



## **Research Assistant Position in Autism and School-Based Intervention Implementation** **Children's National Hospital, Washington D.C.**

The Center for Autism Spectrum Disorders (CASD) at Children's National Hospital is recruiting a full-time Research Assistant to support the clinical research activities of a NIMH-funded type 1 hybrid effectiveness-implementation trial (R01MH124772) under the mentorship of Dr. Cara Pugliese.

### **Position Description**

This project tests the effectiveness of a school based executive function intervention for transition-age youth with ASD. Specific responsibilities include:

- Managing study protocols and procedures
- Assisting with school and participant recruitment and retention
- Running participant visits, including cognitive and neuropsychological assessments (training provided, experience preferred but not required)
- Conducting & coding student observations in schools
- Contributing to conference abstract preparation
- Managing databases, data scoring, entry, and quality assurance

Our broader research programs focus on improving outcomes for youth with autism and other developmental conditions, including: executive functioning and intervention development from preschool to young adulthood; addressing disparities in access to care and elevating autistic voices in research; cognitive phenotypes and sex/gender differences in autism spectrum disorders.

Research assistants work collaboratively on a variety of research projects. Our multidisciplinary faculty members work closely with research assistants to provide supervision on individual projects and mentorship for career goals. General responsibilities include clinical assessment, parent interviews, participant recruitment, data collection and management, and IRB protocol management. Depending on the project, and their own professional goals, research assistants will gain experience working directly with autistic youth, administering psychological measurements, preparing grants and developing manuscripts, managing and analyzing data, preprocessing neuroimaging data, engaging in community based randomized treatment trials.

A Bachelor of Science/Arts is required. A strong background in psychology, biology, and/or health sciences is preferred. Prior experience with research, statistics, and children is strongly recommended. Previous experiences with autism and/or developmental conditions is highly desirable. These positions provide valuable clinical and research experience and publication opportunities for candidates interested in pursuing degrees in psychology or medicine. Applicants for this position will need their own car as our research occurs at multiple locations that are not easily accessible with public transportation.

### **How to Apply**

Applications are being accepted **to start immediately**. We require at least a one-year commitment, but prioritize applicants who are interested in a two-year position. Salary is competitive. The Children's National Hospital is an equal opportunity employer.

Qualified applicants will be invited for virtual interviews (onsite visits can be arranged upon request). We have an online portal for submitting your documents: [Application Portal Here](#)

# Center for Autism Spectrum Disorders

[www.childrensnational.org/CASD](http://www.childrensnational.org/CASD)



## Materials to be uploaded to the portal by the applicant:

- Cover letter addressing interests, goals, and perceived match to this position
- Curriculum Vitae
- Contact information for three references

Any questions should be addressed to:

### Alyssa Verbalis, PhD

Email (preferred): [averbali@childrensnational.org](mailto:averbali@childrensnational.org)

Division of Neuropsychology, Children's National Hospital  
15245 Shady Grove Rd, Suite 350  
Rockville, MD 20850



**Interested individuals are encouraged to reach out to Dr. Verbalis to learn about the position**

## About CASD

CASD is the largest multidisciplinary pediatric autism program in the Washington, D.C., region. We value trainee diversity, cultural competence, and ability to contribute to our work with diverse and underserved populations. Our mission is to excel in care, advocacy, research, and education through:

- Providing a quality health care experience for our patients and families through a coordinated program of state-of-the-art clinical services
- Improving health outcomes for children regionally, nationally, and internationally by educating the next generation of clinicians in best practices for autism evaluation, diagnosis and treatment
- Creating innovative solutions to pediatric health challenges by conducting research that includes and reflects the neuro-diverse population we serve
- Embracing neurodiversity and welcoming autistic individuals as collaborators, research trainees, students and staff members
- Creating an inclusive environment and dismantling systems of inequity. We celebrate diversity in our trainees and our colleagues at all levels, promote cultural competence, and seek providers who strive to contribute to our work with diverse and underserved populations.

