

Application

Postdoctoral Fellowship

T32 Cancer Health Drivers Program (CHDP) at UNC Lineberger



The campus of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Fall 2015. | © The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, 2015

The UNC Cancer Health Drivers Training Program CHDP has three primary objectives for all trainees:

- 1) Engage deeply in understanding drivers of cancer disparities and interventions to improve cancer outcomes, and demonstrate competencies in community engagement, advanced methods, digital health, or local to global health.
- 2) Gain mentored research expertise with the guidance from multidisciplinary mentors, on bio/behavioral and/or social/environmental domains according to the Cells-to-Society model.
- 3) Develop professional skills required for a successful research career, including leadership, acquiring research funding and publication skills.

Program

While training is flexible and tailored to suit each fellow's specific needs, it always includes three basic elements:

- 1) Hands-on research experience directed by teams of experienced faculty in more than one discipline.
- 2) Professional development, including grant writing and publications.
- 3) A focused curriculum that includes a required seminar on cancer disparities and other enrichment activities. We propose to continue to provide comprehensive training to each fellow with an individualized mentored research experience that focuses on understanding or addressing the complex issues underlying cancer disparities and drivers.

Opportunities available to T32 Postdoctoral Fellows

Mentoring by faculty with extramurally funded cancer control research programs

Networking with other post-doctoral fellows, program mentors and allied researchers from multiple institutions.

Guidance in developing grant applications, manuscript preparation, and publication skills

Training with nationally recognized speakers

Collaboration with researchers across multiple disciplines

Eligibility

Successful applicants will have a strong record of achievement, publications in health disparities/drivers or in cancer, and a PhD, MD, or equivalent degree in behavioral science, epidemiology, nutrition, public health, or a related field. The CHDP offers training to: recent doctorates (PhDs, DrPHs, or their equivalent); experienced applicants with a terminal degree wishing to change their research focus; and physicians who have completed their clinical training. Fellows receive a year of funding, with opportunities to extend to a second year. Stipends are awarded based on the NIH T32 guidelines. Additional allowances include health insurance and support for tuition, travel and research expenses. Applicants must be U.S. citizens or permanent residents. Individuals must be highly motivated, possess initiative and a desire to learn and expand their interests and expertise.

Faculty Mentors

Under the direction of Drs. Jennifer Smith and Deborah Tate (Co-Directors), the CHDP includes faculty preceptors from Epidemiology, Nutrition, Health Behavior, Health Policy Management, etc. Primary faculty include Drs. Alison Brenner, Noel Brewer, Melissa Gilkey, Marissa Hall, Laura Linnan, Chantel Martin, Katherine Reeder-Hayes, Daniel Reuland, Betsey Sleath, Til Sturmer, Melissa Troester, Joseph Tucker, Carmina Valle, Stephanie Wheeler. Please reach out to your preferred mentor to talk about your CHDP application and goals. Contact laura_dunn@med.unc.edu if you need help with mentor matching.

Inquiries

For more information about the program, and to apply, please visit the CHDP webpage at <https://sph.unc.edu/hb/chd/>

Applications include a 3-5 page research statement describing past and current professional experience, specifically outlining cancer drivers and disparities research plans and how applicants' scholarship can benefit from participation in the CHDP, two letters of support, and a CV.



Applications for 2026-2027 will be accepted until August 24, 2026.



The Old Well in early September on the campus of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

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