The Sackler Infant Psychiatry Fellowship 2018-2019
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The Sackler Infant Psychiatry Fellowship is a clinical training experience under the auspices of the Sackler Institute for Developmental Psychobiology and the Division of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry of Weill Cornell Medicine’s Department of Psychiatry. The Fellowship begins July 1, 2018 and can be one year or up to two years. The stipend offered can be supplemented by faculty practice in Weill Cornell’s Physician Organization. Applicants who have completed a residency in Psychiatry and Child and Adolescent Psychiatry and who possess or are eligible for a New York State license are eligible to apply.

The Fellowship offers a variety of clinical, educational and research opportunities complemented by administrative and other intra and interdepartmental opportunities. The Fellow spends one morning a week at the Sackler-Lefcourt Infant Center observing and participating in mother-infant or toddler groups in which the normal developmental processes can be experienced first-hand and the concerns of mothers are considered. The trainee also consults at a well-baby pediatrics clinic, the NICU, and Follow-Up Clinic for Premature Infants of the NYPH where the developmental and social emotional concerns of new parents can be explored. This exposure also allows for case-finding and referral of dyads for therapy. The trainee supervises Child and Adolescent residents in their under-five activities and in the Zero to Three Developmental Clinic, adding a child psychiatric vantage to the developmental pediatricians and neurologists work. Individual dyadic psychotherapy and small group work with mothers is encouraged. Each of these experiences is supervised by senior clinicians (Theodore Shapiro MD, Margaret Hertzig MD) and the Fellow may supervise residents and interested medical students at the various clinical sites. Opportunities will also be available to collaborate with the Center for Autism and the Developing Brain under Catherine Lord PhD. Pediatrics leadership has recently asked us to help to educate budding pediatricians to the psycho-developmental issues that emerge in well baby care and expose pediatricians to issues in attachment and emerging pathology in mother-infant dyads. The Fellow also may lead process groups for NICU Fellows to discuss emotional strain associated with their work.

The Educational program includes a weekly seminar presided over by the Fellow who selects the research papers and organizes the clinical presentations. The seminar attracts clinicians from other programs and senior clinical practitioners who choose to attend. The topics have varied ranging from neuro-imaging to attachment theory from the concept of temperament to the Adult Attachment Interview, from cross-cultural rearing practices to treatment modes. Into this potpourri we stir the opinions and comments of a variety of attendees from the various disciplines participating in the care of infants. Visiting scholars and investigators are also invited to speak to the group at least 6 times a year.

Each Fellow also may attend the Sackler Institute’s weekly research seminars and hear world class investigators present their research. Fellows may also join research projects that are in progress under the guidance of the Interim Director of the Institute, Francis Lee MD, PhD and his colleagues. Each
Fellow is expected to cultivate a specialized area of scholarly inquiry and consider developing a research protocol. The University and Hospital also offer a variety of other educational opportunities. These include Departmental Grand Rounds, The Divisional Reading Seminar and Journal Club and other clinical conferences that enrich the Fellowship experience.

Qualified Applicants are invited to email a C.V. and letter of professional interest to:

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