

Interdisciplinary Research Training Institute on Hispanic Drug Abuse

announces the 2011

Summer Training Program June 1 - 11, 2011

at the
University of HOUSTON
Center for Drug & Social Policy Research

funded by
National Institutes of Health, National Institute on Drug Abuse



Hispanic Drug Abuse Research

While drug abuse in the U.S. continues to have a disproportionate impact on ethnic minorities, particularly Hispanics, the number of researchers studying the problem remains relatively small. Moreover, few training and research centers exist that focus on current drug abuse issues among Hispanic populations. The need to prepare the next generation of drug researchers in this field is acute. Specifically, there is a need to train researchers to develop a broad-based set of scientific knowledge and research skills that will equip them for the conduct of interdisciplinary drug abuse research.

Interdisciplinary Research Training Institute

The *Interdisciplinary Research Training Institute (IRTI) on Hispanic Drug Abuse* promotes the career development of pre-doctoral, post-doctoral and early career scientists interested in conducting research on drug abuse among Hispanics. The IRTI is funded by the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) and provides three core activities to research fellows including: Training, Mentoring and Networking. The aim is to ensure a constant support infrastructure for fellows to conduct, present, publish and acquire funding for National Institutes of Health (NIH) research. The IRTI conducts an intensive interdisciplinary summer training program along with a formal mentorship process. To foster a formal mentoring relationship between the fellow and a senior faculty mentor, the IRTI provides a variety of organized mentorship activities during a period of two years. These include mentor commitment and support for travel to: 1) mentor institution; 2) professional conferences/workshops; and 3) IRTI Mentoring Annual Meetings.

IRTI Summer Training Program

The IRTI on Hispanic Drug Abuse Summer Training Program is the initial core activity of the institute. Selected fellows will attend an 11-day interdisciplinary training, led by NIDA funded scientists. The training includes a series of didactic lectures and discussions, imparting general and specialized knowledge and specific research skills. An equal balance of clinically focused social and behavioral scientists and bio-medical scientists will lead this training. Additionally, fellows can choose one of two intensive workshop series specific to the socio-behavioral or bio-medical areas of Hispanic drug abuse. The summer training program integrates the overarching theme of translational research bringing the social, behavioral, biological and medical sciences to the clinic or to community prevention and service provision.

During the course of the 11-day program, fellows have the opportunity to meet, receive consultation and begin to foster potential mentoring relationships with senior faculty who are experts in the fellows' area of interest. The fellow will be required to develop or re-

fine a research prospectus during the course of the summer training program. This prospectus will take the form of an NIH research application (7 pages) that will be submitted and orally presented to a panel of NIH researchers on the final day of the summer training program.

The IRTI Summer Training Program is held at the University of Houston main campus. Selected fellows will receive travel to/from Houston, Texas, lodging, meals and a \$500 stipend.

Expectations

The selected IRTI fellows are expected to make a two year commitment beginning with their participation in the IRTI Summer Training Program. During this two year period, fellows along with their respective mentors are expected to achieve benchmarks of progress including academic career progress, if applicable (i.e. thesis, candidacy, dissertation); scientific publications in peer reviewed journals; scientific presentations at national scientific meetings; and preparation and submission of an NIH application (K awards, F31, F32, R03, R21, or R01) as well as support for diversity supplements and loan repayment program opportunities.

Criteria

Applicants currently must be pre-doctoral, post-doctoral or early career faculty/investigators (having less than six years of academic experience after completing doctoral dissertation) who have a strong professional interest in drug abuse issues among Hispanics. Social-behavioral, biological and medical scientists are encouraged to apply. Preference will be given to applicants who have previous research experience and knowledge of the Hispanic population.

Application

Submit via postal mail or e-mail: 1) application form; 2) essay (500 words) describing your research goals, preparedness to participate actively in a research program, evidence of scientific scholarship such as publications in peer reviewed journals (if applicable), and how you would benefit from participating in this institute in pursuit of a career on Hispanic drug research; 3) curriculum vitae; 4) two letters of recommendation; and 5) official transcripts from currently enrolled institution or last completed degree. Please mail application to: *Interdisciplinary Research Training Institute on Hispanic Drug Abuse, Center for Drug & Social Policy Research, University of Houston, 110 HA Social Work Bldg., Houston, Texas 77204 - 4013*

Deadlines

Applications are available at www.uh.edu/cdspr and must be postmarked by **February 15, 2011**. Applicants will be notified of award decisions by March 15, 2011. For more information, please call **Evelio Escamilla**, Institute Coordinator, (713) 743-8345 or e-mail eescamilla2@uh.edu

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