

Health Behavior Theory

Postdoctoral Fellowship

The National Cancer Institute (NCI), the largest Institute at the National Institutes of Health (NIH), is pleased to invite applications from qualified candidates for a one to five-year post-doctoral position in the area of health behavior theory.

The Cancer Research Training Award (CRTA) Fellowship is a full-time position within the Basic and Biobehavioral Research Branch of the Behavioral Research Program in the Division of Cancer Control and Population Sciences (DCCPS) at the National Cancer Institute and will be based in their Rockville, Maryland office. The fellow will function as a member of the Behavioral Research Program and work with scientists on projects aimed at advancing the development, use and testing of health behavior theory in basic and applied cancer prevention and control research. The position will allow the applicant to interact with a large number of scientists representing the disciplines such as medicine, basic sciences, psychology, epidemiology, public health, nursing, social work, sociology, and medical anthropology at the NCI, the NIH and at institutions around the country in efforts to stimulate and facilitate collaborations for advancing theory.

Position Description:

Primary responsibility for this training fellowship includes assisting in initiatives related to the Theories Project in the Behavioral Research Program. The goal of the Theories Project is to identify and carry out activities that will help develop improved theories of health behavior. The Theories Project is composed of numerous initiatives and thus far has included ways to influence training of new social scientists, to recruit theoretically-oriented behavioral scientists to cancer control research, to assist these scientists with new research tools, and to provide them financial and other supports. The recipient of this award will be an integral member of the Theories Project team, leading and assisting ongoing and future health behavior theory related projects across a variety of topic areas such as cancer screening, physical activity and tobacco control.

Projects may include:

- efforts to advance theory by combining existing longitudinal data sets through the development of meetings, funding mechanisms, and other initiatives;
- support and advancement of tools to facilitate the use of theoretical constructs and measures, such as enhancing and supporting existing web sites and developing innovative methods for linking Theories Project tools with other DCCP and NCI initiatives;
- development of training workshops and research partnership forums for incorporating social psychological theory in cancer control research;
- writing and editing of journal supplements focused on advancing theory, including literature reviews, research portfolio analyses and methodological and application manuscripts (e.g., mediational analysis, cancer screening).

The recipient will engage in a variety of training opportunities such as, participation in numerous lecture series sponsored by DCCPS, NCI and NIH, mentoring by scientific program staff, attendance and presentation at scientific conferences and continued training in theoretical issues, cancer control and relevant statistics and methodological approaches.

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Qualifications:

Ph.D. or equivalent degree in social science research or related area is required. The candidate should have a strong interest and demonstrate expertise in health behavior theory; and skills in quantitative methods (e.g., mediational analysis or meta-analytic techniques) are preferred. The candidate also must demonstrate strong writing skills. Additionally, strong interpersonal skills are required as this is a collaborative, team-based effort. The candidate must be a self-starter who is comfortable taking initiative and who can play a major role in helping to bring several projects to completion.

In order to qualify for the position, the candidate must be a U.S. citizen or resident alien. A candidate with an I-551 stamp in their passport can also qualify since this is temporary verification of permanent residency status pending issuance of the green card. Individuals with "Employment Authorization" documents (EADs) do not meet eligibility criteria.

Stipend/Benefits:

This position is a one- to five-year full-time Cancer Research Training Award (CRTA) position. A one-year commitment is made with the possibility of yearly renewals up to five years. Stipend is commensurate with relevant work experience and education. The stipend range is \$42,600 to \$66,100. Health benefits are available. Some flexibility in work hours will be allowed. Participation in conferences and continued training in theoretical issues, cancer control and relevant statistics and methodological approaches is encouraged and supported.

Additional Information:

Please send inquiries or application materials by electronic mail only directly to Kara L. Hall, Ph.D. at hallka@mail.nih.gov. Applications must be received by January 31, 2009 and should include:

- Cover e-mail message/letter and contact information with an explanation of your interest and experience in health behavior theory and social science research methodology. Also describe how the CRTA fellowship will further your career goals. Please provide your earliest possible start date.
- Curriculum Vitae or Résumé
- Writing sample
- Two letters of reference from supervisors or professors signed and on letterhead with email addresses and phone numbers included. If signed letters are unavailable electronically, an initial unsigned version is acceptable with the remainder of the application packet; however, a signed copy must follow by mail to the address below.
- Graduate transcripts. If an official transcript is unavailable electronically, an unofficial transcript is acceptable with the remainder of the application packet; however, an official transcript must follow by mail to the address below.
- Mailing address: NCI, Division of Cancer Control and Population Sciences, Behavioral Research Program, Basic and Biobehavioral Research Branch, ATTN: Kara L. Hall, 6130 Executive Blvd, Room 4078, MSC 7326, Bethesda, MD 20892-7326.

See the following Web site for previous and ongoing examples of theory-related projects:
http://cancercontrol.cancer.gov/brp/theories_project/index.html;

Selection for this position will be based solely on merit, with no discrimination for non-merit reasons such as race, color, gender, national origin, age, religion, sexual orientation or physical or mental disability. NIH is an equal opportunity employer.

<http://dccps.nci.nih.gov/brp/>