



**Internship Title:** Improving the Physical Health of People with Serious Mental Illness: A Qualitative Analysis

**Placement organization:** Division of Mental Health Services and Policy Research, Columbia Psychiatry  
<http://columbiapsychiatry.org/research/Mental-Health-Services-Policy-Research>

**Internship Description:** 2 interns are required for the following study which aims to identify the factors that help or hinder the implementation and sustainability of integration between behavioral and physical health services. Background and Process: Over the past five years New York State has heavily expanded its efforts to integrate care through various initiatives funded at either the federal or state level. In this study (currently ongoing) researchers will visit 6-8 clinics in New York State that have been awarded (either currently or in the past) a grant to comprehensively integrate behavioral health and primary care. The visits will comprise of a facilities tour, a focus group with senior clinicians and administrators and semi-structured interviews with frontline clinicians. This data gathering exercise will be used to identify structural, process and contextual factors that help or hinder uptake of integration initiatives at different phases of the implementation process (i.e. at adoption, capacity-building, maturation and maintenance). The study has a particular focus on the sustainability of services beyond the life of the grant so 50 'inactive' grantees (in whom the grant has run out) will also be contacted across the country to identify what physical health services have been maintained. In addition, the study will conduct key informant interviews at sites using the other mechanisms to integrate care (beyond grant funding). This is to identify contrast factors that may be relevant to the implementation of integration through different means.

**Supervisor:** Dr Parashar Ramanuj MBBS, MRCPsych - a UK Psychiatrist who has been awarded a Fellowship by the Commonwealth Fund. <http://www.commonwealthfund.org/grants-and-fellowships/fellowships/harkness-fellowships/2015-2016-fellows/parashar-ramanuj>

Dr Harold Pincus, M.D. Professor and Vice Chair, Department of Psychiatry, College of Physicians and Surgeons; Co-Director, Irving Institute for Clinical and Translational Research, Columbia University; Director of Quality and Outcomes Research, NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital

**Location of Internship:** New York State Psychiatric Institute

**Internship requirements:** Over 4 months (time commitments = approximately one half-day per week), the research assistant(s) will help with: recruiting participating clinics; collection of qualitative data on site visits (focus groups and individual semi-structured interviews) and analysis of qualitative data  
In return, the assistant will:

- Be trained in qualitative data gathering techniques
- Learn the analysis of qualitative data through the iterative rapid assessment technique
- Help generate a peer-reviewed publication