



## **Fellowship in Somatization**

**BC Children's Hospital**

**Full Time Fellowship (1 year) – Start Date between (August – October, 2020)**

**Mental Health and Concurrent Disorders**

The UBC Department of Psychiatry is inviting eligible candidates to apply for a full-time Fellowship in **Somatization**.

The University of British Columbia (UBC) is a global centre for research and teaching. Surrounded by the beauty of the Canadian West, UBC embraces bold new ways of thinking that attract exceptional students and faculty. It is a place where innovative ideas are nurtured in a globally connected research community, providing unparalleled opportunities to learn, discover and contribute.

Faculty members, students, staff and alumni in the UBC Faculty of Medicine are actively engaged in innovative, leading edge research, education and community service on university and hospital campuses across the Province. Together we aim to create knowledge and advance learning that will make a vital contribution to the health of individuals and communities, locally, nationally, and internationally.

### **Who the Fellow will work with and what will be the core of their work:**

The fellow will work closely with their primary supervisor and interdisciplinary team members including child and adolescent psychiatrists, clinical psychologists, a clinical social worker, a nurse-clinician, and pediatricians, as well as other clinical and research trainees in psychiatry and psychology. He/she will participate in at least weekly research and clinic meetings and will have opportunities for involvement in direct clinical care with children and families, dissemination of peer-reviewed research, and knowledge translation for community clinicians and the public.

### **Details of the clinical/research training experience:**

The following studies are currently underway. None require full-time research dedication for involvement.

1. Understanding pediatric somatization
  - Observing or conducting diagnostic interviews for new program assessments
  - Psychometrically evaluating a new tool for assessing somatization
  - Assessing the prevalence of somatization in other medical contexts (emergency, pain, concussion, etc.)
  - Developing a novel research question to be tested using previously collected data on 75 somatizing youth (13-18 years old) and their parents on variables such as: somatic symptoms, functional disability, healthcare utilization, readiness for change, perceptions of and responses to stress, emotion regulation, internalizing and externalizing symptoms, and parent and peer relationships
2. Group-based interventions for somatization
  - Participating as a facilitator or research observer of a 6 week group for somatizing adolescents and their parents, offered 4 times per year
  - Evaluating intervention-related changes using 3 waves of data collected (baseline, post-intervention, 6-month follow-up) on 50 families
  - Contributing to the development and evaluation of a controlled outcome study comparing the group to an active comparison group
  - Conducting qualitative research to understand the patient experience and inform new initiatives

3. Family-based treatments for somatization
  - Participating as a treatment provider and/or researcher of family-based (attachment-oriented) treatments for families of somatizing youth
  - Contributing to grant writing, developing novel research questions, and selecting measurement tools to support program evaluation
  - Conducting qualitative research to understand the patient experience and inform new initiatives
4. Knowledge translation
  - Contributing to the development and dissemination of resources for the public, patients, families, and health professionals that will support destigmatization and normalization of somatization as a mental health concern
  - Developing strategies for evaluating uptake and impact knowledge translation resources

Other Potential Opportunities:

1. Threat-related attention bias study (involving neurocognitive assessment)
2. Neuroimaging study (involving structural and functional components)
3. Systematic literature reviews and opinion pieces for publication
4. Development and evaluation of knowledge translation activities (e.g., educational modules, national practice standards, treatment guidelines, and handbooks for community physicians, mental health clinicians, and school professionals)
5. Supervision and teaching of junior research assistants and clinical trainees

To apply for this rewarding career development opportunity, please forward a letter of intent (maximally two pages), accompanied by a detailed curriculum vitae and names of three references to:

Dr. Martha J. Ignaszewski

[martha.ignaszewski@cw.bc.ca](mailto:martha.ignaszewski@cw.bc.ca)

Director, Postgraduate Training, Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, BC Children's Hospital

Applicants will have a medical degree and successful completion of a MD Residency Training Program &/OR a PhD in mental health or related fields. Applicants must be eligible for licensure/registration with the relevant health professions college (ie. College of Physicians and Surgeons of BC, College of Psychologists of BC).

**Applications will be accepted until January 31, 2021**

Salary will be commensurate with qualifications and experience. This position will operate out of the Children and Women's Mental Health and Concurrent Disorders at BC Children's Hospital.

*UBC hires on the basis of merit and is committed to employment equity. All qualified persons are encouraged to apply. UBC is strongly committed to diversity within its community and especially welcomes applications from visible minority group members, women, Aboriginal persons, persons with disabilities, persons of any sexual orientation or gender identity, and others who may contribute to the further diversification of ideas. However, Canadian and permanent residents of Canada will be given priority.*