

The Family Cognitive Affective Neurodevelopment (Fam CAN) Lab
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Advising Statement
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Research in the Fam CAN lab

We are broadly interested in the development and familial transmission of psychopathology. We address our research questions in multiple samples and study designs. These include family, twin, and adoption studies with infants, children, adolescents, and adults. We use multiple methods and modalities, including interviews/questionnaires, neurocognitive testing, laboratory paradigms, observational assessments, psychophysiology, and neuroimaging.

Because our interests are broad, there are many opportunities to pursue a range of research interests and to develop and hone diverse research skills. Although we work on several ongoing studies that make it possible to pursue many different projects, including new or independent projects that build upon or extend the existing studies, as a whole, our projects complement one another and collectively further our overarching research aims. As such, we foster a spirit of collaboration and cooperation, with lab members at various stages making important contributions to the larger goals of the lab.

What can Fam CAN lab members expect from me?

When people join the Fam CAN lab, I make a commitment to them, their training, and to helping them meet their short- and long-term goals. Members of the Fam CAN lab are at various stages (postdoctoral, graduate, postbaccalaureate, undergraduate) and may have different short- and long-term goals. The better I understand the goals of each lab member, the better I can work to ensure the Fam CAN lab is a good fit and that we are working collaboratively to help lab members gain the experiences and skills needed to reach their goals.

Fam CAN lab members can expect to interact with me regularly. For postdocs and grad students, this typically means individual meetings (30 minutes to 1 hour) per week, though this may vary as needed (meeting more or less frequently). For undergrads, this typically means individual meetings (30 minutes to 1 hour) about three times during the term. Postdocs, grad students, postbacs, and undergrads can also expect to engage with me during the weekly Fam CAN lab meetings. I am also very happy to schedule additional meetings with Fam CAN lab members, as needed.

Fam CAN lab members can expect me to treat them with respect and to foster an environment of respect in the lab and among lab members. Diversity, equity, and inclusion are essential for creating an intellectually curious, productive, and collaborative environment. I aim to create an environment where lab members' past and present experiences contribute to their training and developing professional identity.

My goal as an advisor is to help Fam CAN lab members develop their professional identities. Fam CAN lab members can expect me to work collaboratively with them to pursue and develop a tailored set of hands-on research skills, clinical experiences, teaching experiences, and professional development opportunities that ultimately lead them to reach their individual goals.

What do I expect from members of the Fam CAN lab?

I expect members of the Fam CAN lab to read broadly and enthusiastically; to think critically about what they read and their own research questions; to develop the methodological and quantitative skills necessary to appropriately pursue their own research interests and to critically evaluate the research literature; to engage me and other lab members (good natured questioning/challenging is encouraged); to collaborate with one another and to contribute to the larger goals of the lab; to pursue both internal and external funding opportunities; and to disseminate research findings.

ICD provides excellent opportunities to develop research, clinical, and teaching skills. This may mean working on projects in multiple labs. I encourage this, as long as it is done thoughtfully, with clear evidence of how such projects help further short- and long-term goals and build toward a coherent program of research. Although both breadth and depth of study are important, in general, a focus on depth is more likely to result in completed products. As such, I generally suggest that grad students who are interested in working primarily in the Fam CAN lab limit their regular involvement to only one other lab after the first year (with occasional exceptions, e.g., a co-mentored project). I am happy to develop projects with grad students who are primarily involved in another lab, but project details, time commitments, and final products should be worked out in advance.

Disseminating research findings is a critical component of academic research. Publishing is essential. I expect postdocs to submit multiple manuscripts for publication each year. I expect grad students to submit at least one manuscript by their second year, and to have multiple manuscripts at various stages (published, in press, in review, in preparation) upon completion of the program.

It is best practice to discuss authorship and author order as soon as possible when developing a project and certainly as soon as a project shows promise for developing into a manuscript. Authorship is reserved for people who have made significant contributions to a project, including developing and executing the project, analyzing data, and/or writing part of the manuscript. Contributions can change over the course of a project, so some flexibility in authorship and author order is important, but it is always best if this is discussed as early as possible and if changes are made by mutual agreement.

Members of the Fam CAN lab are expected to be actively involved in the lab and our ongoing projects. This includes attending Fam CAN lab meetings (as schedules allow). Because the Fam CAN lab includes both existing datasets and ongoing data collection,

research activities can vary broadly. The various research activities are each important for the larger goals of the lab, and include locating/recruiting study participants; running study protocols (behavioral and MRI assessments with infants, children, and adults); administering interviews/questionnaires/neurocognitive measures; quality control of MRI data; coding of observational tasks; data management; data analysis; applying for internal and external funding; and preparing posters, talks, and manuscripts for publication. Fam CAN lab members are also expected to help mentor those at more junior stages. Such mentoring collaborations often develop organically, but I will also occasionally pair lab members on projects. Because my expectation is that members of the Fam CAN lab share in the larger goals of the lab and that our research interests are closely aligned, by contributing to these various research activities, we are actively working together to support both the larger lab and individual research interests.

Time commitments to the Fam CAN lab vary by position and should be made explicit (e.g., in a contract) upon joining the lab. The typical grad student time commitment is 20 hours/week, though this may vary depending on funding and whether projects are being conducted in multiple labs. The typical undergrad commitment is 9 hours/week, though this also may vary.

ICD is a highly regarded research institution that offers excellent opportunities for top notch research training. Fam CAN lab members are hard workers and dedicated to our research and the larger goals of the lab. Because of the nature of research and data collection (especially with infants, children, and families), work is not necessarily done on Mondays through Fridays, from 9:00am to 5:00pm. Success in academia oftentimes requires going above and beyond, and completing just the bare minimum is unlikely to result in desired outcomes. That said, slow and steady efforts over the long term are almost always preferable to intense but brief efforts, and appropriate work-life balance is key to stable productivity.

How do members of the Fam CAN lab meet these expectations?

- Read widely and keep up to date with current research; sign up for journal updates
- Attend and actively contribute to weekly Fam CAN lab meetings
- Attend ICD's weekly colloquia series and other relevant colloquia/seminars (e.g., CNBD)
- Schedule individual meetings with me (regularly or as needed)
- Keep me apprised of various time commitments in and outside of the Fam CAN lab (e.g., courses, teaching, practica)
- Maintain professionalism (e.g., be on time and prepared for meetings, interact with research participants with absolute tact/decorum)
- Conduct all research with honesty and integrity; all data and analyses must be made available to me/other lab members, and the wider research community
- Develop a professional network by attending and presenting research at conferences

- Seek out opportunities of internal or external funding (e.g., fellowships, research grants, travel grants)
- Share grant materials (both funded and unfunded) so that other lab members can learn from them when preparing new applications
- Create a timeline for projects, share it with me, and stick to it (as best you can, within reason)
- Treat each other with respect
- Be a sounding board for other members of the lab; teach others new skills; read each others' drafts; give and be open to constructive criticism; challenge each other; support each other