
BEA Award in Support of Conferences and Workshop 2025

Workshop or Conference name: Using Artificial Intelligence in Clinical Care, Administration, and Research

Sponsoring Organization: Children's National Hospital

Conference or workshop date: 5/8/2026

Number of times the organization has won the award in the past 2 years: 0

Goals and objectives

The clarity and nature of the conference or workshop goals and objectives and how they will enhance the training of faculty and supervisors of graduate students, interns, and/or postdoctoral fellows in psychology.

Artificial intelligence (AI) is now part of healthcare provision and will continue to expand its role in the care provided by psychologists. However, the speed at which the technology is developing means that psychologists who serve as faculty and supervisors to psychology trainees are very unprepared for training future psychologists on the use of these tools in practice and in research. Without specific training in appropriate and inappropriate use of these tools clinically, providing guidance to families on youth use of AI, and use of AI in clinical research, faculty are unequipped to use these tools themselves and to train future generations of psychologists on their use.

Therefore, the primary goal of the proposed conference is to provide training on 1) the impact of AI on youth and families and how to address during therapy, assess for use, and provide guidance for parents, 2) appropriate and inappropriate use of AI for work-related tasks (e.g., charting, generating recommendations, etc.), and 3) uses of AI in clinical research. The main participants will be faculty level/supervisory psychologists at a pediatric teaching hospital as well as trainees at the pre-doctoral intern, and post-doctoral fellow levels (described in more detail below).

Potential speakers include internal experts (e.g., our Chief Medical Information Officer and research scientists with expertise in AI) as well as external (e.g., psychologists or physicians utilizing AI in their practice).

Leadership

The qualifications of the person(s) identified to plan and lead the conference or workshop, relative to the topic of focus. Included in the qualifications should be evidence of national or regional leadership (e.g., publication of scholarly works related to education and training, participation/leadership in past workshops, etc.)

The primary organizer of the conference is Dr. Eleanor Mackey, a psychologist with extensive background in training for pre- and post-doctoral trainees, as well as early and mid-career psychologists. On the national level, Dr. Mackey has published three scholarly works on training in psychology (Efron & Mackey, 2024; Iskander et al., 2018; Mackey & Efron, 2020) and has led workshops at national conferences designed for all career levels (e.g., APA, 2016, SDBP, 2019, SPP, 2024).

At the institutional level, Dr. Mackey has served for ten years (2012-2021) as Associate Director of Training and has served for the past two years as Director of Academic Affairs and Research in the Division of Psychology at Children's National Hospital. In these roles, she has developed training curricula and resources for trainees and faculty. The impact of this work is reflected in the 6 institutional training awards she has been awarded across 13 years in these roles. Dr. Mackey has been directly involved in the planning and implementation of trainee and faculty development workshops for the Division of Psychology covering such topic areas of treatment of youth with ADHD, treatment of youth with Autism, and training in considerations of equity in clinical work, supervision, and research.

These experiences make Dr. Mackey well suited to organize and run the proposed conference to achieve the goal of training for faculty and trainees in use of AI.

Participants

The qualifications of conference or workshop participants relative to the topic of focus, including their potential for implementing outcomes of the conference or workshop toward enhancing graduate education.

The Division of Psychology at Children's National Hospital consists of 63 faculty members, 10 post-doctoral fellows, 4 pre-doctoral interns, and approximately 25 graduate-level externs. Participants in the proposed workshop would include faculty, interns, and fellows (around 75 likely participants). As a teaching hospital, the faculty are directly involved in training on a daily basis, and our emphasis on nurturing the next generation of psychologists is evident in all we do. Our faculty are involved in clinical work across all areas of the hospital, every faculty member is directly involved in training, and many engage in clinical research. Under the clinical research umbrella, we have post-baccalaureate trainees gaining research experience prior to pursuing graduate training in clinical psychology. Therefore, the focus of the workshop on applications of AI in clinical, administrative, and research work will be highly relevant for all attendees and particularly for faculty in learning important information in current and future supervision and teaching. The goal is for the material to be immediately applicable in the work being conducted by faculty and trainees, and support faculty in providing supervision to trainees that will enhance their training and that of future trainees.

Impact

The estimated or potential impact of the conference or workshop in terms of the diffusion of new ideas resulting from its outcomes in the education community appropriate to the proposal's focus.

Our Division of Psychology trains students from across the DC, Maryland, and Virginia area and we also have trainees who move to this area to receive training at the graduate/extern level as well as internship and beyond. Our trainees then go on to faculty positions across the country. We are all

actively involved in national-level organizations (e.g., APA, Society of Clinical Child and Adolescent Psychology, Society of Pediatric Psychology, Association of Behavioral and Cognitive Therapists, etc.) and in training and outreach in these communities as well. Therefore, investment in training in AI will not only serve those actively involved in the workshop, but there is also high potential for dissemination as more trainees are supervised by our faculty and as attending trainees bring this expertise to other institutions.

Budget

The clarity and completeness of the conference or workshop budget, how realistic it is, how the grant funds are to be used to offset expenses incurred (e.g., travel, registration, speaker fees), as well as provide strong justification for the requested amount and whether the conference or workshop can be offered without BEA funding.

Although we benefit from access to free conference space at our Research and Innovation Campus and have dedicated administrative resources to support the organization and implementation of this workshop, including providing CEU's to participants, we do not have the funding to support other aspects of the workshop, namely speaker honoraria. Therefore, the budget requests \$500 for honoraria for each of the three speakers (clinical, administrative, and research), which equals a total budget of \$1500. Speakers will be recruited from the local area and anyone not within easy driving distance will participate virtually, to limit travel costs so that budget can be spent to support the highest quality speakers.

Although in years past, we have been able to support workshops such as this, changes in policy and political climate have put hospital resources in jeopardy. Not only is it more difficult without internal funding to conduct educational workshops, but internal policy changes no longer allow travel to conferences without individual grant funding. This means that this year, in particular, faculty will not be able to access cutting edge training unless our Division finds a way to provide this internally. The conference date listed above is estimated as it will not be scheduled unless funds are secured.