



NIMH Clinical Psychology Doctoral Student Practicum Program

Emotion and Development Branch Externship Track

The National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH) is the lead federal agency for research on mental disorders located in Bethesda, Maryland. NIMH funds mental health research across the country and supports more than 2,000 research grants and contracts internationally. The NIMH Intramural Program of the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH) is accepting clinical psychology doctoral students to complete a practicum within the Emotion and Development Branch at the NIMH. The Emotion and Development Branch (EDB) houses a team of clinical researchers focused on understanding the brain correlates of pediatric emotional problems with a clinical focus on providing and developing evidenced based treatments for youth. There is a strong emphasis on understanding mechanisms underlying both pharmacological and psychological interventions. Specifically, this branch studies both internalizing (e.g., anxiety disorders) and externalizing (e.g., ADHD, Disruptive Mood Dysregulation Disorder: DMDD) disorders in children and adolescents.

Program Objectives:

- 16 hours per week, divided approximately evenly between two sections of the Emotion and Development Branch: Section on Development, Neuroscience (SDAN) and Neuroscience and Novel Therapeutics Unit (NNT)
- Students will learn evidence-based and novel assessment and treatment approaches to both mood and anxiety disorders in children and adolescents.
- Students will have exposure to a variety of patients with DMDD and Anxiety Disorders (Generalized Anxiety Disorder, Separation Anxiety Disorder and Social Anxiety Disorder) in an outpatient clinical research setting.
- Clinical responsibilities: phone screening training and administration, clinical case support, administration of Wechsler Abbreviated Scale of Intelligence (WASI) and other clinical assessment measures, Kiddie Schedule for Affective Disorders and Schizophrenia (KSADS) and Anxiety Disorders Interview Schedule for Children/Parents (ADIS) training and administration, Cognitive Behavioral Therapy session observation and participation, weekly supervision with licensed psychologists
- Didactic opportunities: bimonthly didactic opportunities (at minimum) within the branch, with potential to collaborate with other NIH psychologists
- Mentorship opportunities: potential for mentorship with research assistants applying to graduate school

Primary Supervisors:

- Erin Berman, Ph.D. (SDAN)

Application Process:

- Prior training/skills/experience required of externs: Interest in working with kids with anxiety and mood disorders is preferred; proficiency with clinical interviewing. This externship is best suited for more advanced students (third year and above).
- Interested applicants should email a letter of interest, CV, 2 letters of recommendation, to Erin Berman Ph.D. erin.berman@nih.gov
- We will interview students between February 15 through March 3 and will make offers by March 6th, the uniform notification day (based on Washington DC Externship Consortium)