



**PSYCHOLOGY EXTERNSHIP EXPERIENCES  
2009-2010**

Children's National Medical Center offers several externship experiences in child clinical and pediatric psychology to students enrolled in doctoral programs in psychology. Attached are descriptions of opportunities being offered in the 2009-2010 academic year, with information about how to apply for each position.

**Please note the following information.** The deadline for applications is **March 1, 2009**. In addition to your application materials, please send a self-addressed stamped envelope, which will be returned to you indicating that your application has been received and what, if any, additional materials are needed. Due to the high volume of calls received in the past, we request that you not call to confirm the status of your application.

**THE INSTITUTION**

CNMC is a non-profit institution incorporated in 1870. The mission of CNMC is to be preeminent in providing pediatric healthcare services that enhance the health and well-being of children regionally, nationally, and internationally. Through leadership and innovation, CNMC strives to create solutions to pediatric healthcare problems. To meet the unique healthcare needs of children, adolescents and their families, CNMC will excel in Care, Advocacy, Research and Education.

The Hospital, located in Washington DC, is adjacent to the Washington Hospital Center, National Rehabilitation Hospital, the Washington V.A. Hospital, Catholic and Howard Universities, and is easily accessible from suburban areas. In addition, Children's has seven satellite outpatient clinics in Washington D.C., Maryland and Virginia, and is part of a complex of healthcare facilities for the entire Washington metropolitan area. Further information about the hospital and its programs is available at our website ([www.childrensnational.org](http://www.childrensnational.org)).

Psychology and Neuropsychology are both Divisions within the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Science, which is under the direction of Dr. Paramjit Joshi, a psychiatrist. In 1999, clinical services and academic departments within the hospital were organized into seven Centers of Excellence. Our Department is in the Center of Neurosciences and Behavioral Medicine, which is directed by Dr. Roger Packer, a neurologist. Other departments in this center include Neurology, Neurosurgery, Hearing and Speech, and Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation. This innovative structure was designed to stimulate multidisciplinary collaboration, in terms of both patient care and research, among disciplines and specialties with common interests. Psychology and Neuropsychology have particularly strong working relationships with Psychiatry, Developmental Pediatrics, and Neurology.

There are presently 23 staff psychologists at CNMC who engage in training, clinical service, and research in a variety specialty areas, including Adolescent Medicine, Neonatology, Endocrinology, Hematology/Oncology, Pulmonary Medicine, Nephrology, Neurology, Neurosurgery, Psychiatry, and Developmental Pediatrics. Psychology and Neuropsychology faculty are involved in virtually all of the other Centers of Excellence. Facilities at the Hospital include outpatient clinics, the Freddie Mac Foundation Child & Adolescent Protection Center, Child and Adolescent inpatient units, library, auditorium, laboratories and research space. In addition, Psychology occupies outpatient offices in four suburban satellite clinics (Laurel, Maryland; Rockville, Maryland; Fairfax, Virginia; Spring Valley, D.C.).

CNMC is the pediatric teaching hospital for the George Washington University School of Medicine and Health Sciences. Psychologists at CNMC hold academic appointments in the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences and the Department of Pediatrics at the medical school. The Division of Psychology and the Division of Neuropsychology conduct post-doctoral, internship and practicum-level training for psychology students.

## EXTERNSHIP IN ADOLESCENT MEDICINE

### Eating Disorders Clinic

The Department of Adolescent and Young Adult Medicine is especially designed to meet the health care needs of adolescent patients ages 12-21. Outpatient referrals are received from schools, private physicians, and the patients and parents themselves.

**Description:** The externship in Adolescent Medicine offers a range of didactic and practicum experiences, with a particular focus on eating disorder patients. The extern works as a multidisciplinary team member in the Eating Disorders Clinic located at the Spring Valley satellite of CNMC (4900 Mass. Ave. NW). The extern works closely with the department's clinical psychologist, who provides weekly individual as well as group supervision. Specific activities include diagnostic evaluations, individual psychotherapy, group psychotherapy, and some parent counseling. The extern gains experience in providing short-term diagnostic and treatment services as well as in conducting more intensive, long-term psychotherapy. One particular clinical activity involves co-leading a weekly eating disorders psychotherapy group with the clinical psychologist. Although all activities are supervised by the psychologist, the extern is encouraged to work autonomously and to be actively involved with other multidisciplinary team members who share in each patient's care. Most of the eating disorders patients present with comorbid problems such as depression, anxiety disorders, family conflicts.

This externship experience does not include formal psychological testing, other than diagnostic interviewing, self-report measures, and parent questionnaires. The extern's specific interests and training needs are considered as case assignments are made.

Didactic opportunities include weekly Eating Disorders Team meetings and case conferences, and an optional weekly two hour teaching conference covering broader topics in adolescent development and psychological/medical care. Overall, Adolescent Medicine is an energetic and psychologically-minded department where mental health practitioners are valued highly. The atmosphere provides a rich training opportunity for any extern interested in understanding and treating the challenging population of adolescent patients, particularly those with eating disorders.

**Qualifications:** Clinical experience, particularly with children and adolescents, is highly desirable. Preference will be given to more advanced doctoral students.

**Time Requirement:** 16 hours/week Sept-May. Summer clerkships are sometimes available as well.

**Number of Positions Being Offered:** 2 externs will be recruited for this externship.

**Location:** Spring Valley satellite of CNMC – 4900 Massachusetts Avenue, N.W.

**To Apply:** Send a letter of interest; CV/resume; at least two letters of recommendation, and a stamped, self-addressed envelope to:

Darlene M. Atkins, Ph.D.  
Director, Eating Disorders Clinic  
Children's National Medical Center  
4900 Massachusetts Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20016  
Or: datkins@cnmc.org  
202-476-2164

## CENTER FOR AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDERS

**Description:** Clinical Psychology students are invited to apply for an externship at the Center for Autism Spectrum Disorders. The position offers supervised training in evaluation, consultation and treatment of toddlers, children and adolescents with autism and related disorders. Children who come to our clinic present with problems including behavioral difficulties, and social and communication disorders consistent with autism spectrum disorders. The children may also have medical conditions, underlying neurological disorders, and/or other genetic disorders. Externs will have to following opportunities:

- Comprehensive diagnostic evaluations. The extern may gain experience with the following assessment instruments: Leiter International Performance Scale-Revised, Wechsler Preschool and Primary Scales of Intelligence Scales-III, Wechsler Intelligence Scale for Children-IV, Differential Ability Scales, Bayley-III, Vineland Adaptive Behavior Scales, , among others.
- Outpatient psychotherapy with children and adolescents with autism spectrum disorders and their families-typical caseload 3-4 weekly patients. Common referral issues include OCD symptoms, executive functioning problems, behavioral problems, anxiety, depression, and family difficulties.
- Co-facilitate a bi-weekly social skills group for higher functioning young children with autism spectrum disorders.
- Consultation, education, and counseling with families of children newly diagnosed with an autism spectrum disorder. This includes developing a comprehensive treatment plan, psychoeducation and family support.
- Weekly multidisciplinary team evaluations, case conferences and didactic seminars. This will include experiences with our child psychiatrist, speech and language pathologist, and neuropsychologists. Autism Diagnostic Interview-Revised, and Autism Diagnostic Observation Schedule are also part of this evaluation.
- Although the majority of the externship focuses on clinical activities, there are many opportunities to participate in research.

Applicants who are primarily interested in conducting neuropsychological assessments with this population should consider the externship in Pediatric Neuropsychology (*Center for Autism Spectrum Disorders placement*). A description of this placement can be found on page 10 of this brochure.

**Qualifications:** A strong interest in autism spectrum disorders is required. Formal coursework in child development and assessment is expected. Some assessment and therapy experience with children is preferred. Excellent communication skills and the ability to work as part of a team are also presumed.

**Time Requirement:** Sixteen hours per week. This externship is a 12-month commitment. The specific days will be worked out to suit the extern's schedule, but Tuesdays, Thursdays and/or Fridays are ideal.

**Number of Positions Being Offered:** One extern will be recruited for this position.

**Location:** The extern may split his/her time between the Shady Grove Regional Outpatient Center in Rockville, Maryland, and the Laurel Regional Outpatient Center in Laurel, MD (on 2 Fridays a month).

**To Apply:** Send a letter of interest, current CV with a list of relevant coursework and two letters of recommendation to:

Laura Anthony, Ph.D.  
Assistant Professor  
Center for Autism Spectrum Disorders  
14801 Physician's Lane, Suite 173  
Rockville, MD, 20850  
[lanthony@cnmc.org](mailto:lanthony@cnmc.org)  
Office: 301-765-5430  
Fax: 301-765-5497

## CHILD DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

**Description:** Clinical and Developmental Psychology doctoral students are welcome to apply for an externship in the Child Development Clinic. The position offers supervised training in evaluation of infants and young children referred for developmental and behavioral problems, primarily in the range of birth to age three years. Preschool age children who are known to have developmental delay or mental retardation are also evaluated. The extern may choose the preferred age range (infants or toddlers) on which to focus. The presenting problems include but are not limited to complications around the time of birth (e.g. extreme prematurity, birth asphyxia), primary motor delay (infants), primary language delay (toddlers), and social/communication disorders consistent with pervasive developmental disorders. The children may have complex medical conditions, underlying neurologic disorders, and/or genetic disorders. The extern will be exposed to children from a wide range of ethnic and cultural backgrounds and socioeconomic conditions.

The extern will learn to conduct structured interviews of parents, administer standardized tests such as the Bayley Scales of Infant Development (2nd ed) and the Vineland Adaptive Behavior Scales, integrate information from community resources and the medical record, help formulate a therapeutic plan, provide parent feedback, and write the assessment report. The extern will also learn how to cope with common behavior problems for this age range. All patients evaluated on a given day are discussed at case conference at the end of the day. An opportunity to join developmental rounds in the NICU is also available.

**Qualifications:** Formal coursework in child development and assessment is expected. Some assessment experience is preferred.

**Time Requirement:** A commitment of 16 hours a week is expected. The specific days will be worked out to suit the extern's schedule.

**Number of Positions Being Offered:** 5 externs will be recruited for this position.

**Location:** Children's National Medical Center – 111 Michigan Avenue, N.W.

**To Apply:** Send a current CV with a list of relevant coursework, two letters of recommendation, and a stamped, self-addressed envelope to:

Penny Glass, Ph.D.  
Director, Child Development Program  
Children's National Medical Center  
111 Michigan Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20010  
(202) 476-2132

## CHILD AND ADOLESCENT DIABETES CLINIC/PEDIATRIC PSYCHOLOGY EXTERNSHIP

**Description:** Advanced clinical psychology doctoral students are encouraged to apply to work with the Diabetes Team's Psychology Service. The diabetes team is multidisciplinary and includes physicians, nurse educators, dietitians, and psychologists. Team members see every child newly diagnosed with diabetes, as well as work with individual families to assist with medical and behavioral management of the illness. This externship offers clinical, research, and didactic opportunities. Potential experiences are as follows:

1. Outpatient psychotherapy with children and families- typical caseload 3-5 weekly patients. Common referral issues include difficulty adjusting to diabetes diagnosis, poor adherence to medical regimen, anxiety, depression, parent-adolescent conflict, and family communication difficulties.
2. Consultation, education, and counseling with families of children newly diagnosed with diabetes. This includes addressing the impact of being diagnosed with a life long illness and assisting the family with strategies for managing diabetes. Outpatient education is provided for all families in a group format.
3. Consultation during outpatient diabetes clinic appointments. Attending diabetes clinic may include participant-observation experiences with physicians, nurse educators, and dietitians working with children/families. Brief psychological consultations may be requested during clinic as well.
4. Co-leading behavioral and psychosocial group for parents and teens with diabetes.
5. Providing consultation/treatment to children with diabetes who have been hospitalized. Potential duties include reviewing medical records, interviewing children and families, case conceptualization, and providing feedback (verbal and chart notes) to medical team.
6. Research opportunities include: (1) assisting with review of manuscripts submitted for publication, (2) working on clinical research project designed to promote adherence in adolescents with diabetes, and (3) investigating issues related to diabetes management in young children.

Opportunities for didactics include attending (a) multidisciplinary diabetes team meetings, (b) diabetes psychology service clinical rounds, (c) clinical research meetings, (d) selected psychology seminars, and (e) psychiatry grand rounds.

**Qualifications:** Formal coursework in child assessment and child psychopathology/treatment is required. Prior practicum experience in child or adolescent therapy is also required.

**Time Requirement:** 16 hours week- summer start date preferred- Tuesdays and Wednesdays required.

**Number of positions being offered:** One extern will be recruited for this practicum.

**Location:** Children's National Medical Center – 111 Michigan Avenue, N.W.

**To Apply:** Please send a letter of interest, curriculum vitae, two letters of reference to [rstreis@cnmc.org](mailto:rstreis@cnmc.org) or :

Randi Streisand, Ph.D.  
Department of Psychology/CNMC  
111 Michigan Ave., NW  
Washington, DC 20010  
(202) 476-2730/ [rstreis@cnmc.org](mailto:rstreis@cnmc.org)

## BEHAVIORAL MEDICINE EXTERNSHIP

**Description:** The Children's National Medical Center (CNMC) Externship in Behavioral Medicine will provide advanced training in 2 medical specialty clinics. Under the supervision of two pediatric psychologists (Dr. Randi Streisand and Dr. Eleanor Mackey), the extern will work weekly in the craniofacial clinic and the overweight/obesity clinic. The Craniofacial Clinic is a fascinating and rewarding experience. Psychologists conduct psychosocial assessments of children who are at increased risk of psychosocial problems or who have developmental disabilities. The experience primarily consists of consultation with multiple disciplines (e.g., ENT, genetics, cranial facial surgeons, speech and language specialists), providing referrals when appropriate, and developing treatment plans as needed.

The IDEAL (obesity/overweight) clinic is a dynamic clinic which is growing considerably and now serves a large number of children and adolescents. Here the extern will lead a group skills session for teen patients seen at the clinic, conduct assessments and consults, and work closely with a multidisciplinary team (e.g., pediatrics, endocrinology, nutrition, and physical therapy).

While the primary role of the psychology extern will be consultation and liaison, the extern will also have the opportunity to follow patients (caseload of 2-4 patients) for ongoing therapy from both of these services.

There is also the potential for involvement in ongoing research, participation in didactics, and involvement with a larger team of pediatric psychologists and trainees. Overall, the externship will include training, consult/liaison, individual outpatient therapy, group therapy, and brief assessment with a wide range of clients with varying presentations and ages.

**Qualifications:** Applicants must be in at least the third year of a doctoral program and have had some experience in child assessment or treatment, with a documented interest in gaining experience in a medical/pediatric setting.

**Time Requirement:** 16 hours/ week, Mondays and Tuesdays. It is anticipated that this will be a 1 year externship from July 2009-June 2010.

**Number of positions being offered:** One extern will be recruited for this practicum.

**Location:** Children's National Medical Center – 111 Michigan Avenue, N.W.

**To Apply:** Please send a letter of interest, curriculum vitae, and two letters of reference to:

Randi Streisand, Ph.D. (202) 476-2730  
Department of Psychology  
Children's National Medical Center  
111 Michigan Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20010

## THE PEDIATRIC SLEEP DISORDERS PROGRAM

**Description:** The Pediatric Sleep Disorders Program consists of an outpatient clinic, a four-bed state of the art sleep laboratory and a research program. Sleep disorders affect children and their families at all stages of development and are increasingly recognized as important causes of affective, behavioral and attentional dysregulation. There are 84 empirically defined sleep disorders of which approximately 30 occur in childhood and adolescence. The DSM-IV addresses a small subset of these disorders. Sleep medicine is a relatively young field and didactic training available for mental health and health care professionals is extremely limited. On average medical schools and psychology programs provide less than one hour of training in sleep mechanisms and sleep disorders. Over the next few years CNMC will have one of the few dedicated pediatric sleep disorders programs in the world, with equal weight given to training, research and clinical service.

Diagnosing and treating sleep is complex and requires a broad assessment of the patient. There are several categories of sleep problems. Several primary sleep disorders are caused by abnormalities in brain mechanisms and learned behavior that is not compatible with making the transition from wake to sleep. There are also numerous sleep disorders associated with underlying medical conditions and psychopathology. Developmental changes in sleep propensity and cognitive and affective functioning are also critical components of diagnosing sleep disorders. Effective treatment of pediatric sleep disorders often involves providing specific behavioral recommendations to improve sleep hygiene, as well as appropriate referrals for other medical follow-up. Parents of children who have disrupted sleep are often experiencing significant distress and are typically fairly motivated to achieve behavioral change for their child and within the family. Another exciting aspect of sleep medicine is that it is a multidisciplinary field with psychologists, pulmonologists and neurologists as the key players. Other disciplines that refer and participate in sleep programs include psychiatry, neonatology, otolaryngology, and dentistry.

Externs participating in this program will receive didactic training in the normal development of sleep, neurophysiological mechanisms regulating sleep and wake states and diagnosis and management of sleep disorders. Didactic training will include one to two hours a week of lectures and/or guided readings in pediatric sleep medicine. Part of the didactic experience will involve participation in the scoring and interpretation of polysomnographic records. Externs will also be required to contribute 1-2 hours a week to a clinically relevant research project. The specifics of the project will be based on the interests of individual externs. There will also be an opportunity for externs to submit an abstract and attend the American Academy of Sleep Medicine meeting which takes place during early summer.

Externs will be required to attend four to six half-day clinics a month and will manage their own case load, after demonstrating some expertise in the diagnosis and treatment of sleep disorders. All clinical work will be supervised by Danny Lewin, Ph.D., Director of the Pediatric Sleep Disorders Program, and a Post Doctoral Fellow.

**Qualifications:** Clinical experience with children and/or adolescents, is required. Preference will be given to more advanced doctoral students.

**Time Requirement:** 8-12 hours/week. Externships starting in the summer months will be considered.

**Number of Positions Being Offered:** 2 externs will be recruited for this practicum.

**Location:** Children's National Medical Center – 111 Michigan Avenue, N.W.

**To Apply:** Send a letter of interest; CV/resume; two letters of recommendation; and a stamped, self-addressed envelope to:

Danny Lewin, Ph.D. (202) 476-6209  
Director, Pediatric Sleep Disorders Program  
Department of Psychology, 1217  
Children's National Medical Center, 1217  
111 Michigan Avenue, NW 20010

## FAIRFAX HYPERACTIVITY, ATTENTION, AND LEARNING PROBLEMS CLINIC

**Description:** The Fairfax Hyperactivity, Attention, and Learning Problems Clinic (Fairfax HALP Clinic) is a multidisciplinary evaluation and treatment program for children with a variety of school problems, including Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), Learning Disorders, and Disruptive Behavior Disorders. Given the multidisciplinary nature of the program, externs regularly interact with psychologists, pediatricians, neurologists, nurses, medical residents, predoctoral interns and postdoctoral fellows. Children and adolescents present at the Clinic with a wide range of psychopathology that may co-occur with or actually mimic ADHD. Externs learn to administer, score, and interpret a standardized battery of cognitive tests.

In addition, externs will have the opportunity to observe and conduct structured diagnostic interviews and observe physical and neurological examinations. With regard to treatment, externs will have the opportunity to conduct therapy under the close supervision of a licensed clinical psychologist. Children who come to our clinic for treatment present with a wide range of difficulties (e.g., behavioral issues, affective disorders, anxiety disorders). Although the bulk of the externship focuses on clinical activity, there are opportunities for participating in research. At the present time we are conducting research on a variety of topics.

Applicants interested in this externship site should be available on Tuesdays and Thursdays . On Tuesdays externs will be involved in the multidisciplinary evaluations. Externs administer psychological testing batteries and observe feedback sessions. In addition, they participate in lunchtime case conferences. On Tuesday afternoons externs co-lead group therapy sessions, which are held for both children and their parents. Externs should also be available on Thursday ; this is when they receive supervision and see therapy cases. Supervision is provided by Lisa A. Efron, Ph.D.

**Qualifications:** Formal coursework in child assessment and therapy is required.

**Time Requirement:** 16 hours/week from September to May. Summer clerkships are available as well. The extern must be available for two days on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

**Number of Positions Being Offered:** 3 externs will be recruited for this practicum.

**Location:** Fairfax Satellite of CNMC – 8501 Arlington Blvd, Suite 200, Fairfax, Virginia.

**To Apply:** Send a curriculum vitae, two letters of recommendation, and a stamped, self-addressed envelope to:

Lisa A. Efron, Ph.D.  
Children's National Medical Center  
8501 Arlington Blvd, Suite 200  
Fairfax, VA 22031  
(571) 226-8342

## CLINICAL EXTERNSHIPS IN ASSESSMENT- PEDIATRIC NEUROPSYCHOLOGY

**Description:** This is an advanced assessment externship in the Pediatric Neuropsychology Program at Children's National Medical Center. The program is under the direction of Gerry Gioia, Ph.D., and includes nine faculty neuropsychologists, a clinical/developmental psychologist, six postdoctoral fellows, and predoctoral interns and externs. Neuropsychology externs learn to administer neuropsychological tests, including measures of intelligence, attention, executive function, language, visual processing, learning and memory, social cognition, fine motor abilities and emotional adjustment. Externs are taught to interpret test data, formulate diagnoses and conceptualize each patient's unique pattern of neuropsychological strengths and weaknesses, assist with report writing, and participate in parent feedback conferences. The externship is designed for students who are interested in developing advanced skills in child assessment, as well as those with specific interest in the growing specialty area of pediatric neuropsychology. This service works in close consultation with CNMC physicians and several multidisciplinary teams. An extern may be involved in presenting neuropsychological findings to, and discussing cases with, neurologists, psychiatrists, psychologists, speech and language pathologists, and teachers.

There are three types of positions available, all of which provide extensive neuropsychological experience, but with different populations. The first is a *general neuropsychology placement*, focusing on the evaluation of school-age children and adolescents with complex neurological and developmental disorders (e.g., complex learning disabilities, ADHD, traumatic brain injury, epilepsy, etc.). The second placement involves working in the *Center for Autism Spectrum Disorders*, completing neuropsychological evaluations of school-aged children and adolescents with Asperger's and high functioning autism. This placement includes the opportunity to work as part of a multidisciplinary team including neuropsychology, developmental psychology, speech/ language pathology, and psychiatry. The third placement involves assessment of children and adolescents with concussions/ mild traumatic brain injury in the *Safe Concussion Outcome, Recovery & Education (SCORE) program*. This program has a particular specialty in working with children and adolescents with sports-related concussions. The SCORE Clinic uses a primary care model to provide brief, focused evaluations that facilitate concussion management and monitoring throughout the recovery period. Clinical work in the SCORE Clinic includes follow-up communication and care coordination with schools, trainers, and other medical professionals.

Didactics. In addition to 1-2 hours of individual supervision weekly, externs are welcome to attend weekly didactic neuropsychology seminars. The weekly seminar consists of talks on neuropsychological assessment or special populations, case discussions, and journal clubs. In addition, externs are encouraged to participate in behavioral medicine grand rounds, selected psychology intern seminars, and other didactic experiences.

Research. Opportunities to participate in clinically based research are also available. Staff interests include: executive function, epilepsy, concussion, neurofibromatosis, memory, and autism spectrum disorders.

**Qualifications:** The general Neuropsychology and Autism placements are advanced child assessment externships, and thus are most appropriate for third year doctoral students and up who have completed coursework in assessment, have had prior externship experience with testing, and have direct clinical experience with children. The externship in the SCORE Clinic is appropriate for doctoral students at all levels of training who may have less assessment training or experience or who have a particular interest in working with children and adolescents with mild traumatic brain injuries/concussions or sports-related injuries.

**Time Requirement:** Sixteen hours per week. **This externship is typically a 12-month commitment, however, alternative arrangements can be made in special circumstances (e.g. an advanced extern, July internship start date).**

**Number of Positions Being Offered:** 8 to 10 externs will be accepted for the 2008-2009 academic year.

**Location:** Our main clinic location is the Shady Grove Outpatient Center (Rockville, MD), located 8 miles north of the beltway. In addition, some patients are seen at the main hospital, Upper Marlboro, and at the Laurel Lakes location. Externs doing the general neuropsychology placement may be asked to work at more than one location.

**To Apply:** Send a stamped, self-addressed envelope; letter of interest or cover letter; CV/resume with a list of relevant coursework; list of tests administered and number of administrations; and two letters of recommendation. *In your letter of interest, please state whether are interested in being considered for the General placement, the Center for Autism Spectrum Disorders placement, or the Concussion placement (see descriptions above).* Please direct all materials and inquiries to:

Joette James, Ph.D.  
Externship Coordinator  
Children's National Medical Center  
14801 Physicians' Lane, Suite 173  
Rockville, MD 20850  
Email: [jdjames@cnmc.org](mailto:jdjames@cnmc.org)

## **CLINICAL EXTERNSHIP IN ASSESSMENT - PEDIATRIC NEUROPSYCHOLOGY/REHABILITATION**

### **Children's National Medical Center/National Center for Children's Rehabilitation at NRH**

**Description:** Advanced graduate students in Clinical or School Psychology are invited to apply for an externship in Pediatric Neuropsychology/Rehabilitation at the National Center for Children's Rehabilitation (NCCR). NCCR is a joint program sponsored by Children's National Medical Center (CNMC) and the National Rehabilitation Hospital (NRH). The extern would work primarily with Lauren Krivitzky, Ph.D., who works jointly at both CNMC and NRH. The psychology program at NRH consists of five neuropsychologists and five general clinical psychologists. The Pediatric Neuropsychology Program (PNP) at CNMC is under the direction of Gerry Gioia, Ph.D., and includes nine faculty neuropsychologists and two developmental psychologists, six postdoctoral fellows, and predoctoral interns and externs.

The NCCR neuropsychology extern will learn to administer neuropsychological tests, including measures of intelligence, attention, executive function, language, visual processing, learning and memory, social cognition, fine motor abilities and emotional adjustment. The extern will be taught to interpret test data, formulate diagnoses, assist with report writing, and participate in parent feedback conferences. This externship is primarily focused on working with individuals on the pediatric inpatient rehabilitation unit. The presenting diagnoses are variable, including a variety of acute neurological conditions (e.g., traumatic brain injury, stroke, spinal cord injury, and various infectious processes). The externship is designed for students who are interested in working with more acute neuropsychological issues in a pediatric population. In addition to administering and interpreting neuropsychological tests, the extern will have the opportunity to engage in more general pediatric psychology services, including behavior management and adjustment to illness/injury issues. This position is designed for individuals interested in developing advanced skills in child assessment, as well as those with specific interest in the growing specialty area of pediatric neuropsychology or rehabilitation psychology. This service works in close consultation with CNMC physicians and several multi-disciplinary teams. An extern may be involved in presenting neuropsychological findings to, and discussing cases with, neurologists, psychiatrists, psychologists, speech and language pathologists, and teachers.

This placement includes a heavy emphasis on working within a multidisciplinary inpatient team including neuropsychology, psychiatry, physical and occupational therapy, speech/ language pathology, school intervention, and nursing. If there is an interest, the extern may also have the opportunity to perform neuropsychological screenings/evaluations with inpatient and outpatient adult clients with similar presenting problems.

Didactics: In addition to 1-2 hours of individual supervision weekly, the extern will be invited to weekly didactic neuropsychology seminars through the Pediatric Neuropsychology Program at CNMC and through the general neuropsychology program at the National Rehabilitation Hospital. The weekly seminar at CNMC consists of talks on neuropsychological assessment or special populations, case discussions, and journal clubs. In addition, externs are encouraged to participate in Behavioral Medicine Grand Rounds, selected psychology intern seminars, and other didactic experiences at CNMC or NRH.

**Qualifications:** This is an advanced child assessment/treatment externship, and thus is most appropriate for third year doctoral students and up who have completed coursework in assessment, have had prior externship experience with testing, and have direct clinical experience with children.

**Time Requirement:** Sixteen hours per week. This externship is typically a 12-month commitment, however, alternative arrangements can be made in special circumstances (e.g. an advanced extern, July internship start date).

**Number of Positions Being Offered:** One extern will be accepted for the NCCR position for the 2008-2009 academic year.

**Location:** The extern will be primarily based at The National Center for Children's Rehabilitation (NCCR) at the National Rehabilitation Hospital (on the same campus as Children's Hospital, located behind Washington Hospital Center). The CNMC neuropsychology seminars are generally conducted at the Shady Grove Outpatient Center (Rockville, MD).

**To Apply:** Send a letter of interest, CV, and letters of recommendation (2). Include a stamped, self-addressed envelope for notification that materials have been received:

Lauren Krivitzky, Ph.D.  
National Rehabilitation Hospital  
102 Irving Street, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20010 email: [Lkrivitz@cnmc.org](mailto:Lkrivitz@cnmc.org)

## THE CHILD AND ADOLESCENT ANXIETY PROGRAM (CAAP)

**Program Description:** The Child and Adolescent Anxiety Program (CAAP) at CNMC provides comprehensive evaluation and treatment services to families of anxious children and adolescents and conducts research on the etiology, phenomenology and treatment of anxiety disorders. The majority of youth treated are of school-age (6-18 years) though younger children are sometimes seen as well. During the initial appointment at CAAP, a comprehensive, structured assessment is conducted with parents and children to determine the specific nature of a child's problems and to ensure proper treatment. This comprehensive assessment also provides a critical basis for conducting clinically-relevant research. Psychosocial approaches to treatment include cognitive-behavioral strategies with demonstrated efficacy. Medical evaluation and pharmacological treatment also are provided as appropriate.

The externship at CAAP offers a range of didactic and practicum experiences in childhood anxiety disorders as well as other commonly comorbid conditions including depression, ADHD, and oppositional behaviors. The extern will work closely with the program director and CAAP team at the main hospital in DC, conducting diagnostic evaluations and providing individual and family-based treatments. On occasion, extern also may co-lead group treatment sessions. Formal in-person weekly supervision as well as ongoing informal supervision and didactic training in anxiety disorders are provided by a licensed clinical psychologist (Dr. Alfano). The extern also will have the opportunity to attend weekly psychiatry grand rounds, clinical seminars and case conferences within the hospital.

In addition to clinical activities, externs will be required to contribute 1-2 hours/per week to a clinical research project. Specific topics can be geared toward the special interests of externs. Depending on specific research goals, externs also may submit an abstract to a professional conference or co-author a peer-reviewed publication.

**Qualifications:** Formal coursework in child assessment and interventions, as well as prior practicum experience in child/adolescent therapy is required. Preference will be given to advanced doctoral students with an interest in conducting research.

Time Requirement: Somewhat flexible: 8-16 hours/week.

**Number of Positions Being Offered:** One – two externs will be recruited to begin in Aug 2009.

**Location:** Children's National Medical Center – 111 Michigan Avenue, N.W. Washington, DC

**To Apply:** Send a letter of interest, CV/resume, and two letters of recommendation to:

Candice A. Alfano, Ph.D.  
Director, the Child and Adolescent Anxiety Program (CAAP)  
Assistant Professor of Psychiatry and Pediatrics  
Children's National Medical Center  
111 Michigan Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20010  
Phone: (202) 476-5290  
[calfano@cnmc.org](mailto:calfano@cnmc.org)

## **CLINICAL CHILD AND PEDIATRIC PSYCHOLOGY**

### **HIV Services**

**Description:** This externship placement involves providing mental health services to children, adolescents, young adults, and families living with HIV. HIV Services is comprised of the Special Immunology Service (SIS) and the Burgess Clinic, both of which provide HIV specialty care to approximately 350 youth and families living with HIV infection [ages newborn to 21 years]. HIV Services consists of a large interdisciplinary team, which includes but is not limited to physicians, clinical and research nurses, social workers, nutritionist, and a full-time psychologist. All team members place an important focus on the developmental and mental health needs of the children and adolescents under their care.

The psychology externship with HIV Services offers a wide range of didactic and clinical opportunities. The extern's specific interests and training needs are considered closely as case assignments are made, depending on referrals.

#### **Required extern experiences include:**

1. Administration and interpretation of neuropsychological evaluations of youth, ages 6 – 21 years. Tests include: WAIS-III, WISC-IV, WASI, WRAT-4, WIAT-II, PPVT-III, VMI, Hooper Visual Organization Test, Grooved Pegboard, Vineland Adaptive Behavior Scales. Also self-report measures such as CDI and CBCL are widely used. Common referral questions include: suspected learning disabilities, ADHD, and HIV-encephalopathy.
2. Caregiver guidance and/or psychotherapy to youth and families living with HIV/AIDS. Common referral problems include: adjustment disorders, anxiety, behavior problems, depression, and medication adherence. In addition, families receive assistance in disclosing the child's diagnosis to their school age children.
3. Co-leading therapeutic groups with children and adolescents focusing on issues such as adjustment to diagnosis, medication adherence, and social skills.
4. Consultation with family members, education advocates and schools regarding special education placements.
5. Consultation with SIS and Burgess teams regarding developmental and mental health concerns about clients.
6. Consultation with inpatients staff regarding developmental, behavioral and other mental health concerns about patients on medical care unit.

#### **Elective extern experiences include:**

- Developmental testing of infants (0-3 years), with the Bayley Scales of Infant Development – III
- Psychological testing of young children (3 – 5 years) with the WPPSI-III.
- Psychotherapy services to children admitted for inpatient medical care, and their families
- Psychotherapy services to children *affected* by HIV/AIDS (e.g., siblings).
- Attending Behavioral Medicine Grand Rounds.

**Qualifications:** This is an advanced assessment and treatment externship, and thus is most appropriate for third year doctoral students and up who have completed coursework in assessment, have had prior externship experience with testing, and have direct clinical experience with children and adolescents. Previous experience in pediatric and/or medical setting is desirable.

**Time Requirements:** 16 hours/week from September to May. Ideally, the candidate would be available for orientation and training during the summer months prior to September 1 start date.

**Number of Positions Being Offered:** Two externs will be recruited for this practicum.

**Location:** Children's National Medical Center – 111 Michigan Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C.

**To Apply:** Please send a letter of interest, curriculum vitae, at least two letters of reference, and email address to:

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