Summer Clinical Research Internship in Developmental & Behavioral Pediatrics

Description: An 8-10-week program in clinical research related to developmental and behavioral disorders in children and adolescents is offered by Cohen Children’s Medical Center of New York (formerly Schneider Children’s Hospital) – part of the North Shore-Long Island Jewish Health System.

The Summer Research Internship offers 2-3 accomplished students the opportunity to work closely with a faculty mentor on one or more research projects related to normal or abnormal child development. Students will assist the faculty member in an ongoing research project and/or work collaboratively with the mentor in designing a new project of mutual interest. Although the internship is primarily focused on clinical research, there is an opportunity for one intern to also co-author a review article for immediate publication in a peer-reviewed pediatric journal. (See details below.)

While participating in the program, interns will be expected to attend some introductory clinical lectures about child development and developmental disorders. Research interns will also be encouraged to attend other lectures of interest available through the Department of Pediatrics at the Children’s Hospital.

The internship is open to students who have completed at least one year of study from any U.S. college or university. The ideal candidate is a student with a strong academic record, an interest in child psychology, child neurology, child psychiatry, or developmental pediatrics, and aspires to attend a doctoral program in medicine or psychology.

Research Abstracts/Publications: It is anticipated that students will be included as co-investigators on one or more research abstracts submitted to national research meetings. Students who are able to successfully write a manuscript for journal submission of their research findings will be identified as the first or second author of any paper submitted for publication. A list of abstracts accepted for presentation at national meetings in 2012 and 2013 is attached.

Review Article: There is an opportunity for a well-qualified student to be the first author on a review article for a peer-reviewed medical journal. This review article will need to be completed by August 1st since it is scheduled to be published in the February, 2014 issue of this pediatric journal. (A faculty member has already been invited to submit a review article on a topic related to developmental disorders; if interested, a student with strong academic credentials and writing skills may be given the opportunity to write the first draft of this article and be identified as first author of this review article.)
**Summer Program Dates:** Start and completion dates for the summer internship are somewhat flexible. Although priority will be given to applicants prepared to make at least a full-time 8 week commitment or longer, other time schedule arrangements will be considered.

**Other Activities/ Expectations/Opportunities:** Although the primary focus of the internship is clinical research and writing, and it is expected that this will comprise 70-75% of one’s time, interns often welcome the opportunity to engage in other academic or clinical activities. A breakdown of these educational, clinical, and administrative support functions follows:

- **Lectures:** ~ 10% of time
  - Attend lectures related to developmental & behavioral problems in children (typically 2 / week)
  - Prepare and present 1-2 talks to Division’s professional staff

- **Clinical Observation:** ~ 10% of time
  - Shadow one or more developmental pediatricians for new and follow-up patients.
  - Opportunities exist for research interns to shadow other pediatric specialists (e.g., pediatric cardiology, endocrinology) as well. This would be arranged on weekdays when the intern is not working in the Division of Developmental & Behavioral Pediatrics.

- **Miscellaneous:** ~ 5-10% of time
  - Assist with special projects and general office support

**To Apply:** You must submit a completed application (attached below) and provide all requested support materials (a CV or resume, an unofficial transcript, and 2 letters of recommendation). The letters of recommendation should be sent directly from the individual writing the letter, not from you. Letters of recommendation should focus on your academic scholarship; for this reason, letters from friends, family members, or former employers are not appropriate. All materials should be sent electronically using the subject line "Summer Research Internship Application" to Ms. Christine Peck at CPeck@nshs.edu.

**Application Process & Deadline:** The submittal deadline is March 17, 2013; all materials must be received by that date. It is anticipated that notification of decisions will be made on April 5, 2013.

**For Further Information:** The research internship is coordinated by Dr. Andrew Adesman, Chief of the Division of Developmental & Behavioral Pediatrics. Questions regarding the internship or its application should be directed to his assistant, Christine Peck, at 516 802-6101 (CPeck@nshs.edu).
Comments from Recent Interns

“The summer internship was definitely my most meaningful research experience to date. I had the chance to be the first author on a published paper, where I improved my writing skills as well as learned to critically evaluate medical journal articles. I also appreciated the many shadowing opportunities I was given throughout the course of the summer, which helped me to get a better understanding of what exactly behavior and developmental pediatrics entails.”

A.B., University of Pennsylvania, Class 2013
Research Intern, Summer 2012

“The summer internship was an incredibly rewarding experience for me. From the opportunity to do research alongside experts in the field, to the inviting weekly lectures given by attendings and residents eager to teach, to the balance of warmth and professionalism in the office, I couldn’t have asked for more from this internship.”

K.G., Bryn Mawr College, Class of 2009
Columbia University (Post-bacc.), Class of 2013
Research Intern, Summer, 2012

“The summer internship was an incredible learning experience. I got a chance to really initiate clinically-relevant research projects and follow through with multiple projects. As a research intern, you are involved in each step of the process, from conducting the background research, to writing and submitting IRB protocols, as well as recruiting subjects. This holistic experience makes this program unique, since it can be difficult to gain experience with all of these aspects of clinical research at once in other programs. We were even able to get an abstract from one of these projects accepted in the Eastern Society for Pediatric Research! Dr. Adesman and Dr. Milanaik also give students the opportunity to shadow them in the clinic, which really gave me an insight into the practice of developmental and behavioral pediatrics. Dr. Adesman, Dr. Milanaik, as well as the residents and fellows in the department, were incredibly supportive mentors and really encourage driven students to wholeheartedly pursue clinical research. I would recommend this program to any pre-med who is interested in pursuing research.”

R.R., University of Pennsylvania, Class of 2012
Research Intern, Summer 2012
"The summer internship was an intellectually exciting experience that solidified and defined my interest in medicine. The hands-on combination of clinical research and physician shadowing gave me a great sense of what it's like to pursue a career in medicine. The individualized guidance I received as a research intern allowed me to focus on my personal interests and to better understand clinical research in the medical setting."

A.T., Columbia University, Class of 2014
Research Intern, Summer, 2012

"The clinical research internship has given me an opportunity to work alongside mentors who truly have a passion for what they do. Their guidance and interest towards my learning have enabled me to take part in so much more outside of my research project, such as being able to attend grand rounds and visiting the NICU unit. I also enjoyed getting to know the medical residents, and was able to obtain useful advice regarding medical school and the medical profession. Overall, this has been a wonderful and rewarding experience, and I highly recommend this internship to anyone who is considering a career in medicine."

J.L., Carnegie Mellon University, Class of 2012
Research Intern, 2012 - 2013

"Working at Developmental and Behavioral Pediatrics was an incredible experience. I had the chance to participate in interesting research and shadow doctors and hospital rounds, all while learning enormously about the world of developmental pediatrics and about research in general. There are a lot of new and exciting things happening in this world, and I had a great summer in the midst of it!"

SM, Princeton University '15
Research Intern, Summer 2013

"Working with Dr. Adesman as an undergraduate gave me valuable research and writing experience that prepared me for a clinical psychology doctoral program. The opportunities to co-author academic papers not only strengthened my CV and applications, but also significantly improved these practical skills that have been critical in graduate school. I also gained clinical experience through shadowing him while he saw patients, which further prepared me for working in a clinical setting."

A.C., Washington University in St. Louis, Class of 2011
Ferkauf Graduate School of Psychology at Yeshiva University, Class of 2016
Research Intern, Summers 2010, 2011
“My summer spent in the Division of Developmental-Behavioral Pediatrics was rewarding in several different ways. I had the opportunity to participate in research on exciting and important topics, such as preschool ADHD and teacher bias in the classroom. I was even able to continue some of this research for my senior thesis at Princeton University. In addition to conducting research, I also gained exposure to a medical field that I knew very little about, developmental and behavioral pediatrics. As a psychology major and pre-medical student, this position tied together my interests perfectly. In fact, because of my rich experiences two summers ago, I am now considering entering this field for my career. In addition to the numerous opportunities offered through the program, Dr. Adesman is a wonderful mentor. He is a brilliant physician, who generates wonderful research hypotheses. Unlike many other mentors, his primary goal is to see his interns succeed. He has access to many different resources, such as several nation-wide databases, that are available to use when attempting to answer research questions. He provided guidance, not only with my research, but also on my future career and my medical school prospects. All in all, my summer spent as a research intern in D-B Peds was like none other. I highly recommend it to anyone interested in the field.

A.K., Princeton University, Class of 2012
Research Intern, Summer 2011

“The summer internship exceeded my expectations in every possible way. There is an incredible amount of flexibility in terms of the specific research each intern decides to conduct. The internship rewards those who are passionate about Developmental and Behavioral Pediatrics and are committed to putting in 100% every day. Hard-working interns can finish the summer with a number of abstracts to submit to annual meetings and with a manuscript to submit to the most prestigious pediatrics journal (as first author!). Dr. Adesman is the best mentor I have ever had and I assure you that he will go out of his way to ensure that you get the most out of the internship. While the internship offers interns the independence undergraduates want and deserve, Dr. Adesman is always available to offer advice and support.

Not only are you able to conduct meaningful clinical research, but you are also awarded the opportunity to shadow Dr. Adesman and other doctors in the field. When I shadowed Dr. Adesman, he went out of his way to review every patient file with me before we entered the patient’s room. Depending on your interests, Dr. Adesman is also more than willing to reach out to doctors in other fields, as he has many connections and is very well respected by all. I shadowed a pediatric endocrinologist and it was one of the most rewarding shadowing experiences I have had.

Furthermore, you will make some wonderful friends, as you get to spend the summer with a number of other students who are similarly driven and passionate about the field.

If you are a confident writer looking for an internship in which you can work with one of the experts in the field to conduct cutting edge research on a related topic of your choice, you should absolutely apply. You will get more out of one summer than other undergraduates or graduates get in two years.”

A.B., Princeton University, Class of 2013
Research Intern, Summer 2012
Pediatric Academic Societies (www.aps-spr.org)
2013 National Meeting: Abstract Acceptances
Developmental & Behavioral Pediatrics

Platform Presentations:

- Smoking Policy on College Campuses: Influence of Sociodemographic Factors **

- Early Sexual Debut in the United States: Longitudinal Analysis of National Data from the Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System from 1991 – 2011*

- Electronic Bullying and Recreational Video/Computer Time in U.S. High School Students*

- Medication Management of Preschool ADHD by Pediatric Sub-Specialists: Non-Compliance with AAP Clinical Guidelines***

Poster Presentations:

- Texting While Driving among High School Students: Analysis of 2011 Data from the National Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System (YRBSS)*
  - Selected for Student Research Award, which includes $1,000 prize

- Sexual Risk Taking Behavior among US Teens: Update 2011*

- Diagnostic Evaluation of Children with Autism: Real-Life vs. Recommended*

- Parent vs Teacher Ratings of Core and Associated Behaviors of Autism Spectrum Disorder in Preschoolers*

- Early Introduction of Solid Foods to Premature Infants and Impact on Feeding Behaviors**,***

- Failure to Adjust for Gestational Age When Plotting Premature Infant Growth and Its Impact on Parental Satisfaction**,***

- Prevalence and Duration of Breastfeeding in ADHD vs. Non-ADHD Children Ages 3–5: Analysis of 2007 National Health Survey Data***

- Clinical Criteria for Pharmacotherapy in Preschool Children with ADHD***

- The History of Amphetamines: The Good, the Bad & the Ugly!* [historical poster]

* Summer research intern as 1st author
** Summer research intern as co-author
*** Pediatric resident or fellow as 1st author
Platform Presentation:

- Are Some Disabilities More Handicapping than Others? A Comparison of Teacher Grading of Children with Medical, Physical and Behavioral Disabilities*

Poster Presentations:

- Preschool ADHD and Impact on Family Functioning: Analysis of National Children's Health Survey 2007 Data*

- Long-Term Developmental Outcome of Children Whose Mothers Reported Loss of Fetal Activity During Pregnancy

- Stimulant Diversion and Access in Households with Children on Stimulant Medication for ADHD

- Is Tourette Syndrome More Common in Children or Adolescents with Atopic Disease? Analysis of a Population-Based Sample of Youth in the United States***

- Neuromotor Outcome of Young Children Whose Mothers Reported Loss of Fetal Activity

- Major Shortcomings of the Short Version of the Conners' Rating Scales-Revised for Diagnosing ADHD, Inattentive Type in Children

- Utilization of Questionnaires in Assessment & Management of Preschool ADHD: Analysis of Data from the 2007 National Survey of Children's Health***

- ADHD Medication Holidays: Factors Involved in the Parental Decision Whether or Not to Continue Medical Treatment during the Summer ***

- The Guthrie Test: A 50-Year Retrospective on Screening for Phenylketonuria [historical poster; not research]

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** Summer research intern as co-author
*** Pediatric resident or fellow as 1st author