Promise Program

Columbia University Irving Medical Center and New York Presbyterian Hospital's (CUIMC/NYPH) Division of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry are accepting applications for the Spanish Bilingual/Multicultural Track of the Pre-Doctoral Externship in Clinical Pediatric Neuropsychology beginning July 2020 based at the Promise Clinic. The mission of the Promise Clinic is to provide comprehensive neuropsychological assessment and advocacy to multicultural youth from underserved and vulnerable communities in New York City. The Promise Clinic is staffed by four post-doctoral fellows, three bilingual education coordinators, one program manager, and four neuropsychologist supervisors, including one bilingual neuropsychologist.

This externship program utilizes a developmental model to provide comprehensive and ethical bilingual/multicultural neuropsychological services to meet the unique needs of Latinx youth. Individuals are often referred for assessment to differentiate English language acquisition versus language/learning delays. Throughout the externship, an emphasis is placed on increasing trainees' awareness of diversity-related issues relevant to neuropsychological assessment and developing the capability to conduct culturally sensitive evaluations. In addition, this externship provides focused training in Spanish bilingual/multicultural assessment by improving proficiency in Spanish and clinical terminology during intake and feedback, familiarizing the trainee with Spanish language assessment measures, as well as increasing their understanding of the impact of linguistic/cultural influences on the conceptualization of cases. In addition, externs will learn to provide individualized and targeted recommendations regarding language of instruction and special education services/interventions to each case.

The clinic primarily evaluates individuals presenting with neurodevelopmental conditions, including Learning Disorders, ADHD, Autism Spectrum Disorders, and behavioral/psychiatric difficulties. There are also opportunities to work with patients who present with various complex medical conditions such as pediatric cancers, sickle cell disease, seizure disorders, genetic disorders, and neonatal complications. Externs regularly collaborate with multidisciplinary treatment teams, including psychiatrists, psychologists, social workers, medical residents and fellows, physicians, educational advocates and lawyers, teachers and other related service providers. Additionally, externs receive training in educational/legal advocacy, as well as how to interface and collaborate with community based organizations and school systems, including conducting school observations and attending IEP meetings, when possible. Externs will be supervised by New York State Licensed Psychologists. The extern will receive two hours per week with their primary clinical supervisor regarding evaluation cases, participate in 1 hour weekly clinical team meetings. Externs will attend a weekly didactic seminar and to periodically attend Child Psychiatry Grounds.

The externship will run from July 1st through June 30th. Externs are expected to complete 16 hours per week over 2.5 days, which is typically broken down into 2 days of clinical work/supervision and a ½ day to finalize documentation and report writing and attend meetings and didactic seminar. Doctoral candidates must be enrolled in at least their 3rd year in an APA-accredited clinical or school psychology program, have experience of working with children and adolescents, and have knowledge of the DSM-V and child assessment. To apply, please email a letter of application, CV, and two letters of recommendation to Dr. L. Cristina Calderón, PsyD, at lc3232@cumc.columbia.edu and Cc Dr. Meghan Tomb, PhD, at mt2718@cumc.columbia.edu.

For more information, please contact:

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