

Marcus
AUTISM CENTER

PREDOCTORAL FELLOWSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

ADVANCING AUTISM RESEARCH THROUGH TRANSLATIONAL SCIENCE

PREDOCTORAL FELLOWSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Marcus Autism Center, in conjunction with Children's Healthcare of Atlanta and Emory University School of Medicine, is offering two-year predoctoral research fellowships in three scientific subspecialties. Fellows will participate in innovative research to provide novel solutions to complex problems in a robust clinical environment.

Our fellowships

The Donald J. Cohen Fellowship in Developmental Social Neuroscience will select fellows for a two-year training in the study of child development and social neuroscience in autistic children. This includes work in clinical assessment and educational science.

The Simons Fellowship in Computational Neuroscience will select fellows for a two-year training in computer science and neuroscience to integrate computational strategies with clinical research goals.

The ACCESS Fellowship in Implementation Science will select fellows for a two-year training in research focused on translating evidence-based practices into community settings, and the participatory processes that are essential to this work.

Research training program

Our research fellowships are intended for college graduates to dedicate two intensive years to research on autism prior to entering graduate studies. Fellows will participate in and guide innovative research while working with families and autistic children, ranging in age, from week-old infants to adolescents and young adults.

Fellows receive direct research mentorship from the program directors and Marcus Autism Center faculty members. Fellows are also involved in a highly active and productive community of clinical research scientists. In addition to research training and mentorship, fellows also complete an intensive summer training seminar covering clinical research in autism (one week), grand rounds meetings (twice a month), lab meetings (weekly) and ongoing didactic practica. Fellows are strongly encouraged and expected to submit their research for posters and publications and will be funded to attend at least one conference a year.

All three fellowship tracks are paid two-year positions with full healthcare coverage.

Interested in Applying?

- Our application portal will open at the end of November or at the beginning of December.
- Our website includes information about the application requirements.
- We will host one info session about the fellowships on **Thursday, December 10th at 6 PM EST**. Zoom information will be posted on the website (QR code to the right).



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Research at Marcus Autism Center

Marcus Autism Center is the largest academic center for clinical care of autistic children and their families in the U.S., seeing more than 5,500 children every year. The center also works in partnership with Georgia Departments of Education and Public Health, Georgia State University, the Emory Rollins School of Public Health, and numerous community-based organizations. These foundational partnerships enable a multidisciplinary and translational approach to autism research, spanning projects in developmental social neuroscience, neuroimaging, molecular and population genetics, community engagement, clinical trials, and implementation science. The directors of the Fellowship Program use translational methodologies to understand the developmental mechanisms underlying autism and affirm the value of co-producing services in partnership with caregivers, autistic people, community providers to improve access to early detection, diagnosis and service options for autistic children.

Application information

Sponsor institutions: Marcus Autism Center, Children's Healthcare of Atlanta and Emory University School of Medicine

Program directors: Ami Klin, PhD; Warren Jones, PhD; Sarah Shultz, PhD; Laura Edwards, PhD; Cheryl Klaiman, PhD; Katherine Pickard, PhD; Aiden Ford, PhD; Alexandra (Sasha) Key, PhD; Jocelyn Kuhn, PhD; Karen Guerra, PhD; Hasse Walum, PhD; Jose Paredes, MS; Gordon Ramsay, PhD

Term of award: Two years, full time

Submission deadline: Monday, Jan. 11, 2027, 11:59 PM EST

Award amount: $38,000 during first year; $39,000 during second year
All applications must be submitted electronically. The online application portal will open in late November–early December 2026.

To complete your online application, you will need a curriculum vitae (CV), a statement of purpose, two letters of recommendation and a scanned transcript(s).

Visit our website for more information. Our application portal link will be posted late Nov-early Dec. An information session will also be hosted on Thursday, December 10th at 6PM ET. A link will be posted on the website closer to the date.

DONALD J. COHEN FELLOWSHIP

IN DEVELOPMENTAL SOCIAL NEUROSCIENCE

Award description

The Donald J. Cohen Fellowship in Developmental Social Neuroscience provides recent college graduates with the opportunity to spend two years engaged in state-of-the-art clinical and basic research with autistic children and their families. Cohen Fellows are directly mentored by program directors and are involved in a highly active and productive community of clinical research scientists who study autism. Previous Cohen Fellows have led a wide range of research projects and have gone on to PhD, MD and MD/PhD programs in clinical, developmental, and basic science specialties.

Donald J. Cohen (1940-2001) was a nationally and internationally renowned child psychiatrist whose work improved the lives of children and families all around the world. More information about his life and work can be found here.

Fellowship expectations

Cohen Fellows guide a research project from the point of data collection through analysis and presentation or publication of results. Over the course of two years, fellows gain in-depth research and clinical experience through work with infants, toddlers and school-aged children. Fellows also complete an intensive summer training seminar covering clinical research in autism (one week), autism grand rounds (twice a month), statistical seminars (weekly), social neuroscience lab meetings (weekly) and ongoing didactic practica.

Contact the Marcus Predoctoral Fellowship Committee at marcus.predoc-fellowships@emory.edu with additional questions.



SIMONS FELLOWSHIP

IN COMPUTATIONAL NEUROSCIENCE

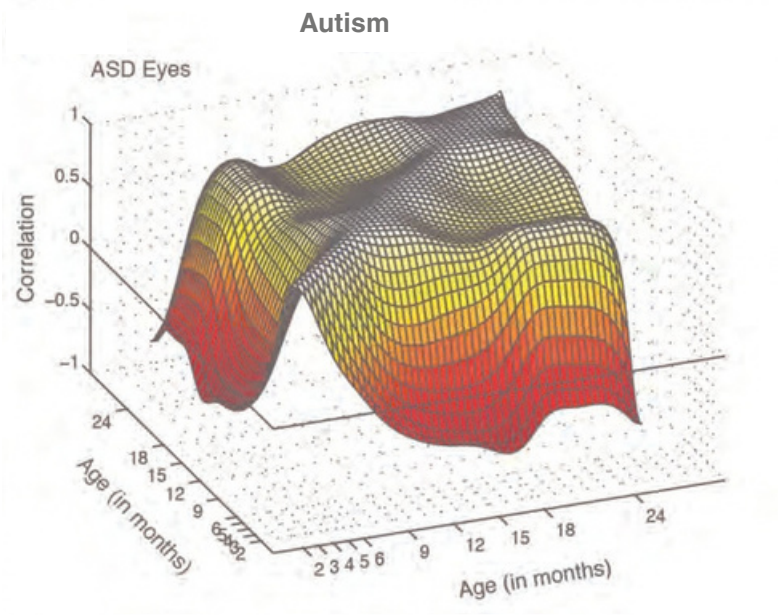
Award description

The Simons Fellowship in Computational Neuroscience provides recent college graduates with the opportunity to spend two years using computer programming and basic science to advance our understanding of autism. Simons Fellows are directly mentored by program directors and are involved in a highly active and productive community of clinicians, scientists, and engineers who study autism and child development. Previous Simons Fellows have led a wide range of research projects and have gone on to PhD, MD and MD/PhD programs, as well as to research positions in computer and software engineering.

Fellowship expectations

Over the course of two years, Simons Fellows work to integrate computational strategies with clinical research goals, guiding a research project from data collection through analysis and publication of results. Fellows work on developing methods for analyzing visual scanning, eye-tracking, and neuroimaging data, computational models of visual salience and data visualization techniques, all with the aim of advancing understanding of autism and efforts at early diagnosis. Fellows also complete a training curriculum through their participation in an intensive summer training seminar covering clinical research in autism (one week), autism grand rounds (twice a month), statistical seminars (weekly), social neuroscience lab meetings (weekly), seminars (weekly), and ongoing didactic practica.

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ACCESS FELLOWSHIP

IN IMPLEMENTATION SCIENCE

Award description

The Advancing Community Care, Equity, and Sustainability of Services (ACCESS) Fellowship in Implementation Science provides recent college graduates with the opportunity to spend two years engaged in innovative research focused on community-based participatory methods and implementation science with the overarching goal to examine the adoption, implementation and sustainment of evidence-based practices within a variety of community systems, including early intervention, primary care, early childhood, non-profit, and public school systems.

ACCESS Fellows will also learn about common evidence-based practices for autistic children, youth, and teens, and how these interventions are delivered and adapted across settings in order to meet the needs of caregivers, providers, and healthcare systems. This will include learning how community-partnered, mixed-methods and qualitative research can be used to leverage the voice of culturally-diverse autistic individuals, families and community partners in implementation processes.

Fellows, who are directly mentored by faculty, will gain experience working alongside key community partners and will be involved in a highly active and productive community of interdisciplinary research and community partners. This fellowship aims to serve as a stepping stone for doctoral programs in clinical psychology, for students interested in public health, and for Doctor of Psychology and Doctor of Medicine programs.

Fellowship expectations

ACCESS Fellows will guide a research project, from data collection through analysis and presentation and publication of results. Over two years, fellows will gain in-depth research experience through active engagement in community training and implementation efforts. Fellows also complete an intensive summer training seminar covering clinical research in autism (one week), autism grand rounds meetings (twice a month), implementation science lab meetings (weekly), and ongoing didactic practicum.

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