Child and Adolescent Clinical Psychology Postdoctoral Fellowship
Department of Psychiatry and Health Behavior
Medical College of Georgia/Augusta University

Introduction

The Psychology Division of the Department of Psychiatry & Health Behavior is offering a Postdoctoral Fellowship in Child and Adolescent Clinical Psychology. We offer one full-time position each year in an outpatient psychiatry/academic health setting. The fellowship focuses on advanced clinical training in individual and group psychotherapy and assessments with children and adolescents, in addition to offering protected academic time.

Please use this brochure to learn more about the Child Clinical Psychology Postdoctoral Fellowship program. If you have any questions, please feel free to direct them to the Fellowship Director, Dr. Christopher F. Drescher at cdrescher@augusta.edu.

Clinical Experience

The fellow will have clinical opportunities that include delivering clinical services for children/adolescents, comprising diagnostic interviewing, psychological testing, psychotherapy, multifamily adolescent Dialectical Behavior Therapy (DBT) skills group, and assessments/treatment within the Developmental Behavioral Pediatrics and Pediatric Neurology clinics. The fellow will also have the opportunity for training and supervision in DBT, Acceptance and Commitment Therapy, and other cognitive behavioral therapies with a focus on multicultural issues in clinical practice including working with patients from the LGBTQ communities. The fellowship director and the fellow will collaboratively design specific clinical experiences in line with the fellow's interest/training needs and funding sources.

Core Clinical Training Experiences:

- At least two hours of individual supervision with licensed psychologists. Availability of additional ad hoc supervision as necessary.
- Department of Psychiatry and Health Behavior Outpatient Clinic
    - Clinical interviews
    - Psychotherapy with children and adolescents
    - Adolescent (and parent) DBT Skills Training Group
    - Diagnostic evaluations
    - Brief behavioral intervention and parent management training
    - Comprehensive psychological assessment administration, scoring, interpretation and feedback sessions with caregiver(s)

Optional Clinical Training Experiences:

- Equality Clinic of Augusta (after hours, voluntary)
    - Free primary care clinic for LGBTQ individuals

Research Experience

The fellow will have 20% protected academic time (one day per week). The research activities can include research endeavors designed and implemented by the fellow, as well collaborative research with Medical College of Georgia/Augusta University faculty. Fellows can also dedicate academic time to teaching/supervision and/or program/curriculum development and evaluation.

Current research projects:

- L Mental health in school research group – Drs. Christopher Drescher and Candis McFalls
- GBTQ research (various projects, primarily with adults) – Drs. Lara Stepleman, Matthew Kridel, and Drescher
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Selected Presentations/Publications of training faculty and fellows:

Cantet, N., Bancroft, C., ***Daniel, K.,** Benevides, T. (Under review). Factors associated with length of stay among adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities and psychiatric emergency department visits. *Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities.*

Britt-Thomas, J. Y., **Drescher, C. F.,** *Marin, N. G., Casanova, T., Tabernik, H., Stepleman, L. M. (2026, May). *Adapting to the Current State of Doctoral Psychology: Creation of a Leadership Development Curriculum within a Doctoral Internship* [Conference session]. APPIC Membership Conference, New Orleans, LA.

Dixon, W.E., Jr., Quinn, M., Morelen, D., Thompson, P., Moser, M.R., Scarborough, J., & ***Daniel, K.** (2025). Trauma- and resilience-informed practices (TRIPS) in higher education: The origin story of the ETSU Ballad Health Strong BRAIN Institute. In S. Fromm-Reed & J. Kent (Eds.), *Building resilience through community systems: An ecological frame for understanding adverse childhood experiences.* Taylor and Francis.

Drescher, C. F., Britt-Thomas, J., Casanova, T., *Rodriguez, M., & Jump, R. (May, 2025). *Serving the Underserved: Diverse Perspectives on Addressing Marginalized Populations' Mental Health Needs across Specialty Clinics in an Academic Health Center*. Panel presented at the Association of Psychologists in Academic Health Centers Conference, Saint Petersburg, FL.

*Joseph, H. L., Zhang, L. F., Best, C., Bancroft, C., James, M., Kapoor, S., **Drescher, C. F.,** & Davis, C. L. (2024). Child mental health treatment access and retention in integrated primary care and traditional outpatient services. *Journal of Pediatric Psychology.* doi:10.1093/jpepsy/jsae057

Draheim, A. A., Kridel, M. M., Flinn, R. E., Ravoori, N., Brands, S., *Mosley, C., **Drescher, C. F.**, & Stepleman, L. M. (2023). Risk factors of homelessness among sexual and gender minorities in the Southeastern U.S. *Journal of Social Distress and Homelessness, 33,* 606-611. doi:10.1080/10530789.2023.2276590

Bennett, B., Paluszynski, S., Williams, C., Looney, J., ***Drescher, C. F.,** Yanasak, N., Hauger, J. A., & Davis, C. L. (March, 2019). *Effects of mock MRI (PiTracker) behavioral training on participant motion in children.* Society of Behavioral Medicine, Washington, DC.

Drescher, C. F., Eldridge, D. E., Wood, E., Rossi, A. L., & Stepleman, L. M. (2018). Implementing an LGBTQ training for teen pregnancy prevention facilitators. *Georgia Educational Researcher, 15.* doi:10.20429/ger.2018.15104

Stojek, M. K., Montoya, A. K., ***Drescher, C. F.,** Newberry, A., Sultan, Z., Williams, C. F., Pollock, N. K., Davis, C. L. (2017). Fitness, sleep-disordered breathing, depression symptoms and cognitive outcomes in inactive overweight children: Mediation models. *Public Health Reports, 132,* 65s-73s. doi:10.1177/0033354917731308

*Psychology Postdoctoral Fellow at time of authorship; **Fellowship faculty member**

Didactics & Seminars

The fellow will participate in several weekly seminars, consultation groups, and other opportunities for continued education.

- Psychology postdoctoral fellowship seminar (twice monthly)
    - Discussion based seminar with other psychology fellows in the department
    - Topics include supervision, self-care, licensure, career planning, and ethics
- Department of Psychiatry and Health Behavior Grand Rounds (3x monthly)
- Department of Pediatrics Grand Rounds (weekly, optional)
- DBT team consultation group (weekly, optional)
- ACT peer consultation group (twice monthly, optional)

Teaching/Supervision Training Opportunities

The fellow will have opportunities to teach as well as to provide supervision to trainees and to have supervision of their supervision.

- Clinical supervision of psychology doctoral interns
- Problem-based learning presentation in psychology doctoral intern seminar
- Holistic patient care presentation to medical students
- Other teaching opportunities to interns, residents, and medical students as available

Faculty:

<u>Fellowship Director</u>

Christopher F. Drescher, Ph.D.
Professor
Areas of Expertise: DBT for adolescents, DBT skills training for adolescents and their parents, ACT and CBT interventions with children and adolescents, and LGBTQ issues in adolescence.

<u>Fellowship Faculty</u>

Candis McFalls Psy.D.
Assistant Professor
Areas of Expertise: Child and adolescent clinical psychology, family therapy, psychodynamic therapy, and play therapy.

Kelly Daniel, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor
Areas of Expertise: Child clinical psychology, psychological assessment, parent management training, infant and maternal mental health.

Amy House, Ph.D.
Professor
Director, Postdoctoral Training
Areas of Expertise: Dialectical Behavior Therapy (DBT), Acceptance and Commitment Therapy (ACT), and other evidence-based interventions for suicide, substance abuse, traumatic stress, and severe emotion dysregulation.

Compensation

The fellow for the 2027-2028 training year is expected to receive the following compensation and benefits:

- Salary of $59,500
- $500 in travel/professional development funds allowance
- Availability of educational/professional leave for conference attendance and job interviews
- The opportunity to enroll in Augusta University's retirement, health, vision, and dental insurance plans.
- Ten paid holidays, sick leave accrued at 8 hours per month, and annual/vacation leave accrued at 10 hours per month.
- Built in study time for EPPP (as applicable)

Location

Augusta is located on the south bank of the Savannah River midway between the Great Smokey Mountains and the Atlantic Ocean. It is a growing and thriving city with a metropolitan-area population of around 600,000, including North Augusta and Aiken, SC. It was recently ranked the second most favorable place to live in Georgia. The area is known for its balmy climate, with an annual mean temperature of 64 degrees.

The city offers a wide array of cultural and recreational activities. Downtown Augusta hosts events including First Friday cultural celebrations, the Westobou Festival and Arts in the Heart of Augusta. Attractions that promise both fun and enlightenment include the Morris Museum of Art, the Gertrude Herbert Institute of Art, the Lucy Craft Laney Museum of Black History, and the Augusta Convention Center and the Augusta Museum of History.

Augusta has many associations dedicated to the performing and visual arts, including the Fort Gordon Dinner Theater, Augusta Opera Association, the Augusta Ballet; the Augusta Players, The Augusta Children's Theatre, The Augusta Symphony, and the Augusta Art Association.

The city of Augusta offers affordable urban and suburban living options within a 5-15 commute. The cost of living in Augusta is significantly less than in most major metropolitan areas. Augusta is home to a wide variety of restaurants and a thriving downtown. In addition, North Augusta, South Carolina (which is located less than 5 minutes from the center of downtown Augusta) is home to the Augusta GreenJackets, which is a minor league baseball team affiliated with the Atlanta Braves.

To learn more about the area please visit: http://www.augusta.edu/augusta/

Additional Information

Postdoctoral Fellows Graduate Schools and Current Positions

Year	Graduate School	Current Position
2020	Palo Alto University	Private Practice
2021	University of North Dakota	Private Practice
2022	Midwestern University	Assistant Professor – Academic Medical Center
2023	Georgia State University	Assistant Professor – Academic Medical Center
2025	The Wright Institute	Assistant Professor – Academic Medical Center
2025	East Carolina University	Assistant Professor – Academic Medical Center
2026	East Tennessee State University	Assistant Professor – Academic Medical Center
2027	Xavier University	Postdoctoral Fellow

Application Requirements

1. Applicants must have a conferred PhD/PsyD at the time the fellowship begins.
2. Applicants must be from APA accredited psychology programs and have completed an APA accredited internship.
3. Previous child/adolescent clinical experience is required.

   Applicants should send the following to Christopher Drescher, Ph.D. at cdrescher@augusta.edu:
   1. A cover letter, which includes descriptions of your relevant experiences and your goals for the fellowship year
   2. Curriculum Vitae
   3. List of three references with at least one being a supervisor from internship and one being a supervisor from your graduate school.

   Questions can be directed to Christopher Drescher Ph.D. at 762-375-0058 or via e-mail at cdrescher@augusta.edu.