



## **Pediatric Psychology Advanced Externship Training Program 2026-2027**

We are thrilled to offer a joint advanced pediatric psychology externship for the 2026 – 2027 training year, in collaboration with **Inova Peterson Life with Cancer (LWC)** and **Inova Children's Developmental Pediatrics Clinic**! This unique program provides in-depth training across pediatric psycho-oncology and developmental pediatrics, preparing trainees to support children, adolescents and young adults with complex medical and developmental needs and their families in inpatient and outpatient treatment settings.

### **Clinical Training Sites:**

**Inova Peterson Life with Cancer (LWC)**, a program of the Inova Schar Cancer Institute in Northern Virginia, supports children and adolescents impacted by cancer and their families. Specifically, LWC's Pediatric Program provides evidence-based consultation and therapy services to children and adolescents with cancer, their parents, caregivers, and siblings; survivors of childhood cancer; children and adolescents who have a family member with cancer; and youth bereaved by cancer.

**Inova Children's Developmental Pediatrics Clinic**, part of the Inova Children's Multispecialty Clinic in Fairfax, VA, supports children and adolescents ages 18 months – 21 years with neurodiversity and developmental disorders. We provide diagnostic and consultation services to children with a range of developmental, genetic and complex medical conditions including Autism Spectrum Disorder, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder, Global Developmental Delay, Communication Disorders, and Intellectual Disabilities.

### **Training Opportunities:**

#### **Major Rotations (concurrent throughout training year):**

##### **Pediatric Psychology Inpatient Services at Inova L.J. Murphy Children's Hospital (Major Rotation):**

Externs will provide evidence-based pediatric psychology services to children, adolescents and young adults with cancer while hospitalized at Inova Children's. Common training activities include:

- 1) Routine new cancer diagnosis coping consultations
- 2) Pediatric psychology consults and follow-up treatment for ongoing coping/adjustment concerns, depression, anxiety, nonpharmacological pain management, nonadherence to medical treatment, behavioral challenges, and grief/loss
- 3) Individual and family therapy using brief CBT and family systems interventions
- 4) Parent guidance/Psychoeducation
- 5) Ongoing consultation/liaison with medical and psychosocial oncology treatment teams (e.g., physicians, nurses, case manager, child life specialist, music therapist, and rehab therapists)
- 6) Participation in medical rounds and psychosocial oncology rounds



**Psychological Services in Developmental Pediatrics at Inova Children's Multispecialty Clinic (Major Rotation):**

Externs will provide evidence-based diagnostic services to children and adolescents at Inova Children's Multispecialty Clinic in Developmental Pediatrics. Common training activities include:

- 1) Diagnostic intake interviews with caregivers
- 2) Neuropsychological evaluations including cognitive, academic, fine motor, attention, and emotional-behavioral assessments
- 3) Feedback with caregivers and psychoeducation on evidence-based treatment plans for developmental diagnoses including Autism Spectrum Disorder, ADHD, Global Developmental Delay, and mood and anxiety disorders
- 4) Ongoing consultation with medical/clinical treatment team (e.g., developmental pediatricians, speech and language pathologist, nurses, and nurse navigator)

**Minor Rotation (availability based on extern interest):**

**Pediatric Psychology Outpatient Services at Life with Cancer's Family Center (Minor Rotation):**

Externs may participate in a broad range of outpatient interventions based on level of interest and experience:

- 1) Individual therapy, emphasizing cognitive behavioral approaches, for the following populations:
  - a. children, adolescents and young adults with cancer
  - b. survivors of childhood cancer
  - c. children and adolescents who have a family member with cancer
  - d. bereaved children and adults
- 2) Parent Consultations/Psychoeducation
- 3) Psychoeducational and skills groups for children, adolescents and/or parents

**Supervision:**

Externs will receive at least two hours of face-to-face, individual supervision per week from primary supervisors Shari Langer, PsyD and Emily Nichols, PhD.

**Didactics:**

Psychosocial and medical oncology rounds, Pediatric Team Journal Club/Case Discussion

**Number of Positions Available:** 1-2 externs will be selected

**Qualifications:**

- Formal coursework in child development and prior child/adolescent therapy experience is required.
- Prior experience administering standardized cognitive and academic evaluations to children and adolescents is required.
- Prior experience in a hospital setting or working with medically ill children is preferred but not required.



- Prior experience working with individuals with developmental disorders is preferred but not required.

This externship is best suited for a fourth year predoctoral student. However, advanced third year students with child/adolescent therapy and testing experience will also be considered.

**Locations:** Inova L.J. Murphy Children's Hospital  
3300 Gallows Rd  
Falls Church, VA 22042

Inova Peterson Life with Cancer Family Center  
8411 Pennell Street  
Fairfax, VA 22031

Inova Children's Multispecialty Clinic  
8280 Willow Oak Corporate Center Dr.  
Ste 300  
Fairfax, VA 22031

***\*Free and ample parking is available at all locations.***

***\*Distance between locations is less than 1 mile.***

**Time Commitment:** 16 hours over 2 days per week. Start and end date is negotiable, but at a minimum must include September through May. Tuesdays and Thursdays are preferred.

**Application Procedure:**

- Please email a letter of interest, CV, two letters of recommendation, and deidentified assessment report to Shari Langer, PsyD at [Shari.Langer@inova.org](mailto:Shari.Langer@inova.org) by 02/09/2026.
- Selected applicants will be scheduled for interviews in February and/or early March.

**\*\*Should you require additional information about this externship program, please contact Dr. Langer at [Shari.Langer@inova.org](mailto:Shari.Langer@inova.org) or (703) 776-2738.**