

**KENNEDY KRIEGER INSTITUTE  
DEPARTMENT OF BEHAVIORAL PSYCHOLOGY**

# **POSTDOCTORAL FELLOWSHIP IN PROFESSIONAL PSYCHOLOGY**

**Postdoctoral Fellowship  
Training Brochure**

**Kennedy Krieger Institute  
707 North Broadway  
Baltimore, Maryland 21205**

**Postdoctoral Training Director:  
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**[https://www.kennedykrieger.org/training/programs/  
psychology/behavioral-psychology/postdoctoral-fellowship](https://www.kennedykrieger.org/training/programs/psychology/behavioral-psychology/postdoctoral-fellowship)**



# The Department of Behavioral Psychology at Kennedy Krieger Institute offers postdoctoral fellowship training opportunities in professional psychology

## Training Philosophy and Methods

The philosophy of our postdoctoral program is to prepare fellows to function not only as psychologists in a variety of settings, but also as members of a multidisciplinary team providing health-related services to children and their families. Our program recognizes the importance of cultural and individual differences and diversity in training and follows Kennedy Krieger Institute's policy of commitment to diversity at all levels. Training occurs through supervised experiences in inpatient hospital units and/or outpatient clinics. Our Training Goals include advanced training in assessment, treatment, case management, accountability and responsibility to consumers, and professional conduct. Fellows completing our program are well qualified to enter clinical, medical, or academic settings. At completion of training, our fellows possess the skills and competencies reflecting advanced practice of professional psychology. Our program recognizes the importance of cultural and individual differences and diversity in training and follows Kennedy Krieger Institute's policy of commitment to diversity at all levels. The fellowship training program welcomes and embraces cultural and individual differences.

## Training Opportunities

Our fellows receive training in specialized sub-fields of child psychology, including neurodevelopmental disabilities, behavioral pediatrics, family therapy, behavioral parent training, assessment and treatment of severe behavior disorders, and pediatric feeding disorders.

Fellows complete a full year in one of our training clinics:

***Behavior Management Clinic*** - provides training to caregivers aimed at addressing externalizing and internalizing concerns common in preschool and school-age children, such as behavior concerns, tantrums, meal and bedtime problems, toileting difficulties, and anxiety. Treatment consists of empirically supported intervention, such as PCIT, CBT, habit reversal training, and parent management training.

***Brief Treatment Clinic*** - provides time limited, data-based, and goal-oriented treatment focused on behavior reduction through reinforcement of appropriate behavior. There is a strong emphasis on caregivers' active involvement and almost always involves behavioral parent training. Along with reductions in problem behavior for the child, a secondary (though equally important) goal of treatment is for the caregivers to learn specific skills to change and improve their child's behavior.

***Child & Family Therapy Clinic*** - provides outpatient services to families of children exhibiting a wide range of behavioral and emotional concerns, including oppositional behavior, parent-child conflict, attention deficits, school disruption, and other school-related issues/problems, as well as aggression, anxiety, mood disorders, and phobias. The treatment approach entails working through a family therapy framework while also utilizing evidence based-interventions such as ACT, DBT, and CBT.





***Neurobehavioral Unit (Inpatient)*** - provides an inpatient unit dedicated to the assessment and treatment of individuals with severe destructive behaviors, such as self-injury, aggression, property destruction, pica, and tantrums. Goals include serving as a model for evaluation and treatment of severe destructive behavior, fostering the development of new therapeutic procedures, and promoting effective application of current treatments through training and consultation.

***Neurobehavioral Unit (Outpatient)*** - provides a continuum of services for individuals with neurodevelopmental disabilities who display severe destructive behaviors, such as self-injury, aggression, property destruction, pica, elopement and dangerous acts. These services include consultation, day treatment, intensive day treatment, and community-based services. The NBU-OP Clinic utilizes a data-driven approach to assessment and treatment based on an evidence-based applied behavior analysis model.

***Pediatric Developmental Disabilities Clinic*** - provides a wide range of behavioral assessment and intervention services for toddlers, children, and adolescents with diagnosed or suspected neurodevelopmental disorders who also have challenging behaviors. Treatment of these children involves focusing on behavioral approach to intervention.

***Pediatric Psychology Clinic and Consultation Service*** - provides behavioral assessment and intervention services to individuals with acute and chronic medical conditions in inpatient, outpatient, and interdisciplinary medical clinic settings. Common referral domains include behavioral pain management, adherence, coping with diagnosis, medical procedural preparation, sleep, and supporting functionality.

***Pediatric Feeding Disorders*** - offers inpatient, day treatment, and outpatient services for children with feeding disorders. The approach is interdisciplinary with core services, including behavioral psychology, gastroenterology, nutrition, social work, occupational therapy, and speech and language therapy.

## Supervision

Postdoctoral fellows have the opportunity to generate an individualized training curriculum in conjunction with their training director or supervisor. Fellowship can include administrative, clinical, and/or research experiences. Postdoctoral fellows receive 2000 hours of training in the fellowship program, with fellows receiving three written evaluations and a minimum of two hours of individual face-to-face and group supervision per week.

## Training Activities

The training year begins on September 1. Postdoctoral fellows attend weekly 90-minute LEND training core courses during the Fall and Spring semesters. Topics include interdisciplinary care, cultural humility, neurodevelopmental disabilities, behavioral challenges, brain injury, special education law, cerebral palsy, leadership, program evaluation, advocacy, family-centered care, speech and language disorders, hearing disorders, genetic conditions, and transition to adulthood. They also attend the Room to Grow Conference in the Fall, supporting equity, diversity, and inclusion (EDI) efforts in the care we provide. Departmental EDI learning opportunities also occur throughout the training year. All fellows have access to training activities at KKI and at Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, in addition to clinic-sponsored didactics. Fellows are actively involved in at least two hours per week of professional development seminars, group supervision, case management conferences, and/or peer review. Fellows spend approximately 17 hours per week providing professional psychological services (direct, client contact).



## Professional Development

A departmental Professional Development Seminar occurs on a monthly basis. Topics include preparing for licensure, getting a job (applying & interviewing for jobs, giving job talks, and negotiating job offers), transitioning to being an early career professional, building a social media presence, starting a private practice, transitioning from supervisee to supervisor, and EDI topics. The training director also provides ongoing updates regarding job opportunities, and faculty members make themselves available to further assist in acquiring employment by writing letters of reference and contacting colleagues in the field. Our commitment to the postdoctoral fellows extends beyond the training year, and the professional development component of the program allows us to facilitate the fellows' continued success as they begin their careers.

## Directors of Training and Clinic Directors

Our distinguished faculty members are involved in clinical service provision and/or supervision and many hold academic appointments at the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine. For the full list of supervisors involved in postdoctoral training, please see our webpage: <https://www.kennedykrieger.org/training/programs/psychology/behavioral-psychology/postdoctoral-fellowship/training-faculty>

### **Valerie Paasch, Ph.D.**

*Postdoctoral Training Director  
Department of Behavioral Psychology*

### **Nancy Grace, Ph.D., BCBA-D**

*Director, Pediatric Developmental  
Disabilities Clinic*

### **Peter Girolami, Ph.D.**

*Director, Pediatric Feeding Disorders  
Program*

### **Louis P. Hagopian, Ph.D., BCBA-D**

*Director, Neurobehavioral Unit*

### **Alicia Sullivan, Ph.D.**

*Training Director,  
Department of Behavioral Psychology*

### **Patricia F. Kurtz, Ph.D.**

*Director, Neurobehavioral Outpatient  
Clinic*

### **Susan Perkins-Parks, Ph.D.**

*Director, Behavior Management Clinic*

### **Gina Richman, Ph.D.**

*Director, Child & Family Therapy Clinic*

### **Keith J. Slifer, Ph.D.**

*Director, Pediatric Psychology Clinic  
and Consultation Service*

## Training Locations

Postdoctoral Fellows work in one or two locations during their fellowship year. At each location, fellows have access to licensed supervisors, assessment and treatment materials, session rooms, and support staff. Fellows also interact with the Director of Training at each location. Fellows also have a workspace at each location that includes a desk, computer, and phone with shared printers, copy machines, and fax machines. There are five locations where fellows may complete training:

**707 North Broadway** the original KKI location, on the Johns Hopkins Medical campus.

Clinics: Neurobehavioral Unit, Neurobehavioral Unit-Outpatient, Pediatric Feeding Disorders, and Pediatric Psychology Consultation Service.

**1750 E. Fairmount Avenue** also on the Johns Hopkins Medical campus. Clinics:

Behavior Management Clinic, Brief Treatment Clinic, and Pediatric Feeding Disorders

**720 Aliceanna Street** in the Baltimore Harbor east neighborhood.

Clinics: Behavior Management Clinic, Child and Family Therapy, Pediatric Developmental Disabilities, and Pediatric Feeding Disorders clinics.

**9810 Patuxent Woods Drive** in Columbia, Maryland (Howard County).

Clinics: Behavior Management Clinic, Child and Family Therapy, Clinical Outcomes, Pediatric Developmental Disabilities, and Pediatric Psychology Clinic and Consultation Service.

**1132 Annapolis Drive** in Odenton, Maryland (Anne Arundel County).

Clinics: Behavior Management Clinic and Child and Family Therapy Clinic.



## Application Guidelines

### **Qualifications for applying to the psychology fellowship program include:**

- a) completion of all doctoral degree requirements in psychology from an APA- accredited institution of higher education, and
- b) training and experience in both clinical and research applications of the behavioral psychology in hospital, educational, or community settings.
- c) completion of an APA-accredited internship.

### **Applicants to the Fellowship program must submit an APPA CAS application OR submit the following:**

- a) A cover letter stating one's professional academic preparation and work experience, career interests, and reasons for applying.
- b) A copy of one's most recent curriculum vitae.
- c) Transcripts of all graduate-level coursework.
- d) Letters of recommendations written by three professors or work supervisors forwarded directly to the Kennedy Krieger Institute.
- e) Verification of Completion letter (to be completed by dissertation chair or Director of Clinical Training) Exception: this letter is not needed if your official transcript reflects your degree has already been awarded.

*\*Requirements, including dissertation defense, must be met before beginning fellowship.*

**THE DEADLINE FOR RECEIPT OF ALL APPLICATION MATERIALS, INCLUDING LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION IS DECEMBER 15. PLEASE NOTE: COMPLETED APPLICATIONS ARE REVIEWED AS THEY ARE RECEIVED. WE ARE USING THE APPIC COMMON HOLD DATE OF FEBRUARY 26. ALL APPLICANTS WILL BE NOTIFIED OF THEIR STATUS BY THAT DATE.**

### **All materials should be forwarded to:**

Valerie Paasch, Ph.D.

Director of Postdoctoral Training, Department of Behavioral Psychology

The Kennedy Krieger Institute

720 Aliceanna St., 2nd Floor, Baltimore, MD 21202

### **or via email to:**

Psychology@kennedykrieger.org

### **For more information about our postdoctoral fellowship, contact:**

Dr. Valerie Paasch (Director of Postdoctoral Training)

or Karen Janowiak (Training Coordinator)

443-923-7533 / Psychology@kennedykrieger.org

### **Visit our website:**

<https://www.kennedykrieger.org/training/programs/psychology/behavioral-psychology/postdoctoral-fellowship>