



Postdoctoral Training in Neuropsychology

OBJECTIVE AND OVERVIEW

The purpose of the Pediatric Neuropsychology Training Program is to provide training and education in neuropsychological assessment and intervention within the context of a scientist-practitioner framework. There is a strong tradition of integrated clinical care and empirical investigation at St. Jude Children's Research Hospital that offers substantive research opportunities for fellows who intend to pursue academic health care careers. Clinical experiences will be afforded by clinics within the Department of Psychology and Biobehavioral Sciences at St. Jude as well as neighboring hospitals. Research opportunities will be coordinated by the fellow's research mentor and mentoring team. Didactics are available at St. Jude as well as through the Memphis VAMC and the University of Tennessee Health Sciences Center.

TRAINING EXPERIENCE

This is a two-year, full-time fellowship position with an intended start date in August 2025. The second year is dependent upon successful completion of the first year. Experiences are designed to meet INS-Division 40, Houston Conference and ABPP Diploma in Clinical Neuropsychology preparation guidelines. The fellowship program is an APPCN (Association of Postdoctoral Programs in Clinical Neuropsychology) member. It is anticipated that 50–70% of the trainee's time will be spent in the delivery of clinical services, 10–20% in educational/didactic activities and 20–40% dedicated to research. These percentages are negotiable based on the fellow's interests and training needs. The program is designed to have a greater emphasis on clinical service during the first year and research investigation during the second year.

CLINICAL EXPERIENCE

The primary populations served by St. Jude Children's Research Hospital include pediatric oncology, sickle cell disease and other hematological disorders, HIV, rare genetic disorders (e.g., neurofibromatosis, Hurler syndrome), and neurological insults associated with immunocompromised status (e.g., posterior reversible encephalopathy syndrome). These clinical populations present with a wide-range of cognitive difficulties (focal and diffuse neurological insult related to primary diagnosis and/or treatment including problems with attention, executive functioning, memory, language, visuospatial reasoning and psychosocial adjustment) that will afford fellows with broad-based training. St. Jude serves populations ranging in age from birth through young adulthood. The fellow also has the opportunity to participate in minor rotations with local pediatric and adult neuropsychologists assessing individuals presenting with traditional developmental disorders (e.g., learning disability/ADHD) and/or general medical conditions (e.g., TBI, epilepsy).



Fellows will gain experience in comprehensive and targeted neuropsychological evaluations that include the following skills: medical record review (including access to repeat neuroimaging), clinical interviewing to ascertain pertinent historical information, administration and interpretation of neuropsychological instruments, case conceptualization, provision of feedback to patients and their families, comprehensive report writing, consultation with health care professionals and development of recommendations that seek to ameliorate the impact of brain dysfunction on academic and social functioning. Fellows participate in school re-entry planning and IEP development, often in coordination with the St. Jude School Program. Fellows are encouraged to participate in brief bedside assessments of inpatients to monitor recovery following acute neurologic events (e.g., methotrexate neurotoxicity, stroke) or neurosurgical interventions (e.g., posterior fossa syndrome). Opportunities exist to participate in the selection and

administration of brief therapeutic interventions for inpatients and outpatients to address issues related to neurocognitive impact of disease on academic, behavioral, adaptive, and psychosocial functioning; treatment adherence; coping and adjustment. Given the nature of primary populations served at St. Jude, and provision of care irrespective of ability to pay, there is high potential for serial evaluation of individual patients affording the ability to monitor change over time (including transition to adulthood) and evaluate the efficacy of intervention-based recommendations.

Fellows will gain experience working within an interdisciplinary framework that involves regular interactions with team members including physicians, nurses, psychologists, social workers, special educators, occupational and physical therapists, speech/language pathologists, nutritionists, child life specialists and chaplains. Supervision of clinical trainees (i.e., interns and graduate students) is encouraged, particularly during the second year.

It is anticipated that fellows will participate in approximately two comprehensive clinical evaluations per week. The number of comprehensive clinical evaluations will be determined based on their level of interest and involvement in providing therapeutic interventions and conducting independent research. Fellows will receive two or more hours of individual supervision weekly to address assessment planning, case conceptualization, interpretation of evaluation findings, relevant research topics and report writing. Supervision will be provided by licensed clinical neuropsychologists and psychologists. Fellows will receive regular feedback regarding their performance with written feedback provided every three months.

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

The majority of St. Jude's patients are enrolled on research protocols with significant interplay between clinical care and clinical investigation that both fosters cutting-edge medical care and clinically-driven research. Research initiatives in the Department of Psychology and Biobehavioral Sciences include: cognitive rehabilitation and neurocognitive effects of childhood cancer and sickle cell disease; psychosocial and complementary interventions for distress reduction, coping and adaptive style and health promotion (smoking prevention/cessation and adherence) in children with cancer, sickle cell disease and HIV. The focus of research in the



department is on discovering mechanisms of brain damage and cognitive rehabilitation with the goal of better defining the neurobiological, cognitive and social consequences of childhood brain damage as well as evaluating the efficacy of pharmacological and behavioral interventions designed to improve patients' quality of life. Details of research at St. Jude are available online at: www.stjude.org/sci-rpt.

Fellows are required to participate in and/or develop a research project within the field of neuropsychology. The research area for trainees beginning fellowship in 2025 is focused on neurocognitive outcomes and interventions in survivors of childhood cancer and/or sickle cell disease. St. Jude is unique in the availability of biostatisticians to assist with study design, statistical analysis and presentation of statistical findings.

It is expected that fellows will gain experience in critical review of empirical studies, research design, statistical analysis and dissemination of findings through presentations and publications. Opportunities for mentored journal reviews and grant writing are also available.

There are ample opportunities available within pediatric oncology, pediatric psychology, and hematology to facilitate tailoring of research projects to a given trainee's interests.

DIDACTIC EXPERIENCE

Didactic opportunities include a comprehensive, integrated pediatric neuropsychology and pediatric psychology series, rounds in psychology, hematology, neuro-oncology, and neuroradiology; and multidisciplinary seminars, staff meetings, and conferences. Weekly

fellows didactics integrate topics of neuroanatomy, neuropsychological conditions in children, and psychosocial care of pediatric patients and their families.

To foster a developmental lifespan perspective, training in adult and geriatric neuropsychology is integrated into the didactic curriculum.

We embrace diversity, equity, and inclusion in all clinical, research, and didactic activities to ensure competence in professional practice relevant to cultural and individual differences.



SUPERVISORS

- **[Brian Potter, PsyD, ABPP-CN](#)**
Neuropsychology Fellowship Training Director
- [Heather Conklin, PhD](#)
- [Ashley Fournier-Goodnight, PhD, ABPP-CN](#)
- [Andrew Heitzer, PhD, ABPP-CN](#)
- [Lisa Jacola, PhD, ABPP-CN](#)
- [Jennifer Longoria, PhD, ABPP-CN](#)
- [Darcy Raches, PhD](#)

ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE

St. Jude Children's Research Hospital is an internationally recognized leader in research for children with catastrophic illness, including cancer, sickle cell disease, HIV and genetic disorders. For fifteen consecutive years, St. Jude was named

as one of the top institutions in the Best Places to Work in Academia. St. Jude is the only Children's Cancer Center funded by the National Institute of Health and all services are provided to families without reference to their ability to pay. Additional information about the institution can be obtained at: www.stjude.org

The Neuropsychology Training Program is housed within the Department of Psychology and Biobehavioral Sciences, which includes: 23 faculty psychologists (7 neuropsychologists), 2-6 pediatric psychology fellows, 3 neuropsychology fellows, 15 clinical research associates and 6 psychological examiners. The St. Jude Psychology Clinic serves, on average, 1,000 children annually.

Within St. Jude, collaborations with neuro-oncology, hematology, diagnostic imaging, infectious disease, pain service, bone marrow transplant, school program, rehabilitation, speech, social work, child life and chaplain services are strong. Most faculty within Psychology also have appointments at the nearby University of Memphis and University of Tennessee Health Sciences Center that facilitate outside collaboration.

More information about the Department of Psychology and Biobehavioral Sciences is available online at www.stjude.org

BENEFITS

Benefits are attractive, including 3 weeks paid vacation, 2 personal days, 8 holidays, a generous professional development account, relocation assistance, paid leave to attend conferences, a free on-campus gym, and medical, dental and vision coverage. The stipend is highly competitive (For 2024-2025: \$76,080). St. Jude has a Clinical Education and Training Office (CETO) that offers many services for our fellows including weekly journal clubs, an annual retreat and annual poster sessions.

QUALIFICATION OF APPLICANTS

Completion of an APA/CPA-accredited doctoral program in clinical psychology, clinical neuropsychology, pediatric psychology, counseling psychology, or school psychology is required. All applicants should have clinical experience and training in working with children. Prior training, coursework and experience in neuropsychology are strongly preferred, including knowledge of neuroanatomy and brain-behavior relationships. Candidates must have defended their

dissertation prior to commencement of the fellowship. Details can be obtained at the [APPCN website \(http://www.appcn.org\)](http://www.appcn.org). The Program Code Number for St. Jude Children's Research Hospital is 8633.

ST. JUDE CHILDREN'S RESEARCH HOSPITAL IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER.

APPLICATION PROCEDURE

- Applicants are asked to send the following materials, by standard mail or email (preferred), by December 6, 2024:
- A cover letter indicating interest in this program that summarizes relevant training experiences, professional interests, fellowship goals and career plans
- Copy of current Curriculum Vita
- Two recent neuropsychological reports (pediatric preferred) conducted and written by the applicant with all identifying patient information removed
- Three letters of recommendation from psychologists or neuropsychologists familiar with the applicant's clinical work and/or training
- Graduate transcript



EMAIL APPLICATION MATERIALS TO:

Brian Potter, PsyD, ABPP-CN

Assistant Member,
Neuropsychology Fellowship Training Director
Brian.Potter@stjude.org

St. Jude Children's Research Hospital
262 Danny Thomas Place,
Mail Stop 740
Memphis, TN 38105-3678

**All interviews will be scheduled
January 27-31, 2025.**

E-mail inquiries to brian.potter@stjude.org

Applicants for any clinical training role, including graduate students, doctoral interns, and post-doctoral fellows, must pass a drug test and background check. The background check includes criminal, license/certificates/credentials, employment/education verification, and various abuse registries. Drug and background screenings are facilitated by St. Jude onboarding. Applicants must have a health screen. The health screen must establish that the applicant is fully vaccinated.



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