

Get To Know Our Current Fellows



Anthony Gioia, PhD

First Year Pediatric Neuropsychology Fellow

Dr. Gioia received his bachelor's in Psychology from the University of North Carolina Chapel Hill. He received his doctorate degree from University of Houston in the Clinical Psychology program with a Major Area of Study in Neuropsychology. Dr. Gioia completed an APA-accredited internship in pediatric neuropsychology at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia.

Dr. Gioia's research has focused in neuropsychological outcomes of children diagnosed with pediatric acute lymphoblastic leukemia (ALL), brain tumors, and neurofibromatosis type 1 (NF1) as a research coordinator prior to graduate school. Throughout graduate school his research focused on investigating the role of executive functioning and attention in academic achievement. During fellowship, he is looking forward to expanding his research and clinical experiences through working with patient and families of diverse and complex medical, developmental, and cultural backgrounds.



Rella Kautiainen, PhD

First Year Pediatric Neuropsychology Fellow

Dr. Rella Kautiainen completed a bachelor's in Psychology from the University of California Berkeley in Berkeley, CA. She received her doctoral degree from Georgia State University in the joint Clinical Psychology and Neuropsychology/Cognitive Neuroscience Program. Dr. Kautiainen completed an APA-accredited internship in pediatric neuropsychology at the University of New Mexico School of Medicine.

Dr. Kautiainen's prior research has focused on utilizing neuropsychological and genomic methods to understand the variation in outcomes for long-term pediatric brain tumor survivors. She is interested in the relationship between genomic variation and treatment-related response or injury variables for acquired brain injury survivors. During fellowship, she is looking forward to expanding her clinical and research experiences with a wide range of neurodevelopmental and medical conditions while providing culturally responsive care to children and their families.



Becca Slomowitz, PhD

First Year Pediatric Neuropsychology Fellow

Dr. Slomowitz received her bachelor's degree in Psychology from the Pennsylvania State University. She received her master's and Ph.D. in Clinical Child Psychology from the University of Denver, with a focus in Developmental Cognitive Neuroscience. Dr. Slomowitz complete an APA-accredited internship in pediatric neuropsychology Dell Medical School/Dell Children's Medical Center.

Dr. Slomowitz's prior research focused on examining cognitive risk and resilience in children with various neurodevelopmental disorders, such as ADHD and learning disabilities. During fellowship, Dr. Slomowitz looks forward to expanding her clinical and research skills in working with pediatric patients with a wide range of medical and neurodevelopmental conditions.

For more information, please visit

[KennedyKrieger.org/DepartmentofNeuropsychology](https://www.KennedyKrieger.org/DepartmentofNeuropsychology)

or call 443-923-4442.



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Phebe Albert, PhD

Second Year Pediatric Neuropsychology Fellow

Dr. Albert is a postdoctoral fellow in Child and Adolescent Clinical Psychology at Kennedy Krieger Institute/Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine. Dr. Albert received her Bachelor of Arts degree in Psychology from the University of Florida. She received her doctorate degree from Georgia State University in the joint Clinical Psychology and Neuropsychology/Cognitive Neuroscience program. Dr. Albert completed an APA-accredited internship in pediatric neuropsychology at Texas Children's Hospital/Baylor College of Medicine.

Dr. Albert's prior research has focused on the measurement and characterization of cognitive and social profiles of children with neurodevelopmental/neurocognitive disorders. She is particularly interested in neuropsychological assessment and differential diagnosis of children with autism spectrum disorder, intellectual disability, and genetic syndromes. During fellowship, she is looking forward to expanding her research and clinical experiences through working with patients and families of diverse and complex medical, developmental, and cultural backgrounds.



Morgan E. Nitta, PhD

Second Year Pediatric Neuropsychology Fellow

Dr. Nitta received her Bachelor of Science degree in Neuroscience at the Regis University in Denver, Colorado. She received her Master's and Doctoral degrees in Clinical Psychology at Marquette University in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Dr. Nitta completed her APA-accredited internship in pediatric neuropsychology at Kennedy Krieger Institute/Johns Hopkins School of Medicine.

Previous research explored psychological, cognitive, and physiological predictors of outcome following mild traumatic brain injury (mTBI). During fellowship, Dr. Nitta looks forward to expanding her clinical and research skills working with pediatric patients with a wide range of medical and neurodevelopmental conditions.



Tristin Nyman-Mallis, PhD

Second Year Pediatric Neuropsychology Fellow

Dr. Nyman-Mallis received her bachelor's degree in Neuroscience & Psychology from Carthage College, a master's degree in General Clinical Psychology from Eastern Michigan University, and then her master's and Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology from Texas A&M University. Dr. Nyman-Mallis is a postdoctoral fellow in Pediatric Neuropsychology at Kennedy Krieger Institute/Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine. She additionally participates in research and mentorship.

Dr. Nyman-Mallis's research interests include investigating contextual and biological factors that contribute to child affective disorders. Specifically, she is interested in child anxiety development and the impact of parenting on the development and maintenance of child anxiety in medical and nonmedical populations. During fellowship, Dr. Nyman-Mallis is excited to learn more about the influence of biological and contextual factors during infancy and early childhood.

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Ashley Ortiz, PhD

First Year Clinical Psychology Fellow

Dr. Ashley Ortiz sees children and adolescents for psychological assessment in the Targeted Assessment Clinic and in the Executive Functioning Clinic, with continuation of care in the Follow-up Clinic, within the Neuropsychology Department's outpatient program. Dr. Ortiz is committed to providing high-quality psychological services to underserved populations while fostering relationships that bolster patients' personal growth and their psychological well-being. Dr. Ortiz also integrates multicultural awareness and diversity factors into her clinical work and research endeavors. Dr. Ortiz received her bachelor's in Psychology from University of Florida, then received her master's in General Psychology from New York University, and then her Ph.D. in Counseling Psychology from Howard University.

Dr. Ortiz's research interests center on the influence of acculturation and discrimination experiences on the mental health outcomes (e.g., depression, anxiety, PTSD) of minoritized children and adolescents. In addition, Dr. Ortiz is interested in the psychosocial outcomes for youth that are at-risk for juvenile justice system involvement. She completed her doctoral dissertation titled "The Lived Experiences of Latina Girls Placed at-Risk for the Juvenile Justice System: Acculturation, Gender Expectations, and Psychological Well-being."



Ashley Kniola, PsyD

Second Year Clinical Psychology Fellow

Dr. Ashley Kniola works with children, adolescents, and their families' by conducting assessments in the Targeted Assessment Clinic and Executive Functioning Clinic. Additionally, she holds a caseload of outpatient therapy clients through the Kennedy Krieger Institute's Psychiatric Mental Health Program. Dr. Kniola also participates in research and teaching at the undergraduate level. Dr. Kniola received her bachelor's in Psychology from California State Polytechnic University, then received her master's and PsyD in Clinical Psychology from Nova Southern University.

Dr. Kniola's research interests include the relationship between cognitive functioning and severity of autism spectrum disorder, discrepancies in parent report during the assessment process, program evaluation, and the impact of weight bias on the treatment of clients.

Jason Ringo, PhD

Second Year Clinical Psychology Fellow



Dr. Ringo brings years of experience as an educator, clinician, and community mental health resource, to better understand and support the individuals and families with whom he works. Dr. Ringo received his bachelor's in Psychology, a master's in educational Psychology and a master's degree and Ph.D. in School/Applied Child Psychology all from McGill University.

Dr. Ringo's research focuses on the novel application of a cutting-edge experimental paradigm to test visual attention and whether the neurological finding of atypical hemisphericity among people with autism also extends to people who display autistic traits, but who do not meet criteria for a clinical diagnosis. Additionally, he has research interests in academic motivation, as well as the manifestation, diagnosis, and treatment of various clinical disorders in children and adolescents, with an eye on the contributory roles played by culture and parenting.

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