

**A sampling of *MEDICINE AND PUBLIC HEALTH* and  
*AIDS prevention and research*  
field placements available through  
*The Philadelphia Center:***

**COMHAR Adult Beginnings; Intern:** Founded in 1975, COMHAR helps people of all ages and cultures in the community who have developmental disabilities, mental health concerns, physical limitations and other challenges. COMHAR provides assistance at home and a broad array of services at locations throughout Greater Philadelphia and lower Montgomery County. Providing a range of responsive programs, COMHAR's behavioral health services treat individuals who need help coping with life stresses and those who live with chronic mental illness or addiction. The Behavioral Health Division's broad array of specialized programs addresses the needs of diverse populations, including the elderly, the Latino community, individuals diagnosed with HIV/AIDS, and those who struggle with substance abuse. Services include psychiatric evaluation; social history and assessment; psychological testing; individual, group and family psychotherapy; psychotropic medication assessment and monitoring; and evaluation of the need for other services and referrals. The Beginnings Program is a psychiatric rehabilitation program that addresses the needs of individuals with co-occurring mental health and substance abuse disorders who are in recovery. Students work as counseling assistants with bachelors and master's level professional staff. This placement offers the intern an excellent opportunity to learn counseling techniques, psychiatric rehabilitation skills, and work with people in recovery on an individual and group basis. Additionally, interns will learn about developing recovery plans and other documentation skills. Students learn how to work with individuals in various stages of recovery from both mental health and substance abuse. The program is both site and community based.

**Eleventh Street Family Health Services; Community Health Intern:**

The Eleventh Street Family Health Services of Drexel University (ESFHSDU) operates a nurse-managed health center in an area of north Philadelphia known as the "11th Street Corridor." The health center grew out of a partnership between the University College of Nursing & Health and the Philadelphia Housing Authority (PHA) to address health issues of the residents of four public housing developments in a medically underserved area. In 2003, ESFHSDU gained Federally Qualified Health Center status and moved into a new facility on 11th Street. The building is in walking distance of all four housing developments, and provides primary care space for a number of providers to work simultaneously. The health center now provides a full range of FQHC services including primary care, behavioral health and health promotion/ disease prevention services. The center gained national recognition when it received the Community Service Excellence Award from HRSA in October 2000, for its work in delivering needed health care services to inner-city residents. Terrific opportunity to learn about innovative and community empowering health care options. Intern responsibilities include a wide range of duties that include shadowing a nurse practitioner in primary care; performing chart audits and patient satisfaction surveys; learning to use the electronic medical records system; co-teaching in after-school programs; making and distributing flyers throughout the community; delivering welcome baskets; helping with clothing drives; writing and directing video on the health center; and more. Perfect for students interested in public health policy and practices, nurse-managed health care, nursing, or a medical career.

**Maternity Care Coalition MOMobile; Advocate:** Maternity Care Coalition's mission is to improve maternal and child health and well-being through the collaborative efforts of

individuals, families, providers and communities. MCC's MOMobile Program began in 1989 as a community-based outreach and family support program for pregnant women, new parents, infants and their families. Community health workers called MOMobile Advocates help families negotiate health care and social service systems, linking them to prenatal care, pediatric and women's health care, no cost or low cost health insurance for children, behavioral health services, nutrition programs and other community resources. Advocates also facilitate voter registration, cultural mediation and disseminate welfare to work information. Advocates provide health education (including HIV prevention and lead poisoning reduction) and case management to families through the new baby's first birthday. Students interested in social work, human service, public health, health, counseling, advocacy, and working with families would benefit from placement at the Maternity Care Coalition.

**University of Pennsylvania, AIDS Clinical Trial Unit; Research Intern:** The University of Pennsylvania's AIDS Clinical Trials Unit (ACTU) is one of 32 research groups funded by the National Institute of Health (NIH) that run clinical trials with people living with HIV. These research groups coordinate patient visits, blood draws, and individual data management and then electronically transfer it to the NIH data pool. The end results are nationwide clinical trials that determine the standard of care for HHIV management in the U.S. The University of Pennsylvania's ACTU is headed by Dr. Pablo Tebas, and the Research Assistant is supervised by Joe Quinn, RN, Unit Coordinator. The Unit also consists of a Data Manager, a Quality Manager, Secretary, Pharmacist, and four additional R.N.s. The AIDS Clinical Trials Unit Research Assistant will have the opportunity to learn as much as possible about HIV/AIDS, infectious diseases, and the clinical trials process. On-the-job activities include shadowing study nurses at the various sites where they see patients; shadowing clinic nurses; attending lectures with medical students on Infectious Disease Rotation; attending Infectious Disease Grand Rounds and Management Conferences; doing inpatient rounds with doctors; and more. Candidate should be interested in medicine and highly self-motivated. This placement is quite flexible, but the student here will need to identify and determine his/her goals early on and identify projects and tasks that will fulfill those goals. With access to medical students, residents, fellows, nurses, and various doctors, this placement helps provide a complete picture of the variety of careers in medicine. Patient interaction is another major learning aspect of the placement.

**Philadelphia Fight; HIV Training Program Intern:** Philadelphia FIGHT (FIGHT) is a comprehensive AIDS service organization providing primary care, consumer education, advocacy and research on potential treatments and vaccines. FIGHT was formed as a partnership of individuals living with HIV/AIDS and clinicians, who joined together to improve the lives of people living with the disease. Philadelphia FIGHT is a community-based organization focusing on treatment, research, care and education by and for people with HIV/AIDS. Student will assist with all duties necessary for 8-week HIV treatment education.

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