

INTERNATIONAL CHILD MENTAL HEALTH TRAINING PROGRAM

Sponsored by

**Department of Psychiatry, Children's Hospital Boston
Department of Social Medicine, Harvard Medical School**

Introduction

The International Child Mental Health Training Program is a cross-disciplinary program for training physicians, psychologists, social workers and health provider students in basic and advanced concepts of child mental health applicable to international work. The program is designed to provide a basic literacy in child mental health for those having graduated college with a background in health or international volunteer work and more advanced training for those at higher education or training levels. The trainee will participate in the clinical teaching program of the Children's Hospital's Department of Psychiatry, and participate in the medical anthropology teaching program of the Department of Social Medicine with a special emphasis on basic qualitative research methods. The goal is to develop a cadre of trained individuals, primarily from developing countries, who can aid in the development of child mental health policy, foster child mental health clinical programming and otherwise serve as advocates for child mental health. The program is not intended as a substitute for full training in the clinical discipline of child psychiatry or child psychology and does not offer substantive direct clinical experience.

The program offers a core month of training with the possibility of extending the time up to three months with added specialization. Conceptually, the program strives to provide knowledge of appropriate comprehensive approaches to the treatment of childhood mental disorders, an understanding of developmental psychopathology, and literacy related to cultural dimensions of work in the area of child mental health. For more advanced and longer term participants the program offers the options of pursuing more in-depth experience in neuro-psychology, qualitative research methods, or areas of particular clinical interest.

A key to the program and to successful participation in the program will be a commitment to participate in the mentorship activities. All participants will be assigned a faculty member with whom they will be expected to meet on a regular basis. The faculty member will oversee the program, provide guidance and ensure that the program meets the enrollee's needs and expectations. A required integration seminar is provided with a senior faculty member who has extensive international experience.

The core teaching programs are the Children's Hospital's Department of Psychiatry and the Department of Social Medicine at Harvard Medical School.

- As part of the Children's Hospital of Boston, the Department of Psychiatry's mission is to develop, implement, and provide integrated and preventive treatment to children and adolescents from all socioeconomic levels and cultural backgrounds. The Department is dedicated to working with the most difficult and challenging emotional disturbances encompassing developmentally challenged, physically ill, traumatized, psychotic, and suicidal patients.
- The Department of Social Medicine is a basic science department of the Harvard Medical School. The Department has fostered the re-conceptualization of mental disorders to better account for cultural diversity. The Department has a long history of providing training for students, at all levels, from developing countries, and continues to have advanced training programs at the post-doctoral level. In this context the Department has a National Institute of Mental Health training program in culture and mental health services research. There are current programs with the University of Melbourne on Leadership in International Mental Health, and a collaborative mental health research program with the Chinese University of Hong Kong sponsored by the Fogarty Center. The program is the home for diverse programs such as Urban Health, the Partners In Health Program, and the Program on Infectious Disease and Health. The program has many distinguished senior faculty involved with child health and mental health policy. Most of the programs supported by the Department have research or evaluation components that draw on the Department's strong identity with qualitative research.

Schedule and placements

The primary clinical placement for the student is on the Consultation-Liaison Service with the opportunity to see patients in a variety of settings with child psychiatry residents and psychologists supervised by a faculty member. The choice of the C/L Service is deliberate because it provides access to a culturally diverse population and allows for an immediate discussion of a variety of relevant issues.

Seminars include the twice weekly Social Medicine seminars for fellows and staff. A variety of topics are covered in these seminars. The student participates in the three times per week seminar of the C/L Service and a variety of other meetings in relation to specialized areas within the clinical setting, such as, developmental disabilities, neuropsychology and psychopharmacology. There is a once a week integration seminar. A faculty member is assigned to oversee each students program.

Application Guidelines

The International Child Mental Health Training Program will accept a limited number of individuals for specified periods of time. A full application must be completed and approved. The institution from which the fellow/student comes must acknowledge the participation of the fellow/student and indicate if documentation of participation will be needed. Applications will be made to the ICMH on behalf of the participating programs. All applicants will be notified in writing of their acceptance. This is the extent to which the program will be able to support any home country visa application. No other visa support is available. If there are requests for specific training beyond the general focus of the program here identified then the ICMH will help to direct applicants to an appropriate Harvard program.