



CHILDREN'S  
NEUROPSYCHOLOGICAL  
SERVICES, LLC

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## **Children's Neuropsychological Services, LLC**

### **Two-Year Postdoctoral Training in Pediatric Neuropsychology**

Children's Neuropsychological Services (CNS), a member of the Association of Postdoctoral Programs in Clinical Neuropsychology (APPCN), is seeking trainees for a two-year Postdoctoral Pediatric Neuropsychology Residency. Our primary objective is to provide cutting edge training in neuropsychological assessment, while adhering to the standards set forth by the Houston Conference on Specialty Education and Training in Clinical Neuropsychology.

We believe that integrating science-based practice with the philosophy of "testing for success" results in the best outcome. Our approach to assessment relies heavily on three core tenets: the developmental process, emphasis on prevention and well-being, and the role of feedback as a treatment intervention for both the child and family system. Within this context, we simultaneously stress the importance of a highly flexible and collegial work environment.

#### **Our Practice**

Founded in 2001, Children's Neuropsychological Services is a private practice setting focusing on patients ages 2 to 24. Our staff of neuropsychologists has concentrated training in pediatric development and in providing neuropsychological evaluations for children, adolescents, and young adults.

#### **Training Overview**

Our training program provides extensive supervised experience in conducting pediatric neuropsychological evaluations in an outpatient private practice setting. Approximately 75% of the resident's time will be spent in the delivery of clinical services. Didactic/training and research experiences will comprise the remaining 25% of the resident's time. The resident's clinical service will primarily focus on the evaluation of individuals ranging from 2 to 24 years of age. Our patient population is diverse and will expose the resident to a range of neurodevelopmental and acquired disorders, including ADHD, Learning Disorders, Autism Spectrum Disorders, Sports-Related Concussion, TBI, and psychiatric and neuromedical disorders. Patients are typically referred from pediatricians, neurologists, psychiatrists, psychologists, other health service providers, and school professionals. Residents will have the opportunity to participate in our Developmental Assessment Clinic where they will conduct neurodevelopmental evaluations of children ages 2 to 4. Residents are expected to conduct 2-3 assessments per week and to fully participate in all aspects of the evaluation, including interview, case review/preparation, standardized assessment, report writing, feedback, and consultation to referral sources.

Our program is based on the scientist-practitioner model and is consistent with the Houston Conference Guidelines for training in neuropsychology. We are committed to providing education and training in the competencies necessary for the specialized practice of pediatric neuropsychology. As such, our program provides two years of full-time formal training in pediatric neuropsychology with appropriate clinical, didactic, and research components. Moreover, our program is designed to allow the resident to become an independently licensed practitioner who is eligible for board certification after completion of training.

## **Supervision**

Supervision and peer mentorship will be provided formally or informally on a daily basis. At a minimum, the resident will receive 2-3 hours of direct supervision from Drs. McKernon, Cristiano, Amaya-Hodges, Conway, and/or Bradbury. In addition, residents will participate in weekly group supervision with Dr. Mautz. Supervision will occur multiple times a week and focus on the process of assessment, report writing skills, feedback sessions, and special educational law. There is a rotational structure to supervision whereby the residents are supervised by 2 primary individual supervisors at a time. There is some flexibility to this structure, however, depending on the case and area(s) of expertise of the different supervisors. The resident will have the necessary number of supervision hours to apply for Massachusetts licensure at the end of the first year. Below is information about supervisors along with their training statements.

### Wendy McKernon, Ph.D., ABPP-CN

Wendy McKernon is board certified in Clinical Neuropsychology by the American Board of Professional Psychology. She also has been awarded the subspecialty certification in pediatric neuropsychology. She received formal training in neuropsychology at the University of Chicago Hospitals and Bedford VA Medical Center-Boston University School of Medicine and earned her Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology at Loyola University of Chicago.

Dr. McKernon's primary focus of supervision is to work with residents on honing their skills as clinical neuropsychologists in the areas of test selection, interviewing, differential diagnosis, communicating findings and recommendations during feedback, and report writing. The primary goal of supervision will be for residents to develop a strong capacity to formulate diagnoses that align with a review of the history, behavioral observations, and standardized tests and questionnaires and to develop appropriate treatment plans. Additionally, supervision will involve ensuring that residents are trained in a manner that prepares them for the board certification process.

### Mary Cristiano, Psy.D., ABPP-CN

Mary Healy Cristiano is board certified in Clinical Neuropsychology by the American Board of Professional Psychology and has been awarded the subspecialty certification in pediatric neuropsychology. She received formal training in neuropsychology at NYU Langone Medical Center in New York, NY. In addition, she received specialized training in the neuropsychological sequelae and school consultative needs of children treated at the Jimmy Fund

Clinic at Dana-Farber Cancer Institute. Dr. Cristiano specializes in neuropsychological assessments of children and adolescents with learning, emotional, and behavioral concerns with a particular emphasis on children ages 2 to 6.

Dr. Cristiano provides supervision for early childhood and preschool cases, as well as training in the role of school liaison work in the neuropsychological evaluation across all ages. More specifically, as Director of the Developmental Assessment Clinic, she provides supervision surrounding data collection, test selection, behavioral management during testing, differential diagnosis, and recommendations for cases under age 6. Dr. Cristiano also works with residents on translating test scores into concrete, practical, and relatable recommendations for school districts in order to support a child's success across all settings. Specialized training in advocacy work and the role of the neuropsychologist in special education meetings is also available.

Meredith Amaya-Hodges, Ph.D.

Meredith Amaya-Hodges earned her Ph.D. in clinical psychology, child/adolescent focus, from Northwestern University's Feinberg School of Medicine in Chicago, IL. She received formal training at the Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago and Northwestern Memorial Hospital, and she completed her internship in pediatric psychology and two-year post-doctoral fellowship in pediatric neuropsychology at Children's National Health System in Washington, DC. Prior to joining CNS, she was on faculty at Memorial Hospital of Rhode Island, where she was conferred an academic appointment in the Department of Psychiatry and Human Behavior at the Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University. Dr. Amaya-Hodges has experience in working with youth with a variety of developmental, psychological, and medical diagnoses. She has specialized training in the evaluation and management of concussions and other acquired brain injuries. She also focuses on neuropsychological assessment of children with depression, anxiety, and obsessive-compulsive disorder.

Dr. Amaya-Hodges encourages residents to approach case conceptualization using a biopsychosocial ecological model, taking into account individual and environmental factors that impact an individual's development, response to treatment, and barriers to success. She supports residents in integrating information from a variety of sources, including clinical interviews, school and medical records, questionnaires, and formal test measures, into a comprehensive case formulation and treatment plan. Dr. Amaya-Hodges also offers specialized training in concussion evaluation, symptom management, and school and community advocacy.

Matthew Conway, Psy.D.

Matthew Conway earned his Doctorate in Psychology from The Chicago School of Professional Psychology, with a concentration in neuropsychology, and his Bachelor's degree in Psychology from Brown University. He has received formal training in neuropsychology from top tier hospitals and clinics around the U.S., including Advocate Illinois Masonic, Central DuPage Hospital, and Lenox Hill Hospital, and he most recently completed his two-year pediatric neuropsychology fellowship with us at Children's Neuropsychological Services. Dr. Conway has a unique ability to connect with his clients and their families, utilizing a strengths-based approach to help facilitate meaningful change. His primary areas of clinical specialization

include Autism Spectrum Disorder, ADHD and executive functioning deficits, neurodevelopmental disorders, and complex differential diagnosis.

Dr. Conway encourages residents to approach their own development as clinicians from a developmental perspective focusing on fostering independence and confidence across all aspects of their clinical work. He helps residents focus on creating and finding their style of report writing while also learning how to sharpen their communication skills.

#### Kathryn Bradbury, Ph.D.

Kathryn Bradbury earned her Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology (pediatric neuropsychology focus) from the University of Connecticut. She received formal training in neuropsychology at the Yale Child Study Center, UCONN Health Center, and a private group practice during graduate school. Dr. Bradbury completed her clinical internship in pediatric neuropsychology and psychotherapy at the University of Minnesota Medical School/Masonic Children's Hospital. She then completed her two-year pediatric neuropsychology fellowship at Oregon Health & Science University/Doernbecher Children's Hospital, with a dual-focus on medically complex presentations and autism spectrum disorder (ASD) diagnostic assessment. Her primary areas of clinical specialization include early childhood assessment, ASD and other neurodevelopmental disorders, and complex medical presentations, including epilepsy and traumatic brain injury.

Dr. Bradbury primarily provides supervision for early childhood and preschool cases through the Developmental Assessment Clinic. She works closely with residents to strengthen administration and interpretation skills. During supervision, she encourages the use of self-reflection to promote increasing awareness of one's own competence and facilitate independence. Dr. Bradbury is also passionate about mentorship and provides opportunities to discuss professional development during the course of supervision. Specialized training in ASD assessment throughout childhood and adolescence is also available.

#### William Mautz, Ph.D.

William Mautz received formal training in neuropsychology at Children's Hospital-Harvard Medical School, Children's Hospital-Northwestern Medical School, and the University of Chicago Hospitals. He earned his Ph.D. in Child Clinical Psychology at DePaul University following a Master's in Education from Harvard University.

Dr. Mautz's objective as a supervisor is to educate residents on how the evaluation and feedback process can be used as a clinical intervention. Dr. Mautz's approach is steeped in a developmental model with an emphasis on risk and prevention. Residents will explore the role of "prognosticator" under his supervision, be challenged to appreciate the natural limitations of scores, and gain a better appreciation of our philosophy of "testing for success." Residents will also have an opportunity to discuss the business of private practice during supervision.

## **Didactics**

CNS residents will participate in a range of didactic experiences that include licensure and ABPP exam preparation, training on specific tests/instruments/procedures, and rounds/seminars at Boston hospitals and institutions. In-house didactics/seminars include clinical staff meetings, case conferences, journal club, ethics and professional development, and mock fact findings as well as formal presentations in basic neuroscience, neuroanatomy, behavioral neurology, and neuropathology. In addition, CNS coordinates teleconferencing seminars with neuropsychology leaders across the country. Didactic training is further enhanced through directed reading and online seminars and can be modified based on the training needs and interests of the resident.

## **Research**

CNS residents are required to participate in and/or develop a research project within the field of neuropsychology. CNS clinical staff will support the development of in-house projects and/or facilitate partnerships with outside neuropsychology researchers through our professional network. Additionally, residents are required to research and develop presentations on topics relevant to the field of neuropsychology twice each training year. Residents attend monthly meetings facilitated by the research supervisor (Dr. Amaya-Hodges) to identify potential projects as well as to prepare and review abstracts for submission and/or research presentations. In cases in which the resident is primarily conducting research outside of CNS, the resident continues to attend monthly research meetings to monitor their progress, engage in group discussion, and receive appropriate supervision/support.

## **Professional Development**

In addition to developing a resident's expertise as a neuropsychologist, a primary goal of our program is to provide mentoring aimed at advancing private practice competency. Our program offers multiple opportunities to gain experience and awareness of private practice models, business and marketing procedures, community outreach, and pre-authorization/insurance billing issues. An emphasis is also placed on enhancing the potential to be prepared and competitive for alternative neuropsychology positions in a variety of settings.

## **Interdisciplinary Training/Shadowing**

We actively maintain collaborative professional relationships with medical and mental health providers throughout the Boston area. CNS residents are encouraged to access our connections in order to gain exposure to a range of professional disciplines and will gain direct supervision on how to utilize this exposure to facilitate their development of consultation skills.

## **Special Education & Schools**

Our practice regularly requires the clinician to effectively apply knowledge of special education in order to optimize our patient's success. Thus, the resident will participate in didactics designed to increase awareness/skills of special education law and its application within the field of pediatric neuropsychology. CNS residents may also have the opportunity to provide consultation to area schools and/or participate in school meetings.

## **Eligibility Criteria and Application Materials**

Candidates for the CNS postdoctoral residency must have completed all requirements for their doctoral degree prior to beginning the residency. Applicants should have completed a pre-doctoral internship accredited by the American Psychological Association (APA) or Canadian Psychological Association (CPA). Only graduates of accredited programs will be considered.

Candidates should have well-established clinical and research interests, experience in pediatric neuropsychological assessment, and interest in pursuing board certification.

Applicants must submit the following: letter of intent, Curriculum Vitae, graduate transcripts, 3 letters of recommendation, and 2 de-identified pediatric neuropsychological assessment reports.

*Please note: As an APPCN member program, CNS is participating in the Match administered on behalf of APPCN by National Matching Services (NMS). The deadline for submission of materials is January 15, 2022, and we will be conducting interviews via Zoom the last week of January. There will also be the opportunity to meet in-person at INS.*

Anticipated start date is flexible but is likely to be September 1, 2022.

## **Compensation and Vacation**

First and Second Year Salary:	\$65,000
Didactic Stipend:	\$1,500 for each year

CNS will provide trainees access to a medical plan option as well as 4 weeks paid vacation plus national holidays.

Additional information about CNS can be found on our website at: [www.childneuropsych.com](http://www.childneuropsych.com)

Application materials should be forwarded to:  
[mckernon@childneuropsych.com](mailto:mckernon@childneuropsych.com)