The Rhode Island Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental and Other Related Disabilities (RI LEND) offers a graduate level interdisciplinary training experience to prepare individuals from an array of professional disciplines and from culturally diverse backgrounds to assume leadership roles in the disability field serving children with autistic spectrum disorders and other neurodevelopmental disabilities and their families.
Overview:

The Rhode Island Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental and Other Related Disabilities (RI LEND) offers a graduate level interdisciplinary training experience to prepare individuals from diverse professional disciplines to assume leadership roles in the disability field. The purpose of the RI LEND training program is to improve the life course and health of infants, children, and adolescents with autism spectrum disorders and other neurodevelopmental disabilities.

The RI LEND is funded by the Maternal and Child Health Bureau of the Health Resources Services Administration. The RI LEND program represents a partnership between the W. Alpert Medical School of Brown University, Hasbro Children’s/Rhode Island Hospital, and the Paul V. Sherlock Center for Developmental Disabilities at Rhode Island College. Our close collaborators include the RI Department of Health, the RI Parent Information Network, the Autism Project, the St. Joseph’s Pediatric and Family Dental Centers, Women and Infants Hospital, Memorial Hospital of RI, the RI Consortium for Autism Treatment and Research, and RI Kids Count as well as Brown University’s School of Public Health, Center for Innovation and Center for Children.
RI Curriculum:

The RI LEND curriculum emphasizes interdisciplinary, family centered and culturally competent practices and leadership skill development for graduate and post graduate level trainees. The program includes:

(1) didactic sessions (3 hours/week for an academic year) led by experts from a range of disciplines designed to help trainees develop the skills, knowledge and perspectives necessary to become complete, highly competent providers of neurodevelopmental services to families,

(2) a set of mentored clinical experiences with interdisciplinary teams in medical and community based settings; and

(3) a leadership project that allows the trainee to focus in depth on a topic of interest to them and relevant to their future work in the area of neurodevelopmental disabilities. Over the course of the year, trainees will be expected to participate in a minimum of 300 hours of didactic, clinical and interdisciplinary leadership training (approximately 12 hours/week for an academic year).

Core Curriculum Modules:

- Interdisciplinary Practice
- Life Course and Social Determinants of Health
- Overview of Neurological and Developmental Disabilities including Autism, Hearing Impairment, Multisensory Deficits, Prematurity and Intellectual Disability
- Leadership
- Family-Centered Practice and Medical Home
- Applications of Research Methodology, Quality Improvement and Program Evaluation to Neurodevelopmental Disabilities
- Cultural Competence
- Public Health, Policy and Advocacy
- Health Care Administration and Care Coordination for Children with Special Needs
- Universal Design and Assistive Technology
- Transition to Adulthood and Services for Children with Special Needs
- Local and National Resources for Children with Autism and Developmental Disabilities
- Emerging Issues including Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome
Admission Guidelines and Application:

Interested applicants must complete the online application form by insert date here.

Applications will require:

(1) matriculation in a graduate program or graduation from a graduate program in audiology, genetic counseling, medicine, nursing, pediatric dentistry, public health, physical therapy, psychology, special education, speech and language pathology, AND/OR they may be parents of children with autism or another developmental disability or a self-advocate.

(2) demographic information,

(3) resume, and

(4) a one-page personal statement documenting life experience with a disability or professional experience and commitment to supporting individuals with autism or other neurodevelopmental disabilities. Trainees are expected to become leaders in their fields; thus, should demonstrate leadership potential.

Our aim is to reduce health barriers and disparities by recruiting culturally-diverse and high-quality professionals representing Maternal Child Health-related disciplines as RI-Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental Disability trainees.
### RI LEND Core Faculty:

**Pediatrics**
- Pamela High, MD
- Yvette Yatchmink, MD, PhD
- Pei Chi Wu, MD
- Luisa Cala Cala, MD
- Carrie Kelly, MD
- Betty Vohr, MD
- Natalie Golova, MD

**Special Education**
- Anthony Antosh, EdD
- Paul LaCava, MSEd, PhD
- Susan Dell, PhD

**Family**
- Claire Rosenbaum, MFA
- Jonna Mulvaney, CCHW
- Joanne Quinn

**Public Health Policy and Advocacy**
- Patrick Vivier, MD, PhD
- Deb Garneau, MS
- Patricia Flanagan, MD
- Elizabeth Burke-Bryant, JD

**Pediatric Dentistry**
- Daniel Kane, DMD

**Nursing**
- Fran Pingitore, PhD, PCNS-BC, RN

**Social Work**
- Jessica Castronovo, LICSW, MSW, MPH

**Genetics**
- Mary-Kate Chambers, MS, CGC

**Speech-Language Pathology**
- Sandra Aguiar, MS, CCC-SPL

**Psychology**
- Shannon Dowd-Eagle, PhD
- Barbara Kao, PhD
- Deb Rasile, PhD
- Karyn Blane, PhD
- Stephen Sheinkopf, PhD
RHODE ISLAND - LEADERSHIP EDUCATION IN NEURODEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES (RI-LEND TRAINING PROGRAM)

APPLICATION FORM FOR FELLOWSHIP

CONTACT and DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION:

Name:________________________________________________________________________
Address (home):________________________________________________________________
City/State/Zip:__________________________________________________________________
Phone: ____________________________
Email: _______________________________________________________________________
Address (work):________________________________________________________________
Professional discipline:_________________________________________________________
Citizenship:_________________________ If not US citizen, do you have a green card? Yes / No
Race: ____________________________________              Ethnicity: Hispanic or Non-Hispanic
Are you a family member of a child with a disability or self-advocate with a disability? Yes / No
Where did you hear about LEND? ________

ACADEMIC BACKGROUND  (include current program):
College/University Dates Degree
______________________________________________________________________________

With this application, please submit: Please send above information to:

1. A curriculum vita/resume Kathryn Lowney
2. A one-page personal statement RI LEND Program, Division of DBP
Children’s Neurodevelopmental Center
335R Prairie Ave, Suite 1A
Providence, RI 02905
Or send to Kathryn.Lowney@lifespan.org

Inquiries can be made to Dr. Pamela High at 401-444-5440 or phigh@lifespan.org