



MINORITY MEDICAL STUDENT ELECTIVE IN HIV PSYCHIATRY

OVERVIEW: Minority medical students will receive a **stipend** for a 4th year elective in HIV psychiatry. This rotation will provide an intense training in HIV mental health including neuropsychiatry, a clinical and/or research experience, and participation in the Committee on AIDS of the American Psychiatric Association. This program is intended to identify minority medical students and those who have primary interests in services related to HIV/AIDS and substance abuse and its relationship to the mental health or the psychological well being of ethnic minorities .

DESCRIPTION: Students will spend September 2009 at elective sites working with a mentor/preceptor. Students will travel to **Washington, DC**, to attend an intensive 2-day training in HIV psychiatry, meet with experts and leadership, and participate in the fall meetings of the American Psychiatric Association. Students who are interested in pursuing a residency in psychiatry may also qualify to the APA Annual Meeting for continued training and additional mentor activities. This is a suitable rotation for students interested in **psychiatry, internal medicine, pediatrics, or research careers**. A small stipend will be provided.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES: Students will learn about:

- the impact of HIV on the brain and mind;
- cultural issues in people at risk for or infected with HIV;
- impact of antiretroviral medication on viral replication in the CNS;
- the emotional impact of HIV and its effects on family, friends, social network;
- the pharmacological treatment of psychiatric symptoms/disorders in people infected with HIV.

The heart of the program will be in establishing a mentor relationship at one of five clinical or research sites, becoming involved with a cohort of medical students interested in HIV medicine/psychiatry, participating in an interactive didactic/experiential learning program, and moving students towards high achievement in areas related to ethnic minority mental health research or psychiatric services .

2008 SITES:

Columbia University, New York, NY
Cornell University, New York, NY
Harvard University, Boston, MA
Howard University, Washington, DC
University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, PA

Additional sites may be added or substituted

FELLOWSHIP PERIOD

September 1-30, 2009

ELIGIBILITY

U.S. citizens attending M.D. degree-granting institutions accredited by the Liaison Committee on Medical Education of the Association of American Medical Colleges, or in D.O. degree-granting colleges of osteopathic medicine accredited by the Bureau of Professional Education of the American Osteopathic Association are eligible. Candidates must be fourth year students in good academic standing. Selected students who are not APA members will automatically receive membership. APA membership is free for medical students. Preference will be given to minority candidates.

APPLICATION PROCESS

Applicants must submit the following items:

- A completed application form
- A brief statement of interest, not to exceed one typewritten page
- Letter from the medical school Dean's office indicating that the applicant is a medical student in good academic standing
- A copy of the medical student's curriculum vitae

Application forms can be downloaded from www.psych.org/aids. Incomplete applications will not be considered. The deadline for submission is March 31, 2009. Selection will be announced at the end of April, 2008. All applications should be submitted to:

American Psychiatric Association
Office of HIV Psychiatry
1000 Wilson Blvd., Suite 1825
Arlington, VA 22209

For more information, please contact Diane Pennessi, Senior Project Manager in the Office of HIV Psychiatry, at 703.907.8668 or dpennessi@psych.org.