

# Psychology Externship Training Program

## Rehabilitation Psychology

2023-2024

Children's Hospital Colorado offers 1-2 psychology externship training opportunity in the Rehabilitation Psychology Program in the Department of Rehabilitation Medicine. The training program is committed to the recruitment of culturally and ethnically diverse externs. We encourage inquiries and applications from all qualified individuals, please see requirements below.

### Externship Positions: 1-2

#### Time Commitment:

- ~20 hours per week
- Two primary days per week which will include Tuesdays & Thursdays.
- Training opportunities may include:
  - Tuesday: 1-2 multidisciplinary clinic (spina bifida/spinal cord injury) per month, 1-2 neuropsychological evaluations per month (depending on extern goals), weekly supervision, 2-3 therapy cases
  - Thursday: 1-2 multidisciplinary clinic (acquired brain injury clinic) per month, weekly group didactics per month, 2-3 therapy cases
- Report writing and editing, care coordination, and case preparation and follow-up is also required during remaining unscheduled time.
- Additional opportunities may also be available (i.e., research, group therapy) depending upon interest and availability.

### Dates: June 26, 2023 - June 21, 2024

\*Please note: MANDATORY ORIENTATION is held during the first two weeks of the externship. Block your schedule accordingly, making arrangements with your academic program and personal calendar.

#### Requirements:

- be enrolled in at least the 3<sup>rd</sup> year of an APA accredited Doctoral Program in Clinical, Counseling, Health, or School Psychology
- have clinical treatment experience with child and adolescent populations
- have completed coursework in cognitive assessment and be independent in WISC-V administration
- have proof of malpractice coverage (must be provided by the extern's training institution or by the extern prior to the start date)
- be available to start the externship on June 26, 2023 and the following two weeks for MANDATORY ORIENTATION
- complete the attestation form with signature

\*\*Those applicants selected for externship will be subject to drug screening and criminal background checks (there may be associated costs so speak with your program as these fees are not covered by CHCO). Unacceptable results on the criminal background check or drug screening will result in dismissal from the program.

#### Preferred Qualifications

- have completed at least one year of externship at CHCO (or previous commensurate training experience in a health care or related setting)

## APPLICATION PROCEDURES

### A completed application consists of the following materials:

1. Cover Letter
2. Curriculum Vitae
3. 2 letters of recommendation
4. Attestation of Professional Conduct
5. Extern Application Face sheet

### Emailed by **February 1, 2023 at 5pm** to the following:

1. CHCO Psychology Training Program email  
Email: [CHCOPsychTrainingprogram@childrenscolorado.org](mailto:CHCOPsychTrainingprogram@childrenscolorado.org)
2. If you have questions please email Tamara Zangrilli, Operations Coordinator  
Email: [Tamara.Zangrilli@childrenscolorado.org](mailto:Tamara.Zangrilli@childrenscolorado.org)

### Recruitment Timeline

February 1, 2023 @ 5pm:	Application deadline (early submissions encouraged!)
February 6 - 17, 2023:	Interviews scheduled (early interviews available with early, complete submissions)
February 21 - March 3, 2023:	Positions offered; prompt confirmation of acceptance/declination requested

### Supervision

Supervision will be provided directly (in vivo, individually and in a small group setting) as well as indirectly (consultation and feedback). The goal of supervision is to support the extern during exposure to new patient populations, assessment tools and intervention strategies, and to build competence and increased autonomy in assessment and intervention skills.

### DUTIES OF REHABILITATION PSYCHOLOGY TRAINEES

The Rehabilitation Psychology Externship Program offers opportunities to participate in integrated multidisciplinary clinics (Spinal Defects Clinic & Acquired Brain Injury Clinic), as well as outpatient individual and family intervention with children and adolescents with acute and/or chronic health conditions. Additionally, depending on trainee interest and goals, comprehensive assessment opportunities with pediatric rehabilitation populations are available. Through this externship, you can expect to be exposed to an array of intervention and assessment experiences serving children with complex neurocognitive profiles, health conditions, and rehabilitative needs. This experience affords a developmental approach to learning with progression toward independence in assessment and intervention over the course of the training year. Your responsibilities will include: providing brief intervention and consultation in a multidisciplinary clinic, providing individual, family, and/or group therapy, engaging in care coordination, and actively participating in all aspects of supervision. Additionally, externs interested in assessment will also gain experience in conducting neurocognitive testing, presenting assessment results during caregiver feedback, and writing comprehensive reports. In addition, opportunities for participation in other professional development and scholarly activities are available.

### Outpatient Treatment

Outpatient intervention will include weekly individual, family, and/or group therapy with children and families ages 3-18. Therapy is tailored to the individual needs of children whose diagnoses may include mild, moderate, or severe traumatic brain injury (TBI), stroke, encephalitis, spinal cord injury, cerebral palsy, spina bifida, muscle disorders, as well as other neurodevelopmental disorders. A primary focus of therapy is on coping with new diagnoses, adapting to chronic health conditions, promoting functioning, quality of life, and reintegration back into home, school, and community settings. Intervention activities will also take place within a multidisciplinary setting, allowing opportunity to interact, consult, and collaborate with other pediatric rehabilitation providers.

## Multidisciplinary Clinic Opportunities

- The **Spinal Defects Clinic** provides infants, children, and adolescents with spina bifida and spinal cord injury with ongoing medical management and consultation to facilitate growth, enhance functional independence, and promote quality of life. As a rehabilitation psychology extern in this clinic, you will work within a multidisciplinary team providing consultation and brief intervention to youth and their families.
- The **Acquired Brain Injury Clinic** is a multidisciplinary clinic focused on serving children and families with newly acquired brain injuries, as well as youth with chronic rehabilitation needs following brain injury. Externs in this clinic will gain competence in providing brief health and behavior interventions to a diverse array of pediatric patients with rehabilitation needs.

## Assessment Opportunities

- The Rehab Psychology externship has a wide range of assessment opportunities based on extern interest, ranging from abbreviated neuropsychological consultations in the complex concussion clinic to comprehensive neuropsychological assessments for children, from infancy through early adulthood, who have complex chronic health conditions, under the supervision of a clinical neuropsychologist.

## Type of clients served on this externship

Children and adolescents, primarily ages 0-18, and their families served in Children's Hospital Colorado's Department of Rehabilitation. Clients are representative of the Denver Metropolitan Area in terms of race and ethnicity.

## General Information:

**Supervised by:** Tess Simpson, Ph.D., Ann Lantagne, Ph.D.

**Supervision format:**  Individual  Small Group

**Ratio of hours (supervision to clinical hours):** 1 : 4

**Number of Rehabilitation Psychology trainees:** 1 psychology intern, 1 extern

**Number of hours/week externs work:** 20

**Pay:** None at this time

## Contact Information:

Children's Hospital Colorado, Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences

13123 E. 16<sup>th</sup> Ave., B130

Aurora, CO 80045

Main Phone: 720-777-6200

## Department of Rehabilitation Faculty

David Baker, Psy.D., ABPP-Cn ([david.baker@childrenscolorado.org](mailto:david.baker@childrenscolorado.org)): Dr. Baker is an Assistant Clinical Professor of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation through the University of Colorado School of Medicine. He is a pediatric neuropsychologist at Children's Hospital Colorado who conducts evaluations through the Concussion Program and also regularly sees patients referred from the Cerebral Palsy Clinic. His clinical and research interests focus on acquired brain injuries and cerebral palsy, mild TBI/concussion, as well as the value of validity testing in pediatric assessment. He is a coordinator for extern and intern training, as well as supervisor for predoctoral externs, interns, and postdoctoral fellows.

Alison M. Colbert, Ph.D. ([Alison.colbert@childrenscolorado.org](mailto:Alison.colbert@childrenscolorado.org)): Dr. Colbert is a pediatric neuropsychologist with a strong rehabilitation psychology emphasis. She primarily works on the inpatient rehabilitation unit providing consultation, intervention, and assessment to patients with brain and spinal cord injuries. She also provides outpatient neuropsychological evaluations to patients with a variety of medical diagnoses. Dr. Colbert's research interests include traumatic brain injury, neurodevelopmental outcomes, and cross-cultural work. She also has a strong interest in program evaluation and development. She is a clinical supervisor for predoctoral interns.

Amy K. Connery, Psy.D. ([amy.connery@childrenscolorado.org](mailto:amy.connery@childrenscolorado.org)): Dr. Connery is an Assistant Clinical Professor of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation at the University of Colorado School of Medicine. She is a board-certified neuropsychologist who provides outpatient neuropsychological assessment and consultation in the multi-disciplinary Non-Accidental Brain Injury Care



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Clinic, Concussion Clinic, and International Adoption Clinic. Dr. Connery also provides neuropsychological assessment services to bilingual Spanish-English and monolingual Spanish speaking children. Her current research interests include the neurodevelopmental assessment and functioning of young children in low- and lower middle-income countries and the impact of parent-child functioning on neurodevelopment in young children following non-accidental brain injury. She is a clinical supervisor for predoctoral interns and fellows.

Michael W. Kirkwood, Ph.D., ABPP/CN ([Michael.Kirkwood@childrenscolorado.org](mailto:Michael.Kirkwood@childrenscolorado.org)): Dr. Kirkwood is an Associate Clinical Professor of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation at the University of Colorado School of Medicine. He is Director of the Rehabilitation Psychology & Neuropsychology Program and founder and Co-Director of the hospital's Concussion Program. He is a board-certified clinical neuropsychologist with subspecialty certification in pediatric neuropsychology. His clinical and research interests focus on traumatic brain injury in children, including mild TBI, as well as the value of validity testing in pediatric assessment. He is a clinical supervisor for predoctoral externs, interns, and fellows.

Ann Lantagne, Ph.D. ([ann.lantagne@childrenscolorado.org](mailto:ann.lantagne@childrenscolorado.org)): Dr. Lantagne is an Assistant Clinical Professor of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation at the University of Colorado School of Medicine. She is a pediatric rehabilitation psychologist who provides outpatient therapy services to patients with acute and chronic medical conditions and specializes in working with young children as well as youth with brain injuries ranging from concussion to severe TBI. Dr. Lantagne also provides brief intervention services in a multidisciplinary clinic setting through the acquired brain injury clinic. She is a clinical supervisor for predoctoral externs, interns, and postdoctoral fellows.

Robin L. Peterson, Ph.D., ABPP ([robin.peterson@childrenscolorado.org](mailto:robin.peterson@childrenscolorado.org)): Dr. Peterson is a board certified clinical pediatric neuropsychologist and Assistant Clinical Professor of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation at the University of Colorado School of Medicine. She provides outpatient neuropsychological evaluation services to patients with traumatic brain injuries (including concussion), spina bifida, and other medical conditions for which they are followed through Department of Rehabilitation. Dr. Peterson is actively involved in research investigating outcomes for patients with these diagnoses, as well as for children with developmentally based learning disabilities. She is a clinical supervisor for predoctoral externs, interns, and postdoctoral fellows.

Christine Petranovich, Ph.D. is a clinical neuropsychologist in the Department of Rehabilitation at Children's Hospital Colorado (CHCO). She completes neuropsychological assessments for children and adolescents with moderate to severe traumatic brain injury on the inpatient rehabilitation unit and as part of a multidisciplinary follow-up clinic. From a research perspective, Dr. Petranovich is interested in longer-term cognitive, social, and behavioral outcomes after early childhood traumatic brain injury. Dr. Petranovich is the research course director for the CHCO pre-doctoral psychology internship and is a clinical supervisor for predoctoral interns and neuropsychology post-doctoral fellows.

Stephanie Sharp, Ph.D. ([stephanie.sharp@childrenscolorado.org](mailto:stephanie.sharp@childrenscolorado.org)): Dr. Sharp is an Assistant Clinical Professor of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation at the University of Colorado School of Medicine. She is a rehabilitation psychologist on the Multidisciplinary Outpatient Rehabilitation Evaluation (MORE) team and provides outpatient behavioral health services to patients with acute and/or chronic medical conditions.

Tess S. Simpson, Ph.D. ([tess.simpson@childrenscolorado.org](mailto:tess.simpson@childrenscolorado.org)): Dr. Simpson is an Assistant Clinical Professor of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation at the University of Colorado School of Medicine. She is a rehabilitation psychologist who provides outpatient behavioral health services to patients with acute and/or chronic medical conditions and consultation/intervention services in a multidisciplinary spina bifida/spinal cord injury clinic. Dr. Simpson's research interests include treatment development for youth with persistent post-concussive symptoms and evaluation of patient and family psychosocial functioning for youth with neural tube defects. She is a clinical supervisor for predoctoral externs and interns.

Sarah Tlustos-Carter, Ph.D. ([sarah.tlustos@childrenscolorado.org](mailto:sarah.tlustos@childrenscolorado.org)): Dr. Tlustos is an Assistant Clinical Professor of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation through the University of Colorado School of Medicine. She is a neuropsychologist who provides assessment and clinical consultation on the inpatient Rehabilitation service and conducts outpatient evaluations through the neuropsychology clinic and the Multidisciplinary Outpatient Rehabilitation Evaluation (MORE) team. Dr. Tlustos' research interests include identifying early predictors of neuropsychological recovery after TBI and other acquired brain injuries to inform development of clinical protocols. She is a clinical supervisor for rehab psychology and neuropsychology predoctoral interns, as well as neuropsychology post-doctoral fellows.