

SUMMER CLINICAL INTERNSHIP FOR PRE-MEDICAL STUDENTS



The interns and Chief Medical Officer from the summer of 2016 (left) and the summer of 2015 (right)

WHO

Current pre-med sophomores and juniors in any Columbia undergraduate school

WHAT

Full-time, paid summer internship (10 weeks, \$4,000)

WHERE

Terence Cardinal Cooke, a 600-bed skilled nursing facility in Manhattan

WHY

Terence Cardinal Cooke is unlike any other skilled nursing facility in the country. With units for pediatrics, Huntington's disease, HIV, long term care, and rehabilitation, TCC offers a wide range of opportunities for growth and learning.

HOW

Email your completed application to Tess Cersonsky at tec2120@columbia.edu by **Friday, February 2nd, 2017 at 11:59 PM.**

HOW TO APPLY FOR THE SUMMER 2017 INTERNSHIP

TO APPLY: Please send all materials in a single word document saved “Last Name, First Name_RCSSTCC2017 Application.docx” as an email to Program Coordinator Tess Cersonsky (tec2120@columbia.edu) by the application deadline Friday, February 2nd, 2017 at 11:59 pm.

1. Resume: Please emphasize experiences that demonstrate strong interpersonal skills, patience and interaction with the elderly/infirm if applicable.

2. Previous clinical exposure and or research experience: Please provide a short summary of the analytic and research skills and methodologies in which you have been trained in previous research experiences (laboratory or clinical), i.e. literature review, experiment design, formulating hypotheses, designing surveys and/or questionnaires, statistical data analysis, conducting interviews, writing grant proposals, and any special skills not aforementioned that may assist you in your work at TCC. Additionally include patient care and experience with the elderly if applicable.

3. Personal statement: The personal statement is the most illustrative component of the application. Please write a personal statement of no more than 750 words that describes your academic interests, career goals and why you would like to participate in the RCSS-TCC program. Please address the following prompts in your personal statement:

- 1) Please discuss past experiences that lead you to apply for the RCSS-TCC internship.*
- 2) How would your participation in the RCSS-TCC internship inform your views on medicine, healthcare?*
- 3) What do you hope to learn and/or explore about yourself and your future career path through the RCSS-TCC internship?*
- 4) What do you enjoy about working with patients?*

4. An unofficial copy of transcript from SSOL

5. Recommendation letters: One (1) recommendation letter that elaborates on your professional and personal qualifications. Recommendation letters can come from a faculty member, college administrator, employer, internship or volunteering coordinator, or individual who can speak to your qualifications for the RCSS-TCC internship. Recommendations cannot be written by family members, significant others, or undergraduates at Columbia University.

RECOMMENDATION LETTERS CAN BE SENT DIRECTLY TO TESS CERSONSKY AT TEC2120@COLUMBIA.EDU.

Please send all materials in a single word document saved “Last Name, First Name_RCSSTCC2017 Application.docx” as an email to Program Coordinator Tess Cersonsky at tec2120@columbia.edu.

You will receive an **e-mail confirmation** when all components of your application are received by the deadline. The most competitive applicants will be invited by e-mail for an in-person interview to take place at Columbia University in late February/early March.

MORE INFORMATION

The Columbia University Research Cluster on Science and Subjectivity (Center for Science and Society) offers four research internship positions to motivated undergraduate students such that they may have the opportunity to gain hands-on experience in the field of medicine. In addition to shadowing clinicians and following patients, students have the opportunity to develop a project of interest at the Terence Cardinal Cooke Health Care Center, a long-term care skilled nursing facility sponsored by the Archdiocese of New York and affiliated with New York Medical College.

The RCSS-TCC Clinical-Based Internship for Pre-Medical Students is a full-time (40 hours/week), 10-week summer internship from the beginning of June through the beginning of August at a local skilled nursing facility, Terence Cardinal Cooke Health Care Center.

Interns engage in experiential learning and perform quality of care and/or clinical research projects related to the care of the dying (palliative care). The internship places focus on learning through adopting and following the cases of individual patients, as well as through communicating with different levels of clinical staff. Throughout their time at TCC interns will learn about how palliative care is distinct from end of life care. Students conduct independent study projects under the guidance of medical staff and their fellow interns. All interns are required to write a final report and to present their work to the RCSS. Interns receive a stipend of \$4000. Housing is not included.

ELIGIBILITY: You may apply if you are currently a pre-med sophomore or junior student in Columbia College, Barnard College, the School of Engineering and Applied Science, or the School of General Studies.

You must have a particular interest in working with people during the last few weeks or months of life. An interest in bioethics would be expected, but is not required. The internship is competitive, with awards based on grades, previous experience, and personal statement. The most competitive applicants will be invited for a personal interview. No previous research experience is necessary and all majors are welcome to apply.

WHERE: Students will be immersed in day-to-day life at the Terence Cardinal Cooke Health Care Center (TCC) at 1249 Fifth Avenue between 105th and 106th Streets.

This is a long-term care skilled nursing facility sponsored by ArchCare, the health ministry of the Archdiocese of New York, and affiliated with New York Medical College. It provides care for patients with advanced HIV/AIDS, Huntington's disease, as well as those with cancer and other diseases that typically affect the elderly.

WHEN: Students will be working Mondays through Fridays from June 5th to August 11th, 2017.

THE SUMMER PROJECT:

1. Education: You will become familiar with the process of end-of-life care, from the personal and medical development of the patient to the administrative work done for each case. For a preview of the literature with which you will engage, please click on the [**“The Library of Dr. Anthony Lechich”**](#) tab at the top of this page.

2. Clinical: Interns will be expected to monitor the cases of several patients during the course of the internship. In addition, you will be able to follow recreational, pet and music therapists, social workers, dieticians, chaplains, nurses and CNAs (Certified Nursing Assistants) to better appreciate the role that each plays in care of the dying.

3. Research: You will be expected to perform a clinical research project during the internship. Most of the research activities are measures of patient palliative symptoms and needs, the quality of care provided and outcomes. You will be guided in developing a protocol and learning some of the basics of research methodology. At the end of the summer, you will complete a written research paper summarizing your results and will present your findings to TCC staff and RCSS affiliates. For examples of past intern research projects, please follow [this link](#).

4. Blog: In order to give your thoughts clarity and to report on your progress, you will periodically record your experiences on the RCSS-TCC blog. For past RCSS-TCC intern blog entries, please follow [this link](#).

5. Variable: Dr. Anthony Lechich, the medical director of TCC, has varied needs that fluctuate with the unpredictable nature of palliative care. He may require assistance with any number of projects ranging from grant proposals to patient record audits to surveys, to gathering/creating educational materials, etc. You will have the opportunity to assist him in some or all of these institutional-improvement projects, as well as gain an appreciation for the responsibilities of a medical director from an outstanding physician.

QUESTIONS? Please email Tess Cersonsky at tec2120@columbia.edu.