

Pediatric Psychology & Child and Family Mental Health Program

Program Area Leaders: Melissa Carson, Psy.D., and Dean Coffey, Psy.D.

Anticipated positions: 1

The Pediatric Psychology and the Child and Family Mental Health Program Areas at Children's Hospital Los Angeles are offering a blended fellowship position providing comprehensive mental health services to children ages 5-12 and their families who are impacted by a chronic medical condition. The major referral sources for the program are the CHLA physicians and medical teams referring children with chronic or acute medical conditions that may be impacting behavior and emotions. Many of the children that are served have developmental disabilities (including autism spectrum disorders) in addition to their primary mental health and medical needs. This blended fellowship track offers postdoctoral fellowship training that provides the opportunity to develop expertise in psychological intervention for school-aged children who are impacted by chronic or acute illnesses. It is designed to provide intensive and advanced training for psychologists interested in pursuing specialized training in the area of elementary school aged mental health for children and families impacted by chronic illness. The Blended fellow will receive advanced training in comprehensive psycho-educational and neuro-developmental assessment batteries utilizing a broad variety of assessment tools and strategies and including assessment approaches for bilingual children whose first language is Spanish. The assessment training is tailored to the individual fellow, based on fellow's interests, professional skills, and training needs. Additionally, fellows also use brief assessment approaches that target specific referral questions in a variety of different settings. This fellow will also develop expertise conducting psychological assessments for children who have comorbid mental health and medical needs and will gain clinical expertise by working with patients referred from the Pain Management Clinic, AltaMed Primary Care General Pediatrics clinic, and other hospital programs serving school aged children.

Throughout the two-year fellowship, the blended Pediatric Psychology and the Child and Family fellow will participate in weekly individual supervision with two assigned supervisors, one from the child and family program and one from the pediatric psychology program. Throughout the two year fellowship, the combined Pediatric and Child and Family fellow will attend the following activities:

- Pediatric Psychology Fellowship Didactic (1x/week)
- School Age Clinic Didactic and Case Conference Seminar (1x/week)
- Advanced Assessment Seminar (2x/month)
- Incredible Years Group Supervision (1x/ week while leading a group)

The combined Pediatric Psychology & Child and Family Fellow will participate in the following array of services:

Outpatient Therapy

Clinical child services address a broad range of emotional, behavioral, cognitive and/or neuro-developmental problems. Diagnostic presentations include: Attention-

Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorders (ADHD), Disruptive Behavior Disorders, Mood Disorders, Adjustment Disorders, Anxiety Disorders, Feeding Disorders, Autism Spectrum Disorders and a range of other neuro-developmental disorders. Fellows utilize evidence-based treatment approaches, which may include the Incredible Years® Parent and Child Training Programs; Secret Agent Society for children on the Autism spectrum; Managing and Adapting Practices (MAP); and Trauma-Focused Cognitive Behavior Therapy.

School-Age Clinic

School-Age Clinic (SAC) is an integrated specialty mental health and medication consultation clinic coordinated by a lead psychologist and staffed by professionals and trainees from the following disciplines: developmental behavior pediatrics, child and adolescent psychiatry, nursing, occupational therapy, and speech-language pathology. Psychology fellows provide diagnostic and brief assessment, specialized consultation, and brief intervention to diverse children and adolescents with learning, behavioral, and/or developmental challenges. There is a particular emphasis on working with children who are dually diagnosed with a developmental disability and a mental health diagnosis. Psychology fellows in SAC take the lead in conducting assessments, improve and oversee screening systems, and facilitate effective functioning among the patient, interprofessional team and the family. Second year fellows fulfill team leadership and preceptor roles for pre-doctoral psychology interns and occupational therapy doctoral residents who are also training in clinic.

Pediatric Pain Management Clinic

The Pediatric Pain Management Clinic at CHLA is a comprehensive, cross-functional health care unit dedicated to the prevention, assessment, and treatment of pain and associated mood (anxiety, depression), sleep, and function (school, family, peer, emotional) for children and their families. The clinic provides interventions to assist in improving pain management throughout the care of the child. The team consists of physicians (child/adolescent psychiatrist, pediatric anesthesiologists), a nurse practitioner, three pediatric psychologists, massage therapists, and acupuncturists. The psychology fellow will receive clinical training in pediatric pain assessment/management, participate in seminars and lectures, direct clinical care (assessment, individual, group, and family therapy), and participate in ongoing research. The fellow will specialize in providing outpatient therapy services for children 5-12 years old who are referred to the pediatric pain management clinic.

Integrated Primary Care Services at an FQHC (AltaMed)

All first and second year fellows at CHLA participate in a GPE funded Integrated Primary Care clinic. Throughout their two-year fellowship, fellows will receive experiential training through provision of integrated primary care services in one of three AltaMed pediatric primary care clinics at CHLA and the community. Psychology Fellows will also participate in (and deliver) numerous interprofessional didactic activities including: monthly curriculum lectures, the CA-LEND program, Primary Care Group Supervision, monthly Brown Bag Lunch Seminars, and attendance at CHLA Grand Rounds.

Application Information: Due to this late recruitment, candidates should submit a letter of interest stating their CHLA postdoctoral specialty interest and long-term career goals in that area, a curriculum vita, three letters of recommendation (one from predoctoral internship), official graduate studies transcripts, and a sample child/adolescent psychoeducational/cognitive assessment report.

Additional Information: Although these are new blended tracks, please consult our website: www.uscuceddtraining.net and review our fellowship brochure for additional / important information about the core fellowship, application requirements, and training opportunities. For inquiries, please contact Dr. Sherer at SSherer@chla.usc.edu

Children's Hospital Los Angeles is an Equal Opportunity/ Affirmative Action Employer. Applications from bilingual Spanish candidates and members of underrepresented groups are specifically encouraged to apply.