Pediatric Neuropsychology Postdoctoral Fellowship Program



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

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MEDICINE

Kennedy Krieger



Overview 1

Major Rotations: Primary Clinical Experiences 2

Center for Neuropsychological and Psychological Assessment (CNaP) Core Training Supervisors 6

Weekly Training Opportunities 10

Neuropsychology Seminar Series 11

Professional Development Seminars 12

Clinical Research in CNaP 13

Recent Publications 14

Some of the photographs that appear in these pages are for illustrative purposes only, and any person shown in those photographs is a model.

Kennedy Krieger Institute Pediatric Neuropsychology Fellowship

Overview

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

– Neuropsychology fellow

Major Rotations: Primary Clinical Experiences

OUTPATIENT SPECIALTY CLINICS

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

Congenital and Genetic Conditions

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

Epilepsy and Brain Injury

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

Oncology

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

REHABILITATION CONTINUUM OF CARE

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

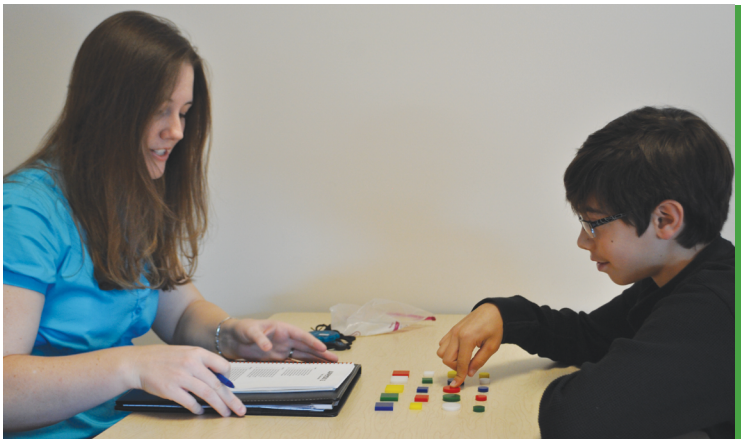
Inpatient Neurorehabilitation

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

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

– Neuropsychology fellow





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

– Neuropsychology fellow

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

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

ADDITIONAL INTERDISCIPLINARY SETTINGS

Kennedy Krieger School Programs

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

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

Fellows work within an interdisciplinary team of professionals in speech-language pathology, occupational therapy, social work and medicine to provide diagnostic clarification for children with autism and various other complex medical and behavioral conditions. Fellows also participate in independent neuropsychological evaluations and consult with providers, schools and therapists, both within the Institute and throughout the community. The center is a federally funded National Center of Excellence, with research programs actively investigating early detection and intervention for autism, standards of practice for autism centers, sensory-motor functioning and a variety of other topics.

Minor Clinical Training

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

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

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

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

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

Supervision and Evaluation

Postdoctoral fellows receive supervision both individually (two hours minimum per week) and in group format (two hours minimum per week). Primary supervision is provided by licensed psychologists with specialty training in clinical neuropsychology, seven of whom are board-certified in clinical neuropsychology through the American Board of Professional Psychology. Three supervisors have additionally obtained subspecialty certification in pediatric clinical neuropsychology. There are currently 16 board-certified clinical neuropsychologists in the CNaP department, many of whom provide additional clinical and/or research supervision to fellows. Group supervision focuses on presenting cases, demonstrating new assessment techniques, and reviewing current research and methods. Each fellow's primary rotation supervisor evaluates the fellow's progress every three months and provides written feedback every six months.

Interdisciplinary Training

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

Didactic Experiences

Neuropsychology trainees participate in a wide range of didactic seminars and grand rounds, both at Kennedy Krieger and through the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine and the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health. Primary didactic

Sample Schedule of Major Rotations for Incoming Fellows

<table>
<tr><th colspan="12">Year 1</th><th colspan="12">Year 2</th></tr>
<tr><th>S</th><th>O</th><th>N</th><th>D</th><th>J</th><th>F</th><th>M</th><th>A</th><th>M</th><th>J</th><th>J</th><th>A</th><th>S</th><th>O</th><th>N</th><th>D</th><th>J</th><th>F</th><th>M</th><th>A</th><th>M</th><th>J</th><th>J</th><th>A</th></tr>
<tr><td colspan="6">Outpatient 1</td><td colspan="6">Outpatient 2</td><td colspan="6">Outpatient 3</td><td colspan="6">Outpatient 4</td><td colspan="6">Outpatient 5</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="8">CASSI</td><td colspan="8">School</td><td colspan="8">Inpatient</td><td colspan="8">STP</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="2">On-boarding</td><td colspan="6">Minor rotation choice</td><td colspan="8">Minor rotation choice</td><td colspan="8">Minor rotation choice</td><td colspan="8">Minor rotation choice</td></tr>
</table>

training in pediatric neuropsychology is achieved through a weekly series of seminars, including:

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

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

Research

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

See the list of recent publications (Pages 14 and 15) and the descriptions of core faculty members (Pages 6–9) for details on current research opportunities.

Administrative Structure

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

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

Fostering Leadership

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

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

Benefits

The neuropsychology fellowship training period begins each year on Sept. 1. The current annual salary for fellows is $63,480. Fellows receive appointments through the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine. Kennedy Krieger provides individual health insurance benefits. Spousal and family coverage is also available. In addition, Johns Hopkins Medicine University Health Services offers comprehensive ambulatory medical care for fellows and their dependents, with services provided by faculty and professional staff members. Fellows are entitled to 15 vacation days a year, in addition to the eight annual holidays observed at the Institute. Support for travel and professional conferences is provided. We follow the Johns Hopkins School of Medicine policies for postdoctoral trainees for Health Care and Sick Leave, and for any extended leave, including new child accommodations and nonmedical leave of absence. All fellows are given individual office space, including a laptop/computer with online access to The Johns Hopkins University's medical library system and online full-text access to university journal subscriptions. A full range of scoring programs, dictation software and statistical packages is maintained in CNaP.

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

About Kennedy Krieger

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

Licensed for 70 inpatient beds and with more than 80 outpatient specialty clinics, Kennedy Krieger serves as a training and research center for hundreds of healthcare providers, including physicians, psychologists and allied health professionals. We take an interdisciplinary team approach to diagnosing and treating complex neurological disorders and neurodevelopmental disabilities.

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



CNaP Core Training Supervisors

Richard Boada, PhD, ABPP

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

Carolyn Caldwell, PhD

Neuropsychologist, CNaP
CaldwellC@KennedyKrieger.org



Dr. Caldwell supervises fellows in CNaP's Congenital/Genetic Conditions outpatient clinic and in the interdisciplinary Concussion Clinic, part of the Rehabilitation Continuum of Care at Kennedy Krieger. In addition, Dr. Caldwell is a consultant for the interdisciplinary Craniofacial Clinic team at the Johns Hopkins Hospital. Her primary research interests include neuropsychological outcomes following pediatric brain injuries across the range of injury severity, performance validity measures, reliable change methodology and evaluating the impact of sleep following pediatric brain injury.

Emma Cole, PhD, ABPP-SP, NCSP

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



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

Kelly E. Jones, PhD, ABPP

Neuropsychologist, CNaP
Assistant Professor of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences
JonesKel@KennedyKrieger.org



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

Megan Kramer, PhD, ABPP

Training Director, Pediatric Neuropsychology Fellowship Program
Director of Neuropsychology Training, Doctoral Internship Training Program in Behavioral Psychology and Neuropsychology
Assistant Professor of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences
KramerM@KennedyKrieger.org



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

Danielle Ploetz, PhD, ABPP

Neuropsychologist, CNaP and Fairmount Rehabilitation Programs
Ploetz@KennedyKrieger.org



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



Shruti Rane, PhD, ABPP

Neuropsychologist, CNaP
Rane@KennedyKrieger.org



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

Bethany Schwandt, PhD

Neuropsychologist, CNaP
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Dr. Schwandt primarily provides supervision for fellows in the outpatient Oncology Clinic. She provides consultation and psychoeducation for pediatric patients with brain tumors following initial diagnosis and during active treatment in the Strengthening in Oncology (STRONG) Brains and Bodies interdisciplinary team through Kennedy Krieger and Johns Hopkins Medicine oncology team. She also conducts early childhood neuropsychological evaluations focusing on neurodevelopmental assessment with varying complex medical conditions (e.g. brain tumors, leukemia) and supports training for fellows particularly interested in building skills with early childhood assessment. Dr. Schwandt also provides outpatient neuropsychological evaluations through the interdisciplinary Infant Neurodevelopment Center for young children with a history of premature birth and varying perinatal complications. She is a co-investigator on the HEALthy Brain and Child Development (HBCD) Study at Kennedy Krieger and Johns Hopkins Medicine, which is assessing brain development in infants and young children.

Elgiz Sener, PhD, ABPP

Neuropsychologist and Assistant Clinical Director, CASSI
Assistant Professor of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences
Sener@KennedyKrieger.org



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

Catherine Stephan, PhD

Neuropsychologist, CNaP
Assistant Professor of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences
Stephan@KennedyKrieger.org



Dr. Stephan provides training and supervision to postdoctoral fellows in the Congenital and Genetic Conditions Outpatient Major Rotation and the Transition to Adulthood Minor Rotation. Her clinical and research expertise focuses on promoting independence, and on successful transition to adulthood among individuals with complex medical and co-occurring neurodevelopmental conditions. She is a neuropsychologist within the multidisciplinary Philip A. Keelty Center for Spina Bifida and Related Conditions, where she supports the Self-Care and Independence Program (SCIP). In addition to conducting clinical evaluations, Dr. Stephan serves as a consultant to Maryland's Developmental Disabilities Administration, providing guidance on eligibility determinations in complex initial applications and appeals. Her additional research interests include increasing the accessibility of neuropsychological assessment through telehealth and innovative assessment technologies. She currently leads a Hydrocephalus Association–funded study examining the feasibility and acceptability of virtual approaches to neuropsychological assessment.

Ericka Wodka, PhD, ABPP

Clinical Director, CASSI
Associate Professor of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences
Wodka@KennedyKrieger.org



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

Faculty Research Supervisors

In addition to the core training supervisors listed, several faculty members in the department—including Beth Slomine, PhD, ABPP; Cynthia Salorio, PhD, ABPP; Lisa Jacobson, PhD, ABPP; Natasha Ludwig, PhD; Rowena Ng, PhD; Rachel Peterson, PhD, ABPP; Adrian Svingos, PhD; and T. Andrew Zabel, PhD, ABPP—also provide research mentorship to fellows. Research faculty profiles can be found here: **KennedyKrieger.org/research/centers-labs-cores/neuropsychology-research-lab/research-faculty**

Weekly Training Opportunities

Neuropsychology teaching rounds are rotation- and clinic-specific and occur daily. Fellows also participate in a four-week seminar series each year focused on the development of supervision skills. Below are selected training and didactic opportunities that occur weekly.

MONDAY

8–9:30 a.m.	EMU Rounds (Johns Hopkins Epilepsy Monitoring Unit Multidisciplinary Rounds)

TUESDAY

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

WEDNESDAY

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

THURSDAY

12–1 p.m.	Kennedy Krieger Institute Grand Rounds
2–3 p.m.	Johns Hopkins Neuro-Pediatric Intensive Care Unit Neuroradiology Conference

FRIDAY

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

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

– Neuropsychology fellow



Neuropsychology Seminar Series

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

Professional Development Seminars

Sample Schedule of Development Seminar Series Seminars Take Place Every Wednesday		
DATE	**TOPIC**	**SPEAKER**
Week 1	Welcome and Introductions	Trainees and Faculty/Staff Members
Week 2	Welch Medical Library Resources	Elisheva Wecker, MLS
Week 3	Research Projects in the Department	Panel of Faculty Members
Week 4	Getting to Know Different Departments and Clinics at Kennedy Krieger	Kennedy Krieger Care Management Team Members
Week 5	Overview of the Board Certification Process	Megan Kramer, PhD, ABPP
Week 6	Applying for Jobs and Interviewing	CNaP Fellowship Training Directors
Week 7	Transition Planning for Students With Disabilities	Attorneys From Project HEAL
Week 8	Billing and Insurance	Kelly Jones, PhD, ABPP
Week 9	EPPP/Licensure	Current Fellows
Week 10	Mentorship	Shalena Heard, PhD; Danielle Ploetz, PhD, ABPP; Carolyn Caldwell, PhD; and Shruti Rane, PhD, ABPP
Week 11	State of Maryland School Systems and Recommendations for Reports	Lisa Carey, EdD
Week 12	THANKSGIVING – NO SEMINAR	
Week 13	Fact-Finding	Second-Year Fellow Brings Case
Week 14	How to Construct a Job Talk	Faculty Panel
Week 15	Report-Writing Efficiency	Faculty Panel
Week 16	Branding and Marketing: Considerations for the Postdoc and Job Market	Faculty Panel
Week 17	WINTER BREAK – NO SEMINAR	

Clinical Research in CNaP

Overview

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

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

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

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

– Neuropsychology fellow



Recent Publications

2021 to present

PEER-REVIEWED ARTICLES:

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

Nitta, M. E., Busch, T., Suskauer, S. J., **Ludwig, N. N.**, & **Slomine, B. S.** (2025). Initial use of the Coma Recovery Scale for Pediatrics (CRS-P) in young children with disorders of consciousness. *Developmental Neurorehabilitation*, 28(6–7), 252–259. https://doi.org/10.1080/17518423.2025.2544698

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

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

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

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BOOK CHAPTERS:

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

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

ABSTRACTS AND PRESENTATIONS:

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

Austin, C. A. S., **Dustin, H. A.**, Akrong, E. R., Kettlety, S. A., Suskauer, S. J., **Slomine, B. S.**, & **Svingos, A. M.** (2026). *The relationship between useful field of view performance and mood and post-concussive symptoms in adolescents following sport-related concussion* [Poster presentation]. Sports Neuropsychology Society Annual Symposium, Cleveland, OH.

Dandar, C., Gnade Coulthard, K., Adler, A., Hill, K., Billups, K., Holt, H., Gardner, J., & **Ploetz, D.** (2026). *Interdisciplinary intensive rehabilitation for adolescents with motor functional neurological disorder: A dual case presentation* [Poster presentation]. Functional Neurologic Disorder Society, Baltimore, MD.

Dustin, H. A., Akrong, E., Suskauer, S. J., **Slomine, B. S.**, & **Svingos, A. M.** (2026). *Feasibility and characterization of the useful field of view assessment in adolescents presenting for multidisciplinary concussion care* [Oral presentation]. Annual Meeting of the International Neuropsychological Society (INS), Philadelphia, PA.

Landau, E., **Kautiainen, R.**, **Ploetz, D.**, & **Kramer, M.** (2026, June). *Case study: Apraxic agraphia without alexia in adolescent after diffuse severe traumatic brain injury* [Poster presentation]. Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Clinical Neuropsychology, Baltimore, MD.

McCracken, H. T., Saringkarisate, K., Sotirchos, E., Chen, H., & **Jones, K.** (2026). *Cognitive performance in pediatric myelin oligodendrocyte glycoprotein antibody–associated disorder: A descriptive neuropsychological study* [Poster presentation]. Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Clinical Neuropsychology, Baltimore, MD.

Qasmieh, N., & **Gornik, A.** (2026). *Using a bioecological approach to understand adaptive functioning in youth with neurodevelopmental disorders* [Poster Presentation]. Annual Meeting of the International Neuropsychological Society (INS), Philadelphia, PA.

Kautiainen, R., & **Peterson, R.** (2025). *Core neurocognitive skills predict memory outcomes in survivors of pediatric cerebellar tumors* [Poster presentation]. Annual meeting of the International Neuropsychological Society (INS), New Orleans, LA.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

– Neuropsychology fellow







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Our Mission

To transform the lives of children, youth and adults with, and those at risk for, disorders of the developing nervous system, through innovative, equitybased and culturally relevant clinical care, research, education, community partnership, advocacy and training. Diversity, cultural and linguistic competency, and inclusion are foundational in services the Institute provides.

Our Vision

We envision a world where Kennedy Krieger will continue to lead with intention, through innovation, to provide equitable, relevant and effective clinical care, research, educational interventions, training and advocacy services, in partnership with the community, to improve the lives of all individuals who have, or are at risk for, disorders of the nervous system.

Our Values

We value each individual. We are teams of compassionate, dedicated and skilled clinicians, scientists, educators, staff members, advocates and trainees, working in partnership with patients, students, families and community members to advance our mission. Our approach is person- and family-centered, and culturally congruent to ensure that all those we serve have access to the resources they need—clinical care, research, education, community programs, advocacy and training—to live fully inclusive, valued and meaningful lives.

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