

Postdoctoral Fellowship in **Pediatric Neuropsychology**

INDIANA UNIVERSITY
SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

Postdoctoral Fellowship in **Pediatric Neuropsychology**

The postdoctoral fellowship in pediatric neuropsychology at IU School of Medicine and Riley Hospital for Children at IU Health is structured to follow the training guidelines set by the Houston and Minnesota Conferences for postdoctoral specialization in clinical neuropsychology.

The neuropsychology service at IU School of Medicine is located at the IU Health Neuroscience Center (Goodman Hall). The service is comprised of pediatric and adult providers, appointed across the Departments of Neurology and Psychiatry, functioning collectively within the discipline of neuropsychology. The fellowship was founded in 1997 and is a longstanding member of the Association of Postdoctoral Programs in Clinical Neuropsychology (APPCN). The fellowship houses pediatric and adult tracks, with fellows sharing workspace areas, attending lifespan neuropsychology didactics together, and jointly participating in the program's professional development and intercultural competence training.

Within the pediatric track, fellows also train at Riley Hospital for Children at IU Health. Pediatric fellows gain expertise in developmental brain-behavior relationships and strengthen essential skills working with medically complex children. This is accomplished through diverse clinical activities, pediatric-focused didactics, and research involvement in the Neuroscience Center and Riley Hospital for Children.

As the only pediatric academic medical facility in Indiana, we provide an essential service to some of the most medically complicated children in the state. Graduating fellows are well prepared for independent practice in pediatric neuropsychology. They are also ready to pursue ABPP board certification in clinical neuropsychology and subspecialization in pediatric neuropsychology.



Program Structure

The fellowship program is designed to provide trainees with exposure to a wide range of medical conditions, cognitive and neurodevelopmental disorders, and comorbid psychiatric issues. A strong emphasis is placed on multidisciplinary collaboration and participation in medical teams. Over the course of the 2-year program, fellows gain increased independence in clinical, research, and professional activities.

Approximately 60% of the fellow's time is spent in clinical activities, 30% in didactics and supervision, and 10% in research.

Year 1



Outpatient Evaluations: The first-year fellow performs 2 outpatient evaluations per week from the general referral stream, with psychometrist coverage on 1 case.

Inpatient Rehabilitation: The fellow follows 1-2 inpatient rehabilitation cases per month, in preparation for the second year of fellowship.

Sickle Cell Disease Clinic: The fellow performs 1-2 targeted neuropsychological evaluations per week in the multidisciplinary Sickle Cell Disease Clinic.

Year 2



Outpatient Evaluations: The second-year fellow performs 2 outpatient evaluations per week from the general referral stream, with psychometrist coverage on most cases.

Inpatient Rehabilitation: The fellow assumes a leadership role in coordinating neuropsychology services and follows 4-5 inpatient rehabilitation cases per month.

Spina Bifida Clinic: The fellow is the neuropsychology liaison to the multidisciplinary Spina Bifida Clinic.

Clinical Experiences

General Outpatient Clinic

Fellows complete comprehensive neuropsychological evaluations in our general outpatient clinic. To be referred for an evaluation, patients must have a medical condition that impacts the CNS. Common medical conditions seen by our service include epilepsy, brain tumor, stroke, leukemia and other cancers, traumatic brain injury, spina bifida, cerebral palsy, genetic disorders, sickle cell disease, cardiac disease, and neurofibromatosis. Outpatient evaluations are performed in a “same-day” model, with diagnostic intake, testing, supervision, and feedback all occurring in the same day-long appointment. In addition to full-day evaluations, fellows conduct abbreviated evaluations with concussion patients. The pediatric service has 5 full-time psychometrists who provide testing support.

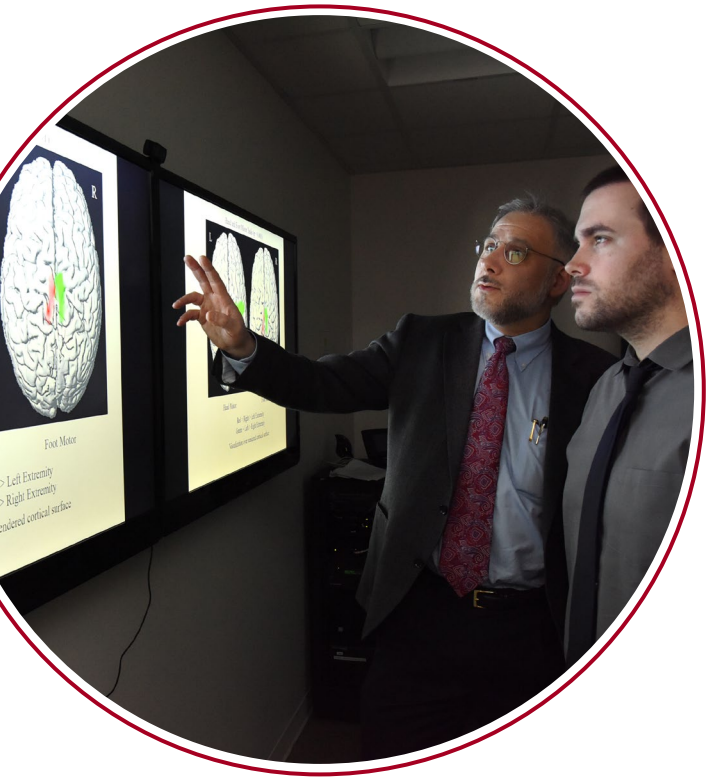


Inpatient Rehabilitation Unit

Fellows work with a multidisciplinary team to provide care for patients with a variety of acquired brain injuries, including TBI, brain tumors, CNS infections, and stroke. Fellows provide psychoeducation to caregivers and the rehabilitation team. They work with the rehabilitation team to monitor cognitive recovery and provide recommendations for behavioral health management. They also provide targeted evaluations prior to discharge and coordinate with the team to advise on return to home and learning environments.



Clinical Experiences



Epilepsy Surgery Program

Riley Hospital for Children houses the only Level 4 epilepsy program in the state. Fellows conduct pre- and post-surgical neuropsychological evaluations and participate in the multidisciplinary epilepsy surgery conference. Over the course of training, fellows can follow patients through the epilepsy surgery program, conducting pre-surgical neuropsychological evaluations, observing fMRI, presenting in conference, observing a neurosurgical procedure, and re-evaluating patients post-surgery.



Sickle Cell Disease Clinic

Fellows complete screening assessments and targeted neuropsychological evaluations in the multidisciplinary Sickle Cell Disease Clinic for patients without major cerebrovascular events. This includes evaluations with school-age children, transition-age adolescents, and pre- and post-transformative therapies. Fellows participate in same-day targeted intake, testing, supervision, and feedback to families and the medical team.

Spina Bifida Clinic

Fellows provide consultation and liaison services to the multidisciplinary Spina Bifida Clinic. Fellows collaborate with the medical team to screen for cognitive and psychosocial issues, provide psychoeducation on cognitive risks, offer educational recommendations, and monitor the need for referral for outpatient neuropsychological evaluation.

Training Experiences

Professional Development

Over the course of training, fellows are expected to develop an area of special interest and expertise. Faculty will mentor fellows to help them curate their training goals, research activities, didactic exposure, and clinical opportunities to develop this area of focus. Second-year fellows develop a job talk and consult with faculty in preparation for their job search.

Diversity and Inclusion

The goal of the pediatric neuropsychology fellowship is that all fellows feel included, and that diversity is valued. Our program focuses on providing continued training in culturally competent care and developing and maintaining an inclusive environment for patients, families, trainees, staff, and faculty. These values inform all programmatic activities, including our monthly seminar on Intercultural Competence, which is open to trainees, faculty, and staff.

Supervision

Fellows have the opportunity to supervise interns and graduate students across outpatient assessment, inpatient rehabilitation, and multidisciplinary clinic settings. Fellows are supervised using a vertical supervision model. The aim is to support fellows in building skills across various supervisory roles, while ensuring they receive ongoing mentorship and timely, constructive feedback on their supervisory performance.

Program Development

As Riley Hospital for Children at IU Health continues to grow, our neuropsychology service to the hospital is expanding. Opportunities exist for motivated fellows to take initiative in developing programming in medical clinics of interest, as time and schedule permit.

Didactics

Didactics cover major adult and pediatric neurobehavioral conditions, relevant clinical issues, clinical neurology and psychiatry, and functional neuroanatomy. The goal is to prepare fellows for independent practice and ABPP board certification in clinical neuropsychology.

Pediatric Neuropsychology Seminar

Fellows on the pediatric track participate in a Pediatric Neuropsychology Seminar that covers medical conditions, clinical syndromes, and issues that are unique to pediatric populations. This seminar also includes a trainee-led component, with trainees presenting topics of clinical or research interest. Pediatric fellows present once per training year.

Lifespan Neuropsychology Seminar

Fellows on the pediatric and adult track participate in Lifespan Neuropsychology Seminar, which consists of lectures on topics that cover major neurobehavioral conditions in adults and children, broad clinical issues in neuropsychology, lifespan clinical neurology/psychiatry, and functional neuroanatomy. Fellows also practice fact finding in the style of ABPP board certification.

Professional Development Seminar

Fellows across pediatric and adult tracks participate in the Professional Development Series. This series includes didactics on topics such as job search, ethics, board certification, supervision, program development, and promotion.

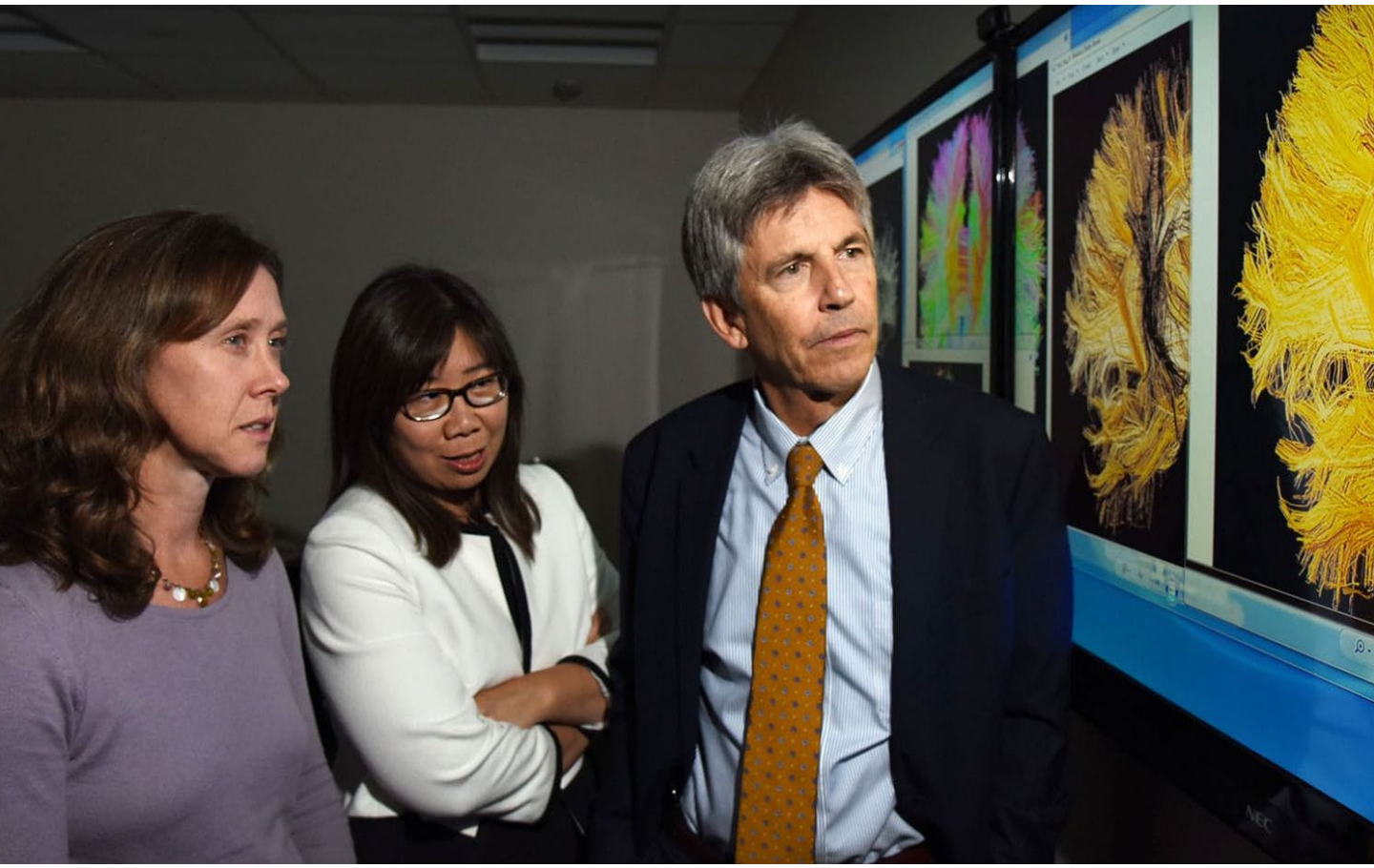


Intercultural Competence Training

Intercultural Competence Training includes discussion of readings relevant to the practice of culturally competent neuropsychology, as well as speakers with expertise on topics such as developing cultural awareness and increasing healthcare equity in neuropsychology.

IUSM Didactics (Optional)

IUSM offers a wide range of didactics that cover medical conditions, clinical issues, and new developments in the fields of neurology, psychiatry, and neuroscience. These didactic experiences are optional but can enhance clinical competence and promote a well-rounded understanding of how neuropsychology functions within a broader medical context. Example offerings include Grand Rounds (Pediatrics, Neurology, Psychiatry), Pediatric Brain Tumor Board, Pediatric Neuroradiology Conference, Brain Cuttings, and Medical Neuroscience Wet Labs.



Research

Fellows are required to produce one tangible scholarship project with first authorship, or achieve equivalent academic contribution (i.e., co-authoring a book chapter, presenting at a conference). Fellows may pursue an original research/academic project or may contribute to ongoing faculty-led studies. Faculty have active affiliations with various multisite research studies including the Cardiac Neurodevelopmental Outcomes Collaborative (CNOC) and Pediatric Epilepsy Research Consortium (PERC). Within-site research databases also exist, including an archival dataset of neuropsychological test performance from clinic patients, and an archival dataset of neuropsychological test performance and structural and functional MRI performance on working and episodic memory from patients with mTBI, chemotherapy to treat leukemia, and temporal-onset epilepsy.

Pediatric Neuropsychology Faculty



Brenna McDonald, MBA, PsyD, HSPP, ABPP

Co-director, Pediatric Neuropsychology Fellowship Program
Director, Pediatric Neuropsychology Associate Director, Center for Neuroimaging
Professor of Radiology and Imaging Sciences, Neurology, and Clinical Psychology in Psychiatry

Dr. McDonald completed her doctorate and internship at Widener University and fellowship in Neuropsychology and Neuroimaging at Dartmouth Medical School. She is board certified in Clinical Neuropsychology, with subspecialty certification in Pediatric Neuropsychology. Dr. McDonald has clinical interests in pre- and post-surgical populations, for whom she also provides fMRI evaluations. She is a supervising neuropsychologist for the Epilepsy Surgery Program. Dr. McDonald's research program includes cognitive and MRI studies of children with epilepsy, mild TBI, and leukemia, as well as cognitive effects of breast cancer chemotherapy. Outside the hospital, Dr. McDonald is a proud Baltimore native and sports fan. She spends free time with her husband and daughter, ideally in the great outdoors, and enjoys running and playing soccer.



Jana Chan, PhD, HSPP, ABPP

Co-director, Pediatric Neuropsychology Fellowship Program
Director, Neuropsychology Track, Predoctoral Internship Program
Assistant Professor of Clinical Neurology

Dr. Chan completed her doctorate at Ohio University and her internship and fellowship in pediatric neuropsychology at Nationwide Children's Hospital. She is board certified in Clinical Neuropsychology. Dr. Chan has interest in working with children and families across the range of TBI. She is the attending neuropsychologist on the Inpatient Rehabilitation Unit. She also has interest in working with children with cardiac disease and spearheads the section's contributions to the CNOC database. Outside the hospital, Dr. Chan is a Hoosier native who enjoys thrift shopping, DIY projects, biking the Monon Trail, spending time with her two daughters, and eating anything her chef husband cooks.

Pediatric Neuropsychology Faculty



Liz Begyn, PhD, HSPP, ABPP

Clinic Director, Pediatric Neuropsychology Service
Assistant Professor of Clinical Neurology

Dr. Begyn completed her doctorate at the University of North Texas and her fellowship in pediatric neuropsychology at Children's Medical Center Dallas. She is board certified in Clinical Neuropsychology, with subspecialty certification in Pediatric Neuropsychology. Dr. Begyn has clinical interests in working with people with visual impairment/ blindness. She is the supervising neuropsychologist in the Spina Bifida Clinic. Outside the hospital, Dr. Begyn is busy raising two kids with her husband and huge inventory of seasonal animatronics.



Anne-Marie Fleckenstein, PhD, HSPP

Assistant Professor of Clinical Neurology

Dr. Fleckenstein completed her doctorate at Fielding Graduate University and fellowship in pediatric neuropsychology at Akron Children's Hospital. She has expertise in adoption and adverse childhood experiences and brings a unique trauma-informed perspective to her clinical work. Her clinical interests include autoimmune and genetic disorders, and she is the supervising neuropsychologist in the Neurofibromatosis/RASopathy Clinic. Outside the hospital, Dr. Fleckenstein enjoys exploring the outdoors and discovering new things with her son and playing with her two exuberant and high-spirited goldendoodles.

Pediatric Neuropsychology Faculty



Sarah Koch, PhD, HSPP, ABPP

Assistant Professor of Clinical Neurology

Dr. Koch completed her doctorate at the University of Alabama at Birmingham, internship in pediatric neuropsychology at Texas Children's Hospital/Baylor College of Medicine, and fellowship in pediatric neuropsychology at Indiana University School of Medicine/Riley Hospital for Children. She is board certified in Clinical Neuropsychology. Dr. Koch has an interest in working with children with developmental disabilities within the context of their medical condition. She is the supervising neuropsychologist for the Neuro-Oncology Program and Sickle Cell Disease Clinic. Dr. Koch is an Indianapolis native who lives downtown with her husband, daughters, and golden retriever. She and her family enjoy frequenting the city's many parks, coffee shops, and breweries, tackling home renovation projects, and spending long weekends in Brown County.



Tania Morales Zelaya, PhD, HSPP

Assistant Professor of Clinical Neurology

Dr. Morales completed her doctorate at Ball State University and pediatric neuropsychology fellowship at the Thompson Center for Autism & Neurodevelopment within the University of Missouri Health Care system. Her interests include genetic disorders, cerebral palsy, and epilepsy. As a bilingual and bicultural provider, she integrates multicultural care into her neuropsychological evaluations, with a special affinity for working with Spanish-speaking individuals. Originally from Honduras, Dr. Morales enjoys exploring different international cuisines, dancing, and traveling with her husband in her free time. Dr. Morales and her husband also share a passion for nature walks, biking, and running 5ks (but not marathons).

Salary and Benefits

Salary

Salary is $63,480 for the first year and $63,900 for the second year.

Benefits

Benefits offered at no cost to fellows include:

- Health insurance (individual and family)
- Vision and dental insurance
- Life insurance
- Disability insurance
- Malpractice insurance

Campus parking is provided at no extra cost. PTO is 20 days per year. These are in addition to standard institutional holidays. Professional funds total $3,000 across the entirety of the two-year fellowship.

Nondiscrimination Policy

The fellowship adheres to IU's nondiscrimination policies and does not engage in discrimination based on characteristics such as age, color, disability, ethnicity, sex, gender identity, gender expression, genetic information, marital status, national origin, race, religion, sexual orientation, or veteran status. All of our training facilities are fully ADA-compliant in terms of accessibility. If a fellow is in need of additional resources to succeed, the program will work with that person on accessing additional available resources.

Application and Selection

The pediatric track will be recruiting one fellow for the 2027-2029 training cycle. Preferred applicants are doctoral candidates in an APA-accredited graduate program in clinical, counseling, or school psychology, and are currently completing an APA-accredited internship. Applicants must participate in the APPCN-affiliated National Matching Service.

Application Procedure

Interested applicants should submit the following materials:

- Cover letter
- CV
- 3 letters of recommendation
- Graduate transcript (copies issued to student are acceptable)

Interviews will take place after initial screening of applications. Interviews will be scheduled January 26 or 27, 2027, and will take place virtually (by phone or videoconference) in line with current recommendations from APPCN.



Submit materials via email to
Angie Seibers,
Program Coordinator
(neurpsyc@iu.edu)

All materials must be received by
December 15, 2026

Life in Indianapolis

Affectionately referred to as the “Crossroads of America,” Indianapolis combines the metropolitan perks of city life with the accessibility of Midwest America. Whether you’re seeking excitement, culture, or commerce, Indy truly has it all.

Active residents of Indiana’s capital can walk, run, or bike the Cultural Trail that encircles and sprawls through every major section of downtown, before slowing to enjoy the scenic Canal Walk or checking out the gold mine of wine and dine that is Mass Ave. For those who prefer to watch others be active, Indianapolis has nearly every major sport covered, between the Colts (NFL), Pacers (NBA), Fever (WNBA), and world-famous Indy 500, along with minor league baseball and ice hockey, and professional volleyball and soccer. Spend a quiet day at our nationally ranked zoo or one of several museums in the area, including the world’s largest children’s museum. Fellows enjoy a free family membership to Newfields arts and garden museum. Take in a show with the Indiana Repertory Theater company or Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra, located in the heart of downtown on Monument Circle. Use the city as your starting point for travel through the Indianapolis International Airport, placed among the top spots for Best Airport in North America.

