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) 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 of training 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 assessment outcome. Our approach to assessment relies heavily on two basic tenets: life-span development and prevention. Within this context, we simultaneously stress the importance of our own well-being through 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 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 off-site autism screening clinic where they will conduct neurodevelopmental evaluations of children ages 2 to 5. Residents are expected to fully participate in all aspects of the evaluation, including interview, case review/preparation, standardized assessment, report writing, feedback, and consultation to referral sources. Residents are expected to conduct 2-3 assessments per week.

Our program is based on the scientist-practitioner model and 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, and/or Mautz. 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 session, 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, 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 of their 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.

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 (a staff neuropsychologist) 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 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, 2 de-identified pediatric neuropsychological assessment reports.

Anticipated start date is flexible, but is likely to be September 1st of 2020.
Please note: We will be attending INS and there will be interview opportunities for those who have submitted complete applications. We will also be conducting interviews in our Andover, MA office.

Compensation and Vacation

First Year Salary:	$55,000
Second Year Salary:	$65,000
Didactic Stipend:	$1,500 for each year

CNS will provide residents a shared-cost medical plan option, as well as 4 weeks paid vacation plus national holidays.

Additional information about the CNS fellowship can be found at:
www.childrensneuropsych.com/about-us/careers/

Application materials should be forwarded to:
CNS, Attention: Wendy McKernon, Ph.D., ABPP
26 Chestnut St., Ste. 2E
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mckernon@childneuropsych.com