Post-Doctoral Fellowship in Pediatric Clinical Neuropsychology

2015-2017

Department of Psychology
The Hospital for Sick Children, Toronto, ON, CANADA

Coordinator of Post-Doctoral Training: Laura Janzen, Ph.D., ABPP-CN
Academic Programs Director: Sharon Guger, Ph.D.
Overview

One or two (1 or 2) post-doctoral fellowship positions in pediatric clinical neuropsychology are offered through The Department of Psychology at the Hospital for Sick Children in Toronto, Ontario. The two-year, full-time training position begins on September 8, 2015, with the second year conditional on successful completion of the first year requirements. Employment is contingent upon meeting the Hospital for Sick Children’s Occupational Health Requirements.

The program has been a member of the Association of Post-Doctoral Programs in Clinical Neuropsychology (APPCN) since 2008 and training conforms to the Houston Conference guidelines for Specialty Education and Training in Clinical Neuropsychology. The fellowship adheres to a scientist-practitioner model and training is intended to prepare fellows for registration with the College of Psychologists of Ontario (CPO) and board certification in clinical neuropsychology through the American Board of Clinical Neuropsychology (ABCN), a member board of the American Board of Professional Psychology (ABPP).

The philosophy of the fellowship mirrors that of The Hospital for Sick Children in that the needs of the patient and family are primary. An evidence-based/best practice approach is used and clinical research is closely integrated with patient care activities. Conceptualizing the child’s neuropsychological needs and challenges within a developmental framework is integral to practice.

The Department of Psychology at SickKids exists as an independent department within a Child Health Services cluster model of service provision, and includes approximately 26 psychologists (including 11 neuropsychologists), 10 psychometrists, and numerous research staff providing services and conducting research within the hospital. In addition to specialty training in Pediatric Neuropsychology, the Department offers clinical training at the post-doctoral level in Pediatric Health Psychology (1 position), internship level (3 positions, accredited by the Canadian Psychological Association), and graduate practicum level.

Goals of the Fellowship

The goal of our program is to prepare fellows for independent specialty practice in pediatric neuropsychology. Fellows will be exposed to a wide array of patient populations in both inpatient and outpatient settings. Each fellow will receive an intensive experience working with the Sickle Cell Disease program and complete various rotations in other areas. A primary goal of the first year is to develop a working model of neuropsychological assessment, consultation, and intervention that allows for accurate, thorough, yet efficient service delivery in the fast paced and complex setting of an academic health sciences centre. One of the goals of the second year is to obtain registration as a psychologist with the CPO, and to further develop clinical and research skills through exposure to a broader range of supervisors, patient groups, and multi-disciplinary teams. By the end of the second year, fellows should be eligible to apply to for board certification (ABCN). Graduates of our program have entered into positions in academic medical centers, private practice and multi-disciplinary community clinics.
Training Activities

Post-doctoral fellows will be involved in direct clinical service for at least 70% of their time and participate in focused research and educational activities for the remaining 30% of their time. The focus of training will be on advanced practice in clinical neuropsychology, including comprehensive neuropsychological consultation, functional neuroanatomy, ethical practice, cultural diversity, writing integrated reports, multi-disciplinary and school consultation, and clinical research. The fellow will receive high level training in conducting neuropsychological evaluations, providing feedback (including recommendations and education) to family, staff and school personnel, providing supportive psychological services, participating in multi-disciplinary teams, and assisting with treatment and discharge planning. Rotations are offered to allow the fellow to work with a diverse range of patients under the supervision of various staff psychologists, to provide service across multiple programs, and to participate in focused research.

Rotations

Clinical training will consist of neuropsychological assessment and consultation for a wide range of pediatric disorders and illnesses seen in a tertiary health care centre (ages 0-18 years). Evaluations are typically conducted through the outpatient Psychology Clinic, but inpatient Neuropsychology consultation may also be provided. Each fellow will complete a rotation in the Sickle Cell Disease program to provide depth of training in addition to completing rotations with other programs for a breadth of training. Rotations are available within the following programs:

- Stroke
- Neurosurgery
- Genetics/Metabolics
- Epilepsy
- Solid Organ Transplant
- Brain Tumor
- Leukemia/Lymphoma
- Neonatal Follow-Up
- Long-Term Follow-Up for Cancer
- Neurology

Other Training Opportunities

Additional training opportunities may include:

- Adult Neuropsychology rotation
- Psychological intervention and/or parenting training with medically-complex patients
- Cognitive rehabilitation
- Provision of lectures and presentations within the hospital or for community groups
- Providing supervision to more junior trainees (interns and/or practicum students) during the second year of the fellowship to develop competency in the supervisory role.
Supervision

Fellows will have a primary supervisor and will receive at least two hours of individual face-to-face supervision per week. Regularly scheduled, one-to-one supervision will involve case review, setting and monitoring of training goals, and professional development. Supervision follows a developmental model and fellows will work with a variety of faculty members throughout the fellowship for broad exposure to different styles of clinical practice and supervision. Group professional support/supervision meetings with the Coordinator of Post-doctoral training will also occur on a monthly basis to address advanced topics in professional/ethical standards, professional practice issues, cultural and individual differences, and diversity.

Didactics

A variety of formal and informal educational opportunities exist. Fellows will be expected to complete readings in clinical neuropsychology, especially as they pertain to the clinical populations they are serving. Rotation-specific readings will be suggested by individual supervisors. More formal didactics are provided to ensure a broad knowledge-base in Clinical Neuropsychology, and include:

Required:
- Pediatric Neuropsychology Directed Readings Seminars (monthly)
- Professional Issues Seminar for Psychology Fellows (monthly)
- Psychology Department Rounds (monthly)

Optional
- Clinical Health Evaluative Science (CHES) Rounds (weekly)
- Brain and Behavior Cross-Talks (monthly)
- Neuroscience and Mental Health Program (SickKids Research Institute) Symposia (monthly)
- Pediatric Grand Rounds (weekly)
- Clinical and research rounds associated with individual rotations (e.g., Neurology, Neurosurgery, Hematology/Oncology, Psychiatry)
- Adult Neuropsychology journal club and case presentations
Research

Fellows are encouraged to participate in ongoing research within the Department with the opportunity to develop individual areas of interest. Fellows will meet with faculty early in the program to develop personal goals for research during their two year stay. The Hospital for Sick Children is an active and exciting research environment. The program in Neuroscience and Mental Health within the Research Institute and the Brain and Behavior Centre integrate state of the art clinical, education, and research initiatives. Research at SickKids ranges from characterizing the impact of various adverse insults on development, to understanding the core neurocognitive deficits associated with neurodevelopmental disorders or acquired brain damage, to identifying the relations between neuroimaging measures of brain structure/function and neurocognitive outcome.

Fellows will work with a research mentor as a member of a specialized research team, often working on grant-funded projects. Current projects are underway in Spina Bifida, Traumatic Brain Injury, Congenital Hypothyroidism, Prematurity, Diabetes, Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder, Epilepsy, and Brain Tumors. Interested fellows may have the opportunity to gain experience in using neuroimaging techniques (fMRI, DTI, MRS, MEG) to examine brain-behavior relations in children in some of these projects. Finally, fellows may receive educational support (i.e., training seminars) through the Research Institute Training Program (RTC).

Demonstration of scholarly activity is a required exit criteria for the fellowship. This may be accomplished through presentation at a national or international conference, and either one manuscript submitted for publication in a peer-reviewed journal or a grant proposal submission.

Evaluation

Formal written progress evaluations are prepared by the Neuropsychology staff at the conclusion of each rotation. Fellows whose performance is not at an expected level of competence will be advised regarding the problem areas in their performance, and a specific plan to remediate those weaknesses will be developed.

Stipend and Benefits

The stipend for the 2014-2016 year is $40,000 CDN for the first year and there is a potential for increase to $42,000 CDN for the second year. Fellows are eligible for the modified SickKids benefits package (health and dental), 2 weeks paid vacation, nine statutory holidays recognized by the hospital, and one week paid professional development leave.

Fellows have individual office space, a computer with internet connection, a private phone line and access to electronic medical journals through the University of Toronto Library.
Eligibility

Applicants should be graduates of CPA/APA accredited clinical psychology programs and have completed a CPA/APA accredited internship in clinical psychology. It is expected that applicants will have internship-level training in pediatric psychology and neuropsychology. Applicants with prior coursework in Functional Neuroanatomy, Clinical Neurology, Basic Neuroscience, and/or Neuropathology are preferred. Applicants who bring diversity to the program (e.g., fluency in French or experience with under-served populations) are especially encouraged to apply. All degree requirements must be completed before the start date.

Our program is an APPCN Match Participant; applicants must therefore register with National Matching Services, Inc (www.natmatch.com) to participate in the APPCN Resident Matching Program. This residency site agrees to abide by the APPCN policy that no person at this facility will solicit, accept or use any ranking-related information from any fellowship applicant.

To apply or ask questions about the fellowship, please contact:
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Information about SickKids and Toronto

The Hospital for Sick Children (SickKids), affiliated with the University of Toronto, is recognized as one of the world’s foremost paediatric health-care institutions. It is Canada’s leading centre dedicated to advancing children’s health through the integration of patient care, research and education. With a staff that includes professionals from all disciplines of health care and research, SickKids provides the best in complex and specialized care by creating scientific and clinical advancements, sharing knowledge and expertise and championing the development of an accessible, comprehensive and sustainable child health system. In 2013, the newly-constructed Sickkids Centre for Research and Learning will open, providing a hub where researchers and learners can congregate and share ideas to transform the current state of child health care.

SickKids is located in downtown Toronto, Canada’s largest city. Toronto lies on the shore of Lake Ontario, the easternmost of the Great Lakes. Over 4 million people live in the Greater Toronto Area (GTA), the cultural, entertainment, and financial capital of the nation. Toronto is a clean, safe, cosmopolitan city with a wonderful network of parks, recreational, and cultural facilities.
Core Training Faculty

Ruth Donnelly, Ph.D., C. Psych. (University of Toronto). Psychologist with the Neurosurgery & Trauma team; research interest in kids with hydrocephalus. Program Affiliation: Neurosurgery.

Anna Gold, Ph.D., C. Psych. (University of East Anglia, UK). Neuropsychological assessment and consultation of pediatric patients who are awaiting or undergone a solid organ transplant (heart, lung, liver, kidney and small bowel). Research interests include neuropsychological outcome following transplant, longer term neurodevelopmental sequelae of complex surgically treated gastro-intestinal failure and pediatric transition. Program Affiliations: Transplant and Regenerative Medicine Centre; Cystic Fibrosis Centre.

Sharon Guger, Ph.D., C. Psych. (York University). Neuropsychological assessment and consultation of late effects of childhood cancer, promotion of transition. Program Affiliation: Oncology

Laura Janzen, Ph.D., C. Psych., ABPP-CN (University of Victoria). Coordinator of Post-Doctoral Training, Staff Psychologist, Assistant Professor (Status Only) University of Toronto. Neuropsychological assessment of children with brain tumors, leukemia, and sickle cell disease; neuropsychology training issues; research on the neuropsychological
implications of congenital and acquired neurological conditions as well as the effects of various interventions on cognitive outcomes. **Program Affiliation:**
Hematology/Oncology

Elizabeth N. Kerr, Ph.D., C. Psych. (University of Calgary). Program Head of Epilepsy Classroom; Department of Paediatrics, University of Toronto
Neuropsychological assessment and consultation: epilepsy surgery, as well as genetic and metabolic conditions. **Program Affiliations:** Department of Paediatrics, Division of Neurology

Donald Mabbott, Ph.D., C. Psych., ABPP-CN (University of Alberta). Senior Associate Scientist, Research Institute; Associate Professor, Department of Psychology, University of Toronto.
Neuropsychological assessment, consultation and research of paediatric cancer. **Program Affiliations:** Division of Haematology/Oncology; Program in Neuroscience and Mental Health

Eva Mamak, Ph.D., C. Psych., ABPP-CN (University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill). Staff Psychologist.
Neuropsychological assessment and consultation of metabolic genetic conditions and fetal alcohol spectrum disorders, infant/toddler and preschool assessment, and research on lysosomal storage diseases, infant development, and fetal alcohol spectrum disorders. **Program Affiliations:** Clinical and Metabolic Genetics, Motherisk.

Katia Sinopoli, Ph.D., C.Psych. (University of Toronto). Staff Psychologist.
Neuropsychological assessment and consultation of children and adolescents with diverse neurological conditions including non-surgical epilepsy, multiple sclerosis/demyelinating diseases, and inflammatory brain diseases. Research interests include exploration of predictors of neurocognitive outcome, examination of neurodevelopment following early injuries and early medical interventions, and cross-disorder comparisons of cognitive functioning. **Program Affiliation:** Neurology.

Mary Lou Smith, Ph.D., C. Psych. (McGill University). Professor of Psychology, University of Toronto.
Assessment and consultation of candidates for epilepsy surgery and for the HIV clinic. Research on epilepsy and HIV. **Program affiliations:** Neurology, Infectious Diseases.

Brenda Spiegler, Ph.D., C. Psych., ABPP-CN (University of Maryland). Director of Psychology Department, Associate Professor of Pediatrics, University of Toronto.
Neuropsychological assessment and consultation for children with cancer, and research on neuropsychological late effects in childhood cancer survivors. **Program Affiliation:** Haematology/Oncology
Robyn Westmacott, Ph.D., C. Psych., ABPP-CN. (University of Toronto), Neuropsychologist in the Pediatric Stroke Clinic; Scientific appointment in Medicine (Paediatrics) at The University of Toronto; Adjunct Member to the Graduate Program in Psychology, York University.

Neuropsychological assessment and consultation in the area of pediatric stroke and other neurovascular or neurological conditions; Neuropsychological outcomes in pediatric stroke; Impact of age at injury on outcome; Emerging deficits following early brain injury. **Program Affiliations:** Neurology, Stroke.

Tricia Williams, Ph.D., C. Psych. ABPP-CN (York University). Staff Psychologist.

Neuropsychological assessment, consultation and research involving children and families from neonatal neurology, pediatric stroke and other neurovascular or neurological conditions. **Program Affiliation:** Neurology.