



Department of Neurology

Child Neurology Residents & Recent

Meet the current residents and recent alumni of the
Department of Neurology's Child Neurology Residency training
program

Child Neurology Residents

Class of 2026



Bailyn Hougue, MD

Hometown: Cincinnati, Ohio

Medical school: Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine

Areas of interest: Neuro-muscular, Neuro-genetics, medical education

Hobbies: Yoga, hiking, camping, gardening, spin

Why I chose NYU Langone: I chose NYU because the various clinical sites offer the opportunity to see a diverse patient population with an interesting variety of pathology.



Lauren Smith, MD

Hometown: Highland, MD

Medical school: Campbell University Jerry M. Wallace School of Osteopathic Medicine, United States of America

Areas of interest: Critical Care Neurology

Hobbies: Running, trying new restaurants, exploring breweries and rooftops around the city

Why I chose NYU Langone: The program's strong reputation is undeniable but beyond this, the people are what made NYU my top choice for pediatric neurology training. Administration is incredibly supportive and leadership within the program is very involved. The location in Manhattan also provides an unparalleled diverse patient population which is essential to training.

Child Neurology Residents

Class of 2025



Eliana Applebaum, MD

Hometown: East Brunswick, New Jersey

Medical school: Rutgers Robert Wood Johnson Medical School

Areas of interest: neuroimmunology, but still exploring other areas

Hobbies: Long walks around the city, trying new restaurants, entering Broadway lotteries, riding the ferries for fun, and continuing a quest to find the best vegetarian tacos in New York City

Why I chose NYU Langone: My co-workers in pediatrics, neurology, and child neurology are very supportive, and there is a highly collaborative atmosphere. Also, the expansive variety of clinical experiences you gain from working at both NYU Langone and NYC Health + Hospitals/Bellevue is a unique and fantastic aspect of this program



Monica Ferrer Socorro, MD

Hometown: Venezuela

Medical school: Yale School of Medicine

Areas of interest: Epilepsy, global health, and health equity

Hobbies: Spending time with family and friends, picnicking in Central Park, yoga, running, traveling, snorkeling, and eating funky cheese

Why I chose NYU Langone: I chose to pursue my training at NYU Langone and NYC Health + Hospital/Bellevue given the program's strong reputation, diverse patient population, and my admiration for Bellevue's mission to treat everyone irrespective of immigration status or ability to pay.

Child Neurology Residents

Class of 2024



Mekka Garcia, MD

Hometown: Centralia, Missouri

Medical school: Yale School of Medicine

Areas of interest: Neuro-oncology and neonatal neurology

Hobbies: Anything outdoors (hiking, fishing, camping, rock climbing), traveling, baking, and eating my way through New York City

Why I chose NYU Langone: I loved the faculty that I met during my interview. I also love the diverse populations at NYU Langone and NYC Health + Hospitals/Bellevue—many of whom are immigrants like myself. Furthermore, there are many research opportunities available for residents to get involved in, and the educational opportunities at NYU Langone are vast.



Gayatri Raj Ghosh, MD

Hometown: West Bloomfield, Michigan

Medical school: Oakland University William Beaumont School of Medicine

Areas of interest: Child Neurology

Hobbies: Cooking, traveling, trying new restaurants, skincare, crocheting, puzzles, and spending time with my dog

Why I chose NYU Langone: I was very impressed by the emphasis on resident education. All of the faculty and leadership are very passionate about teaching and helping us reach our career goals. I also loved the resident culture of both the pediatric and neurology programs and am thankful to have such wonderful co-residents.

Child Neurology Recent Alumni

Graduated 2023-2021

Lena Bell, MD

Medical school: Drexel University College of Medicine

Dhristie Bhagat, MD

Medical school: University of Rochester School of Medicine and Dentistry

Hillary Eichelberger, MD

Medical school: McGovern Medical School at the University of Texas Health Science Center

Rachel Pauley, MD

Medical school: Pennsylvania State University College of Medicine

Shelley Sisemore Varnado, MD

Medical school: Louisiana State University School of Medicine in New Orleans

Rebecca Stainman, MD

Medical school: Drexel University College of Medicine