient beds and with more than 55 outpatient specialty clinics, Kennedy Krieger serves as a training and research center for hundreds of healthcare providers, including physicians, psychologists and allied health professionals. We take an interdisciplinary team approach to diagnosing and treating complex neurological disorders and neurodevelopmental disabilities.

All major residency rotations occur within the Institute's inpatient and outpatient programs or in Kennedy Krieger School Programs.

CNaP Core Training Supervisors

Richard Boada, PhD, ABPP

Neuropsychologist, CNaP
Associate Professor of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences
BoadaR@KennedyKrieger.org

Dr. Boada provides clinical neuropsychological services for patients, and training and supervision for postdoctoral residents, through the outpatient Epilepsy and Acquired Brain Injury Clinic. He has specific experience and expertise in working with patients who have had epilepsy surgery, patients who have had a childhood stroke, patients with sex chromosome aneuploidy (SCA) and patients who are bilingual (Spanish-English). Dr. Boada's research focuses on the cognitive and genetic underpinnings and comorbidity among speech, language and reading disorders, as well as neuropsychological outcomes in children with epilepsy, stroke and SCAs. He serves on the editorial board of Child Neuropsychology and has been a principal investigator (PI), co-PI or co-investigator on various National Institutes of Health (NIH)-funded grants over the past 20 years. Recent papers include a review of childhood stroke outcomes and a paper on culturally-informed neuropsychological evaluations in pediatric epilepsy.

Carolyn Caldwell, PhD

Neuropsychologist, CNaP
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Dr. Caldwell is the primary supervisor for postdoctoral residents in the interdisciplinary Concussion Clinic, part of the Rehabilitation Continuum of Care at Kennedy Krieger. Dr. Caldwell is also a primary supervisor for the Congenital/Genetic Conditions Outpatient Major Rotation. She provides clinical neuropsychological services through CNaP's outpatient specialty clinics, including the Congenital/Genetic Conditions Clinic. Dr. Caldwell also provides outpatient neuropsychological evaluations through the interdisciplinary Infant Neurodevelopment Center. In addition, Dr. Caldwell is a member of the

interdisciplinary Craniofacial Clinic team at the Johns Hopkins Hospital. Her primary research interests include neuropsychological outcomes following pediatric brain injuries across the range of injury severity, performance validity measures, reliable change methodology and evaluating the impact of sleep following pediatric brain injury.

Emma Cole, PhD, ABPP-SP, NCSP

Neuropsychologist, CNaP and Kennedy Krieger School Programs
Assistant Professor of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences
ColeEM@KennedyKrieger.org

Dr. Cole supervises the training of neuropsychology postdoctoral residents within Kennedy Krieger School Programs. She is a credentialed school psychologist and has worked as a school psychologist in multiple public school districts, and as a pediatric neuropsychologist in an outpatient hospital setting. She primarily oversees the neuropsychology services at Kennedy Krieger's four schools, which serve students from 5 to 21 years old. In her role, Dr. Cole provides special education team-initiated assessments to students with a wide array of emotional, behavioral, neurodevelopmental, medical and genetic conditions. She also completes outpatient evaluations through CNaP. She has expertise in special education law, the assessment of children for educational services, the assessment of lower-functioning and/or behaviorally disruptive children, and the transition of students with disabilities to postsecondary settings. Her research interests include factors affecting postsecondary outcomes for students with disabilities and the development of advocacy skills in students with disabilities.

Lisa Jacobson, PhD, ABPP

Director, Informatics and Research Data Governance
Director of Research, CNaP
Associate Professor of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences
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Dr. Jacobson coordinates the Oncology Clinic within the department's outpatient specialty services and supervises postdoctoral residents within this clinic. Dr. Jacobson's research interests include characterizing how the developing executive functions of children interact with their developmental contexts at home and school to influence brain development and neurobehavioral functioning.

Her research interests include disorders affecting executive function (e.g., attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder [ADHD], spina bifida, cancers and cancer treatment) and children at risk for developing executive dysfunction. She is developing clinical screening tools for identifying children with neurocognitive difficulties, which can be used as part of typical medical care visits for specific clinical populations. She also has a funded project partnering with cancer survivors, their families and related service providers to examine factors influencing the transition back to full-time schooling after treatment. She has collaborated on Institute projects examining response variability in children with ADHD, characteristics of attentional disorders in referred children, influences of working memory and response variability on reading fluency in ADHD, executive function in patients with spina bifida, and validation of the Kennedy Krieger Independence Scales' Spina Bifida (KKIS-SB) and Sickle Cell Disease (KKIS-SCD) versions.

Kelly E. Jones, PhD, ABPP

Neuropsychologist, CNaP
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Dr. Jones provides training and supervision to doctoral interns and postdoctoral residents. She also provides clinical neuropsychological services to children throughout Kennedy Krieger's Rehabilitation Continuum of Care, including the Pediatric Rehabilitation Unit, the interdisciplinary Brain Injury Clinic and CNaP's outpatient Epilepsy and Acquired Brain Injury Clinic. She specializes in children and adolescents with acquired brain injury, with specific clinical and research interests in pediatric neuroimmunological disorders.

Megan Kramer, PhD, ABPP

Training Director, Postdoctoral Fellowship in Pediatric Neuropsychology
Associate Training Director, Doctoral Internship Training Program in Behavioral Psychology and Neuropsychology
Assistant Professor of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences
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Dr. Kramer serves as training director for postdoctoral residents in pediatric neuropsychology. She also serves as associate director of training for Kennedy Krieger's Doctoral Internship Training Program in Behavioral Psychology and Neuropsychology. Dr. Kramer provides training and supervision to doctoral interns and postdoctoral residents on the Pediatric Rehabilitation Unit, and mentorship to psychologists at the Institute who are pursuing board certification. She also provides clinical neuropsychological services to children throughout Kennedy Krieger's Rehabilitation Continuum of Care. She primarily works in the inpatient neurorehabilitation unit. She has a clinical interest in evidence-based cognitive rehabilitation interventions. Her research interests involve measuring and predicting outcomes across the range and severity of pediatric acquired brain injury.

Danielle Ploetz, PhD, ABPP

Neuropsychologist, CNaP and Fairmount Rehabilitation Programs
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Dr. Ploetz provides training and supervision for postdoctoral residents. She is also a board-certified clinical neuropsychologist with a subspecialty certification in pediatric neuropsychology. She provides neuropsychological evaluations and interventions for children and adolescents recovering from a wide range of acquired brain injuries, including traumatic brain injury, stroke, encephalopathies and brain tumors. She also works with patients who have other congenital, acquired and neurodevelopmental disorders, including cerebral palsy, seizure disorders, spina bifida, spinal cord injuries and chronic health conditions (e.g., pain, long COVID-19 and POTS). Research interests include performance and symptom validity testing in pediatric populations, program evaluation and evaluating neuropsychological outcomes following pediatric brain injury.

Shruti Rane, PhD, ABPP

Neuropsychologist, CNaP
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Dr. Rane provides training and supervision to postdoctoral fellows. She also provides clinical neuropsychological services to pediatric cancer survivors. Dr. Rane's additional areas of expertise include assessment of children and adolescents diagnosed with epilepsy as well as neurodevelopmental disorders. She sees patients in CNaP's outpatient clinics. Dr. Rane has worked overseas as a neuropsychologist and is interested in cross-cultural neuropsychology.

Elgiz Sener, PhD, ABPP

Neuropsychologist and Assistant Clinical Director, CASSI
Sener@KennedyKrieger.org

Dr. Sener provides supervision for postdoctoral residents during their rotation through CASSI. She also provides neuropsychological assessments for children, adolescents and young adults with ASD and a variety of comorbid developmental, psychiatric, genetic and medical conditions. She specializes in working with individuals with a range of abilities, as well as adolescents who will soon be transitioning to young adulthood. She provides comprehensive evaluations, both individually and as part of interdisciplinary teams. Her primary clinical interests include diagnostic differentiation of ASD from ADHD and intellectual disability, as well as assisting autistic youth (and their families) during their transition to adulthood.

Ericka Wodka, PhD, ABPP

Clinical Director, CASSI
Associate Professor of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences
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Dr. Wodka is a board-certified neuropsychologist with subspecialty certification in pediatric neuropsychology. She is the primary supervisor for the postdoctoral residency in neuropsychology at CASSI. Professional affiliations include serving on the editorial board for Pediatric Psychology and Archives of Clinical Neuropsychology, and she is an associate editor for Neuropsychology Review. Her research interests include examining motor development, attention and other aspects of higher-order cognitive processes in neurodevelopmental disorders, particularly ASD. She is the site principal investigator for a national study examining the genetic causes of ASD, and a collaborator on an externally funded project examining motor functioning and imitation in ASD. She has also presented and published findings related to the relationship between attention and sensory functioning in ASD, as well as sex differences and language outcomes for children with ASD and severe language delays. Other research interests include examining differences in children with ASD, with and without co-occurring conditions (e.g., anxiety, ADHD and aggression).

T. Andrew Zabel, PhD, ABPP

Assistant Vice President of Clinical Research and Quality Improvement
Associate Professor of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences
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Dr. Zabel is a board-certified clinical neuropsychologist who supervises trainees at the postdoctoral level. Professional affiliations include serving on the editorial boards of Assessment and The Clinical Neuropsychologist, as well as the advisory boards for the Spina Bifida Association and the Hydrocephalus Association. Dr. Zabel's clinical specialization includes the adaptive and neuropsychological functioning of individuals with congenital and acquired disorders of the brain's white matter. Specific areas of expertise include hydrocephalus, spina bifida, Sturge-Weber syndrome and cerebral palsy. In his role as the Institute's assistant vice president of clinical research and quality improvement, Dr. Zabel provides technical assistance to multiple disciplines and programs across Kennedy Krieger to help them capture clinical data and use it for ongoing quality improvement.

Faculty Research Supervisors

In addition to the core training supervisors listed, several faculty members in the department—including Beth Slomine, PhD, ABPP; Cynthia Salorio, PhD, ABPP; Natasha Ludwig, PhD; Rowena Ng, PhD; Rachel Peterson, PhD, ABPP; and Adrian Svingos, PhD—also provide research mentorship to fellows.

Weekly Training Opportunities

Neuropsychology teaching rounds are rotation/clinic-specific and occur daily. Below are selected training and didactic opportunities.

TUESDAY

7:30–8:30 a.m.	PNO Rounds (Pediatric Neuro-Oncology/Neurosurgery Rounds)
8:30–10 a.m.	EMU Rounds (JHH Epilepsy Monitoring Unit Multidisciplinary Rounds)
9–10:30 a.m.	Kennedy Krieger Institute Core Course Interdisciplinary Seminar in Developmental Disabilities
11 a.m.–12 p.m.	Pediatric Neuropsychology Case Conference
12–1 p.m.	Neuropsychiatry Case Conference
4–5 p.m.	Neuropsychology Seminar

WEDNESDAY

8–9 a.m.	Johns Hopkins Pediatric Neurology Grand Rounds
4–5 p.m.	CNaP Professional Development Seminar

THURSDAY

12–1 p.m.	Kennedy Krieger Institute Grand Rounds
2–3 p.m.	Neuro-PICU Rounds (Neurology-Pediatric Intensive Care Unit Rounds)

FRIDAY

1–2 p.m.	Neurosciences Intensive Care Nursery Rounds

"My training at Kennedy Krieger Institute has prepared me to think outside of the box, consider all possibilities, search for information when I'm unsure and consult when necessary. There have been moments when I have been surprised by the knowledge I have stored in my head somewhere, and I know that much of that knowledge came from my training at Kennedy Krieger. I greatly miss didactics and having that knowledge poured into me, but I am thankful that I learned when and how to seek information independently."

– Neuropsychology resident

Neuropsychology Seminar Series

Sample Schedule of Seminar Series Seminars Take Place Every Tuesday		
DATE	**TOPIC**	**SPEAKER**
Week 1	Becoming a Neuropsychologist	Beth Slomine, PhD, ABPP
Week 2	Room to Grow: Journey to Cultural and Linguistic Competency	
Week 3	Early Brain Development	Gwendolyn Gerner, PsyD
Week 4	Learning and Memory	Second-Year Fellow
Week 5	Psychometrics Review	Andrew Zabel, PhD, ABPP
Week 6	Attention and Executive Functioning	Second-Year Fellow
Week 7	Language and Auditory System	Second-Year Fellow
Week 8	Functional Neuroanatomy and Neurobehavioral Syndromes	Rachel Peterson, PhD, ABPP
Week 9	Neurological Exam	Kennedy Krieger Neurologist
Week 10	Vasculature	Alicia Cannon, PhD, ABPP
Week 11	Neuropsychology of Emotion	First-Year Fellow
Week 12	Motor System	First-Year Fellow
Week 13	Pediatric Neuroimaging	External Speaker
Week 14	Visual System and Perception	First-Year Fellow
Week 15	Cross-Cultural Neuropsychology	Christina Love, PsyD, and Rowena Ng, PhD
Week 16	No Seminar	

Professional Development Seminars

Sample Schedule of Development Seminar Series Seminars Take Place Every Wednesday		
DATE	**TOPIC**	**SPEAKER**
Week 1	Welcome and Introductions	Trainees and Faculty/Staff Members
Week 2	Welch Medical Library Resources	Elisheva Wecker, MLS
Week 3	Research Projects in the Department	Panel of Faculty Members
Week 4	CNaP's Race, Equity, and Diversity (READ) Committee: Introduction and Discussion	READ Committee Leaders
Week 5	Overview of the Board Certification Process	Megan Kramer, PhD, ABPP
Week 6	Project HEAL and Legal Updates Related to COVID-19	Maureen van Stone, Esq.
Week 7	Transition Planning for Students With Disabilities	Alyssa Thorn, Esq., and Mallory Legg, Esq.
Week 8	Billing and Insurance	Kelly Jones, PhD, ABPP
Week 9	EPPP/Licensure	Current Fellows
Week 10	Mentorship	Shalena Heard, PhD; Danielle Ploetz, PhD, ABPP; Carolyn Caldwell, PhD; and Shruti Rane, PhD, ABPP
Week 11	State of Maryland School Systems and Recommendations for Reports	Lisa Carey, MA, and Julie Gardner, MA
Week 12	THANKSGIVING – NO SEMINAR	
Week 13	Fact Finding	Second-Year Fellow Brings Case
Week 14	How to Construct a Job Talk	Calliope Hollingue, MPH, PhD; Danielle Wexler, PhD; Rachel Peterson, PhD, ABPP; and Rowena Ng, PhD
Week 15	Report-Writing Efficiency	Cynthia Salorio, PhD, ABPP; Andrew Zabel, PhD, ABPP; Natasha Ludwig, PhD; and Dasal Jashar, PhD
Week 16	Branding and Marketing: Considerations for the Postdoc Job Market	Rachel Peterson, PhD, ABPP; Rowena Ng, PhD; Shalena Heard, PhD; and Emma Cole, PhD
Week 17	WINTER BREAK – NO SEMINAR	

Clinical Research in CNaP

Overview

CNaP boasts a robust clinical research program, offering many opportunities for trainee involvement in research.

Faculty members in CNaP are engaged in research projects funded by national organizations such as the NIH and the Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI), and by local and national foundations. These studies engage collaborators across Kennedy Krieger, Johns Hopkins and external sites and cover a very broad range of topics, but all are in the service of understanding and managing the neurodevelopmental conditions that affect children. These ongoing projects often represent rich research opportunities for trainees.

In addition, faculty and staff members in CNaP participate in clinical research and quality improvement projects that make use of the department's extensive clinical database, which houses neuropsychological test scores, demographic data and other clinical information on tens of thousands of our pediatric patients. Trainees frequently are involved in projects that make use of these data, often presenting their findings at conferences or in the form of manuscripts in peer-reviewed journals. See the list of department publications for examples of publications by recent trainees.

In addition to these opportunities to be involved in specific research projects, the department hosts a weekly Journal Club, in which faculty members, staff members and trainees discuss a preselected journal article's content and methodological merits. Monthly, the department also hosts Discovery Rounds, in which members of the department share ideas and questions, build collaboration around information and data use, and generate evidence-based ways to provide even better care to our patients.

"The variety of training opportunities along the Rehabilitation Continuum of Care is one aspect that I believe sets this fellowship apart from the others. And it's clear by the number of board-certified clinical neuropsychologists in the department that the emphasis is on providing the highest quality training in clinical neuropsychology."

– Neuropsychology resident

Recent Publications

2020 to present

PEER-REVIEWED ARTICLES:

(Supervising faculty in **purple**; residents in **bold black**)

Riggall, E. A., **Slomine, B. S.**, Suskauer, S. J., Borda, A., Lahey, S., & **Ludwig, N. N.** (2024). Caregiver and family functioning after pediatric disorder of consciousness: Telephone-based outcome assessment. *Brain Injury, 38*(2):99–107. https://doi.org/10.1080/02699052.2024.2304884

Gray, J. M., **Kramer, M. E.**, Suskauer, S. J., & **Slomine, B. S.** (2023). Functional recovery during inpatient rehabilitation in children with anoxic or hypoxic brain injury. *Archives of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, 104(6),* 918–924. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.apmr.2023.01.018

Jones, K. E., **Nyman-Mallis, T. M.**, **Ploetz, D. M.**, Staples, G., & Benjaminov, A. (2023). Relationship between self-reported symptoms and neuropsychological performance in school-aged children and adolescents with mild traumatic brain injury. *Translational Issues in Psychological Science, 9*(1), 92–101. https://doi.org/10.1037/tps0000351

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BOOK CHAPTERS:

(Supervising faculty in **purple**; residents in **black**)

Shishido, Y., & **Zabel, T. A.** (2022). Pediatric Conditions with Hydrocephalus. In Beauchamp, Peterson, Ris, Taylor & Yeates (Eds.), *Pediatric Neuropsychology* (3rd ed.).

ABSTRACTS AND PRESENTATIONS:

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Gioia, A. R., **Jacobson, L. A.**, Acharya, S., & **Peterson, R.** (2024). *Comparison of social determinants of health measures on IQ and academic outcomes in pediatric brain tumors* [Oral presentation]. International Society for Pediatric Neuro-oncology Conference, Philadelphia, PA.

Gioia, A. R., **Jacobson, L. A.**, Acharya, S., & **Peterson, R.** (2024). *Social determinants of health predict neuropsychological outcomes in pediatric brain tumor survivors* [Poster presentation]. International Society for Pediatric Neuro-oncology Conference, Philadelphia, PA.

Nitta, M. E., Busch, T. A., Suskauer, S. J., & **Slomine, B. S.** (2024). *Initial use of the Coma Recovery Scale for Pediatrics (CRS-P) in young children with disorders of consciousness* [Poster presentation]. Annual meeting of the International Neuropsychological Society (INS), New York, NY.

Engelmann, M. L., **Jacobson, L. A.**, & **Salorio, C. F.** (2023). *Cognitive disengagement syndrome (CDS; sluggish cognitive tempo) in pediatric epilepsy* [Poster presentation]. Annual meeting of the International Neuropsychological Society (INS), San Diego, CA.

Albert, P., Hommer, R., Gerner, G., **Kramer, M.**, & **Ludwig, N. N.** (2023). *Accommodations of the Bayley Scales of Infant and Toddler Development, Cognitive Scale for Children with Cortical Vision Impairment* [Poster presentation]. Annual meeting of the American Academy of Clinical Neuropsychology (AACN), Washington, DC.

Ploetz, D. M., **Ritchie, K. A.**, **Caldwell, C. T.**, Suskauer, S. J., & **Slomine, B. S.** (2022). *Parent-reported symptoms in children with noncredible cognitive performance post mild traumatic brain injury: Learning from clinical data* [Poster presentation]. International Brain Injury Association Joint Conference on Brain Injury, New York, NY.

Jones, K., **Jacobson, L.**, **Zabel, T.**, & **Ludwig, N. N.** (2022). *Examining the relationship between IQ, adaptive functioning, and parental self-efficacy* [Poster presentation]. International Neuropsychological Society Annual Conference, New Orleans, LA.

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"What initially drew me to Kennedy Krieger Institute was the comprehensive training available through the major rotations, the ability to supplement and individualize experiences through the minor rotations, and the excellent and knowledgeable supervisors. I have also been impressed by how open the faculty has been to involving fellows in both existing and new research projects. The variety of experiences, perspectives and training support at Kennedy Krieger Institute has been invaluable to my development as a pediatric neuropsychologist."

– Neuropsychology resident

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