CPEG is a multidisciplinary (including epidemiology, psychology, medical geography, psychiatry, etc.) research group, which utilizes a wide range of methods (e.g. field-based interviews, genetics, and fMRI) to understand child psychopathology and substance use. CPEG's research is both national (local) and international, with funding from the National Institutes of Health (NIDA, NIMH, NICHD, etc.), CDC, the European Union, and more. All of the activities of CPEG are designed to answer important questions and to help fill knowledge gaps concerning children's mental health. A primary focus is the transmission of trauma from parent to child.

The CPEG internship program provides opportunities to be involved with multiple aspects of our ongoing field research projects, including participant recruitment, conducting structured clinical interviews (data collection), maintenance of research data and administrative support. The internship position also provides an opportunity to become involved in other CPEG research projects, with the potential to assist on scholarly work.

Internships are currently open on three longitudinal studies. Two of these seek to better understand the experiences, feelings, and role of stress on parents and children in an effort to determine the mechanism(s) by which traumatic experiences of a parent may be passed on to their child. The third study focuses on the long term effects of direct exposure to a traumatic event (9/11) during childhood.

The Stress & Well-Being Study (“S&W”) is a new study that aims to improve understanding of the effects of children’s direct exposure to the September 11, 2001 attack on the World Trade Center on mental health disorders, substance use or abuse and other risky behaviors, as these individuals enter into adolescence and emerging adulthood. This study assesses children directly exposed to 9/11 at ages 0-12 (currently ages 12-24), who will be compared to unexposed controls. These interviews are conducted in English, Spanish, Mandarin, and Cantonese.

The Stress and Justice Studies (“S&J”) are two longitudinal research projects that aim to understand the ways that children are affected by stressful events, particularly parental contact with the criminal justice system. These studies seek to understand mechanisms of familial transmission of stress, trauma and substance abuse. The samples are primarily composed of families from the South Bronx. The index samples include families with at least one parent (one study focuses on mothers and the other on fathers) who had recent contact with the criminal justice system. There are also controls composed of families who have not had this experience. These interviews are conducted in English and Spanish.

**Position Requirements**

We welcome individuals who are motivated, punctual, professional, and able to work independently and in a team-oriented environment.

We prefer current graduate students or those with advanced degrees in psychology, public health, neuroscience, biostatistics, law, medicine, social science, or related fields. We will also consider accomplished undergraduate students. Our internship program is very competitive and attracts talented undergraduate and graduate students from across the country and around the world.

Skills and attributes we seek are:
- Excellent time management, organizational skills and attention to detail
- Demonstration of initiative, flexibility, and resourcefulness in working effectively on multiple projects
Internship Program (Unpaid)
Columbia University–New York State Psychiatric Institute
Child Psychiatric Epidemiology Group

- Excellent verbal and written communication skills
- Ability to effectively conduct structured interviews in person
- General computer proficiency and willingness to learn new software
- Ability to handle confidential materials and sensitive information in a highly ethical fashion
- Bilingual skills (Spanish, Mandarin, Cantonese) strongly preferred
- Licensed drivers encouraged (with or without own vehicle)

Our office works 7 days a week and is open 365 days a year. Evening and/or weekend availability is mandatory for all field work. Shifts are approximately 8 hours, flexible hours are required. Some late nights are required. However, there is work available all 7 days, daytime included.

We encourage people of all ages, races, ethnicities, genders, creeds, and sexual orientations to apply.

**Minimum Time Commitment**

2 days per week for 12 months.
3 days per week for 9 months.
Summer Intensive requires completion of 50 working days, generally 5 days per week for 10 weeks or 4 days per week for 12 weeks.

This is an unpaid internship that can be used for college credit where applicable. Our normal intern rotations are in the fall, winter/spring, and summer but we are flexible with other starting dates and weekly hours. We do this to accommodate candidates with different backgrounds and needs.

Accepted interns must complete a registration process with the NYSPI including a Physical Health History, attendance of an orientation, and completion of online trainings.

**Apply**

Please email (PDF format preferred) cover letter, resume and your availability to: Alison Dougherty at adought@nyspi.columbia.edu

In your cover letter please answer the following questions:
1. Why are you interested in our internship program?
2. Which study are you interested in?
3. Are you currently working or in school? If you are in school, will you be interning for school credit?
4. Do you have any particular research or educational goals in mind related to working with our group?
5. Given the minimum commitment requirements listed, in which track are you most interested?
6. What is your weekly availability for the internship?
7. Internship assignments, particularly fieldwork, may (and frequently do) run late into the evening. Is this an issue for you?