Thank you for your interest in considering Child and Adolescent Psychiatry subspecialty training with the University of Calgary Cumming School of Medicine Department of Psychiatry.

On behalf of the program, I am proud to inform you that we will successfully graduate our next 2 trainees from the Child and Adolescent Subspecialty Program this year. (Dr. Brett Sawchuck and Dr. Alex DiNinno). I am pleased to welcome our first year subspecialty trainees.

In the fall of 2009, the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada accepted Child and Adolescent Psychiatry as a fully recognized subspecialty of psychiatry, and its curriculum follows the Royal College published documents on the Objectives of Training and the Specialty Requirements. This takes the form of a two-year subspecialty-training program. The first year of training may occur as early as the PGY 5 year within the resident’s 5-year Psychiatry residency program and the second year as a PGY 6 year, The University of Calgary’s child and adolescent psychiatry subspecialty program has received accreditation by the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada.

The sub-specialty program trainee is expected to have demonstrated the requisite knowledge, skills, and attitudes demanded by general psychiatry in accordance with the General Objectives of Training and Specialty Training Requirements in Psychiatry. In addition, to be considered eligible for the examination in the subspecialty of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, an examination applicant must have successfully completed the RCPSC examination in psychiatry or its equivalent.

Based on the current need for Child and Adolescent Psychiatrists and capacity to train residents, the University of Calgary is recruiting two resident/sub-specialty trainees per year. The University of Calgary is in a strong position to support its two year Child and Adolescent Psychiatry Residency Training Program with 40 Child and Adolescent Psychiatrists on faculty. We have an excellent centralized intake system which accepts about 3,500 referrals each year into a variety of practice settings across the spectrum of need. There are excellent opportunities for research with solid administrative support for teaching and educational placements. We have an established and successful seminar series already in place for our current Psychiatry residents.
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Rotations will occur at the Mental Health Unit at Alberta Children’s Hospital, Units 23 and 26 at Foothills Medical Centre, Unit 56-A at South Health Campus, Adolescent Addictions Centre, ambulatory clinics, and community sites including outreach clinics. In addition, eating disorders, child development, child welfare, forensic psychiatry, family therapy, neuropsychiatry, and school-based consultation will be elective options in the curriculum.

The subspecialty training requirements will be met by the University of Calgary subspecialty-training program in the manner outlined by the curriculum map:

Year One will involve rotations in inpatient child and adolescent psychiatry (six months) and electives/selectives (six months). Further details will be dependent on the specifics of available inpatient sites and trainee interests.

Year Two will include outpatient child and adolescent psychiatry clinic experiences (minimum duration of six months or equivalent longitudinal experiences) in a minimum of three hospital or community-based settings (which may include community-based outpatient clinics, adolescent day treatment program, children’s day treatment program, pediatric consultation-liaison, emergency room psychiatry, school-based consultation, consultation to the Calgary Young Offenders Centre, consultation to Calgary and area Child and Family Services) and electives/selectives (maximum duration of six months). Further details will be dependent on the specifics of available out-patient rotation opportunities and trainee interests.

The Final Year experience will involve a combination of mandatory and elective/selective experiences. During the mandatory rotations in child and adolescent psychiatry outpatient settings, the trainee will be expected to perform in a nearly independent capacity in providing clinical care to the complex psychiatrically ill patients encountered over the course of these rotations. The trainee will continue to be supported by indirect supervision and feedback which will form the basis of the evaluation of final year trainees.

Child and Adolescent Psychiatry at the University of Calgary is well integrated with Alberta Health Services and has an excellent relationship with the Department of Pediatrics, which can provide additional clinical research opportunities for the Child and Adolescent Psychiatry residents. Additional resources and opportunities for training can be found in primary care with Family Medicine and community Pediatrics. There are also well established links with the highly successful community NGO’s that provide services for Children involved with Special Educational services and Child welfare: such as Woods Homes and Hull Homes.

Other resources include research mentoring from the Mathison Centre.

Regarding the educational seminar curriculum, this will include a systematic review of developmental issues and problems from a biopsychosocial perspective with particular emphasis on autistic disorders and neurodevelopment disorders such as fetal alcohol spectrum disorder.
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The role of adverse childhood events on the outcomes of mental and physical health will be examined through a review of child neglect, abuse and domestic violence. There will also be a series of seminars and required reading on the identification of child and adolescent mental health disorders, including a systematic review of best practice treatment methods including psychotherapy and pharmacological interventions.

Please feel encouraged to contact us for any further information in regard to this program.

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