

Postdoctoral Fellowship in Health Equity and Basic Behavioral and Psychological Sciences Research

December 2021

The National Cancer Institute (NCI) [Basic Biobehavioral and Psychological Sciences Branch \(BBPSB\)](#) is pleased to invite applications from qualified candidates for a Cancer Research Training Award (CRTA) fellowship. BBPSB supports research fundamental to understanding human behaviors, social context, decision-making, and clinical practices associated with cancer etiology, prevention, screening, detection, diagnosis, treatment, and survivorship. Learn more about the [BBPSB mission and structure](#).

BBPSB seeks to expand the diversity of study populations to further understand mechanisms and patterns of cancer-relevant behaviors and decisions and generate knowledge of how living systems interact with - and are influenced by - experiences at the individual, family, social, organizational, and environmental levels. Such knowledge can inform the development of evidence-based solutions to health differences primarily driven by behavioral, social, economic, and ecological factors. As such, candidates trained in health equity research with a biopsychosocial background are encouraged to apply. Competitive candidates will demonstrate knowledge or interest in using their training to cultivate a health equity and cancer-relevant basic behavioral and psychological sciences research portfolio.

This full-time position is based in Rockville, Maryland,* and provides an outstanding opportunity for training and professional development in basic behavioral and psychological sciences research and health equity.

POSITION DESCRIPTION

As a member of BBPSB, the CRTA fellow will apply a health equity lens to the research domains cultivated by the branch, which include, but are not limited to

- Cognition, emotion, judgment, and decision making
- Sensation, attention, and perception
- Mechanisms through which psychological, behavioral, or social experiences influence cancer biology and outcomes
- Methodology and measurement of biobehavioral moderators and mediators
- Identification and validation of individual or dyadic mechanisms underlying cancer-relevant behaviors and decisions
- Short- and long-term effects of cancer and cancer treatment
- Psychological and behavioral aspects of cancer treatment adherence
- Ethical issues in behavioral research

Specific duties include but are not limited to

- Conducting literature reviews and synthesizing scientific content
- Collaborating on web- or laboratory-based surveys and experiments
- Performing data analyses or meta-analyses for scientific manuscripts, reports, and presentations
- Analyzing the research grants portfolio
- Leading and/or assisting with workshops, meetings, and webinars
- Writing manuscripts for peer reviewed journals



To learn more about the BRP fellows, or to get in contact with current fellows, please see our online staff directory at cancercontrol.cancer.gov/brpfellows.

QUALIFICATIONS

- Ph.D. or equivalent degree in psychology, behavioral science, public health, sociology, or a related field with training in health equity research (highly qualified Ph.D. candidates will be considered)
- Experience or interest in taking a multilevel perspective to examine health equity issues in the context of cancer risk and preventive behaviors
- Skills in research design and statistics, and experience or interest in examining underrepresented or underserved populations
- Excellent academic standing (and post-degree professional record, if applicable)
- Excellent interpersonal skills and ability to work independently and in teams
- Excellent organizational skills and experience managing multiple projects

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

1. Cover letter describing your interest in this fellowship, your professional background, and your career development goals
2. Resume or curriculum vitae
3. Two professional letters of reference on official letterhead
4. A writing sample

Application materials may be submitted via email to Donna Hopkins at donna.hopkins@nih.gov. For questions about the position, contact [Rebecca Ferrer](#) or [Amanda Acevedo](#).

Highly ranked candidates will receive a request to submit proof of U.S. citizenship (photocopy of birth certificate or passport) or resident alien status (Green Card) and official transcripts and/or proof of good academic standing of highest degree conferred. If currently enrolled in school, Proof of Academic Good Standing must be sent on official letterhead and signed by a graduate studies program director, advisor, or equivalent.

The National Cancer Institute is an Equal Opportunity Employer. We are committed to creating a diverse and inclusive work environment.

APPLICATION DEADLINE

This announcement will remain active until the position has been filled.

START DATE

March 2022 (negotiable)

STIPEND AND BENEFITS

This position is a one-year, full-time Cancer Research Training Award (CRTA) Fellowship with a possibility for renewal. Stipends for CRTA Fellows are adjusted yearly and are commensurate with academic achievement and relevant experience. [Get more information about stipends](#).

Benefits include health insurance at no cost and a wide range of career development and social activities. The office is located in Rockville, Maryland,* and is easily accessible by car or public transportation from surrounding locations in Maryland and Washington, DC.

* **Coronavirus Pandemic Notice** - All BRP staff are currently on remote work status. A phased return to the physical workspace is currently in development.