

# **BC Children's Hospital**

## **Postdoctoral Fellowship in Pediatric Clinical Neuropsychology**



**Department of Psychology  
BC Children's Hospital, Vancouver, BC, CANADA**

**2024**

### **BC Children's Hospital**

BC Children's Hospital provides expert health care to the most seriously ill or injured children across British Columbia and Yukon Territory. BC Children's Hospital is an academic patient and family-centered health sciences center, caring for more than 200,000 children each year. The Department of Psychology at BC Children's Hospital was established in 1974 and has housed a CPA accredited psychology internship since 1995. Psychological services are currently delivered in a mixed model of management providing a wide range of clinical training, teaching, and research opportunities. BC Children's Hospital is a teaching hospital affiliated with the University of British Columbia and has a strong research orientation and extensive community involvement. The hospital is a tertiary care facility which is the main referral center for children from birth through 19 years with complex medical problems from British Columbia and the Yukon Territory. The hospital is located in the heart of Vancouver on the Oak Street campus, a landscaped complex that includes BC Children's Hospital, BC Women's Hospital & Health Center, and the Child & Family Research Institute. Sunny Hill Health Center offers specialized services to children with disabilities and their families from across the province and is also located on campus.

### **Vancouver, BC**

BC Children's Hospital is located in Vancouver, a coastal city in western Canada. It is the most populous city in the province with a population of approximately 2.4 million people within the greater Vancouver area. Vancouver is one of the most ethnically and linguistically diverse cities in Canada, with 52% of residents having a first language other than English. Vancouver is consistently named as one of the top five worldwide cities for livability and quality of life, and is one of Canada's warmest cities in winter. The mild climate of the city and its proximity to oceans, mountains, rivers and lakes makes the area a popular destination for outdoor recreation. The city is also home to several professional sporting teams including the Vancouver Canucks, BC Lions, and Vancouver Whitecaps among others, in addition to a lively arts and cultural scene.

### **Overview of Fellowship Program**

The Neuropsychology Service within the Department of Psychology at British Columbia Children's Hospital is pleased to announce the availability of a pediatric neuropsychology postdoctoral fellowship for 2024. **One full-time position** will be available with training beginning by September 1, 2024 (start date flexible between July 1 and September 1), with the *goal to also provide a second year* (conditional upon funding).

The fellowship adheres to a scientist-practitioner model and training is modeled after the goals set forth by the Houston Conference Guidelines for Specialty Education and Training in Clinical Neuropsychology. The objective of the fellowship is to train fellows to an advanced level of competence in pediatric neuropsychology consistent with independent practice in a tertiary health care setting, and to provide fellows with experience in pediatric neuropsychology research.

The Psychology Department at BC Children's Hospital is an independent department within the hospital. It includes approximately 50 psychologists in total, 2 psychometrists, and numerous trainees providing clinical services. There are currently 3 pediatric neuropsychologists who will provide clinical supervision within the training program. One is board certified through ABPP-CN, and another is board certified through ABPdN. In addition to specialty training in Pediatric Neuropsychology, the psychology department offers training at the post-doctoral level in Pediatric Medical Psychology, residency level (3 positions, accredited by the Canadian Psychological Association), and graduate practicum students.

### **Goals and Objectives**

The fellow will have opportunities to work with a wide variety of patient populations (ages 0 – 19 years). The primary setting will be outpatient, with some opportunities for inpatient consultation work as well. The primary goal for the fellowship is to develop strong skills in neuropsychological assessment, consultation, and intervention. By the completion of the program the fellow will demonstrate an advanced level of competence in pediatric neuropsychology sufficient for independent practice, will demonstrate a strong knowledge base in clinical neuropsychology and clinical neurosciences, and will be able to design and

conduct clinical research within a hospital setting. Additionally, the fellow will gain in-depth experience in managing clinical issues relating to diverse patient populations and will have the opportunity to complete the three models of the San'yas Indigenous Cultural Safety Training. Overall fellowship goals also include for the fellow to obtain registration as a psychologist through the College of Psychologists of British Columbia. Lastly, the fellow will develop supervisory skills in the training of learners including Psychology residents and trainees in other disciplines (e.g., Neurology, Pediatrics, Psychiatry).

### **Training Activities / Major Patient Populations**

The fellowship will provide broad pediatric neuropsychology training with a wide variety of neurological and medical conditions (generalist), with opportunities for the fellow to receive more in-depth training in specific areas of interest. On average 3.5 to 4.0 days per week will be devoted to clinical activities, with the remainder of the timing focusing on research and educational activities. Clinical activities may include: 1) conducting outpatient and occasional inpatient neuropsychological assessments with provision of reports and feedback; 2) providing consultation to multidisciplinary treatment teams; 3) providing consultation to external parties such as schools.

Patient populations include (ages 0 through 19):

1. Neurology
  - a. Epilepsy Surgery
  - b. General Epilepsy
  - c. General Neurology (e.g., encephalitis, vasculitis, autoimmune, stroke, AVM)
2. Hematology/Oncology/Bone Marrow Transplant
  - a. Brain tumor
  - b. Leukemia/lymphoma
  - c. Sickle cell disease
  - d. Long term follow-up
3. Genetics / Metabolics
4. Biochemical Diseases
5. Cardiac

### **Other Training Opportunities**

Additional training opportunities may include:

1. Psychological intervention and/or parent training with medically complex patients
2. Provision of lectures and presentations within the hospital
3. Providing supervision to more junior trainees (e.g., residents, practicum students) to help build supervisory competence

### **Supervision**

Supervision follows a mastery model whereby fellows start with observation of a neuropsychology staff member, moves to joint assessment/treatment, observation of the fellow by staff, greater independence by the fellow with assistance in planning and debriefing sessions, and graduating to arms-length supervision. Fellows will receive **at least** 2 hours of individual face-to-face supervision each week. Regularly scheduled, one-to-one supervision involves case review, setting and monitoring of training goals, and professional development. Supervision will be provided by the core neuropsychology staff members in regularly scheduled times, with additional time for informal supervision also available (non-scheduled as needed).

### **Didactics**

A variety of both formal and informal educational opportunities exist, in addition to case specific readings provided by individual supervisors. More formal didactic opportunities include:

1. Neurology Epilepsy teaching rounds
2. Child and Adolescent Psychiatry Academic Lecture Series
3. Hospital Wide Grand Rounds
4. Psychopharmacology Seminar
5. Psychology Rounds
6. Diversity Seminar
7. Supervision Seminar
8. Ethics Seminar
9. Gender Rounds
10. Neuroradiology Rounds

### **Research**

Fellows will take an active part in collaborative research with fellowship supervisors and the Neurology/Neurosurgery department. The fellow will have approximately 1 day per week dedicated for research and will be expected to present their research at a national/international conference and to publish their findings within a peer-reviewed journal. The fellow will collaborate with the Neurology/Neurosurgery departments to develop a research project.

### **Evaluation**

Formal written progress evaluations are prepared by the Neuropsychology staff, and fellows also evaluate supervisors. Fellows whose performance is not meeting expected levels will be directly informed of their perceived problem areas, and a plan for remediating these weaknesses will be formulated in conjunction with the fellowship supervisor. A final exit evaluation will be completed with the director of training at the end of the fellowship.

### **Salary and Benefits**

Compensation for the full time fellowship is \$80,000 (Canadian dollars) per year plus benefits which include sick time, vacation time (20 days per year), and extended health benefits. Fellows will also receive 13 statutory holidays recognized by the hospital in addition to vacation and sick time.

Fellows will have office space, a computer with internet connection, a private phone line, and testing materials.

### **Eligibility**

Applicants should be graduates of CPA/APA accredited clinical psychology programs and have completed a CPA/APA accredited internship in clinical psychology, in addition to having substantial experience in clinical neuropsychological assessment of children. It is expected that applicants will have internship-level training in pediatric psychology and neuropsychology. Those who have completed prior coursework in Functional Neuroanatomy, Clinical Neurology, and Neuroscience/Neuropathology are preferred. Additionally, applicants who bring diversity to the program (e.g., fluency in other languages, experience with under-served populations) are also encouraged to apply. In addition, all doctoral degree requirements must be completed prior to the start date.

**Application Requirements**

All application materials must be received *no later than midnight (Pacific Standard Time) on April 5, 2024*.

Applicants should submit their materials electronically. Transcripts and letters of reference can be sent separately. All material should be emailed to: [vilija.petrauskas@cw.bc.ca](mailto:vilija.petrauskas@cw.bc.ca)

1. Letter of interest
2. Curriculum Vitae
3. Official graduate transcripts
4. Three letters of recommendation (sent directly to [vilija.petrauskas@cw.bc.ca](mailto:vilija.petrauskas@cw.bc.ca))
5. A statement from your graduate school clinical training director indicating your status in the program and probability of completing all doctoral requirements prior to the start date of the fellowship (sent directly to [vilija.petrauskas@cw.bc.ca](mailto:vilija.petrauskas@cw.bc.ca))

**Interviews**

After initial review of the application packages, potential candidates will be contacted via email to arrange an interview.

**For further information please contact:**

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