

Clinical Assessment and Research Externship Health Brain Network (HBN), Child Mind Institute

Externship Description

The Child Mind Institute offers psychology graduate students in doctoral programs a yearlong externship focused on psychological assessment working for the Child Mind Institute's Healthy Brain Network (HBN) research study. This externship program is primarily designed for advanced graduate students (3rd year and above) in clinical, school-clinical, and school psychology doctoral programs. Training will focus on developing expertise in conducting and interpreting psychological assessments (including cognitive, achievement, language, neuropsychological and social-emotional components), report writing, and developing treatment recommendations for a community-based research program. The extern may be involved in presenting assessment findings to, and discussing cases with parents, psychiatrists, psychologists, and social workers.

The HBN is an exciting initiative aimed at collecting imaging, genetic, and phenotypic data from 10,000 children and adolescents. All participants within the study receive free mental health, learning, and language evaluations, as well as a feedback session and report. HBN is currently providing these comprehensive evaluations directly to communities across NYC in need of mental health services at their locations in Harlem and Staten Island. Working under the supervision of a licensed psychologist, the extern will assist in conducting components of the evaluation in our Harlem data collection center.

Our externship program seeks highly motivated individuals who demonstrate a particular interest in developing specialized skills in community mental health, conducting psychological testing, and gaining experience writing comprehensive psychological feedback reports. Our training model includes a range of within-center trainings, participation in case conferences, weekly supervision with senior clinicians, and frequent opportunities to observe clinicians during testing, assessment collection, psychological interviewing, and treatment planning. The extern will work at the Child Mind Institute Harlem office, as well as remotely via telemedicine.

Child Mind Institute is committed to public health and to the safety and wellbeing of our leagues, visitors and volunteers. As such, we have adopted a policy requiring all paid or unpaid staff whose positions require them to be on site to be vaccinated against COVID-19 or to meet the legal guidelines for an exemption.

Primary Faculty

- Michael Milham, MD, PhD, Pediatric Psychopharmacologist; Vice President and Director of Research; Principal Investigator, Healthy Brain Network; Director, Center for Biomedical Imaging and Neuromodulation, Nathan S. Kline Institute for Psychiatric Research
- Rebecca Neuhaus, PsyD, Clinical Neuropsychologist, Clinical Training and Assessment Manager
- Russell Tobe, MD, Psychiatrist, Department Director of the Clinical Evaluation Center, Nathan Kline Institute
- Emily Hart, PhD, Clinical Psychologist, Report Supervisor

Clinical and Didactic Experiences

- **Intake and Assessments:** Externs will participate in conducting intake evaluations and gain experience writing comprehensive evaluation reports. Structured and semi-structured diagnostic evaluations will be conducted in conjunction with HBN neuropsychologists, clinical psychologists, school psychologists, counselors and social workers. This will allow the Extern to gain experience with various theoretical models and perspectives during their time with the study. The extern will gain experience in administering and interpreting assessments of cognitive functioning, academic achievement, speech-language, executive function and social emotional functioning.
- **Research:** Opportunities to participate in research may also be available. The goal of the Healthy Brain Network study is to find biological markers - brainwave signals, images, maybe even blood signatures - that will improve the diagnosis and treatment of mental health and learning disorders from an objective biological perspective. The extern can get involved in ongoing projects or papers, as well as pursue personal areas of interest.
- **Supervision:** 1.5 hours minimum per week. Individual supervision is 1:1 with Dr. Neuhaus, supplemented individually with other clinical faculty. Much of the supervision will also happen in-vivo in the context of observing evaluations. An additional half hour of group supervision will be provided with externs in other divisions of the Child Mind Institute. In total, approximately half of the supervision will happen in person, while the other half will happen remotely. A licensed supervisor will always be available on site, when the extern is engaged in clinical work.
- **Case Conferences:** Case conference will take place approximately 1-2 times per week and are led by Dr. Rebecca Neuhaus, Dr. Russell Tobe, and other HBN staff.
- **Didactics:** Child Mind Institute has monthly lectures, given by visiting experts, on a variety of mental health topics. Externs can also participate in weekly research-focused didactics.
- **Presentations:** Externs will be expected to present at case conference. Externs may also have the opportunity to participate in research and conference presentations. Together we decide what role externs take, depending on the individual extern's level of experience and comfort in that subject area.

General Information

Director of the Program: Michael Milham, MD, PhD, Pediatric Psychopharmacologist; Vice President and Director of Research; Principal Investigator, Healthy Brain Network; Director, Center for Biomedical Imaging and Neuromodulation, Nathan S. Kline Institute for Psychiatric Research

Training Director: Kenneth Schuster, PsyD

Website: <https://healthybrainnetwork.org/about/our-team/>

Length of externship (in months): 12

Start Date: July 1, 2024 [Mandatory orientation July 1, 2, & 3, 2024].

End Date: June 30, 2025.

How many hours a week are expected of extern? 16 hours per week at minimum (2 days), with opportunity to increase to 20 hours (3 days), based on extern availability and training program requirements. There is a preference to be available Wednesdays and Fridays, if externs wish to participate in all clinical training activities.

Specialty tracks: Psychological assessment, research, neuropsychology, community outreach.

of externs to be accepted for 2024-25: 2.

Minimum level of readiness (any prior experiences or level of training required for applicants): Advanced graduate students (3rd year and above) in clinical, school-clinical, and school psychology doctoral programs.

Preferences: None.

Do you provide a stipend? If so how much? No.

Interviews

When do you expect to begin interviews? Interviewees will be contacted beginning [to be decided by NYNJADOT-PSYDNYS]. Interviews will occur between [to be decided by NYNJADOT-PSYDNYS].

Interview process (provide information about interview process- time frame, how decisions are made) Also, do you conduct individual and/or group interviews; case presentation, other information?: Individual interviews only, typically with 2 clinicians; interviewees should expect to spend about 30 min in the interview. During the interview, the applicant should be able to speak about their clinical experiences, discuss one case and demonstrate why they feel they are a good fit.

Application: Please visit our posting on <https://nynjadot.apa.org>

What application materials are required (i.e., CV, transcript, how many reference letters, case summary, test report, other)? To apply to the HBN Externship, please submit a cover letter, current CV, letter of eligibility, two letters of recommendation, and a clinical case writing sample. The case writing sample should be related to child assessment if possible. *Please note that the new consortium guidelines require that all of these documents are submitted as a single PDF.* Please address the cover letter to Rebecca Neuhaus, PsyD; Clinical Neuropsychologist, Clinical Training and Assessment Manager, Healthy Brain Network; and Kenneth Schuster, PsyD; Director of Clinical Training. If you have any questions regarding specific information about the HBN Externship, please contact Rebecca Neuhaus, PsyD (Rebecca.Neuhaus@childmind.org).

For general Child Mind Institute psychology externship questions, please contact Kenneth Schuster, PsyD, Director of Clinical Training (Kenneth.Schuster@childmind.org).

Applicants may only apply to UP TO TWO externships at the Child Mind Institute (applications submitted separately). Applicants must indicate the externship or externships that they are applying to in their cover letters. Applications may be submitted between [to be decided by NYNJADOT-PSYDNYS] in accordance with Consortium Guidelines. Interviews will be held by invitation and scheduled on a rolling admission basis. Notification of acceptance will begin on [to be decided by NYNJADOT-PSYDNYS] at 9am. Please note that students that submit applications for two externships will receive only one offer during the first round. Information as to whether a second offer will follow will not be provided.

Intervention and Assessment

Intervention training experiences offered: Estimate average number of individual patients that students will carry; estimate number of groups and other types of interventions: No interventions are included in this testing externship.

Assessment training experiences commonly offered. Describe: Externs will participate in conducting intake evaluations and gain experience writing comprehensive evaluation reports including, cognitive, academic,

neurocognitive, language, and mental health components. These average two per month. Structured and semi-structured diagnostic evaluations will be conducted with school and neuropsychologists. This will allow the Extern to work with numerous clinicians with different specialties during their time with the study.

Expected number of full assessment batteries completed during externship (defined as administration of a battery of standardized tests): 20-30.

Estimate # of integrated assessment reports per year: 3-5.

If offering Rorschach, which scoring systems used: Rorschach training is not offered.

Supervision

Estimate hours/week of individual supervision: 1.5; extern supervision is primarily 1:1 with Dr. Neuhaus, supplemented with other research faculty. Approximately 50 percent of supervision will be in person and 50 percent will occur remotely.

Estimated hours/week of group supervision: 1.5.

Estimated hour/week of didactics: 1-2.

Estimated co-therapy hours with supervisors: N/A.

Context of didactics (seminars, Grand Rounds): An Institute-wide didactic series is offered year-round. Case conferences occur Tuesday and Wednesday; extern attendance varies depending on days on site. Additionally, externs attend lectures through our Visiting Professor Series, which are instructed by renowned experts in mental health, and externs have the opportunity to meet as a group with each visiting professor.

Estimated informal open door "curbside" supervision: Supervision will also happen in-vivo in the context of observing evaluations.

Describe direct supervision: Supervision is initially directive and collaborative with an emphasis on increasing the trainee's ability to function more independently within our setting across time.

Specify if observation occurs during intervention, assessment, consultation (e.g., audio, video, live in person [in treatment room, one-way mirror, live video stream]): Live in-person observations occur during assessments.

Additional Information

If you have only one extern, would you be to have the extern participate in a peer support consortium with other sites- live or "SKYPE"? No.

Is the agency readily accessible through public transportation? Yes.

Wheelchair accessible: Yes.

Are home visits required as part of the trainee's duties? No.

Is a transportation stipend provided? No.