



Postdoctoral Fellowship

in Pediatric Neuropsychology



ABOUT THE PROGRAM

The division of Pediatric Neuropsychology, housed within the Barrow Neurological Institute at Phoenix Children's Hospital, provides an ideal setting for postdoctoral training in pediatric neuropsychology. Phoenix Children's Hospital is the one of the largest children's hospitals in the U.S. and is among America's top five largest clinical volumes in neurosciences. The Hospital is also home to a Level I Pediatric Trauma Center of Excellence. The Hospital serves as the principle pediatric affiliate of the University of Arizona College of Medicine-Phoenix and has been named in the U.S. News & World Report's Best Children's Hospitals rankings.

Additional psychology training programs at Phoenix Children's Hospital include a predoctoral internship accredited by the American Psychological Association and multiple practicum training opportunities for doctoral students from several local universities.

The neuropsychology fellowship seeks to meet the criteria set forth by the Houston Conference on Specialty Education and Training in Clinical Neuropsychology. Thus, the fellowship intends to provide clinical training, educational activities, and research opportunities to produce an advanced level of competence in the specialty of clinical neuropsychology. The goal of the program is to prepare fellows for a career in pediatric neuropsychology, preferably through hospital-based practice in an academic medical setting.

The training program consists of a two year fellowship that incorporates clinical, research, and educational activities. The fellowship typically begins on the second Monday of August, although some flexibility with the start date exists. Approximately 70% of fellow's time is devoted to clinical services, with the remaining time divided between research and educational experiences. The fellowship is a member of the Association of Postdoctoral Programs in Clinical Neuropsychology (APPCN).

SUPERVISION AND EVALUATION

The postdoctoral fellowship is directed by John B. Fulton, Ph.D., ABPP/CN, under the direction of the Division Chief Michael Lavoie, PhD. Dr. Fulton works in combination with the remaining neuropsychology faculty, as well as the Psychology Training Committee to design educational opportunities and provide evaluation of the fellow. Fellows receive individual supervision related to each patient seen throughout their fellowship.

To facilitate continuity of supervision, fellows participate in a rotation schedule that allows for them to remain with one or two primary neuropsychologist supervisors for a period of six months at a time. Although fellows rotate primary supervisors, intermittent supervision from other faculty during these rotations is not uncommon.

In addition, fellows may also have rare opportunities for supervision from pediatric psychologists within the hospital. The fellow's training needs and own interests in working with particular patient populations are taken into consideration when designing a rotation and supervision schedule, as are departmental, hospital, and patient needs. Fellows are also encouraged to pursue interests in subspecialty populations and settings through increased clinical opportunities, training experiences, and by seeking out research opportunities with populations of particular interest. The supervising neuropsychologists provide semiannual evaluations of the fellow's competency, which are reviewed with fellows and by the training director.

At the conclusion of the fellowship, Dr. Fulton provides a written summary of the reviews to the fellow and to Dr. Lavoie. Fellowship contracts are completed on a yearly basis, with the expectation that fellows will complete two years of training. Further details regarding the performance review and the department's grievance processes are provided to each fellow at the beginning of their fellowship.

FACULTY

The Division of Neuropsychology employs four neuropsychologists, who provide the bulk of clinical supervision and core didactic training for the fellowship.

John B. Fulton, PhD, ABPP/CN, Program Director
Michael Lavoie, PhD, Division Chief
Janet Blackham, PhD
Brianne Butcher, PhD



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CLINICAL SERVICES

Members of the division provide neuropsychological evaluations and consultation to children of all ages and their families. Fellows have the opportunity to assess children with myriad of acquired brain injuries and medical conditions that affect neuropsychological and behavioral functioning. Regular opportunities are available to evaluate children with conditions such as traumatic brain injuries, epilepsy, brain tumor, pediatric cancers, and congenital malformations.

Children with psychiatric and neurodevelopmental conditions are also evaluated on a less frequent basis. Patients are referred from a variety of physicians within Phoenix Children's Hospital, as well as from clinics and practitioners within the community. Patients are evaluated in outpatient clinics at the Hospital's main campus and at the Southwest Valley Specialty Clinic located in the Phoenix suburb of Avondale. Inpatient neuropsychological evaluations are also completed on a regular basis. Although inpatient consultation can occur throughout the hospital, requests from the [Pediatric Epilepsy Monitoring Unit](#) and the Rehabilitation Unit are particularly common.

Clinical training primarily consists of neuropsychological evaluations that are supervised by faculty members. Fellows are expected to ultimately participate in all aspects of evaluations including reviewing records, completing clinical interviews, test administration, providing feedback to patients and their families, report preparation, and, in some cases, providing direct consultation to other professionals. On occasion, fellows may also provide short term behavioral health services to children and their families. Depending on clinical needs, these services may include brief behavior management of children recovering from traumatic brain injuries and consultation with patients presenting with non-epileptic seizures.

The training program provides experience in interdisciplinary clinical collaboration with various medical teams within the hospital setting. Opportunities for consultation are particularly common in the Epilepsy Surgery Conference and with the rehabilitation personnel, but also occur with other professionals from within the hospital and community settings.

Fellows are expected to conduct between 2-3 evaluations per week and to bill approximately 18 hours per week for these services. Finally, fellows have opportunities to work in tandem with neuropsychologists in providing supervision and training to pre-doctoral interns and practicum students. Opportunities for co-supervision of practicum students are particularly anticipated during the second year of fellowship.

EDUCATIONAL EXPERIENCES

Didactic experiences in the training program consist primarily of activities within the division and those within Barrow at Phoenix Children's. Within the division, participation in a weekly Neuropsychology Seminar is expected, which includes lectures in topics related to pediatric neuropsychology, group article reviews, case presentations, and fact findings.

Fellows are also expected to participate in relevant topics from the weekly Internship Seminar and the monthly Diversity Seminar. In regards to didactics provided within Barrow at Phoenix Children's fellows are expected to attend the weekly Neurosciences Seminar, which is provided by faculty from divisions within Barrow at Phoenix Children's including those from neurology, neurosurgery, developmental pediatrics, psychiatry, and psychology.

In addition, fellows are expected to regularly attend the weekly Epilepsy Surgery Conference. Additional training opportunities, including participation in Tumor Board and Grand Rounds, are also available. Fellows are also expected to complete additional readings in pediatric neuropsychology, which are chosen by neuropsychology faculty

RESEARCH TRAINING

The fellow is expected to have taken formal courses in [research](#) methods and statistics, and to have completed a dissertation or clinical research project during their doctoral training. Research activities will largely occur within the division, although opportunities may also be available for collaborating with other Barrow at Phoenix Children's faculty as well.

Opportunities include participating existing research programs or initiating an independent research project. Fellows are expected to plan a project and have completed any needed approval from Phoenix Children's Hospital's Institutional Review Board by the end of the first year of fellowship. The fellow also will be expected to submit abstracts and research papers to appropriate sources for publication or to have presented research findings at national professional meetings by the end of their fellowship.



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APPLICATION AND SELECTION PROCESS

Preference is given to graduates of training programs in psychology approved by the American Psychological Association who will have completed or are currently completing predoctoral clinical internships accredited by that organization. Bilingual applicants, particularly those with competency in providing clinical services in Spanish, are particularly encouraged to apply. Applicants are expected to have completed their doctoral program prior to beginning the fellowship program.

The application deadline is the first Monday in January each year. Application materials should include a letter of interest, curriculum vitae, graduate transcripts, a sample report, three letters of recommendation, and the Doctoral Training Verification form made available through Association of Postdoctoral Programs in Clinical Neuropsychology (APPCN). Copies of graduate transcripts are accepted for the application process, although an official transcript will be required prior to the date of hire.

Interviews will be arranged after initial screening of applications. In most cases, interviews will take place at the annual meeting of the International Neuropsychological Society (INS). However, interviews outside of INS can be arranged on a case by case basis at the applicant's request.

The fellowship participates in the APPCN match program conducted by National Matching Services, with final selection occurring as part of that process. Applicants should obtain an Applicant Agreement Package from National Matching Services, with final selection occurring as part of that process.

This package can be obtained from the APPCN Resident Matching Program website: <http://www.natmatch.com/appcnmat/>. Further information about APPCN is available at their website: <http://www.appcn.org/>.

CONTACT US

Materials and inquiries regarding the fellowship can be sent to John B. Fulton, PhD, at the address below. Applicants are also encouraged to e-mail letters of interest directly to Dr. Fulton.

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SALARY AND BENEFITS

The base annual salary for the neuropsychology fellowship is \$37,000. However, in the event that fellows are able to obtain licensure as a psychologist within the State of Arizona, the stipend is adjusted to an annualized amount of \$41,000 for time following completion of licensure. Fellows are also eligible to be reimbursed for up to \$500 each year in travel expenses to professional conferences. Fellows are also eligible for up to \$1,250 in funds to cover expenses obtained within the first year of fellowship related to obtaining licensure as a psychologist within the State of Arizona.

Fellows also participate in the hospital's competitive benefits program, which includes participation in group medical, dental life, and vision insurance. Short and long term disability coverage is also provided and Fellows are eligible for participation in a 401k retirement investment plan. Paid time off for personal leave, conference travel, and major holidays is also provided.

Fellows are physically housed within the Division of Pediatric Neuropsychology, which is located on the Phoenix Children's Hospital campus and at the [Southwest Valley Specialty Clinic](#). All major training, clinical, and research opportunities occur at Phoenix Children's Hospital, although occasional opportunities for attending specific didactics at the Barrow Neurological Institute at St. Joseph's Hospital and Medical Center are also available.

Fellows are provided with office space, computer and network access, and access to the hospital's library system. Fellows are also eligible to receive a faculty appointment with the University of Arizona College of Medicine-Phoenix as a Clinical Instructor.