



University
of Colorado
Anschutz
Medical
Campus

POSTDOCTORAL RESEARCH TRAINING PROGRAM

“Developmental Psychopathology, Psychobiology, and Behavior”

Program Director: Jason Tregellas, PhD

Associate Directors: Joseph Sakai, MD, Kristina Legget, PhD

Clinical, Basic, and Translational Neuroscience

A combined effort (Departments of Psychiatry, Pediatrics, and Pediatric Neurology at the CU Anschutz Medical Campus along with Departments of Psychology and Social Work at University of Denver, University of Colorado Boulder, and Colorado State University) offers postdoctoral research training for MDs and PhDs for research careers in developmental psychobiology, with special emphasis on the development of maladaptive behavior. This multi-disciplinary, multi-institutional translational program has a long history of involvement in developmental research. The Developmental Psychobiology Research Group (DPRG) includes researchers with productive career involvement as independent investigators of developmental research techniques, some of which are technologically unique. Study populations have ranged from humans through murine to tissue culture models. Members from this group serve as the faculty for this research training program funded by NIMH T32MH015442, now in its 48th year. Addressing problems with clinical relevance are continually in the forefront of this translational program.

PROGRAM: A two-year training program is offered, which includes a Core Curriculum to be completed by all trainees, seminar participation, and individual research in one or more faculty laboratories. Research training organizes around the identification, causes, natural progression, and treatment of developmental psychopathology. A particular emphasis of training is the development of multispecialty collaborations allowing for synergistic basic and clinical approaches to research. Training options are available in basic and molecular, biomarkers, genetics, neuroimaging, epidemiology, phenomenology, treatment, and intervention sciences for a variety of developmental psychiatric disorders including ADHD, aggression, conduct disorder, anxiety, autism, bipolar, depression, schizophrenia, and substance use disorder. A variety of vulnerable populations—including pregnant women, children in foster care, and children with co-morbid medical illnesses—of varying ages, including infants through young adults and expectant mothers—participate in our research. Training for transition to research independence, including manuscript preparation and grant submission, are an emphasis of this program.

PROGRAM TOPICS & FACULTY:

Vulnerable infants and/or children: Prenatal/early origins of health and development (Samantha Brown, PhD; Elysia Poggi Davis, PhD; Jenalee Doom, PhD; Sharon Hunter, PhD); Special problems of American Indian adolescents (Douglas Novins, MD); Preventive interventions and longitudinal studies with youth who have experienced child maltreatment (Heather Taussig, PhD); Stress, sleep, and behavior in preschool children (Sarah Watamura, PhD); The biological basis of callous unemotional traits (Joseph Sakai, MD); **Genetic influences on behavior:** Clinical epidemiology and behavior genetics of conduct disorder and substance use disorders (Jarrod Ellingson, PhD; Christian Hopfer, MD); Molecular and cellular mechanisms of genetic susceptibility to severe psychiatric disorders (Amanda Law, PhD); Animal models of Down syndrome and autism (Ken Maclean, PhD); **Developmental aspects of psychosis:** Understanding brain development in both developmental disorders and psychotic illnesses (Don Rojas, PhD); the development of neuropathology in schizophrenia (Jason Tregellas, PhD); **Autism:** Cellular mechanisms by which early life seizures (ELS) subvert the processes of normal neuronal development (Tim Benke, MD, PhD); Treatment trials for children & adolescents with Autism Spectrum Disorder (Judy Reaven, PhD); Implementation, measurement, CBPR and school-based intervention trials in ASD (Laura Anthony, PhD) **Other:** Cognitive neuroscience and human neuropsychology (Marie Banich, PhD); Individual and interactive effects of childhood adversity, sex as a biological variable (SABV), stress, and neuroendocrinology on risk and resilience across the lifespan (Neill Epperson, MD; Tracy Bale, PhD); Neurocognitive dysfunction in adolescent mood disorders (Roselinde Kaiser, PhD); Neuronal mechanisms contributing to human obesity/eating behaviors, including sex-based differences (Kristina Legget, PhD); Cannabinoids, endocannabinoids, inflammation, and the brain (Kent Hutchison, PhD).

APPLICATION: Please review faculty at www.dprgpostdoc.org for the closest match to your area of research interest. Next, contact your proposed mentor to check on their availability (cc DPRG@ucdenver.edu) and work closely with them during the application process. Contact information is included in the faculty descriptions. Please allow at a minimum one month for the process.

Levels of Support: Levels of support will be consistent with stipends supplied by and subject to change by NIH (Levels determined by years of relevant postdoctoral experience, level 0 when degree granted):

Level 0	\$63,480	Level 3	\$66,948	Level 5	\$71,748
Level 1	\$63,900	Level 4	\$69,180	Level 6	\$74,424
Level 2	\$64,380	Level 7 (7 or more years) \$77,076			

Individuals with **US Citizenship, non-citizen nationals, or those with Permanent Resident Card** who will have completed a doctoral degree before their start date are eligible to apply. Physicians, including Child Psychiatrists, are particularly encouraged to apply.

DEADLINE: December 1, 2026 for positions with an earliest start date of July 1, 2027

Contact DPRG@ucdenver.edu for further information and questions.