

## **Pediatric Psychology in Hematology/Oncology/Stem Cell Transplantation Research Lab**

New York Medical College

Maria Fareri Children's Hospital

Lab Directors: Suzanne Braniewski, PhD and Lila Pereira, PhD

### *Description of Lab:*

Within the division of Pediatric Hematology/Oncology/Stem Cell Transplantation at New York Medical College/Maria Fareri Children's Hospital, a team of Psychologists conduct research focused on issues facing Pediatric Hematology/Oncology patients and other topics. Research is often interdisciplinary and involves collaboration with other institutions both locally and across the country. The lab is located in Valhalla, NY on the NYMC campus. Additional lab activity takes place at Westchester Medical Center/Maria Fareri Children's Hospital inpatient and outpatient clinic locations (on NYMC campus or within 5 minute walk).

Current research projects include aspects of pediatric cancer patient quality of life and cognitive functioning (e.g. cognitive outcomes in pediatric cancer survivors, adolescent and young adult (AYA) functioning and outcomes during/after treatment, video narratives of patient and families impacted by cancer and hematological disorders, importance of mentoring in this population, validation of neuropsychological assessments in Pediatric Hematology/Oncology patients, exploring attitudes of becoming a parent during a psychology graduate program, impact of a sickle cell disease treatment on cognitive functioning, and linguistics as they relate to films on social media. The studies range from new with **IRB** paperwork pending to well-established and data collection complete. As such there is much that a student can learn about with respect to the research process.

Typical responsibilities of research assistants include data management, scoring of neuropsychological assessment and research batteries, administration of research protocols, recruitment of participants, chart reviews, clinical support tasks, observation of clinical work, and write up of results. Students with higher educational standing or excellent clinical/writing skills may be able to participate in grant writing, **IRB** paperwork, neuropsychological assessment, and study design. Trainees range from undergraduate to postdoctoral level.

### *Other Information to Know:*

Our focus is on teaching and mentorship. There is substantial professional development that takes place as part of work in our lab (e.g. seminars, CV development, graduate application process, etc.). **As such, our lab is appropriate for students who are interested in going to graduate school for Psychology and pursuing a doctoral level Psychology degree.** It is not appropriate for students planning to apply to medical school. We recommend students work with us for at least 2 semesters so that they have enough time to work towards a poster to submit to a conference or join in on a publication. Students often stay beyond the 2 semesters.

Students dedicate 8-16 hours a week with us based on their own schedule and availability. We prefer students come to campus for work with us (Wednesdays from 10-1pm, u-e strongly preferred due to educational activities that take place), although some hours may be done at home.

Unless stipulated otherwise through your college, this is not a paid position. Most students choose to receive school credit for their work with us as an independent research or internship course.

*Suggested Qualifications:*

Psychology or related Major with plans to apply to a PhD-level graduate program in a Psychology related field

Junior standing or higher when joining the lab for undergraduates (Sophomores are welcome to apply for a Summer/Fall start time), graduate students at all levels welcome.

At least 3.0 GPA

*Application Materials Required:*

Cover Letter describing interest in lab and career goals

CV

Recommendation Letter not required, but will be accepted

Materials may be sent to Dr. Pereira at [lpereira2@nycu.edu](mailto:lpereira2@nycu.edu). Students are taken on a rolling basis, based on lab availability.