



Postdoctoral Fellowship in Pediatric Neuropsychology (2024-2026)
Children's Hospital of Orange County

Children's Hospital of Orange County (CHOC) is pleased to offer a two-year, full-time postdoctoral fellowship in **Pediatric Neuropsychology** beginning August 26, 2024, and ending August 21, 2026. The postdoctoral fellowship is a part of the Psychology/Neuropsychology Training Program that includes an APA-accredited psychology internship. CHOC's postdoctoral fellowship offers a major area of study in clinical neuropsychology which adheres to the Houston Conference Guidelines for specialty training. The objective of the fellowship is to provide advanced training in neuropsychological evaluation of children and adolescents with a wide range of medical conditions that impact the central nervous system and provide fellows with the experience required for independent practice, state licensure, and board certification. The training emphasis is clinical with additional time divided across didactics, supervision/professional development, and research/program development.

Fellows will work closely with our 6 neuropsychologists (including 2 board-certified) in performing pediatric neuropsychological assessments for a wide range of populations, including rotations focusing on pre-surgery epilepsy evaluations, oncology brain tumor and long-term cancer survivorship evaluations, cardiac neurodevelopmental evaluations, early childhood evaluations, and multidisciplinary concussion clinic. Notably, CHOC has a Level IV Epilepsy Center with a busy EEG monitoring and epilepsy surgery program. Additionally, CHOC's Cardiac Neurodevelopmental Program is a member of the Cardiac Neurodevelopmental Outcome Collaborative and participates in national multi-site clinical and research initiatives.

Educational training experiences include our biweekly Advanced Neuropsychology Seminar which includes both fellows and faculty neuropsychologists and focuses on neuropsychological populations, neuroanatomy, case conceptualization, and literature, in addition to biweekly preparation for board certification (e.g., fact finding). Fellows also serve as lecturers and teaching assistants for the bimonthly intern assessment seminar, Child and Adolescent Assessment Seminar. As a teaching assistant, fellows work with a faculty mentor to develop competencies in designing didactic series for psychology trainees, formal presentation skills, ways to facilitate meaningful discussion, and how to elicit seminar feedback from participants. Additional weekly seminars focused on topics including professional development, supervision, and ethics are offered through the broader CHOC psychology fellowship. Fellows will also have the opportunity to deliver presentations on neuropsychology topics within our training program seminars, hospital, and/or community.

CHOC serves a culturally and linguistically diverse population, and the training program places an emphasis on multicultural neuropsychology. The program offers a unique training opportunity in the neuropsychological assessment of bilingual (Spanish-English) pediatric patients for Spanish-speaking fellows under the supervision of 3 bilingual neuropsychologists. In addition to the integration of equity, diversity, and inclusion into each seminar series, fellows are also encouraged to participate in our Diversity Seminar and unique CHiSPA seminar for fellows and faculty who are proficient in Spanish. Our fellowship looks forward to the implementation of updated education and training guidelines proposed by the Minnesota Update Conference, at which CHOC had 2 representatives.

All neuropsychology faculty are involved in clinical research and program development, and fellows will have the opportunity to generate a postdoctoral fellowship project that is clinical or research oriented. Projects have included formal research questions, quality improvement initiatives, needs assessments, generation of individual or group manualized treatments, and development of psychoeducational materials. Upon completion of the postdoctoral fellowship project, fellows are encouraged to present their results as presentations, posters, and/or papers within local, regional, and national forums, or to use the results to build upon in future programs or research development. Postdoctoral fellows will also be provided training in the provision of supervision, with opportunities for vertical supervision of interns and/or practicum students.

CHOC has been recognized by the U.S. News & World Report as a Best Children's Hospital and is nationally ranked in 8 pediatric specialties including Neurology and Neurosurgery, Cancer, and Cardiology and Heart Surgery. Additionally, the hospital is located in central Orange County, placing it less than an hour drive from the City of Los Angeles and about 30 minutes from the Pacific Ocean, providing easy access to beautiful beaches, mountains, cultural attractions, and theme parks. The Southern California climate is very moderate all year round. Housing costs in Orange County tend to be on the average to high average side but are often more affordable than in other major metropolitan areas. Orange County is rich with multicultural communities and offers great diversity in terms of its population, with significant Hispanic and Asian populations.

Salary and Benefits

- Fellows: \$71,614/year (with 5% increase in second year after passing the EPPP)
- Medical and Dental Insurance (after first full month of employment)
- Paid time off (total of 21 days each year) for vacation (11-13 days) and departmental holidays (8-10 days)
- Paid sick leave (total of 3 days per fiscal year)
- Medical leave consistent with the Family Medical Leave Act and California Family Rights Act (typically consisting of at least 12 weeks, including 8 paid weeks after 1 year of employment)
- An additional 3 days of educational leave per year and access to professional funds (for conferences or licensure classes)
- Each fellow is assigned a desktop or laptop computer
- Embedded video cameras are available on site to enhance the supervision experience, including facilitating supervision of more challenging cases
- Free parking and complimentary meals in the Doctor's Dining Room
- A selection of professional books, journals, and audiovisual materials are available through the Psychology/Neuropsychology Training Program library and through the Burlew Medical Library, located on the CHOC/St. Joseph Hospital Campus

Application Requirements

Admission requirements for fellows include a doctoral degree in psychology from an APA-accredited program; anticipated completion of a 1-year APA-accredited clinical internship; one year of experience providing clinical services to children, preferably in a medical setting; a background in neuropsychological testing measures; and finally, exposure to, experience with, and interest in pediatric neuropsychology and pediatric health psychology through coursework,

clinical placement, or research. Postdoctoral fellows are required to complete their doctoral degree requirements prior to the start of the postdoctoral training year.

Application and Selection Process

The application deadline for fellows is **December 1, 2023**, to begin training on August 26, 2024. Please email all application materials to Marni Nagel, Ph.D., Manager Psychology Training Program, Senior Psychologist at Psychology_Training@choc.org. Please have letters of recommendation sent directly by recommenders to Dr. Nagel at Psychology_Training@choc.org. Please include the following in your application:

- Letter of interest describing relevant training and experience, goals for postdoctoral fellowship, and perceived fit with program
- Curriculum vitae
- Graduate school transcripts
- Three letters of recommendations from graduate faculty and/or clinical supervisors – 1 letter from your graduate program, 1 letter from your internship site, and 1 additional letter from a supervisor of your choice
- Completed neuropsychological evaluation report on a child or adolescent (with identifying information removed)

Interviews will be held virtually by invitation only in order to minimize the significant financial and time burden for applicants. On-site tours of CHOC can be arranged for any interested applicants but are not a requirement, as we are unable to reimburse travel costs. The interview process includes a semi-structured interview that allows all applicants the same opportunity to demonstrate the skills and knowledge they have gained over the course of their graduate training. It also ensures that we ask you about all important areas. Time is also scheduled for more open-ended discussions where you can ask questions about our fellowship site. We also schedule time for you to talk with current fellows.

The pediatric neuropsychology fellowship does not participate in the APPCN match and will be making offers on a rolling basis prior to the APPCN match date. Applicants offered positions with our program should understand that prior to beginning the fellowship they will be required to successfully pass a required brief medical examination, which includes a drug test. Applicants will also undergo a required background test which CHOC requires of all employees in order to ensure the safety of our pediatric patients.

Questions

For additional information, please access our website at <https://www.choc.org/wp/careers/residency-training-programs/psychology-postdoctoral-fellowship/>

Please direct any questions about programmatic issues to:
Marni Nagel, Ph.D., Manager Psychology Training Program, Senior Psychologist
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Phone: (714) 509-8481

Fax: (714) 509-8756

Email: Psychology_Training@choc.org

If you have questions regarding the status of your application (e.g., is it complete or what is missing), please email Psychology_Training@choc.org or call (714) 509-8299 and ask for Andrea Samson.