**Tufts Undergraduate Clinical Psychology Volunteer Program**

As you may know, Tufts University has a unique undergraduate clinical psych major. During their final year (senior) undergraduate students who are taking this major volunteer for 12-16 hours per week at particular sites in the Boston area for two semesters. The purpose of this experience is to give final year undergraduate students at Tufts specializing in clinical psychology at the undergraduate level an idea of what various aspects of clinical psychology and/or clinical research are like ‘out in the real world’.

Dr. Gina Kuperberg and Dr. David Harder are involved in running a class at Tufts which offers some supervision for these students and meet with them once per week. They also help facilitate their offsite volunteer placements towards the end of the summer.

It is important to note that these students should be recognized as independent volunteers. This distinguishes them from *graduate* practicum students who can bill for time and have a different sort of status. An undergraduate intern would therefore need to complete all appropriate background checks and training for volunteers at your institution.

To qualify for a placement, at least some clinical contact is required for the students. A student can certainly do computer RA tasks, but they also need to have some contact with patients, too, e.g. running surveys, doing some neuropsych testing for research studies, sitting in on some assessments or clinics, carrying out rating scales for research studies (once trained), etc.

This is what we ask of our students and their supervisors:

a) Students devote 12-16 hours per week to their internship during two Tufts semesters (Fall and Spring). They start towards the beginning of the Fall semester: mid/end September (although some students get started earlier than this).

There is some flexibility around this. For instance, if a student has conflicts that mean that they can only devote 9 hours per week, they would need to ‘make up’ their hours during Tufts vacations.

NOTE – there are a few students who can and are willing to devote more hours to the internship and who are interested in volunteering on vacations too. This is fine.

b) The student should organize times with their supervisor(s) that are mutually convenient. Having committed to these times, they are expected to show up on time and to be reliable.
c) There is some expectation that the student has clinical contact with clients or patients and is involved, even if peripherally, in supportive care, treatment or therapy or clinical (patient-orientated) research for at least some of the time. Other than this, the idea is that the student watch and learn and be as helpful as possible. It is important that the student is flexible.

d) There is some expectation that the student will have some onsite supervision through a designated person. This does not need to be very formal as a sit-down session. It just means that there should be someone to whom the student/intern can ask questions as appropriate.

e) Dr. Kuperberg will touch base with the supervisor once per semester to find out how the student is doing in all respects. They will be assessed mainly on (b) and (c).

f) If there are any concerns about the student or any questions, then you should contact Dr. Kuperberg at kuperber@nmr.mgh.harvard.edu.

Thank you for your time and interest in our program, and please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions or concerns.