



Postdoctoral Fellowship in Autism

Center for Autism

Children's National Hospital

Washington, DC and Rockville, MD

Sept 1, 2024- Aug 31, 2025

Fellowship Training Overview

We offer a one-year, full time fellowship at the Center for Autism Spectrum Disorders (CASD), with the option to extend another year based on fellow interest. We value trainee diversity, cultural competence, and ability to contribute to our work with diverse and underserved populations. We are deeply committed to training, which combines



clinical, didactic, and research activities to prepare you for a career in clinical- academic psychology. We provide focused experience in the evaluation and treatment of

children and adolescents with autism and related conditions across age and abilities. The fellow will also participate in weekly didactics, case conferences, and individual and group supervision. We offer protected time (minimum 20%) for mentored research activities.

The Center for Autism

CASD is a part of the Division of Pediatric Neuropsychology at Children's National, serving over 3,000 patients annually, drawing from across the region and internationally. CASD specializes in evaluation, treatment, and advocacy for children with autism. Children of all ages are seen in multidisciplinary teams and treatment programs. We offer training at the externship, internship, and post-doctoral levels. Services are provided by psychology, neuropsychology, psychiatry, neurodevelopmental pediatrics, and speech and language pathology. CASD has an active research program, with many

clinicians involved in funded research, receiving \$5.6 million of translational research funding. Our research focuses on: the development and evaluation of autism-specific treatments; addressing disparities in access to care by delivering school-based interventions and providing professional mentoring to embedded psychologists in primary care settings and community providers by hosting ECHO Autism clinics; identifying and supporting executive function challenges; embracing neurodiversity and welcoming autistic individuals as collaborators and trainees; and investigating autism in females and transgender/ gender diverse individuals as an NIMH Autism Center of Excellence. CASD serves families at regional outpatient centers in Maryland and DC with a broad catchment area as a tertiary care center, spanning several states in the mid-Atlantic. CASD is a participating site in the Autism & Developmental Disabilities Monitoring Network for the state of Maryland. Our clinic serves a culturally and clinically diverse population, ranging from toddlers to young adults, and presenting with varying cognitive ability and a wide range of co-occurring clinical and medical conditions.



*Division of Neuropsychology
office in Rockville, MD*

About Children's National Hospital

Serving the nation's children since 1870, Children's National is ranked the #1 pediatric hospital in the DC-MD-VA region and one of the 10 pediatric hospitals in the country. Children's National offers services at the main hospital in the District of Columbia and at regional satellites throughout the D.C. area. Home to the [Children's Research Institute](#) and the [Sheikh Zayed Institute for Pediatric Surgical Innovation](#), Children's National is the seventh-highest NIH-funded pediatric institution in the nation. Children's National is recognized for its expertise and innovation in pediatric care and as a strong voice for children through advocacy at the local, regional and national levels. See www.childrensnational.org for more information.

The atrium of Children's National – main hospital campus



Clinical Experiences

Our faculty is committed to excellence in clinical care and training. In this spirit, we believe both evaluation and treatment rotations are fundamental to well-rounded training in ASD. At the same time, ***clinical training experiences are personalized to the fellow's goals and interests***. Training rotations include a combination of core and elective opportunities:

- **ASD Diagnostic Evaluation (core)**: Fellows receive extensive training in ASD assessment across the lifespan (ages 12 months – young adult) and will develop facility with various diagnostic tools including ADOS-2, CARS-2, and ADI-R, as well as evaluation using telemedicine.
- **Cognitive Behavioral Intervention (core)**: Fellows will co-lead an interdisciplinary executive functioning group-based intervention for school-age children with ASD, working with our speech/language pathologists and/or provide individual psychotherapy.
- **Psychological/ Neuropsychological Evaluation (elective)**: Fellows will have the opportunity to gain experience in assessment of cognitive and learning abilities in autistic youth across age ranges (preschool clinic) and ability levels (minimally verbal clinic, neuropsychological evaluation clinic).
- **Gender and Autism Evaluation (elective)**: Fellows who pursue this optional elective will receive training in the intersection of autism and gender diversity. They will work with the Gender and Autism Program team and learn about assessing and supporting neurodivergent/gender diverse youth.
- **Other Specialized Opportunities (elective)**:
 - Assessment with medically complex populations.
 - Spanish Training Emphasis Program (STEP) provides training with bilingual supervisors to increase trainees' confidence, competence, and comfort in serving Spanish-speaking families with the aim of addressing disparities for Latinx patients and families.

Research Experiences

Our fellows will have at least one day a week (usually 25-30% time) of protected time for research with weekly research team meetings. Fellows are matched to an existing research project based on interest, experience, and availability. Each fellow is assigned a



Faculty at Children's National have authored multiple assessment tools, a research-based treatment program for children with autism spectrum disorders, and several apps for concussion recognition and response.

primary research mentor to guide their experience. The Fellow is encouraged to be an active member of their research team and is supported in presenting at professional conferences, as well as pursuing scholarship in manuscript development and/ or grant application, driven by trainee interest and research goals. Fellows with strong interest in pursuing a career in academic medicine can be supported to extend their fellowship into a second year, to provide additional opportunities for research training and mentorship.

Didactic and Professional Development Experiences

Our fellowship offers specialized ASD-focused didactics and professional development activities. Most of these meetings can be attended remotely via video teleconference.

- Monthly reliability trainings in gold-standard diagnostic measures (e.g., ADOS-2, etc.)
- At least two hours of individual supervision weekly.
- Monthly Group Assessment Supervision focusing on case formulation, report writing, feedbacks, DEI issues, neurodiversity & transition-age youth
- Weekly didactic/ professional development multidisciplinary meetings that include didactic presentations, guest speakers, and case discussions.
- Fellows will have the option to participate in the *Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental and Related Disabilities Fellowship at Children's National (LEND-CN)*. This interdisciplinary program includes

didactics, interdisciplinary clinical practice, applied experiences, and opportunities for scholarship.

- Additional opportunities through our division and the larger medical center include: neuropsychological seminar series, Hospital Grand Rounds, Behavioral Medicine Grand Rounds, Children's Research Institute Seminars, and IDDRS Seminars.

Supervision and Teaching Opportunities

The fellow will develop teaching and supervisory skills to prepare themselves for independent practice within clinical and academic medical settings. Fellows develop their own supervisory skills with psychology externs and psychometrists. Fellows present topics within neuropsychology and CASD seminar series. Fellows can participate in community education and outreach at the local level and beyond.

Sample Postdoc Schedule

Applicants often wonder how all the above opportunities come together over the two-year period. The sample schedule below is an illustration. Actual schedules will vary depending on trainee goals and interests. Fellows participate in multiple rotations at any given time. Rotations vary in both length (6 months or 12 months) and intensity (e.g., cases weekly or twice a month).

	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri
Fall	Research Group Therapy	Research Meeting Individual & Parent therapy	Interdisciplinary Infant/Toddler eval (2/month) Didactics	Report Writing CASD Didactics	School Age DX evals (2/month) Research
Spring	Minimally Verbal evals (2/month)	Individual & Parent therapy	Interdisciplinary Infant/Toddler eval (2/month) Group Therapy	Assessment Elective (1/month) CASD Didactics	Research

COVID-19

Our training program is committed to ensuring the health and well-being of our fellows while continuing our high-level training and breadth of training opportunities. We are currently employing a hybrid model that includes in-person clinical care for most services and virtual clinical care for others. For more information about Children's National's response to coronavirus, please see our [website](#).

Salary/Benefits

Start date will be on Friday September 1, 2024. Salary will be at least \$ 56,880 for year 1 and typically increases annually. We provide a professional expense stipend of \$1,000 for conference travel, books, licensure fees, etc. Children's National offers an excellent employee benefits package. Postdoctoral Fellows receive four weeks of paid time off (vacation), nine paid holidays, and sick leave. The hospital offers a selection of health insurance plans, dental and vision coverage, flexible spending accounts, employee assistance program, paid parental leave, back-up dependent care assistance, life and disability insurance, and more. Information about all hospital benefits is available at childrensnational.org/careers/benefits/. Fellows have access to private offices with large windows and free parking across our Rockville and Takoma Park locations. The Rockville office also includes free exercise facilities in the building. We maintain scoring and statistical software, and through our academic affiliate, The George Washington University, offer online access to library resources including full-text journals.

How to Apply

Postdoctoral Applicant Qualifications:

Our application process is competitive. Applicants must have completed an APA/CPA-accredited doctoral program in psychology (Clinical Psychology preferred) and an APA/CPA-accredited clinical predoctoral internship. Competitive applicants are well-rounded clinicians in the scientist-practitioner/clinical science tradition, who clearly demonstrate:

- Strong *prior training in clinical or pediatric psychology*: Applicants should have completed two or more year-long practica / externships *and* substantial internship rotation(s) in child psychology. Formal graduate coursework and clinical didactics in this area are expected.
- Clinical experience with assessment and treatment of autistic youth: Competitive candidates have extensive experience administering gold-standard diagnostic measures (e.g., ADOS-2/ADI-R). Please be sure to describe your autism training experiences clearly in your application.
- A clear focus on working with *children and adolescents*, in prior training experiences, and in future goals.

- A record of *meaningful participation and productivity in research*. Completion of an empirical dissertation and formal coursework in statistics and research methodology in graduate school are required. Competitive candidates have peer-reviewed publications and strong skills in statistical analysis and are interested in continuing research on postdoc and beyond.
- [A commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion](#). CASD is committed to creating an inclusive environment and dismantling systems of inequity. We celebrate diversity in our trainees and our colleagues at all levels, promote cultural competence, and seek providers who strive to contribute to our work with diverse and underserved populations. Applicants from all backgrounds and communities are strongly encouraged to apply.

Application Deadline: December 15, 2023

Applications are reviewed on a rolling basis between September 15 – December 15, 2023. Applying early is encouraged.

Application Procedures:

We have an online portal for submitting your documents. You will be asked to complete our Application Form online and to upload your documents. If you start the application and want to leave and return later to complete it, please note your "Return Code," and enter it ("Returning?" link at upper right of page) when you come back to the site later.

Access the Application and Online Portal:

<https://cri-datacap.org/surveys/?s=K3L733KCKW>

Materials to be uploaded to portal by applicant:

- ☐ Letter of Interest/Personal Statement addressing clinical and research interests, goals, and perceived match to our program and focus area (s) of interest. Please include aspects of your background, experience, and/or skills that demonstrate commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion.
- ☐ Curriculum Vitae
- ☐ Two de-identified assessment reports written by the applicant

Materials to be e-mailed or mailed from other sources:

- ☐ Three letters of recommendation e-mailed directly from the recommenders. We do not accept letters sent by the applicant. Mailed hard copies should be signed across the seal of the envelope.
- ☐ Official graduate transcripts sent from your graduate institution(s), by mail or email.

Send letters of recommendation and transcripts to: Srishti Rau, PhD

E-mail: srrau@childrensnational.org

Center for Autism Spectrum Disorders (CASD)

Children's National Hospital

15245 Shady Grove Road, Suite 350

Rockville, MD 20850

Interview Notifications: Applicants will be notified of their interview status no later than January 12, 2024. Applicants who submit applications earlier may be eligible for an earlier interview date.

Interview Dates: Two or three individual interviews will be scheduled with staff members. Interviews for selected applicants can be conducted virtually or in-person, depending on the applicant's preference.

Children's National Hospital is an equal opportunity employer that evaluates qualified applicants without regard to race, color, national origin, religion, sex, age, marital status, disability, veteran status, sexual orientation, gender, identity, or other characteristics protected by law.

CASD Faculty and Staff

Neuropsychology/ Psychology Faculty



Lauren Kenworthy, PhD

Director of CASD; Division Chief
Pediatric Neuropsychologist

Interests: Non-social ASD phenotypes, genotypes, and treatment

LKenwort@childrensnational.org



Anne Inge, PhD

Clinical Director, CASD
Clinical Psychologist

Interests: Diagnostic, neurodevelopmental, and neurocognitive assessment of ASD

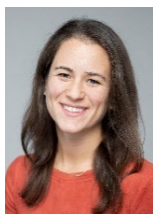
AInge@childrensnational.org

**Angela Bollich, PhD**

Neuropsychologist

Interests: ASD evaluation and treatment from school age through adulthood; language developmentABollich@childrensnational.org**Ann Clawson, PhD**

Neuropsychologist

Interests: Medical/ neurodevelopmental comorbidities of ASD, sex differences in the neuropsychology of ASDAClawson@childrensnational.org**Serene Habayeb, PhD**

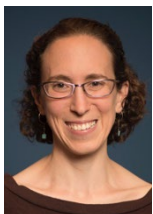
Clinical Psychologist

Interests: ASD evaluation & treatment, cultural issues, community integration of clinical services for ASDshabayeb@childrensnational.org**Marissa Miller, PhD, NCSP**

Clinical Psychologist

Interests: Preschool and school-age evaluations, group executive function interventionMmiller4@childrensnational.org**Ashley Muskett, PhD**

Clinical Psychologist

Interests: Minimally verbal youth, anxiety treatmentamuskett@childrensnational.org**Deborah Potvin, PhD, ABPP-CN**

Neuropsychologist

Interests: Early diagnosis of ASD, preschool assessmentDPotvin@childrensnational.org**Cara Pugliese, PhD**

Clinical Psychologist

Interests: Transition to adulthood, evidence-based intervention researchCPugliese@childrensnational.org**Allison Ratto, PhD**

Clinical Psychologist

Interests: Developmental evaluations, cultural factors in assessment; Spanish-language assessmentARatto@childrensnational.org**Srishti Rau, PhD**

Neuropsychologist

Interests: Prevalence of ASD in medically complex childrenSrRau@childrensnational.org**Rod Salgado, PhD**

Clinical Psychologist

Interests: Developmental evaluation, Spanish/bilingual service delivery, ASD health equityRSalgado@ChildrensNational.org**Jyssica Seebck, PhD**

Neuropsychologist

Interests: Intersection between medically complex children and ASD**John Strang, PsyD**

Neuropsychologist

Interests: Assessment/ research transgender/ gender diverse youth, transition to adulthoodJStrang@ChildrensNational.org**CASD Postdocs****Megan Graves Taylor, PsyD**

CASD Postdoctoral Fellow

megraves2@childrensnational.org**Caitlyn Cap, PhD**

CASD Postdoctoral Fellow

CCAP@childrensnational.org**Associated Faculty and Staff**

- Abigail Brandt, MA, CCC-SLP, Speech and Language Pathologist
- Vanessa Whyte, MA, CCC-SLP, Speech and Language Pathologist
- Lynna Bustamante, MA, CCC-SLP, Speech and Language Pathologist
- Amy Youmatz, MA, Psychometrist
- Kelly Register Brown, MD, Child and Adolescent Psychiatrist

- Rebecca Lane, MD, Developmental and Behavioral Pediatrician
- Sinan Turnacioglu, MD, Developmental and Behavioral Pediatrician
- Nicol Awadalla Bacon, MD, Developmental and Behavioral Pediatrician

Recent Publications by Our Postdocs

Reflecting work done during fellowship with us (postdoc names are in **bold**).

Habayeb S, Kenworthy L, De La Torre A, Ratto A. Still Left Behind: Fewer Black School-Aged Youth Receive ASD Diagnoses Compared to White Youth. *J Autism Dev Disord*. 2022 May;52(5):2274-2283.

Habayeb, S., Dababnah, S., John, A., & Rich, B. (2020). Cultural Experiences of Arab American Caregivers Raising Children with Autism Spectrum Disorder. *Journal of Autism and Developmental Disorders*, 50(1), 51-62.

Ratto, A. B., Kenworthy, L., Yerys, B. E., Bascom, J., Wieckowski, A. T., White, S. W., ... & Scarpa, A. (2018). What about the girls? Sex-based differences in autistic traits and adaptive skills. *Journal of autism and developmental disorders*, 48(5), 1698-1711.

Kraper, C. K., Kenworthy, L., Popal, H., Martin, A., & Wallace, G. L. (2017). The gap between adaptive behavior and intelligence in autism persists into young adulthood and is linked to psychiatric comorbidities. *Journal of autism and developmental disorders*, 47(10), 3007-3017.

Ratto, A. B., Anthony, B. J., Kenworthy, L., Armour, A. C., Dudley, K., & Anthony, L. G. (2016). Are non-intellectually disabled black youth with ASD less impaired on parent report than their white peers?. *Journal of autism and developmental disorders*, 46(3), 773-781.

Ratto, A. B., Anthony, B. J., **Pugliese, C.**, Mendez, R., Safer-Lichtenstein, J., Dudley, K. M., ... & Anthony, L. G. (2017). Lessons learned: Engaging culturally diverse families in neurodevelopmental disorders intervention research. *Autism*, 21(5), 622-634.

Pugliese, C. E., Anthony, L. G., Strang, J. F., Dudley, K., Wallace, G. L., Naiman, D. Q., & Kenworthy, L. (2016). Longitudinal examination of adaptive behavior in

autism: Influence of executive function. *Journal of Autism and Developmental Disorders*, 46(2), 467-477.

Granader, Y., Wallace, G. L., Hardy, K. K., Yerys, B. E., Lawson, R. A., **Rosenthal, M.**, ... & Schultz, R. T. (2014). Characterizing the factor structure of parent reported executive function in autism: The impact of cognitive inflexibility. *Journal of Autism and Developmental Disorders*, 44(12), 3056-3062.

Kenworthy, L., Anthony, L. G., Naiman, D. Q., Cannon, L., Wills, M. C., **Luong-Tran, C.**, ... & Sokoloff, J. L. (2014). Randomized controlled effectiveness trial of executive function intervention for children on the autism spectrum. *Journal of Child Psychology and Psychiatry*, 55(4), 374-383.

Luong-Tran, C., Kenworthy, L., Rothwell, C., Ratto, A., Mohamed, L., Shafran, R., & Anthony, L. G. (2016, May). *Differences in Execution Functions and Reported Behaviors of Asian and White Children*. [Poster presentation]. International Meeting for Autism Research (IMFAR), Baltimore, Maryland

Rau, S., Skapek, M., Tiplady, K., Seese, S., Burns, A., Armour, A., & Kenworthy, L. (2020). Identifying comorbid ADHD in Autism: Attending to the inattentive subtype. *Research in Autism Spectrum Disorders*, 60, 101468.

Miller, M., Brazendale, A., & Weist, M. Hearing the voices of parents: Experiences of stress in parenting children with emotional and behavioral disorders. Annual Conference on Advancing School Mental Health. Las Vegas, NV, October 11-13, 2018.

Arowolo, R.A., Schaffer, L., Raznahan, A., Rau, S. (2023, August 4). Longitudinal changes in psychopathology: Examining assessment format and Covid-19 impact [Poster presentation]. APA 2023 Convention, Washington, DC.

