



## Training the Next Generation of Minority Health & Health Disparities Researchers

NIAAA seeks to identify and provide mentored training experience for researchers from ethnic/ racial minority groups and for health disparities investigators. The goal of all these research training programs is to ensure that a diverse, highly trained workforce is available to assume leadership roles related to the Nation's biomedical, behavioral, and clinical health disparities research agenda.

**Institutional Training Grants (T32s)**—These grants are awarded to eligible institutions to provide research training opportunities for individuals, selected by the institution, who are training for careers in alcohol-related areas of biomedical, behavioral, and clinical research. Currently, two of NIAAA's T32 programs in the Southwest are led by Hispanic-American researchers and another is headed by an Asian-American scientist. Ethnic/racial minority scholars are trained at the 30 NIAAA-sponsored T32 programs across the country.

**Individual Pre- and Postdoctoral Training Awards (F31 and F32)**—NIAAA awards individual fellowships for candidates who would like to receive training in alcohol research under the guidance of a senior alcohol researcher. The applicant, together with his/her sponsor(s) and institution, are jointly responsible for planning, directing, and executing the proposed project. NIAAA currently funds 17 F31 and 4 F32 awards to pre- and postdoctoral fellows who are either from racial/ethnic populations and/or who are focusing on health disparity research such as, "Understanding Alcohol Use Among African-American Youth" and "ALDH2, ADH1B and Alcohol Expectancies in Asian Americans."

**Mentored K-Awards (K01, K23, and K08)**—These grants are designed to support the career development of promising investigators who have made a commitment to focus their research on alcohol by providing support for 3 to 5 years of supervised study and research. The mentored career awards allow the applicant to develop independent research skills and to gain experience in advanced intervention and statistical methods and experimental approaches needed to become an independent alcohol investigator. NIAAA has awarded 12 mentored K-awards to African-American, American Indian/Alaska Native, Asian American/Pacific Islander, and Hispanic American investigators and/or investigators training to conduct health disparities-related alcohol research. Examples include "Culturally Adapted Motivational Interviewing for Hispanics" and "Culturally Appropriate Treatment for Native Americans."

**Diversity Supplements to Promote Diversity in Health-Related Research**—The goal of this program is to improve the diversity of the research workforce by supporting and recruiting students, postdoctorates, and eligible investigators from under-represented groups to work closely with the principal investigators on research grants in order to gain research skills and experiences. NIAAA currently invests more than \$2 million dollars annually to support a diverse group of investigators, including 15 Black, 10 Hispanic, 2 Asian, and 1 American Indian researchers on diversity supplements.

**NIAAA Contact: Dr. Judith A. Arroyo, [jarroyo@mail.nih.gov](mailto:jarroyo@mail.nih.gov)**

