



Postdoctoral Fellowship Training Program

Postdoctoral Fellowship Description

CLINICAL FOCUS

Title:	Postdoctoral Fellowship in Pediatric Neuropsychology
APA-accredited:	Yes
Site/Employer:	Brown University Health: Emma Pendleton Bradley Hospital & Rhode Island Hospital/Hasbro Children's Hospital
Supervisor(s):	Brian Kavanaugh, PsyD, ABPP (Primary, Clinical & Research Supervisor, Bradley) Karen Holler, PhD, ABPP (Clinical Supervisor, Bradley) Christopher Anzalone, PhD (Clinical Supervisor, RIH) Ingrid Hastedt, PhD (Clinical Supervisor, RIH)

This two-year fellowship at Brown University Health is part of the Clinical Neuropsychology Specialty Program (CNSP) within the Postdoctoral Fellowship Training Program (PFTP) of Brown University's clinical psychology training Consortium. The CNSP has APA-accreditation as a Specialty Program in Clinical Neuropsychology.

Description of Site

The Pediatric Neuropsychology Postdoctoral Fellowship is based within Brown University Health and provides integrated training across **Bradley Hospital and Rhode Island Hospital/Hasbro Children's Hospital**, two complementary pediatric clinical settings affiliated with The Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University. Across both sites, the primary focus of neuropsychological referral is the assessment of neurocognitive functioning and detection and characterization of neurocognitive deficits in children and adolescents with neurodevelopmental, neuropsychiatric, neurologic, and complex medical conditions. Evaluations are designed to characterize patterns of cognitive strengths and weaknesses, clarify diagnostic and etiologic questions, determine the functional impact of neurocognitive difficulties, and inform individualized treatment and educational planning. Neuropsychologists work collaboratively with multidisciplinary teams across both hospitals, providing fellows with broad exposure to the application of pediatric neuropsychology across psychiatric and medical settings.

Bradley Hospital is a private, not-for-profit hospital and the nation's first psychiatric hospital devoted exclusively to children and adolescents. Founded in 1931, Bradley Hospital is part of the Brown University Health system and serves as the principal child and adolescent psychiatric teaching hospital for The Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University. Bradley provides a comprehensive continuum of pediatric neuropsychiatric and therapeutic services, including outpatient, inpatient, partial hospitalization, intensive outpatient, crisis stabilization, residential, and specialized educational programs. The hospital also has a longstanding commitment to research and innovation in child and adolescent neuropsychiatry.

Bradley Hospital's outpatient neuropsychology program evaluates children and adolescents referred primarily to assess neurocognitive status and identify cognitive difficulties that may contribute to functional impairment. Patients present with a broad range of neurodevelopmental, neuropsychiatric, learning, and neurologic conditions, including attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder, autism spectrum disorder, learning disorders, developmental disabilities, mood and anxiety disorders, and other complex clinical presentations. Referral questions commonly involve attention and executive functioning, learning and memory, language, processing speed, and other aspects of neurocognitive functioning, as well as the relationship of these abilities to academic, adaptive, emotional, and everyday functioning. Referrals arise from Bradley's multidisciplinary therapeutic programs as well as psychiatrists, psychologists, neurologists, pediatricians, schools, and other community providers. Fellows gain experience integrating neuropsychological findings with

developmental, psychiatric, educational, and medical information and translating findings into individualized recommendations for families, schools, and treatment teams.

Bradley Hospital's Child and Adolescent Inpatient Program provides an additional opportunity to assess neurocognitive functioning in children and adolescents with complex neuropsychiatric presentations requiring intensive stabilization, assessment, and treatment. Neuropsychological consultation is used to identify and characterize neurocognitive deficits, clarify how cognitive and developmental factors may contribute to the clinical presentation, and inform diagnostic formulation, treatment planning, educational recommendations, and discharge planning. Fellows work within multidisciplinary teams that include child and adolescent psychiatrists, psychologists, social workers, nurses, and milieu therapists, providing experience applying neuropsychological assessment to complex and diagnostically challenging presentations.

Rhode Island Hospital (RIH) is a private, not-for-profit acute care hospital and academic medical center and is part of the Brown University Health system. **Hasbro Children's Hospital**, the pediatric division of Rhode Island Hospital, is the principal pediatric medical hospital in the region and provides comprehensive specialty care to children from infancy through young adulthood. Its services include pediatric neurology and neurosurgery, hematology/oncology, cardiology, intensive care, emergency medicine, surgery, and numerous multidisciplinary specialty programs.

Rhode Island Hospital/Hasbro Children's Hospital's pediatric neuropsychology program provides fellows with extensive experience assessing neurocognitive status and detecting and characterizing neurocognitive deficits associated with neurologic and complex medical conditions. Referrals arise from pediatric neurology, neurosurgery, hematology/oncology, cardiology, and other pediatric specialty services, as well as from pediatricians and mental health providers. Fellows may evaluate children with epilepsy, brain tumors and other cancers, hydrocephalus, congenital heart conditions, metabolic and genetic disorders, functional neurological disorders, and other acquired or developmental neurologic and medical conditions. Evaluations characterize the presence, nature, and severity of neurocognitive difficulties and examine their relationship to the child's underlying condition, disease course, and treatment history. Findings are used to inform medical and therapeutic care, educational planning, rehabilitation, and recommendations for ongoing monitoring and intervention.

Training at Rhode Island Hospital/Hasbro Children's Hospital also emphasizes interdisciplinary collaboration within an academic medical center. Neuropsychology interfaces closely with pediatric medical and surgical specialties, allowing fellows to integrate neuropsychological findings with neurologic, medical, developmental, and neuroimaging information. Depending on the training year and available opportunities, fellows may also participate in multidisciplinary clinical activities and gain experience working with psychometric technicians and supervising psychology trainees.

Across Bradley Hospital and Rhode Island Hospital/Hasbro Children's Hospital, neuropsychological assessment provides a common framework for understanding how disorders of the developing brain affect cognition and everyday functioning. The complementary settings expose fellows to neurocognitive dysfunction arising in the context of neurodevelopmental and neuropsychiatric disorders at Bradley Hospital and neurologic and complex medical conditions at Rhode Island Hospital/Hasbro Children's Hospital. Across settings, fellows develop increasing independence in clinical interviewing, test selection, assessment of neurocognitive status, identification and interpretation of neurocognitive deficits, case conceptualization, report writing, feedback, consultation, and communication with multidisciplinary teams. This breadth of training is designed to prepare fellows for independent practice and board certification in clinical pediatric neuropsychology.

Fellowship Aims

The Pediatric Neuropsychology Postdoctoral Fellowship is designed to provide advanced training consistent with preparation for independent practice and eventual board certification in clinical pediatric neuropsychology. The primary aims of the fellowship are:

1. **To provide broad, advanced training in pediatric neuropsychology**, including the assessment and characterization of neurocognitive functioning in children and adolescents with neurodevelopmental, neuropsychiatric, neurologic, and complex medical conditions.

2. **To develop an advanced understanding of brain–behavior relationships across development**, including the neurocognitive consequences of disorders affecting the developing brain and the integration of developmental, psychiatric, neurologic, medical, and educational information within neuropsychological case conceptualization.
3. **To develop proficiency and increasing independence in pediatric neuropsychological evaluation and consultation**, including clinical interviewing, test selection, assessment of neurocognitive status, identification and interpretation of neurocognitive deficits, case conceptualization, report writing, diagnostic feedback, and development of individualized treatment and educational recommendations.
4. **To develop competencies in research and scholarly activity relevant to pediatric neuropsychology and clinical neuroscience**. Fellows will have opportunities to participate in ongoing research, contribute to study design and implementation, analyze and interpret data, develop scientific presentations and manuscripts, and receive mentorship in grant writing and research career development.

Fellowship Timeline

The fellowship is a **two-year, full-time postdoctoral training program**, contingent upon satisfactory progress and successful completion of first-year training requirements. The anticipated start date is July or August 2027.

The fellow and fellowship leadership will review progress throughout the first year and will confirm continuation into the second year in December.

Clinical Activity Plan (70% Time)

Approximately 70% of the fellow's time is devoted to clinical training in pediatric neuropsychology. Clinical experiences are distributed across Bradley Hospital and Rhode Island Hospital/Hasbro Children's Hospital, providing complementary exposure to children and adolescents with neurodevelopmental, neuropsychiatric, neurologic, and complex medical conditions.

Neuropsychological Assessment and Consultation. The fellow will conduct comprehensive neuropsychological evaluations of children and adolescents across both hospital systems. The primary purpose of these evaluations is to assess neurocognitive status, identify and characterize neurocognitive deficits, understand their developmental, diagnostic, and functional significance, and translate findings into individualized clinical and educational recommendations.

At Bradley Hospital, fellows gain experience evaluating children and adolescents with neurodevelopmental and neuropsychiatric conditions through outpatient neuropsychology services and may participate in neuropsychological consultation within child and adolescent inpatient and other intensive therapeutic programs. At Rhode Island Hospital/Hasbro Children's Hospital, fellows evaluate children and adolescents with a broad range of neurologic and medical conditions referred through pediatric neurology, neurosurgery, hematology/oncology, cardiology, and other pediatric specialty services.

Clinical training is individualized based on the fellow's developmental level, training goals, and available clinical experiences. The fellow will typically have approximately four clinical days per week distributed across sites and settings and will receive individual supervision from faculty neuropsychologists. Fellows participate in all major components of the neuropsychological evaluation process, including record review, clinical interviewing, test selection and administration, scoring and interpretation, case conceptualization, report writing, interdisciplinary consultation, and feedback with patients and families. Increasing independence and responsibility are expected as fellows progress through the two-year program.

Professional Development. Professional development is integrated throughout the fellowship and includes preparation for independent practice as a clinical neuropsychologist. Fellows are expected to pursue psychology licensure during the fellowship and receive mentorship regarding the licensure process, professional identity development, ethical practice, supervision, and preparation for eventual board certification in clinical pediatric neuropsychology. Fellows also participate in relevant institutional didactics and professional development activities, including the Clinical Ethics Seminar required for licensure.

Research Activity Plan (20% Time)

Approximately 20% of the fellow's time is protected for research and scholarly activity under the mentorship of Dr. Brian Kavanaugh. Fellows participate in an active program of clinical neuroscience research focused on understanding and

treating neurocognitive dysfunction in children and adolescents. Current federally and foundation-funded projects use multimodal methods, including magnetic resonance imaging (MRI), electroencephalography (EEG), and non-invasive brain stimulation such as transcranial magnetic stimulation (TMS), to investigate the neural mechanisms underlying executive and neurocognitive dysfunction and to develop brain-based interventions for pediatric neuropsychiatric conditions.

Research experiences are tailored to the fellow's interests and career goals and may include the following:

- **Study Collaboration and Independent Research.** Fellows participate in ongoing research projects and are encouraged to develop a focused research question that can be addressed using existing or prospectively collected data. Training may include study design and implementation, data collection and management, statistical analysis, interpretation of findings, and dissemination of results.
- **Manuscript and Conference Presentation Development.** Fellows are expected to participate actively in scholarly dissemination, including preparation of peer-reviewed manuscripts and abstracts or presentations for national scientific meetings. Individual publication and presentation goals are established based on the fellow's interests, experience, and career goals.
- **Grant Writing and Career Development.** Fellows interested in developing expertise in grantsmanship receive individualized mentorship in developing research questions, specific aims, and grant proposals. Depending on the fellow's career goals and stage of research development, this may include preparation of an individual fellowship, career development, foundation, or other appropriate grant application.
- **Scientific Literature and Research Integration.** Fellows develop familiarity with contemporary literature relevant to pediatric neuropsychology, developmental cognitive neuroscience, neurophysiology, neuroimaging, neuromodulation, and child and adolescent neuropsychiatry. Emphasis is placed on integrating current scientific evidence with both research questions and clinical neuropsychological practice.

Didactics (10 % time)

Postdoctoral Seminars: The fellow will participate in post-doctoral seminars through the Brown Postdoctoral Training Program.

Mandatory Didactics:

Core Seminars (1 per month).

DPHB Academic Grand Rounds (1 per month).

Clinical Ethics- (1 per month).

Neuropsychology Track Seminars and Neuropsychology Rounds (weekly)

Brain Cuttings, Medical Examiner's Office (required once per year but may attend more frequently)

Optional Didactics:

The fellow will have the option of attending a Neuropsychology Track Research Interest Group (monthly) which is a working grant writing seminar attended by faculty and trainees. Other didactics may include DPHB Biostatistics Seminar, (monthly, attend when content is relevant), DPHB grant writing workshops, or Advance-CTR training opportunities to help fellows prepare for an independent research career.

Supervision and Evaluation

Drs. Holler, Anzalone, and Kavanaugh will supervise each clinical evaluation assigned to the fellow in the form of weekly individual supervision. The fellow will meet with the case supervisor to review the case and to discuss the evaluation plan. The supervisor will be on site during the evaluation and is available for consultation as the evaluation is being performed. The fellow will meet individually with the supervisor after the completion of the case to review the evaluation process, test results and recommendations. On the average, the fellow will be supervised between one and two hours for each case by the assigned supervisor (≥ 3 hours per week of supervision). The fellow will receive a mentored research experience and be supervised approximately 1 hour per week on research activities by Dr. Kavanaugh.

At the midpoint and conclusion of each year of the fellowship, the fellow and the supervisors are requested to provide formal evaluations, and evaluations of the program relative to the goals and learning objectives of the fellowship.

Please visit the [Brown Faculty](#) page to view supervisor profiles.

Resource Requirements

Fellow will be provided with the following resources:

- Access to space appropriate for clinical care
- Personal office space and library privileges
- A computer and project specific software
- Internet access
- Telephone

Reporting and approval

This fellowship will be part of the Neuropsychology track. The position has been discussed and approved by the Neuropsychology track faculty in their monthly meeting.

Director, Clinical Neuropsychology Specialty Program

Associate Director, Clinical Neuropsychology Specialty Program

Director, Postdoctoral Fellowship Training Program