Cone Health System,
Regional Center for Infectious Disease
Greensboro, NC

Mission Statement:
The Regional Center for Infectious Disease (RCID) opened in March 2011 in the Wendover Medical Center. RCID provides medical care, research, social work, care management, mental health, substance abuse and dental services for over 1400 people living with HIV in our community. We also serve patients with general infectious disease problems.

To date, we have assisted 600-700 patients with HIV medication assistance through ADAP (AIDS Drug Assistance Program). Currently, we are providing HIV related medications to 315 patients, a total benefit to these patients of approximately $10 million annually. Through the medication assistance program, we are able to reach out to various pharmaceutical companies for assistance with other non-HIV related medications that are not covered through ADAP. RCID has received over $5 million in Ryan White funding since 2005. Also of significance, the Cone Health Foundation has provided over $250,000 in funding for our clinic since 2011.

One important aspect of our research/clinical trials is that patients receive laboratory testing and antiretroviral medications at no cost. The average retail cost of a typical treatment regimen is about $2680/month or $32160 annually. In 2012, the patients on our clinical trials received over $1.5 million in pharmaceutical support. While getting medication at no cost is a substantial benefit, the treatment reduces viremia and thus the spread of HIV. Nearly 10% of RCID’s HIV patients were enrolled in research studies last year. Our research division has been awarded over $5 million in funding since its inception.

Internship Title: Infectious Disease Healthcare Intern

On-site Supervisor/Co-educator:
Name: Jeffery Hatcher, MD, FACP
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Duties/Project Description:
• Assist in data collection.
• Observe patient exams.
• Observe case management and social work evaluations.
• Observe psychological and substance abuse evaluations.
• Assist clinic staff in evaluating patient records to identify patients who are non-adherent to medications and/or have high no-show rates.
• Assist patients in signing up for electronic medical record access.
• Evaluate patient records to improve screening rates and appropriate preventive care.
• Work with affiliated agencies to understand needs in the community. (Health Department, Triad Health Project)

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Qualifications:
- Empathy, ease, and interest for interacting with patients experiencing poverty and other barriers to good health.
- Keep observation skills for doctor’s appointments, case management, social work, psychological, and substance abuse evaluations of these patients.
- Willingness to converse with health professionals who work primarily with underserved and/or vulnerable populations.
- Diligence to keep a daily journal for observations and making connections.
- Attention to detail and ability to assess overall records to be able to discuss the factors that lead to patient noncompliance and how they can be reduced or resolved.

Orientation Plan:
Special Memorandum of Understanding is needed between Cone and home university before student can begin internship.

Supervision/Mentor Schedule:
The mentor will be available M-F 9-5. The interns schedule will vary around this as well as assignments related to the overall class in the community.

Non-English language requirement? NO

Working Conditions:
out patient clinic

Preparation:
None required

Is the organizational accessible via public transportation? YES

Does the internship require use of personal vehicle? No, but encouraged

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