

# Professional Training at Kennedy Krieger Institute

## Who We Are

At Kennedy Krieger Institute, training is a core component of our mission. Our comprehensive training opportunities help turn the next generation of specialists in neurological and developmental disabilities into leaders who will make substantial contributions to their fields.

Every year, a diverse group of approximately 1,000 people comes to Kennedy Krieger to participate in our training programs. Trainees come from 50 states and 28 countries. The programs' combination of in-depth, hands-on, clinical and innovative research experiences supports trainees as they embark on pursuing careers that seek to promote the health of children and adolescents around the world.

## Why Train Here

Kennedy Krieger training opportunities are designed to create expertise through exposure to the full spectrum of developmental disabilities. Training is interdisciplinary, with a family-centered approach that takes into account the cultural and linguistic needs of our patients. Professionals who train at Kennedy Krieger go on to assume leadership positions across the United States.

The Institute's proximity to the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine—and the status of many Kennedy Krieger staff members as Johns Hopkins faculty members—allows for partnerships with other training programs.

In addition to our affiliation with Johns Hopkins, the Institute maintains formal training agreements with 19 colleges, universities and teaching hospitals in Maryland and Washington, D.C., along with 104 colleges, universities and teaching hospitals in other states.



## Our Training Experiences

Training opportunities can range in length from one semester to multiple years. Professionals from all academic levels come to train with renowned experts from a variety of pediatric disciplines, including:

- Audiology
- Genetics
- Health administration
- Neurodevelopmental medicine
- Neurology
- Nursing
- Nutrition
- Occupational therapy
- Pediatrics
- Physical therapy
- Psychiatry
- Psychology (behavioral and neuropsychology)
- Rehabilitation medicine
- Social work
- Special education
- Speech-language pathology
- Spinal cord injury

We are all born with great potential.  
Shouldn't we all have the chance to achieve it?

Because many of our clinicians are also researchers, they understand the need for new treatment models and therapies that swiftly translate to patient care. Qualified trainees receive mentored clinical and research training through Kennedy Krieger's Hugo Moser Research Laboratories, F.M. Kirby Center, clinical departments, and movement, genetics and bioinformatics laboratories.

## Opportunities Focused on the Future

An important part of our work is improving care and education for children with autism and related neurodevelopmental disorders. To that end, the Maternal and Child Health Bureau's Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental and Other Related Disabilities (LEND) program at Kennedy Krieger prepares trainees from a wide variety of professional disciplines to assume leadership roles and to ensure high levels of interdisciplinary clinical competence so current needs can be advanced and solutions to future problems can be developed.



*"The program impacted my career by changing my focus from a primarily clinical one to a broader mindset, thinking about children with developmental disabilities from a holistic perspective. This*

*change in focus led me toward a career in clinical research, trying to figure out ways to better diagnose and treat the children I was seeing in clinic."*

– Eboni Lance, MD, PhD, medical director of Kennedy Krieger's Sickle Cell Neurodevelopmental Clinic, assistant professor of neurology at the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, and 2009–2013 Neurodevelopmental Disabilities Residency Program participant



*"When I entered the Neurodevelopmental Disabilities Residency Program at Kennedy Krieger Institute, I already had a unique understanding of the day-to-day struggles of children with neurodevelopmental disabilities and their families, thanks to my early experiences as a special education teacher and researcher in speech-language pathology. But my residency program mentors encouraged me to stretch beyond my comfort zone in understanding language disability. My time in the program fundamentally shifted the way I think about disability, helping me better understand how a child's underlying neurobiology affects each area of development, and how the interaction of these areas contributes to that child's overall function."*

– Joanna Burton, MD, neurologist, Kennedy Krieger's Department of Neurology and Developmental Medicine, assistant professor in the Department of Neurology and Pediatrics at the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, and 2010–2014 Neurodevelopmental Disabilities Residency Program participant

## Contact Information

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at Kennedy Krieger Institute**

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Kennedy Krieger Institute recognizes and respects the rights of patients and their families and treats them with courtesy and dignity. Kennedy Krieger Institute provides care that preserves cultural, psychosocial, spiritual and personal values, beliefs and preferences. Care is free from discrimination based on age, race, ethnicity, religion, culture, language, physical or mental disability, socioeconomic status, sex, sexual orientation, and gender identity or expression, including transgender. We encourage patients and families to become active partners in their care by asking questions, seeking resources and advocating for the services and support they need. © 2019 Kennedy Krieger Institute 06/2019

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