



# Postdoctoral Residency in Clinical Neuropsychology

Neuropsychology Services

Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences

NorthShore University HealthSystem

Program Code #9841 (adult) and 9842 (pediatric)



Dear Residency Applicant:

Thank you for your interest in the Postdoctoral Residency in Clinical Neuropsychology at NorthShore University HealthSystem. Please note that we have two open positions for the 2024-2026 cycle, one in the adult track and one in the pediatric track. Below, you will find a program description. We need to receive your letter of interest, current CV, graduate transcript, two work samples, and three letters of recommendation by December 15, 2023.

As a member of the Association of Postdoctoral Programs in Clinical Neuropsychology (APPCN), NorthShore adheres to APPCN Match policies and dates. For the current selection process, deadline for ranking candidates and programs is February 14, 2024; candidates will be notified of their placement on the designated Match Notification Day, which is February 21, 2024.

We receive many more applicants for our two positions than can be interviewed. Therefore, we do not interview all applicants. Instead, interviews are arranged only for top applicants. Subsequent to review of applications and supporting materials, a decision will be made with regard to which candidates will be invited to interview. Interviews will take place virtually during January and February. Interviewees who prefer to interview on site in Evanston, IL are welcome to do so, but an on-site interview is not required, nor will it be weighted differently.

Thank you for your interest in our program. We look forward to reviewing your application materials.

Sincerely,

**Leslie Guidotti Breting, Ph.D., ABPP-CN**

Co-Director of the Postdoctoral Fellowship

Head, Psychology

Director, Neuropsychology

Senior Clinician Educator, Psychiatry and Behavioral Neuroscience

University of Chicago, Pritzker School of Medicine

**Alexandra Kirsch, Ph.D.**

Co-Director of the Postdoctoral Fellowship

Director, Pediatric Neuropsychology

Clinician Educator, Psychiatry and Behavioral Neuroscience

University of Chicago, Pritzker School of Medicine

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# Program Description

There are currently two open postdoctoral residency positions in clinical neuropsychology (one adult and one pediatric) within the Neuropsychology Service of the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences at NorthShore University HealthSystem. NorthShore University HealthSystem (NorthShore) is an integrated healthcare delivery system consistently ranked as a Top 15 Teaching Hospital in the U.S. The NorthShore system, headquartered in Evanston, IL, includes six award-winning hospitals – Evanston, Glenbrook, Highland Park, Northwest Community, Skokie, and Swedish. NorthShore is committed to excellence in its academic mission and supports teaching and research as the principal teaching affiliate of the University of Chicago Pritzker School of Medicine.

Consistent with the guidelines and goals of the Association of Postdoctoral Programs in Clinical Neuropsychology (APPCN) and the Houston Conference guidelines, the residency is two years in length. The program strives to maintain a balance of clinical service, research, and education; the resident's weekly hours are divided roughly into 80% clinical service, 10% clinical research, and 10% educational activities.

The residency in clinical neuropsychology at NorthShore University HealthSystem (affiliated with the University of Chicago) provides advanced training and supervision in the clinical application of scientific knowledge of normal and abnormal brain function and behavior, across the life span, to postdoctoral psychologists. The program includes didactic and practical experiences in assessment and intervention that are consistent with the policy statement of the Houston Conference on Specialty Education and Training in Clinical Neuropsychology. Its aim is to develop in psychologists the clinical competencies that enable them to qualify for certification in clinical neuropsychology by the American Board of Clinical Neuropsychology (ABCN/ABPP).

Currently, clinical experiences are primarily in assessment and consultation. Within the adult track, patient populations include young to elderly adults, diverse psychiatric and neurological outpatients, including traumatic brain injury, epilepsy, stroke, Alzheimer's disease, and various other brain disorders and psychiatric conditions. Additional opportunities include performing the Wada test and involvement in intraoperative language mapping during brain surgery. Forensic neuropsychological evaluations related to civil litigation constitute a portion of the referrals in which the resident participates. Within the pediatric track, patient populations include preschool, school-aged, and young adults with diverse neurodevelopmental, neurological, and psychiatric concerns including genetic disorder, attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder (ADHD), autism, learning disabilities, epilepsy, and head injury. Participation in a variety of school based services (e.g., IEP meetings) also constitute a portion of the referrals in which the resident participates.

Referral sources for the adult and pediatric neuropsychologists within the neuropsychology service include pediatricians, neurologists, psychiatrists, neurosurgeons, internists, physiatrists, vocational rehabilitation counselors, attorneys, insurance carriers, psychologists, speech therapists, occupational therapists, educational specialists, and families. Didactic opportunities include attendance at Department of Psychiatry Grand Rounds, Department of Neurology Grand Rounds, Neuropsychology didactics, group case discussions, brain cutting didactics, and an optional neuroanatomy mini-course at Marquette University.

In addition to clinical training, professional and practice issues are covered in supervision, neuropsychology case conferences, and neuropsychology service business meetings involving all NorthShore neuropsychology staff, the resident will have the opportunity to supervise psychology graduate students, who are selected for a one-year pediatric or adult neuropsychology practicum at NorthShore, as well as the opportunity to lecture to medical students from the University of Chicago Pritzker School of Medicine. There are currently six adult and six pediatric practicum students. Two full-time psychometricians are also on staff.

The postdoctoral resident receives at least two hours of supervision weekly. Clinical and research activities are supervised primarily by Leslie Guidotti Breting, Ph.D., ABPP, Elizabeth Geary, Ph.D., ABPP, & Christopher Williams, Ph.D. for the adult track and by Alexandra Kirsch, Ph.D., Navya Kamath, Psy.D., and Stephanie Aylward, Ph.D. for the pediatric track.

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# Benefits and Expected Outcomes

The stipend for the postdoctoral resident is approximately \$50,000-\$56,000, which will increase by 3% in the second year. The position includes all standard benefits offered to full-time salaried employees of NorthShore University HealthSystem, including standard health insurance options, 15 vacation days annually, customary legal holidays, and sick days.

Several important outcomes are expected as a result of the 2-year residency, including that the resident will:

- Take the Psychology Licensing Exam (EPPP) during year 2 of the residency
  - Be capable of being employed as a neuropsychologist in a broad range of settings (ranging from private practice to university hospitals)
  - Be prepared for board certification by being able to pass the American Board of Professional Psychology (ABPP) examination in Clinical Neuropsychology
  - Additionally, it is expected that the resident will be involved in professional presentations, such as research posters, at regional or national neuropsychology meetings during the residency. Finally, it is anticipated that each resident will co-author one or more research publications or book chapters by the end of the residency. The degree to which the resident is involved in research and writing is largely determined by their interest level.
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## Past Resident Research

Related to the inclusion of scholarly activities during residency, there is some flexibility, based on the resident's goals and wishes to have minimal or more than minimal involvement in research activities. Below is a list of examples of resident collaboration in conference presentations and publications over the years (Resident names are bolded):

Cichocki, A. C., **Nicholson, L.**, Kirsch, A. (2024, February) Multi-method assessment of executive functioning among children with attention and learning challenges. Poster to be presented at the 2024 annual meeting of the International Neuropsychological Society. New York, NY.

**Nicholson, L.** & Kirsch, A. (February, 2024). Klinefelter syndrome case series: Commonalities, variability, and developmental course. Poster to be presented at the 2024 annual meeting of the International Neuropsychological Society. New York, NY.

**Neale, A.**, Axelrod, J., Geary, E., and Guidotti Breting, L.M. (2023). Mild Cognitive Impairment. In R. Hilsabeck & G. Ayers (Eds.). *Primer on Neurocognitive Disorders*. Oxford University Press.

Khan, H., Sweet J., Geary, E., Axelrod, J. L., Guidotti Breting, L., & **Neale, A.**, (2023, October) Insight and Anxiety Ratings as Predictors of Mild Cognitive Impairment and Dementia. Poster to be presented at the National Academy of Neuropsychology (NAN) Annual Meeting in Philadelphia, PA.

Lee, J., Green, E., Dykins, M., Khan, A., **Neale, A.**, Sweet, J., Axelrod, J., Geary, E.K., & Guidotti Breting, L. (2023, June). Does Insight Moderate the Relationship between Mood and Cognitive Functioning? Presented at the Annual American Academy of Clinical Neuropsychology Conference, Washington, DC.

**Lebersfeld, J. B.** & Kirsch, A.C. (2022, Feb). Attention and executive functions in a clinical sample of children, adolescents, and young adults with attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) and mood disorders. Poster presented at the International Neuropsychological Society Annual Meeting, New Orleans, LA.

**Hizel L.P., Lebersfeld, J.B.**, Geary, E., Guidotti Breting, L., & Kirsch, A.C. (May, 2021). Effective return to in-person neuropsychological examinations during COVID-19 by the numbers. Poster presented virtually at the 19th Annual American Academy of Clinical Neuropsychology Conference.

**Lebersfeld, J. B.** & Kirsch, A.C. (2021, May). Evaluating self-report measures for autism spectrum disorder in a clinic sample of referred young adults and older adolescents: a pilot study. Poster presented virtually at the 19th Annual American Academy of Clinical Neuropsychology Conference.

Laique A., Gandelman, E., Messerlie, A., **Hizel, L.**, Geary, E., & Guidotti Breting, L. (May, 2021). Man vs. Machine: Performance on the Administration Method of the Wisconsin Card-Sorting Test in Stressed Individuals. Poster presented virtually at the 19th Annual American Academy of Clinical Neuropsychology Conference.

Laique A., Khan, H., **Hizel, L.**, Geary, E., Guidotti Breting, L., & Sweet J. J. (2021, November). Sorry, I Wasn't Paying Attention. The Moderating Role of Auditory Attention on the Relationship Between Age and Verbal Learning. Poster presented virtually at the National Academy of Neuropsychology Conference.

Sweet, J.J., **Klipfel, K.M.**, Nelson, N.W., & Moberg, P.J. (2021). Professional practices, beliefs, and incomes of U.S. neuropsychologists: The AACN, NAN, SCN 2020 practice and 'salary survey.' *The Clinical Neuropsychologist*, 35, 7-80.

Sweet, J.J., **Klipfel, K. M.**, Nelson, N.W., & Moberg, P.J. (2021). Professional practices, beliefs, and incomes of postdoctoral trainees: The AACN, NAN, SCN 2020 practice and 'salary survey.' *Archives of Clinical Neuropsychology*, 36, 1-16.

Sweet, J.J., **Klipfel, K.M.**, & Benson L. (2021). Traumatic brain injury in a forensic context. In F.S. Zollman (Ed.). *Manual of traumatic brain injury: Assessment and management*. (3rd edition). Springer Publishing Company.

Sweet, J.J., **Klipfel, K.M.** (2021). A forensic primer: Information that the non-forensic neuropsychologist needs to know when clinical cases turn forensic. In Schroeder, R.W. & Martin, P.K. (Eds.). *Neuropsychological Validity Assessment in Non-Forensic Clinical Practice*.

Sweet, J. J., **Lee, C.**, Guidotti Breting, L. M., & Benson, L. M. (2018). Gender in clinical neuropsychology: Practice survey trends and comparisons outside the specialty. *The Clinical Neuropsychologist*. doi: 10.1080/13854046.2017.1365932

Sweet, J. J., & **Benson, L. M.** (2016). Traumatic brain injury in a forensic context. In F. S. Zollman (Ed.), *Manual of Traumatic Brain Injury: Assessment and Management, Second Edition*. New York, NY: Demos Medical Publishing.

Sweet, J. J., **Benson, L. M.**, Nelson, N. W., & Moberg, P. J. (2015). The American Academy of Clinical Neuropsychology, National Academy of Neuropsychology, and Society for Clinical Neuropsychology (APA Division 40) 2015 TCN professional practice and 'Salary Survey.' *The Clinical Neuropsychologist*, 29(8), 1069-1162.

Sweet, J. J., **Goldman, D. J.**, and Guidotti Breting, L. M. (in press). Evidence-based practice in clinical neuropsychology. In J. E. Morgan & J. H. Ricker (Eds.), *Textbook of Clinical Neuropsychology (2nd ed.)*. New York, NY: Taylor & Francis.

Sweet, J. J. & **Goldman, D. J.** (2015). Forensic Neuropsychology: Annual Review. In S. Koffler, J. Morgan, B. Marcopulos, & M. F. Greiffenstein (Eds.). *Neuropsychology: A Review of Science and Practice (Vol. 2)*. New York, NY: Oxford University Press.

Sweet, J. J., **Goldman, D. J.**, & Guidotti Breting, L. M. (2013). Traumatic brain injury: Guidance in a forensic context from outcome, dose-response, and response bias research. *Behavioral Sciences and the Law*, 31, 756-778 (Special Issue).

**Guidotti Breting, L. M.**, & Sweet, J. J. (2013). Freestanding cognitive symptom validity tests: Use and selection in mild traumatic brain injury. In D. A. Carone & S. S. Bush (Eds.), *Mild Traumatic Brain Injury: Symptom Validity Assessment and Malingering*. New York: Springer Publishing Company.

Sweet, J. J., Perry, W., Ruff, R. M., Shear, P. K., & **Guidotti Breting, L. M.** (2012). The Inter-Organizational Summit on Education and Training (ISET) 2010 Survey on the influence of the Houston Conference Training Guidelines. *The Clinical Neuropsychologist*, 26(7), 1055-1076. [Published simultaneously in *Archives of Clinical Neuropsychology*, 27(7), 796-812]

Sweet, J. J., Tavian, S., **Guidotti Breting, L. M.**, & Suchy, Y. (2013). Psychological assessment in medical settings. In I. Weiner (Ed. in Chief) *Handbook of Psychology. Second Edition* J. Graham, & J. Naglieri (Eds.), *Volume 10. Assessment psychology*. New York: Wiley & Sons.

Elhai, J., Sweet, J. J., **Guidotti Breting, L. M.**, & Kaloupek, D. (2012). Assessment of PTSD and mTBI in contexts that threaten response validity. In J. Vasterling, R. Bryant, & T. Keane (Eds.), *PTSD and Mild Traumatic Brain Injury*. New York: Guilford Press.

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## Faculty

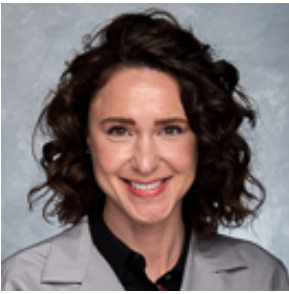


**Dr. Leslie Guidotti Breting** is the director of the neuropsychology service and head of the psychology division, Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences. She is a board-certified adult neuropsychologist who joined the neuropsychology service in 2012, following completion of her residency here at NorthShore. Her practice is in Evanston and consists of outpatients with various neurological and/or psychiatric concerns, as well as inpatient consults, intra-operative language mapping, and Wada testing at Evanston Hospital. Dr. Guidotti Breting specializes in epilepsy, TBI, and forensic evaluations. Dr. Guidotti Breting is currently serving on the Board of Directors for the American Board of Clinical Neuropsychology (ABCN) and on the AACN Student Affairs Committee.



**Dr. Alexandra Kirsch** is the division head for pediatric neuropsychology. She is a pediatric neuropsychologist who joined the neuropsychology service in 2019, after completing residency at the Mayo Clinic. Her practice is in Evanston, consisting of outpatient evaluations of children and adolescents with various neurological, learning, and psychiatric concerns. Dr. Kirsch also specializes in autism spectrum disorder.





**Dr. Stephanie Aylward** is a pediatric neuropsychologist who joined the neuropsychology service in 2022, after completing her residency at CHOC Children's Hospital of Orange County. She practices in Evanston and Glenview, conducting outpatient evaluations of patients ranging from infancy to adolescence with various neurological, learning, and psychiatric concerns. Dr. Aylward also completes autism spectrum disorder assessments and works in the Comprehensive Concussion Clinic evaluating youth and adults in the context of acute concussion.



**Dr. Laura Benson** is an adult neuropsychologist who joined the neuropsychology service in 2016, following completion of her residency here at NorthShore. Her practice is in Gurnee and Deerfield, consisting of outpatients with various neurological and psychiatric concerns.



**Dr. Elizabeth Geary** is a board-certified adult neuropsychologist who joined the neuropsychology service from private practice in 2013. After completing her residency in Clinical Neuropsychology at the University of Illinois-Chicago in 2009, Dr. Geary completed a second clinical-research fellowship within the Department of Neurology at the University of Illinois-Chicago in functional neuroimaging in traumatic brain injury and ALS. Her practice is in Evanston and at Glenbrook Hospital, consisting of outpatient outpatients with various neurological, medical, and psychiatric concerns.



**Dr. Navya Kamath** is a pediatric neuropsychologist who joined the neuropsychology service in 2021, after completing residency at Indiana University School of Medicine. She serves as division head for pediatric neuropsychology. Her practice is in Evanston, consisting of outpatient evaluations of children and adolescents with various neurological, learning, and psychiatric concerns.



**Dr. Alona Ramati** is a board-certified adult neuropsychologist who joined the neuropsychology service in 2009, following completion of residency at the University of Illinois at Chicago. Her practice is located within the NorthShore Neurological Institute at Glenbrook Hospital. Dr. Ramati sees adult and older adult patients presenting with a variety of medical, neurological, and psychiatric concerns.



**Dr. Christopher Williams** is an adult neuropsychologist who joined the neuropsychology service in 2023, following completion of his residency at the Rehabilitation Institute of Michigan. His practice is split between Swedish Covenant Hospital and Evanston, consisting of outpatients with various neurological and psychiatric concerns. Particular interests include working with patients following traumatic brain injury or stroke.

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# Application Materials

Selection of the candidate for this position will be announced on APPCN Match Notification Day on February 21, 2024. In order to be considered for the Postdoctoral Residency in Clinical Neuropsychology at NorthShore University HealthSystem, candidates should submit all of the following items by December 15, 2023:

- Cover letter detailing professional interests
- Current CV
- Graduate transcript
- Two work samples
- Three letters of recommendation

Application materials should be submitted via email to: [npfellowship@northshore.org](mailto:npfellowship@northshore.org)

Please **specify adult or pediatric** in the cover letter and subject line.

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## Contact Information

Inquiries can be e-mailed [npfellowship@northshore.org](mailto:npfellowship@northshore.org)

Thank you for your interest in our Postdoctoral Residency in Clinical Neuropsychology. We look forward to reviewing your application materials.

