PEDIATRIC MENTAL HEALTH INSTITUTE

Psychology Externship Training Program

Pediatric Rehabilitation Psychology

2027-2028

Children's Hospital Colorado/University of Colorado School of Medicine offers 1-2 psychology externship training positions in the Rehabilitation Psychology/Neuropsychology Program in the Department of Rehabilitation Medicine. We encourage inquiries and applications from all qualified individuals. Please see the requirements below.

Externship Positions: 1-2

Dates: August 2, 2027 – May 31, 2028

*Please note: MANDATORY ORIENTATION is held during the first week of the externship.

*End date may be flexible based on supervisor and training director approval.

The Rehabilitation Psychology Externship Program offers opportunities to participate in integrated multidisciplinary clinics (Spinal Defects Clinic for youth with Spina Bifida and Spinal Cord Injuries) 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. Externs will also be introduced to the foundational principles of rehabilitation psychology and learn to consider them in their case conceptualization, intervention implementation, and interpretation of assessments. 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 may 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 will also gain experience in conducting neurocognitive testing, presenting assessment results during caregiver feedback, and writing comprehensive reports. Opportunities for participation in other professional development and scholarly activities are also available.

Outpatient Treatment

Outpatient intervention will include weekly individual, family, and/or group therapy with children and families ages 3-18. Intervention adaptation is a crucial skill in rehabilitation psychology. Externs will learn to utilize and adapt evidence based treatments (e.g., CBT, ACT, DBT, PMT) for the patient and their current presentation. 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, neuromuscular diagnoses, 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.

Assessment Opportunities

- The Rehab Psychology externship has a wide range of assessment opportunities based on extern interest and goals, 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.

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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.

General Information:

Supervision format: Individual, Small Group

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

Number of Rehabilitation Psychology trainees: 1 psychology intern, 1-2 externs, 1 post-doctoral fellow

Number of hours/week externs work: 20

- Two primary days per week – Didactics on Mondays from 12-1, clinical days typically Monday/Tuesday or Tuesday/Thursday

Pay: None at this time

Sample schedule:

- First 6 months of the year
  - Mondays: didactics 12-1 over zoom 1-2 x a month
  - Externship Day 1:
    - Concussion assessments in the morning
    - Individual supervision
    - 2-3 outpatient therapy cases in the afternoon
  - Externship Day 2:
    - Intakes in the morning as needed
    - 2-3 outpatient therapy cases
- Second 6 months of the year
  - Mondays: didactics 12-1 over zoom 1-2 x a month
  - Externship Day 1:
    - Intake clinic in the morning (1-2 intakes)
    - Individual supervision
    - 2-3 outpatient outpatient therapy cases
  - Externship Day 2:
    - Multidisciplinary Spina Bif/Spinal Cord Injury clinic from 8:30am-12pm
    - 1 full neuropsychological evaluation per month (with opportunities for more testing experiences, depending on extern goals)
- Report writing and editing, care coordination, and case preparation and follow-up are also required during remaining unscheduled time.
- Additional opportunities may also be available (i.e., research, group therapy) depending upon interest and availability.

Requirements:

- Be enrolled in at least the 3rd year of an APA accredited Doctoral Program in Clinical, Counseling, Health, or School Psychology (at least 2nd year at the time of application)
- Have experience providing evidence-based treatment with child and adolescent populations
- 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 21, 2027

**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.

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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, 2027* at *5pm* to the following:

1. CHCO Psychology Training Program email
   Email: CHCOPsychTrainingprogram@childrenscolorado.org
2. If you have questions, please email Kelbie Burdis-Beers, Operations Coordinator
   Email: Kelbie.Burdis-Beers@childrenscolorado.org

Recruitment Timeline

February 1, 2027 @ 5pm:	Application deadline (early submissions encouraged!)
February 4-19, 2027:	Interviews scheduled (early interviews available with early, complete submissions)
March 4, 2027:	Positions offered (prompt confirmation of acceptance/declination requested)

Supervision

Supervision will be provided directly (in vivo, individually) 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

Department of Rehabilitation Faculty

*denotes faculty providing services in Spanish

Zachary Arcona, Psy.D. (zachary.arcona@childrenscolorado.org): Dr. Arcona is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation through the University of Colorado School of Medicine. He provides evidence-based psychotherapy intervention in an outpatient setting to patients with brain injury, cerebral palsy, muscular dystrophy, and other medical conditions. He also provides psychotherapy within the BRIDGE program. His research interests include posttraumatic growth in patients with medical diagnoses.

***Alison M. Colbert, Ph.D.** (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, as well as neurodevelopmental cognitive screening in the Building Up Development (BUD) Clinic. 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 and fellows.

***Amy K. Connery, Psy.D.** (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 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.

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Michael W. Kirkwood, Ph.D., ABPP/CN (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): 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.

Paige E. Naylor, Ph.D. (paige.naylor@childrenscolorado.org): Dr. Naylor is a 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), cerebral palsy, and other medical conditions for which they are followed through Department of Rehabilitation. Dr. Naylor's research interests include issues of health equity, such as the relationship between social determinants of health and access to care as well as clinical outcomes.

Robin L. Peterson, Ph.D., ABPP (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.

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.

Sarah Tlustos-Carter, Ph.D. (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.

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