

Pediatric Psycho-oncology Externship, Pediatric Hematology, Oncology & Stem Cell Transplantation

The externship in Pediatric Hematology, Oncology, and Stem Cell Transplantation at Columbia University Medical Center provides opportunities for direct clinical care for patients treated by the division. The division serves local and international patients with a range of hematological and oncological diseases, from birth until early adulthood. The extern will have the opportunity to work with patients and their families at various stages of the diagnosis and treatment process and will become familiar with emotional and behavioral presentations and concerns that may arise during diagnosis, treatment, relapse, survivorship, and end-of-life.

Externship Experience

The extern's primary responsibilities will be clinical in nature (psychodiagnostic intake appointments, therapy sessions, inpatient consults). The extern will have opportunity to provide short-term therapy to patients and their families. Common presenting concerns include adjustment to medical illness and treatment, adherence to medical regimen, mood and behavior concerns, and management of chronic and acute pain. Externs will participate in pre-bone marrow transplantation evaluations for patients and related-donors, as well as follow-up for patients hospitalized during the transplant process. Additionally, the extern will participate in psychological screening of long-term survivors in the Center for Survivor Wellness. They will work closely with our educational liaison to identify and advocate for appropriate school-based services for patients. The extent to which the extern will provide telemedicine vs. in-person services will be dependent on the state of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Supervision and Meetings

The extern will receive individual and live supervision. The extern will be part of a multidisciplinary team and will have the opportunity to interact with other clinical team members including physicians, nurses, nurse practitioners, social workers, and Child Life specialists. They will be expected to participate in divisional rounds, as well as attend divisional and psychiatry didactics.

The extern will work closely with the supervising psychologist, and will receive live-supervision throughout the week. Additionally, he/she will receive one-hour of individual supervision a week.

Please submit a CV, cover letter, 2 letters of recommendations, and a letter of readiness to:

dms2207@cumc.columbia.edu

Supervisor: Dara Steinberg, Ph.D.