Summary: This pre-doctoral experience is a joint training activity between the NPIH Outpatient clinical services and the School of Dentistry at UCLA. The Clinic provides evidence-based assessment and treatment services for patients with chronic medical conditions (e.g., arthritis, lupus, insomnia) and for patients with dental pain.

Available openings: 1

Hours: 20 hours per week. The extern’s time will be evenly divided between psychiatry and the School of Dentistry. Mondays are reserved for the pain clinic at the School of Dentistry. The schedule on other days will be devoted to psychiatry and will be arranged with the Externship Supervisor.

Clientele: Patients with chronic rheumatic conditions (e.g., rheumatoid arthritis, lupus), insomnia, and dental pain. Patients are adults and are of varying ethnicity and socioeconomic status. The majority of rheumatic patients and insomniacs are female. Patients with these conditions often have co-morbid psychiatric disorders such as depression and anxiety.

Clinical Activities: At the Norman Cousins Center for Psychoneuroimmunology (NPIH), clinical research is conducted on the psychosocial management and treatment of patients with conditions such as rheumatoid arthritis, lupus, and insomnia. Externs will participate in the evaluation of patients and may have the opportunity to serve as co-therapists in group behavioral and psychoeducational treatments. At the pain clinic of the UCLA School of Dentistry, the extern will perform assessments of the psychological functioning of patients and evaluate the nature of their pain and coping processes. They will provide consultation to clinicians on the psychological functioning of patients that may affect their dental care. Psychiatric follow-up for patients at both sites is often necessary.

Special Requirements: This externship is for 3rd and 4th year Ph.D. students from APA-approved Clinical Psychology programs. Interested applicants should have an educational background and professional interests in health psychology and applied behavioral medicine. Applicants with public health aptitude and interests are especially encouraged to apply. Prior didactic training in psychological assessment, psychopathology, and systems of therapy also is essential.

Supervision: The extern will receive two hours of individual supervision, one hour at each site, per week. The extern will be encouraged to attend weekly Psychiatry Grand Rounds, case conferences, and lectures within the School of Medicine and dentistry.

Applications: Submit a letter of interest, CV, and 2 letters of recommendation by March 1. Students will be contacted for an interview. Submit applications via email to Dr. Perry Nicassio at pnicassio@mednet.ucla.edu.
Supervisor: Perry M. Nicassio, Ph.D., Clinical Professor of Psychiatry, 300 UCLA Medical Plaza, Los Angeles, CA. 90095-7076, (Ph) 310-825-3141.

Co-Supervisors: Jennifer L. Pike, Ph.D., (NPIH), and John Reeves, Ph.D. (School of Dentistry)