



UT Southwestern
Medical Center

CHILDREN'S HEALTH ANDREWS INSTITUTE SPORTS CONCUSSION PROGRAM

**UT SOUTHWESTERN MEDICAL
CENTER NEUROPSYCHOLOGY**

**LIFESPAN POSTDOCTORAL FELLOWSHIP IN
SPORTS NEUROPSYCHOLOGY**

2026-2028

The Children's Health Andrews Institute (CHAI) / University of Texas Southwestern (UTSW) Medical Center Lifespan Postdoctoral Fellowship in Sports Neuropsychology (APPIC #9243) was established in 2019. This unique fellowship opportunity provides a comprehensive training experience with exposure to the assessment and treatment of acute sport-related concussions as well as more traditional neuropsychological assessments in accordance with the Minnesota Conference guidelines, preparing trainees for board certification in neuropsychology with specialty training in sports concussion.

The Children's Health Andrews Institute Sports Concussion Program

The CHAI Sports Concussion Program is a high volume, fast-paced clinical experience with a multidisciplinary team of sports medicine specialists employing advanced clinical care with an individualized approach to assess, diagnose, and treat sport-related concussions for athletes at all levels of play, from youth athletes through professional levels. Sports neuropsychology fellow duties include brief neuropsychological evaluations of pediatric and adult athletes, along with extended batteries as needed. In addition to serving athletes, CHAI receives referrals for non-sports related concussions for children as young as 4 years old through college.

The CHAI Sports Concussion Program is housed in the Children's Health Specialty Center 2 on the 180-acre Children's Health Plano Campus. The facility offers a full continuum of care including an imaging center, pediatric orthopedic surgery center, physical therapy gym, and sports performance with equipment including a HydroWorx pool and underwater treadmill, 60-yard outdoor turf with 6-lane sprint track, ground-level Olympic lifting platforms, and a Harlequin dance floor. The Orthopaedic and Sports Medicine Research Lab (OSMRL) includes 2D and 3D motion analysis, force plates, accelerometry, electromyography, and isokinetic dynamometry.

In addition to the Plano location, CHAI has facilities in Frisco, Prosper, and Fairview, with future expansion planned across North Texas. Sports neuropsychology fellows may travel to additional locations with their supervisors.

UT Southwestern Medical Center

UT Southwestern Medical Center is a large, cutting-edge medical system that includes the William P. Clements Jr. University Hospital (ranked the #1 hospital in Dallas) and partners with other major teaching hospitals in the Southwestern Medical District, including Children's HealthSM Children's Medical Center Dallas and Parkland Health and Hospital Systems.

While at UTSW, fellows will have the opportunity to provide neuropsychological services in adult concussion/TBI clinics, in addition to gaining training and experience with populations including epilepsy, moderate head trauma, chronic pain, psychiatric conditions, and a variety of other medical disorders.

Program Overview

The joint fellowship calendar runs on 6-month rotations. The first six months include four days per week at CHAI with one day per week at UTSW, providing new fellows with an intensive training experience in pediatric sports concussion. The second 6-month rotation includes three days per week at CHAI with two days per week at UTSW. This schedule repeats in year two. UTSW fellow rotations will be customized based on the fellow's background, experience, and interests.

Fellows will work closely with clinical providers and current fellows at CHAI to learn all aspects of clinic functioning. In addition to learning the clinical interview, administration of the vestibular/ocular-motor screening (VOMS), and interpretation of computer-based neurocognitive testing, fellows will learn general clinic operations, and all aspects of working in a multidisciplinary sports medicine clinic. At UTSW, fellows will learn more traditional neuropsychological evaluation with a variety of clinical populations.

Clinical Training Model

The educational model of the fellowship is scientist-practitioner, emphasizing evidence-based clinical training. Fellows participate in a variety of didactic and training activities designed to promote advanced knowledge and competency in neuropsychology. Specifically, fellows participate in:

- Monthly Concussion Seminar Series
- Monthly Concussion Case Conferences
- Monthly Concussion Journal Club
- Concussion Research Meetings
- Quarterly Distinguished Lecture Series
- Weekly Neuropsychology Didactics
- ABPP Written Exam Board Certification Prep Class
- Weekly Brain Cutting



In addition to clinical and educational activities, the CHAI Sports Concussion Program has a large clinical patient research registry that fellows are involved with from the beginning of fellowship. Fellows are expected to participate in research through existing research projects and the development of independent lines of research. Support for research training and production is provided through individual and group supervision with the research team.

Fellows are expected to spend approximately 80% of their time focused on clinical work and 20% of their time on research. A minimum of 2 hours of face-to-face supervision will be provided per week, though often more. The program meets all requirements for post-doctoral training and experience for licensure in Texas and board certification in Neuropsychology. Fellows will be evaluated quarterly, with performance and grievance policies in place, if needed.

Outreach

A unique aspect of the CHAI training program includes a sideline experience for sporting events across North Texas. Fellows receive training in sideline assessment from their supervisors and spend the fall season paired with a CHAI Primary Care Sports Medicine Physician to learn all aspects of sideline sports medicine. This experience provides invaluable insight into the role of the sports neuropsychologist within the larger sports medicine system. In addition to this experience, there are opportunities for fellows to engage with community groups and provide concussion education throughout the year.

Fellowship Application Process

Applicants are required to demonstrate experience in clinical neuropsychology through coursework, clinical experience, and letters of recommendation. Applicants must complete an APA approved pre-doctoral internship and all degree requirements prior to their start date.

Application deadline is November 21, 2025.

Full application includes:

- A combined PDF with:
 - Statement of interest
 - CV
 - Graduate transcript
 - De-identified work sample
- 3 letters of recommendation

Interviews will be offered as applications are received and reviewed. **Interview day is tentatively scheduled for December 8, 2025.**

Salary and Benefits

Annual salary is commensurate with NIH Postdoctoral Fellowship guidelines for the first year and increased to \$65,000 for the second year. Fellows receive full healthcare coverage, retirement benefits with cost sharing, generous vacation accrual, as well as an educational fund that may be used for conference travel expenses and psychology licensure expenses.

Please send application materials to:

Sarah Brackens, ATC, LAT
Fellowship Program Coordinator
Sarah.Brackens@childrens.com

Direct additional questions to:

Erin Reynolds, PsyD
CHAI Program Director, Concussion & Sports Neuropsychology
CHAI Fellowship Training Director
Erin.Reynolds@childrens.com

Laura Lacritz, PhD
Director, UTSW Neuropsychology
UTSW Neuropsychology Training Director
Laura.Lacritz@utsouthwestern.edu



CHAI Sports Concussion Program Faculty

Erin Reynolds, PsyD | Program Director, Concussion & Sports Neuropsychology
Fellowship Training Director



Dr. Erin Reynolds is a sports neuropsychologist and serves as Program Director of Concussion & Sports Neuropsychology at Children's Health Andrews Institute. Her clinical work includes consultation with primary and secondary schools, colleges, and professional teams for evaluation and treatment of sports-related concussions. Dr. Reynolds serves as the team neuropsychologist for the NFL Dallas Cowboys, MLS FC Dallas, WNBA Dallas Wings, the University of Texas at Arlington, and the University of North Texas. She sits on Concussion Oversight Teams for school districts across North Texas, helping to develop and oversee district concussion protocols.

Dr. Reynolds earned her bachelor's degree in psychology from the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth and her master's and doctoral degrees in clinical psychology from William James College in Boston. She completed an APA-accredited internship and postdoctoral residency in clinical neuropsychology at the Bedford VA Medical Center followed by a fellowship in sports neuropsychology at the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center (UPMC) Sports Medicine Concussion Program, where she went on to become faculty and Fellowship Director. She completed the Marshall W. Webster Physician Leadership Program through the University of Pittsburgh Joseph M. Katz School of Business in 2016.

Dr. Reynolds emphasizes the importance of the team approach and active recovery models in her clinical work. Her research focuses on improving clinical outcomes through the application of targeted treatments and behavioral strategies, identifying risk factors to inform individualized treatment plans, and the early introduction of physical and cognitive activity following sport-related concussion. A mother of two student-athletes, she is passionate about the benefits of playing team sports in childhood and adolescence.

Sarah Boucher, Psy.D. | Neuropsychology Clinical Supervisor



Dr. Sarah Boucher is a clinical neuropsychologist with a subspecialty emphasis in sports concussion. Dr. Boucher received her doctorate in clinical psychology from Antioch University New England in Keene, NH. She completed an APA-accredited neuropsychology internship at the Edith Nourse Rogers Memorial Veterans Hospital in Bedford, Massachusetts. She then completed the Lifespan Fellowship in Sports Neuropsychology at Children's Health Andrews Institute and UT Southwestern, where she gained experience assessing developmental, neurological, psychiatric, and complex

medical conditions. In her current role, she passionately strives to help patients and their families through the concussion recovery process to return them back to the sports and activities they love as safely and quickly as possible.

Dr. Boucher was raised in New Hampshire and was a former cheerleader and youth cheerleading coach in her community before relocating to Texas. Her passion for the sport has served as a driving force in her clinical and research efforts with the goal of improving assessment and treatment of concussion in cheer athletes. Her research interests include identifying the unique factors in cheerleading that may impact concussion recovery. She remains active in the cheer community and enjoys swimming, spending time with her family and friends, attending live music events, and exploring Texas.

Troy Smurawa, M.D. | Director of Pediatric Sports Medicine



Dr. Troy Smurawa is a Primary Care Sports Medicine (PCSM) physician and currently serves as Director of Pediatric Sports Medicine at Children's Health Andrews Institute. Dr. Smurawa is passionate about helping young athletes overcome injuries and return to the sports and activities they love. Board-certified in both pediatrics and sports medicine, Dr. Smurawa earned his medical degree from The University of Texas Health Science Center and did his residency in pediatrics at the University of Wisconsin. He completed a sports medicine fellowship at Children's Hospital Medical Center in Akron, Ohio.

Dr. Smurawa is certified by USA Triathlon and USA Cycling as a multisport coach and has served as a team doctor for the USA Triathlon World Championships teams for the past 20 years. He has competed in more than 30 marathons, 6 Ironman Triathlons and countless other races. Dr. Smurawa, his wife and three daughters enjoy playing sports and being active, as well as spending time giving back to the community, taking regular mission trips together.

Kori Durfee, Ph.D. Candidate | Clinical Scientist



Kori Durfee, M.A., will join CHAI in January 2026 as a primary researcher within the Sports Concussion Program. She is currently a fourth-year doctoral candidate in the Office for Sport Concussion Research at the University of Arkansas. She completed her bachelor's degree in exercise science at the University of Sioux Falls and her master's degree in kinesiology and sports management from the University of South Dakota.

Prior to pursuing her PhD, she was a brain health research intern at Sanford Sport Science Institute, where she assisted in studies that examined the effects of repetitive head impact exposures on brain health in youth football and mixed martial arts athletes. Kori's current research interest focuses on understanding mental health during concussion recovery. In addition to leading CHAI Sports Concussion Program research efforts, Kori will serve as a research mentor for clinical postdoctoral fellows.

UT Southwestern Neuropsychology Faculty

Laura Lacritz, Ph.D., ABPP | Director, UTSW Neuropsychology, Neuropsychology Training Director



Laura Lacritz, Ph.D., ABPP obtained her undergraduate degree in psychology at UT Austin in 1989 with highest honors. She went on to obtain her doctorate degree at UT Southwestern Medical Center in clinical psychology where she served as Chief Resident. Dr. Lacritz completed a two-year postdoctoral fellowship at UT Southwestern in neuropsychology from 1995 to 1997. She joined the UT Southwestern Faculty in 1997 where she is currently a Professor in the Departments of Psychiatry and Neurology, Director of Neuropsychology, and the Division Chief of Psychology, as well as the Neuropsychology Training Director. She is a Fellow of the National Academy of Neuropsychology and the American Psychological Association Division 40.

Her research has focused on novel methods to advance early detection of mild cognitive impairment and dementia, with particular emphasis on Alzheimer's disease and movement disorders. This includes using linguistic and cognitive biomarkers for detection of cognitive impairment, and identifying methods to predict progression of impairment and long-term

outcomes. Service to the profession and mentorship have been cornerstones of her career. She served on the National Academy of Neuropsychology (NAN) Board of Directors for 8 years, including as President (2015-2016) and Treasurer (2011-2013). She established the NAN Leadership and Ambassador Development (LEAD) program in 2018. Dr. Lacritz was recognized in 2020 with the NAN Distinguished Service Award, and has received many other service and teaching awards, including the 2024 UT Southwestern Excellence in Leadership Award for Mentoring. Dr. Lacritz is passionate about training, career development, and service to the field, and especially enjoys mentoring doctoral students and early career faculty to advance their careers through grantsmanship, research, and leadership development resulting in multiple funded proposals and numerous publications.

C. Munro Cullum, Ph.D., ABPP | Research Supervisor



Dr. Cullum is a Clinical Neuropsychologist who specializes in the assessment of cognitive disorders. He is board certified in Clinical Neuropsychology (ABPP/ABCN) and serves as the Vice Chair and Chief of the Division of Psychology in the Department of Psychiatry, where he holds the Pamela Blumenthal Distinguished Professorship in Clinical Psychology. He is the PI of the Concussion-Texas (ConTex) studies, serves as the Scientific Director of the Texas Alzheimer's Research and Care Consortium (TARCC), and is the Clinical Core leader in the UTSW Alzheimer's Disease

Center. He is a past president of the Society for Clinical Neuropsychology, the National Academy of Neuropsychology, and the Sports Neuropsychology Society. He is actively involved in research, teaching, and mentorship in neuropsychology. His research includes investigations into short- and long-term effects of concussion and early detection and differential diagnosis of neurodegenerative conditions of aging. His clinical research lab is also involved in cognitive test development and in telemedicine applications of neuropsychology.

Caitlin Reese, Ph.D., ABPP | Clinical Supervisor



Caitlin Reese, Ph.D., is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Psychiatry at UT Southwestern Medical Center specializing in neuropsychology. Dr. Reese holds an undergraduate degree in psychology with a minor in neuroscience and master's degrees in forensic psychophysiology and clinical psychology. She earned her doctorate in clinical psychology at Ohio University and completed a doctoral internship (neuropsychology track) at the Minneapolis Veterans Affairs Health Care System, one of four officially designated Polytrauma VA Medical Centers in the

country. She then completed a two-year postdoctoral residency in clinical neuropsychology at the Baylor Institute for Rehabilitation.

Dr. Reese joined the UT Southwestern faculty in 2018. Her clinical activities include neuropsychological/cognitive evaluations of people with known or suspected neurological disorders and the coordination of psychosocial education groups for patients with mild cognitive impairment and multiple sclerosis. Her additional areas of clinical and research interest have focused on the effects of psychological factors and test environment on symptom and performance validity outcomes, along with interests in enhancing existing neuropsychological measures.

Christian LoBue, PhD | Research Collaborator



Christian LoBue, Ph.D., is a Clinical Neuropsychologist and an Associate Professor in the Departments of Psychiatry and Neurological Surgery at UT Southwestern Medical Center. He specializes in neuropsychological assessment and management of behaviors related to concussion, more severe traumatic brain injury, Alzheimer's disease and related dementias, and cerebrovascular disorders. He is consulted to perform evaluations to characterize thinking skills such as memory, attention, and language in people with suspected or diagnosed brain conditions and collaborates closely with neurologists, neurosurgeons, and psychiatrists to identify and treat patients in both ambulatory and inpatient settings.

Dr. LoBue completed both his doctorate in clinical psychology and postdoctoral fellowship in neuropsychology at UT Southwestern. Licensed by the Texas State Board of Examiners of Psychologists, he joined the UT Southwestern faculty in 2018. His research interests focus on informing what role traumatic brain injuries, including concussions, may play in developing cognitive problems later in life and investigating noninvasive brain stimulation as a potential treatment for the cognitive problems associated with neurodegenerative disorders.

Dr. LoBue has received research funding from the Alzheimer's Association, Department of Defense, NIH, and other organizations. He serves as an editorial board member for *Frontiers in Psychiatry*, a committee member of the Research and Editing Consulting Program of the International Neuropsychological Society, a grant reviewer for the Alzheimer's Association, and on the research grants panel of the National Academy of Neuropsychology.

Deborah González, PhD | Clinical Supervisor



Deborah M. González, Psy.D., is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Psychiatry at UT Southwestern Medical Center. She specializes in neuropsychology, specifically mild cognitive impairment, dementia, and other cognitive disorders. Dr. González earned her master's degree in psychology and her doctoral degree in clinical psychology with an emphasis in neuropsychology at Albizu University in Miami, Florida. She completed a postdoctoral fellowship in neuropsychology at the Montefiore Medical Center in the Bronx, New York.

Licensed by the State of Texas and the New York State Department of Education as a clinical psychologist, she joined the UT Southwestern faculty in 2022. Dr. González is a member of the International Neuropsychological Society, the National Academy of Neuropsychology, the Hispanic Neuropsychological Society, and the American Psychological Association.

Jeffrey Schaffert, PhD | Clinical Supervisor



Dr. Jeff Schaffert is a clinical neuropsychologist who serves as an Assistant Professor of Psychiatry at UT Southwestern Medical Center, where he also completed his doctoral and residency training. Clinically, he sees outpatients in the UTSW neuropsychology clinic and inpatient at the University Hospital. He has published on risk factors of Alzheimer's disease and related dementias, but his primary research interest continues to be the impact of head-injury exposure and later-in-life cognitive decline.

Local Information

Children's Health Andrews Institute is located in Plano, TX, about 20 miles north of Dallas. North Texas is one of the fastest growing regions in the United States, with easy access to professional sports, a vibrant art community, restaurants and night life, as well as ample parks and green space. Sports fans can check out the world headquarters of the Dallas Cowboys at The Star in Frisco, take in an MLS game at Toyota Stadium, and practice putting at the PGA Headquarters. Legacy West in Plano offers an outdoor shopping experience with restaurants and apartments 5 minutes down the road. Those looking for a more urban living experience can be in Dallas in 25 minutes with access to a lively arts scene, the Dallas Stars and Mavericks games, more than 23,000 acres of parks with nearly 62 miles of trails, as well as numerous indoor and outdoor music venues. With easy access to both DFW airport and Love Field, North Texas is an accessible, affordable, and fun place to live.

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