

Cancer Research Training Award Fellowship in Health Behaviors Research

September 2023

ABOUT THE BEHAVIORAL RESEARCH PROGRAM

The National Cancer Institute (NCI) Behavioral Research Program (BRP), within the Division of Cancer Control and Population Sciences (DCCPS), welcomes applications for a Cancer Research Training Award (CRTA) fellowship in the Health Behaviors Research Branch (HBRB). Learn more about [HBRB and its key initiatives](#).

This fellowship offers outstanding training and professional development opportunities that support program activities and contribute to the scientific literature in cancer-related health behaviors and behavioral health. CRTA fellows interact and collaborate with researchers across NCI and the broader research community in areas including public health, behavioral health, health psychology, health communication, psychological sciences, exercise and nutritional science, cancer care delivery, cancer disparities, epidemiology and genomics, policy analysis, and cancer surveillance.

Fellows with expertise in one or more of the following areas are especially encouraged to apply. Areas include

- design and testing of cancer-related behavioral interventions,
- multilevel and policy research aimed at improving cancer-related health behaviors,
- implementation of interventions to improve health behaviors and behavioral health for cancer survivors,
- the intersection of cancer-related health behavior change with mitigation and adaptation to climate change,
- the intersection of cancer-related health behavior change, social determinants of health (SDOH), and cancer disparities, and
- emerging cancer risk factors and associated behavioral and psychological issues, such as alcohol and substance use, mental health, and sleep and circadian function.

POSITION DESCRIPTION

As a member of HBRB, the CRTA fellow will work collaboratively on projects to address cancer-related behaviors (e.g., diet and nutrition, physical activity, sun safety, sleep, substance use, medication adherence) and associated factors (e.g., SDOH, mental health, family, environment, culture, policy) to advance behavioral and social science for cancer prevention and control. Fellows are often involved in initiatives relating to early phase translation or the development, testing, and implementation of integrated, multilevel strategies to support individual and population health. Day-to-day activities may include

- conducting literature reviews and synthesizing scientific content,
- performing data analyses or meta-analyses for scientific manuscripts, reports, and presentations,
- collaborating on web- or laboratory-based surveys and experiments,
- writing journal articles and reports and presenting findings at scientific conferences,
- analyzing the research grants portfolio, and
- leading and/or assisting with workshops, scientific presentations and meetings, and webinars.

Additionally, fellows are encouraged to initiate and develop their own research projects.

QUALIFICATIONS

Candidates with a PhD or equivalent degree (or highly qualified PhD candidates)—from a wide range of disciplinary backgrounds, including psychology, behavioral medicine, implementation science, public health, geography, environmental science, health services research, and computational modeling—are encouraged to apply. Candidates should have a strong interest in interdisciplinary behavioral and social science research in cancer prevention and control, particularly in behavioral interventions and clinical trials, multilevel and policy research, implementation and health sciences research, and/or cross-disciplinary areas of behavioral science (see [HBRB key initiatives](#) for additional information).

Candidates must demonstrate strong organizational, planning, writing, and project management skills. Effective interpersonal skills and an openness to working in emerging areas are required as HBRB activities involve novel interdisciplinary, collaborative, team-based efforts. The successful applicant must be a self-starter who is comfortable taking initiative and who can play a major role in completing several projects. Other qualifications include

- experience conducting research or serving as a research assistant on a scientific project,
- data management and/or analysis skills (proficiency with statistical software packages like SAS), and
- preferred, but not required, experience with questionnaire design/development.

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

1. Cover letter describing your interest in the fellowship and in health behaviors research, your professional development and career goals, how this fellowship will help you achieve them, and how your skills and interests will contribute to the HBRB mission. Include your experience in public health, health behavior and behavioral intervention, implementation or policy research, and/or data analysis (limit 2 pages)
2. Resume or curriculum vitae
3. Two signed letters of reference on official letterhead or sent from your reference's email (can be submitted separately)

Submit application materials to ncidccpsbrpadvances@mail.nih.gov. For questions about the position, contact [Dr. Susan Czajkowski](#).

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

DCCPS is deeply committed to building a diverse health sciences workforce that maintains, fosters, and promotes an equitable, inclusive, accessible, and nurturing work environment. Diverse teams foster scientific innovation, improve the quality of research, contribute their lived experiences to a robust learning environment, advance the likelihood that underserved or health disparity populations participate and benefit from health research, and enhance public trust.

APPLICATION DEADLINE AND START DATE

Applications will be accepted until the position is filled. The preferred start date is fall 2023 (negotiable).

STIPEND AND BENEFITS

This position is a one-year, full-time fellowship with a possibility for renewal. Stipends for CRTA fellows are adjusted yearly and are commensurate with academic achievement and relevant experience. View the [stipend range](#) for the initial appointment of CRTA fellows.

Benefits include health insurance at no cost and a 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.

To learn more about BRP staff, please see our [online staff directory](#). You are encouraged to contact current and past fellows, mentors, and other staff members to learn more about the BRP fellow experience.