Psychology Practicum Placements

2024 – 2025

Department of Psychology
The Hospital for Sick Children, Toronto, ON, Canada
Clinical practicum placements for psychology graduate students

Procedures and requirements for MA and PhD students interested in a practicum placement in the Department of Psychology at The Hospital for Sick Children (SickKids).

Criteria for application:
1. Applicant must be enrolled in a CPA-accredited graduate program in clinical psychology (MA or PhD level).
2. Students must have completed a graduate course in child or adult assessment and/or intervention.
3. Students must have completed graduate level courses in child psychopathology, child development, and learning disabilities.
4. Completion of a course in ethics is preferred.

Deadlines for application:
For fall or summer placements, applications must be submitted by February 1 of each calendar year.

Application process:

- Submit a PDF document containing a cover letter and CV to the email below.

- The cover letter should contain the following information:
  - Brief description of previous training and skills.
  - Reason for applying to SickKids.
  - Desired focus: Assessment vs. intervention.
  - Number of hours and days per week requested.
  - Duration of placement (September to April or May to August).
  - Specific rotations/programs of interest.

- Submit a maximum of 3 reference letters:
  - Referees are to submit letters directly to the practicum coordinator (email below). Any file format is acceptable.

- Please do not submit university course transcripts.
- Receipt of application will be acknowledged by email.
Applications received after the stated deadlines will not be considered. Applications will be reviewed by staff available to offer placements and you will be contacted directly if an interview is going to be scheduled. Notification of placement offers will be made in mid-March per the GTA Practicum group agreement.

- Practicum students will usually work with and under the supervision of 1 psychologist/program.
- On occasion, a placement may be offered with shared supervision between 2 staff psychologists.
- The number of placements offered may vary each year based on supervisor availability.

In addition to direct clinical work, students will have the opportunity to attend interdisciplinary rounds, case conferences and professional development offered within a specific program and within the larger Department of Psychology. This includes monthly Psychology Rounds, Psychology Education Day and didactic seminars offered in the Department of Psychology.

COVID-19 Impact on Training

Since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, the education program and faculty have navigated the uncertain landscape with flexibility prioritizing clinical care, training and safety. Responses to the global pandemic continue to evolve and, at the time of writing this brochure, a hybrid model of care (combination of in-hospital and virtual) is being provided. Should disruptions occur in the future, potential and current practicum students will be notified as soon as information becomes available. Practicum students are expected to comply with any and all federal, provincial, and SickKids organization regulations including but not limited to wearing Personal Protective Equipment, maintaining appropriate physical distancing, abiding by travel restrictions, quarantining, and other Infection Prevention and Control procedures within the context of providing clinical services, or otherwise.

For more information, contact:
Dr. Jennifer Stanga psychology.practicum@sickkids.ca
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Neuropsychology: Assessment and Programming</th>
<th>Patient Populations Served</th>
<th>Age</th>
<th>O/P</th>
<th>I/P</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Epilepsy Surgery, Epilepsy Classroom & DBS Dr. Elizabeth Kerr | ▪ Epilepsy patients being considered for surgery and post-surgery  
▪ Students attending an ECPP classroom of epilepsy  
▪ Patients being followed for Deep Brain Stimulation | 4-18+ | ✓   | ✓   |
| Epilepsy Surgery, Metabolic/Genetics, & Neurosurgery Dr. Eva Mamak | ▪ Epilepsy patients being considered for surgery  
▪ Genetic/Metabolic disorders | 0-18  | ✓   | ✓   |
| General Neurology Dr. Katia Sinopoli | ▪ Non-surgical epilepsy  
▪ Neuroinflammatory diseases (e.g., multiple sclerosis, CNS vasculitis)  
▪ Neurofibromatosis Type1 | 4-18  | ✓   |     |
| Haematology/Oncology Dr. Laura Janzen | Cancer (e.g., acute lymphoblastic leukemia, brain tumours) and Hematological Conditions (e.g., Sickle Cell Disease) | 3-18  | ✓   |     |
| Neonatal Neurology & Neurosurgery Dr. Naddley Désiré | ▪ Children with complex craniofacial conditions: syndromic and non-syndromic craniosynostosis, cleft lip and palate, encephaloceles, Binder and other congenital syndromes  
▪ Children with neonatal brain injury and associated medical conditions (e.g., prematurity, very low birthweight; hypoxic-ischemic encephalopathy; neonatal arterial | 4-18  | ✓   |     |
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Specialty</th>
<th>Patient Populations Served</th>
<th>Age</th>
<th>O/P</th>
<th>I/P</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Stroke</strong></td>
<td>Neonatal and childhood stroke; Arterial ischemic stroke, cerebral sinovenous thrombosis or other neurovascular conditions such as moya moya disease</td>
<td>3-18+</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr. Robyn Westmacott</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Tics and Tourette’s Clinic &amp; Psychiatry</strong></td>
<td>Children with tics and Tourette syndrome, ADHD, learning disorders, anxiety disorders, executive functioning challenges</td>
<td>7-18+</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr. Jennifer Stanga</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Transplant &amp; Regenerative Medicine</strong></td>
<td>Children with congenital or acquired organ deficits (heart, lung, liver, kidney) or intestinal failure</td>
<td>2-18</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr. Anna Gold</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Diagnostic/Learning and Academic Interventions</strong></td>
<td>Patient Populations Served</td>
<td>Age</td>
<td>O/P</td>
<td>I/P</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder and related disorders</strong></td>
<td>Children with suspected attention-deficit/hyperactivity and related disorders</td>
<td>6-18</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr. Jennifer Crosbie</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Cardiology</strong></td>
<td>Children with complex congenital and acquired heart conditions</td>
<td>4-18</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr. Renee Sananes</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr. Dragana Ostojic-Aitkens</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Intervention: Clinical/Health Psychology</strong></td>
<td>Patient Populations Served</td>
<td>Age</td>
<td>O/P</td>
<td>I/P</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Chronic Pain</strong></td>
<td>Children and adolescents with chronic pain conditions (e.g., neuropathic pain after injury, headache, neuromuscular disease), with disability problems secondary to pain, and pain as a presenting sign of depressive, anxiety, or somatoform disorders</td>
<td>3-18</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr. Danielle Ruskin</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr. Catherine Munns</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Eating Disorders</strong></td>
<td>The Eating Disorders Program at SickKids diagnoses and treats children and adolescents with a range of eating</td>
<td>Up to 18</td>
<td>✓*</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr. Hannah Gennis</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr. Brooke Halpert</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Dr. Sandra Doyle-Lisek

Disorders. They are the primary treatment site for the central Toronto area and are a specialty centre for the province of Ontario. The program has an interdisciplinary approach to treatment and believes family involvement is crucial for recovery from an eating disorder.

* √ Advanced/Third Practica Only

### Inflammatory Bowel Diseases

**Dr. Sara Ahola Kohut**

- Children and adolescents with IBD (e.g., Crohn’s Disease and Ulcerative Colitis) experiencing mental health issues associated with their chronic health condition (e.g., mood and anxiety, OCD, perfectionism, medical trauma). Individual, group, and caregiver treatment approaches offered.
- Children/adolescents and caregivers may also present with difficulties including adherence to medical regime, acceptance of IBD diagnosis, coping with IBD diagnosis, symptoms and treatment, chronic pain, body image, eating habits, sleep issues, and somatic symptoms.
- Will also get exposure to broader GI presentations and co-morbid conditions (e.g., Celiac Disease, Irritable Bowel Syndrome, Juvenile Idiopathic Arthritis).

* Best suited for advanced practicum student

### Pediatrics/Oncology/ Cystic Fibrosis

**Dr. Joel Tourigny**

- Children and adolescents experiencing mental health issues in the context of their chronic health conditions.
- Children presenting with somatic disorders or behaviours interfering with medical treatment.

### SickKids Healthy Living Clinic (HLC) - formerly STOMP

**Dr. Elizabeth Dettmer**

- The SickKids Healthy Living Clinic (formerly known as the SickKids Team Obesity Management Program, STOMP) provides outpatient interdisciplinary assessment and treatment to children, youth and their caregivers for complex

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th><strong>Pediatrics/Oncology/ Cystic Fibrosis</strong></th>
<th>6-18 (poss. some early childhood)</th>
<th>√</th>
<th>√</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Inflammatory Bowel Diseases</strong></td>
<td><strong>Dr. Sara Ahola Kohut</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Children and adolescents with IBD (e.g., Crohn’s Disease and Ulcerative Colitis) experiencing mental health issues associated with their chronic health condition (e.g., mood and anxiety, OCD, perfectionism, medical trauma). Individual, group, and caregiver treatment approaches offered.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Will also get exposure to broader GI presentations and co-morbid conditions (e.g., Celiac Disease, Irritable Bowel Syndrome, Juvenile Idiopathic Arthritis)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>*Best suited for advanced practicum student</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>SickKids Healthy Living Clinic (HLC) - formerly STOMP</strong></td>
<td><strong>Dr. Elizabeth Dettmer</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>The SickKids Healthy Living Clinic (formerly known as the SickKids Team Obesity Management Program, STOMP) provides outpatient interdisciplinary assessment and treatment to children, youth and their caregivers for complex</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
concerns related to weight, eating, activity
and related medical and psychological
comorbidities. The team is comprised of
enthusiastic specialists from Psychology,
Social Work, Nursing, Endocrinology,
Adolescent Medicine, Pediatrics, Nutrition,
Exercise, and Physiotherapy.

Mental health providers on the team are
integral in the assessment and treatment
of complex and often severe health
psychology presentations that include
emotional eating, hyperphagia (secondary
to hypothalamic obesity), binge eating,
and adherence issues, as well as related
co-morbid psychological issues such as
social anxiety, depression, suicidal
ideation, bullying, school refusal and body
image concerns. Additional
socioeconomic, genetic, and
familial/interpersonal relationship factors
have a particularly strong impact on
treatment and prognosis. Treatment is
primarily cognitive behavioural (CBT), with
other approaches (e.g., MI, DBT skills,
EFT, and parent management training)
integrated as appropriate. Both individual
and group treatments are offered for
patients and their caregivers.

Psychology trainees contribute to all parts
of the program. They contribute to group
and individual therapy for children,
adolescents, and parents, as well as
frequent consultation to the
interdisciplinary team within joint allied
health appointments and weekly rounds.
The HLC team is also heavily involved in
ongoing program development and
research. Strong candidates have a strong
foundation and/or interest in CBT and
Health Psychology.
Dr. Jody Levenbach

- Youth with tics (primarily Tourette syndrome) and comorbid conditions such as OCD, ADHD, ASD, anxiety and mood disorders, body-focused repetitive behaviours (e.g., trichotillomania) and self-regulation challenges
- Intervention services include individual and group therapy using a cognitive behavioural approach, comprehensive behavior intervention for tics (CBIT), and parent training