



Children's Hospital Boston



HARVARD MEDICAL SCHOOL

## **Postdoctoral Residency in Neuropsychology**

Application Deadline: *January 16, 2009*

Start date: *September 1, 2009*

The Neuropsychology Program is a program of the Psychology Division, Department of Psychiatry, Children's Hospital. Children's Hospital is a private, non-profit pediatric teaching hospital affiliated with Harvard Medical School. The mission of the hospital is to provide the highest quality health care, be the leading source of research and discovery, educate the next generation of leaders in child health and enhance the health and well-being of the children and families in our local community. As one of the largest pediatric medical centers in the United States, Children's Hospital offers a complete range of health care services for children from birth through 21 years of age. Children's records approximately 22,600 inpatient admissions each year, and our 204 specialized clinical programs care for more than 527,500 patients annually. The hospital's clinical staff includes approximately 963 active medical and dental staff, as well as 897 residents and fellows, 1,570 nursing and clinical personnel, and 5,200 other full- and part-time employees. For the 19th year in a row, Children's Hospital Boston has been rated one of the nation's top hospitals specializing in pediatric care, according to a survey by U.S. News & World Report. Facts about Children's Hospital and the hospital mission are available at [www.childrenshospital.org](http://www.childrenshospital.org).

Psychiatry Department at Children's Hospital: The Children's Hospital Department of Psychiatry consists of more than 200 psychologists, psychiatrists, social workers, psychiatric nurses, and trainees in the various disciplines. The hospital and the Psychiatry Department are highly committed to training and have maintained this commitment throughout these difficult times of managed care and changing reimbursement systems. The Psychiatry Department/Psychology Division also has an APA accredited predoctoral internship program in pediatric clinical psychology and several postdoctoral psychology training opportunities. The training programs blend traditional training approaches in child and family treatment, assessment, and consultation with state-of-the-art approaches to problems at the interface of pediatrics and psychology.

### **Neuropsychology Program**

The Neuropsychology Program, Division of Psychology, Department of Psychiatry at the Children's Hospital has been in existence since November 1975. It was developed to meet the growing demand for more sophisticated assessments of children with known or suspected central nervous system damage or dysfunction. In the Neuropsychology Program clinical assessment is approached from a neurodevelopmental systems perspective which addresses:

- the child as a whole
- the child in context (social, familial, academic, societal)
- the neural substrates of behavior
- psychological processes
- developmental change in brain and behavior.

The assessment strategy emphasizes the close relationship of evaluation and management, broad-based data gathering, integration of issues of diversity and culture, the importance of ecologically-valid interventions, and parent/child/teacher education. Consultation with a wide variety of professionals in medical, educational and mental health settings and short-term interventions with children and parents around issues of adjustment

and behavioral management related to problems arising from neuropsychological deficits are provided as needed.

Neuropsychological Assessment of Children. Children are referred by sources within and outside the Hospital, including neurologists, neurosurgeons, oncologists, psychiatrists, psychologists, and other physicians and nursing personnel from a wide variety of clinics. Children of all ages are seen, as well as some adults with developmental disorders or medical disorders dating from childhood. Assessment is sought around a number of issues:

- evaluation of neuropsychological strengths and weaknesses, including cognitive and socio-emotional status, control processes, motor/sensory and academic skills;
- documentation of cognitive abilities;
- differential diagnosis of neurobehavioral disorders;
- differential diagnosis of neuropsychological versus psychological disorders;
- educational planning;
- psychosocial adjustment and development;
- monitoring of behavioral change over development or as a function of medical/surgical treatment.

### **Postdoctoral Residency in Pediatric Neuropsychology**

The Neuropsychology Program offers a two-year, full-time fellowship which provides training in clinical neuropsychological assessment of children and clinical research in epilepsy, leukemia, CNS injuries, learning disabilities/disorders, genetic disorders, HIV/AIDS, and neuro-oncology. The program is designed to conform to Houston Conference guidelines for training in neuropsychology and prepares candidates for board certification in clinical neuropsychology through ABPP/ABCN. The goal of our program is to prepare for independent specialty practice in pediatric neuropsychology.

#### **Overall Program Goals:**

- A. To train for competent, ethical, culturally sensitive, independent practice in the specialty of clinical neuropsychology focusing on the neuropsychology of the developing child.
- B. To teach a neurodevelopmental systems approach to neuropsychological assessment in the context of an advanced understanding of brain-behavior relationships that addresses:
  - a. the child as a whole
  - b. the child in context (social, familial, academic, cultural, societal)
  - c. the neural substrates of behavior
  - d. psychological processes
  - e. developmental change in brain and behavior.
- C. In the tradition of the scientist-practitioner model, to develop habits of scholarly inquiry, critical thinking and life-long learning in the behavioral sciences as these apply to clinical practice, research investigation and ongoing professional development.
- D. To prepare residents for board certification in clinical neuropsychology by the American Board of Professional Psychology
- E. To train future leaders and educators in the field of pediatric neuropsychology

**Clinical Activities:** Postdoctoral fellows are involved in direct clinical service in the Neuropsychology Program for approximately 50% of their time. Fellows are involved in the general outpatient service throughout the two years of training in addition to specific clinical rotations (described below). Fellows perform neuropsychological assessments:

1. By means of extended evaluations varying from three to six hours of testing over one to three sessions. Supervision in the planning of the evaluation, in test administration, in observation techniques, and in analysis and report preparation is provided by staff neuropsychologists. Fellows participate in outpatient assessments throughout the two training years with a range of children and young adults with medical, neurological and developmental disorders.

2. According to specific clinical protocols developed to address the special needs of particular neurological or medical populations (with senior staff supervision).
3. In consultation to specific medical/neurological specialty clinics (with staff supervision).

Opportunities are also available for fellows to develop culturally competent practice skills providing neuropsychology services in community and international service learning projects.

General outpatient service: The Neuropsychology Program at Children's Hospital Boston provides evaluation of children/adolescents with medical or neurological illnesses affecting the brain and development. Postdoctoral residents perform general outpatient evaluations for a range of neurological/medical conditions including spina bifida, childhood leukemia and other non-CNS neoplasms, genetic disorders, sickle cell disease, cardiovascular disorders, metabolic disorders, organ transplants, and neurosurgical interventions, among others. Fellows work with different supervisors throughout the two years of training in the outpatient service.

Clinical rotations: In addition to the general outpatient service, residents participate in six month rotations in the following areas:

1. Epilepsy Program: Fellows assigned to the Epilepsy Program are responsible for evaluating children undergoing multi-disciplinary work-ups for epilepsy surgery. Rotation involves consultation, assessment, and participation in multi-disciplinary team. Fellows present their findings at the weekly Epilepsy Neurosurgery Rounds. Fellows are also involved in post-surgical evaluations, providing feedback to medical team, parent and schools. Goals of this rotation include expanding knowledge base in the area of pediatric epilepsy, provide timely and tailored evaluations and consultations to medical team, and develop consultation and communication skills in fast-paced medical environment. Opportunities for participating in WADA procedures and cortical mapping are available as well. Second year fellows attend Neurology Chief's Rounds and Neuropathology Rounds.
2. Neuro-oncology: Fellows assigned to Neuro-oncology perform neuropsychological evaluations with children followed in the Dana Farber Cancer Institute Brain Tumor Program. Responsibilities include participation in weekly multi-disciplinary clinics and consultation with treatment teams. Fellows will work closely with clinicians from the School Liaison Program at the Dana Farber Cancer Institute in the management of patients. Opportunities for developing school consultation skills through school observations and educational team meetings are available. Goals for the rotation include expanding knowledge of brain-behavior relationships, medical issues, and intervention management relevant in children with brain tumors, refining neuropsychological assessment and formulation skills, and development of multi-disciplinary consultation skills.
3. Learning Disabilities Program: Fellows function as members of multi-disciplinary team providing comprehensive assessments of children with learning disorders. Fellows work with a team of neurologists, psychologists, psychiatrists, speech/language pathologists, reading specialists, and math specialists. Rotation includes evaluation, consultation, supervision, and participation in team deliberations. Goals for the rotation include familiarity with range of learning disorders, development of tailored evaluation techniques, and refining consultation skills within inter-disciplinary team setting.
4. Predoctoral Neuropsychology Clinic: In this rotation, second year fellows develop supervision and teaching skills in neuropsychology by supervising predoctoral interns in their neuropsychological assessment rotation. Fellows work closely with neuropsychology staff to develop supervision, leadership, and clinic management skills.
5. CHAP Clinic: In this rotation, fellows participate in neuropsychological follow-up of children with HIV/AIDS in the Children's Hospital AIDS Program. Rotation includes work within a multi-disciplinary clinic and neuropsychological assessments.

6. **Brain Injury Center:** The Brain Injury Center cares for children from birth through young adulthood who have had a head or spinal cord injury. The goal of the program is to provide the best care practices for the entire spectrum from prevention through long-term follow-up. As a part of the center, fellows perform inpatient consultations and screenings for children admitted to the hospital for head injuries. Fellows also participate in a multi-disciplinary clinic providing consultation for children and young adults who suffer head injuries. They work with the staff neuropsychologist and specialists from psychiatry, neurology, trauma, neurosurgery, physical therapy, and occupational therapy to develop treatment plans. Fellows will also be involved in a concussion clinic focused on ongoing management and follow-up of mild head injuries. The center is also involved in ongoing follow-up, educational and prevention activities.

**Research Activities:** Postdoctoral fellows participate in focused research activities in areas of current investigation in our program. These include long-term neurobehavioral outcomes of children treated for cancer (brain tumors, leukemia), the neurodevelopmental bases of learning disabilities, neuropsychological outcomes in spina bifida, and neurobehavioral consequences of epilepsy, HIV/AIDS, neurofibromatosis, and head injury. Fellows are directly involved in data collection and data management and participate in research design and methodology deliberations. They participate in hospital wide training in clinical research design. In addition, they are encouraged to explore research questions in areas of interest on an independent basis.

**Didactic Seminars/ Supervision:** Fellows will attend seminars focusing on clinical, academic/research, and professional issues. The Neuropsychology Seminar is coordinated by the staff of the Neuropsychology Program. Clinical topics covered include: theoretical bases of assessment; diagnostic methodology; selection, administration and interpretation of tests/ tasks/techniques; communication of findings, written (chart notes, consults, formal reports) and oral (feedback sessions); strategies for intervention and management; consultation in the medical setting and with outside professionals. Brain behavior relationships in children, learning disabilities and learning disorders, developmental neuropathologies, clinical research design, and professional issues will also be discussed in detail throughout the year. Fellows also attend Behavioral Neuroscience Seminar and participate in a tutorial course with program staff that covers the human nervous system and behavior. Fellows may attend Neurology, Neuropathology, Neurosurgery, and Psychiatry Rounds and are expected to participate in the many conferences and seminars offered in the Hospital, Harvard Medical School, and local institutions.

Supervision is provided by the staff in the Neuropsychology Program and involves in vivo observation as well as one-to-one meetings. Fellows receive a minimum of three hours of supervision per week and have the opportunity to work with several different supervisors over the course of their training. Group supervision experiences are also provided to address clinical analysis skills, professional development, and preparation for board certification. At the beginning of the training year, and on a regular basis thereafter, the fellow's training needs are reviewed and discussed. Arrangements are made to provide appropriate didactic experiences to meet educational needs. Participation in other clinics in the Hospital to obtain specialized training in specific areas can be arranged on an individual basis with the postdoctoral fellow. Progress, competencies, and training goals are evaluated on a regular basis.

#### POSITIONS:

The Department of Psychiatry at the Children's Hospital, Boston is offering two postdoctoral fellowships in Neuropsychology for the 2009-2011 training period. This is a **TWO-YEAR, FULL-TIME** training experience in which the fellow's time will be divided between clinical service delivery in the Neuropsychology Program, didactics, and research activities. The stipend is \$35,950 first year, \$ 38,110 second year. Benefits include medical/dental insurance, 20 vacation/professional leave days, and 10 hospital holidays yearly. The fellow will work under the direction of Celiane Rey-Casserly Ph.D., Jane Holmes Bernstein Ph.D., Deborah Waber Ph.D., Betsy Kammerer, Ph.D., Katrina Boyer, Ph.D., Christine Mrakotsky, Ph.D., Jennifer Turek, Ph.D, Melissa Matson, Ph.D., and Tanya Diver, Ph.D.. The Postdoctoral Training Program is a member of the Association of Postdoctoral Programs in Clinical Neuropsychology (APPCN), the standards, procedures and mission of which it endorses.

## QUALIFICATIONS:

The successful applicant will have a Ph.D. or Psy.D. in clinical psychology, or school psychology from an APA/CPA accredited doctoral program and have completed a predoctoral internship in an APA/CPA accredited program. In addition to these general requirements, all applicants must present evidence of substantial clinical experience with children, including use and interpretation of basic psychological tests, of course work in physiological psychology, neuroanatomy, and neuropsychology, of training and competence in addressing issues of diversity and individual differences, and of a commitment to clinical research. Please include a list of relevant courses (title, instructor, location, year) and representative publications or published abstracts with application. The Children's Hospital, Boston is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer. We place a strong emphasis on the values of equality, diversity, and compassion. The starting date for the fellowship is September 1, 2009.

## APPLICATION PROCEDURES:

Interested candidates are asked to forward the following materials: Letter of interest, curriculum vitae, certified transcript of all doctoral work, copies of two neuropsychological evaluation reports, and three letters of reference. Please contact Ms. Carol Berne, Department of Psychology, Fegan 8, 300 Longwood Avenue, Boston, MA 02115, 617 355-4563, email [carol.berne@childrens.harvard.edu](mailto:carol.berne@childrens.harvard.edu) to obtain more detailed program information. Application materials need to be received by **January 16, 2009** and all credentials including three professional references should be sent in the same packet to the attention of Carol Berne.

The Children's Hospital Neuropsychology Postdoctoral Training Program is a member of the Association of Postdoctoral Programs in Clinical Neuropsychology and participates in the Resident Matching Program administered by the National Matching Service. Information about the APPCN Resident Matching Program is available at [www.natmatch.com/appcnmat](http://www.natmatch.com/appcnmat). Instructions about the match and a copy of the Applicant Agreement form required to register for the match are available at this web site. APPCN member programs expect applicants to have completed all requirements for the doctoral degree prior to beginning a postdoctoral residency. All registered applicants in the APPCN Match should download the Doctoral Training Verification Form from the APPCN web site ([www.appcn.org](http://www.appcn.org)) and have the form completed by their dissertation advisor or Director of Clinical Training. This form should be submitted with application materials. Only those applicants who register for and participate in the Match can be matched to our program. Applicants must register for the Match by January 9, 2009. Results of the match will be released on March 9, 2009. Further information is available on the APPCN Web Site [www.appcn.org](http://www.appcn.org). Our program code number is: **9673**

We will be available to interview prospective candidates at the International Neuropsychological Society annual meetings in February, 2009 in Atlanta. Please indicate in your cover letter if you will be attending the meetings. Interviews will also be arranged in Boston if preferred for competitive applicants.

For further information contact Celiane Rey-Casserly, PhD, ABPP/ABCN, Director, Neuropsychology Program (617 355 6708); fax 617 730-0319; [celiane.rey-casserly@childrens.harvard.edu](mailto:celiane.rey-casserly@childrens.harvard.edu).

### **Neuropsychology Program Faculty**

Celiane Rey-Casserly, Ph.D., ABPP-CN  
Director, Neuropsychology Program

Deborah Waber, Ph.D.

Jane Holmes Bernstein, Ph.D.

Betsy Kammerer, Ph.D.

Katrina Boyer, Ph.D.

Christine Mrakotsky, Ph.D.

Jennifer Turek, Ph.D.

Tanya Diver, Ph.D.

Melissa Matson, Ph.D.