



Information Packet

**Applications must be received by:
Friday, March 10, 2023 by 5:00pm (PST)**

**All application components are due by the deadline.
We recommend requesting reference letters well in advance.**

**The MTPCCR is a program of the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health
and is funded by the Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center.**

The MTPCCR is affiliated with Éxito! Latino Cancer Research Leadership Training Program (<http://exitotraining.org/>)

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**ALL APPLICATION MATERIALS MUST BE RECEIVED BY
MARCH 10, 2023 by 5:00 PM (PST)**

MTPCCR Director: Sherry Kidd, MEd - mtpccr@ph.ucla.edu
MTPCCR Coordinator: Minelle David, MA - emdavid@ucla.edu

University of California, Los Angeles
Fielding School of Public Health, Community Health Sciences
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Los Angeles, CA 90095-1772

Information: <https://www.racialhealthequity.org/mtpccr>
Application Form*: <https://forms.gle/56VtMwY52gS9VnW38>
Recommendation Form: <https://forms.gle/CWZN4ohwtf33QHbV8>
Faculty Advisor Approval Form: <https://forms.gle/c2x65YZ4j3WnaRiQ9>

* An email confirmation will be sent upon receipt of your application.

MINORITY TRAINING PROGRAM IN CANCER CONTROL RESEARCH

Cancer disparities research is a multi-disciplinary field that combines basic and applied studies in behavioral, social and population health sciences. The aims of this research are to reduce cancer risk, incidence, morbidity and mortality, and particularly the disproportionate burden of cancer borne by low income and ethnically diverse communities.

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

There is considerable diversity among master's level student populations training in health at many academic institutions. However, only a small proportion of minority students go on to pursue doctoral degrees, resulting in a national shortage of experienced minority investigators in cancer disparities research and practice.

The purpose of the Minority Training Program in Cancer Control Research (MTPCCR) is to increase ethnic diversity in the field of cancer disparities research by encouraging minority master's students and master's level health professionals in public health and social/behavioral health sciences to pursue a doctoral degree and a career in research. *However, applicants need not have plans to pursue doctoral training or prior interest in cancer prior to applying to the program.*

The MTPCCR is a program of the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) Fielding School of Public Health, supported with funding from the Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center, under the leadership of Marjorie Kagawa Singer, PhD, MA, MN, RN and Chandra Ford, PhD, MPH, MLIS.

This program is designed to enhance participants'-

- ❖ Understanding of the power of research to effect change
- ❖ Awareness of the strengths and limitations of current research methods, theory, and interventions in eliminating health disparities
- ❖ Interest in cancer disparities research, from surveillance to epidemiology, individual behavior change, health services, and policy research
- ❖ Skills in research, networking, and information seeking, and motivation and ability to successfully apply to and complete a doctoral program

The MTPCCR consists of three components:

1. "Careers in Cancer Disparities Research" Summer Institute

A four-day Summer Institute designed to showcase the opportunities and need for minority researchers in cancer disparities. Through the Institute, 20-25 participants will acquire the motivation, skills, and resources needed to apply to a doctoral program. Participating faculty include role models and leaders in research from around the country. **Attendance at the entire four-day program is required.**

2. Student Internships (OPTIONAL)

Master's students and graduates who participate in the Summer Institute have the option to apply for paid internships (total of 360 hours). Qualified interns will be matched to a program and mentor based on their academic focus and personal interests. Note: The internship does not provide funds for transportation and housing. *Internships are not guaranteed until a mentor-intern match has been made.*

3. Doctoral Application Support Awards (OPTIONAL)

MTPCCR alumni (persons who have completed any MTPCCR Summer Institute) who wish to pursue a doctorate in a field that could lead to a career in cancer research are eligible to apply for awards up to \$2,000 to cover the cost of doctoral program applications, testing and/or campus visits. Deadline for DASA application submission is in December. Availability of awards is dependent on funding.

ELIGIBILITY INFORMATION

Program eligibility is based on the following criteria:

- ❖ Minority* master's student** or master's level health professional in public health or social/behavioral health sciences.
*** *Current doctoral students or those already accepted into doctoral programs are ineligible to apply.*
- ❖ Good academic standing (minimum "B" average).
- ❖ Strong verbal, written, interpersonal, and organizational skills.

*** We define "minority" as those communities who experience an excess or unknown burden of cancer and who are underrepresented in the field of cancer disparities research.**

**** Students must have completed the 1st year of master's program by the start of the Summer Institute.**

***** MTPCCR was designed for students training in Public Health and/or the social and behavioral health sciences. This does not include lab-based or STEM disciplines. If you currently have no health or behavioral health science background, please contact the program to determine your eligibility for the program.**

TIMELINE

Applications due	March 10, 2023	Internship placements confirmed	April 17, 2023
Class of 2022 selection process	March 10 – March 24, 2023	Careers in Cancer Disparities Research Summer Institute (UCLA)	June 22-25, 2023 <i>*Internship orientation June 26 (tentative)</i>
Applicants are informed of application status	March 27, 2023	Internship period <i>*Interns must attend a mandatory orientation before beginning internship.</i>	June 2023 – September 2023 <i>Duration is typically 3 months, but can be negotiated on a case-by-case basis (6 months max)</i>
Internship matching/ placement process	March 27 – April 14, 2023		

SUMMER INSTITUTE AGENDA (Preliminary)

The majority of Summer Institute faculty are underrepresented minorities and are leaders in their professional areas of research in cancer control and health disparities science.

Day 1: *What's Going on in Cancer Disparities & Why We Are Here*

- ❖ Me and My Culture
- ❖ Cancer Disparities in Diverse Communities
- ❖ Biology of Cancer
- ❖ Building A Career in Cancer Disparities Research: Role Models Tell Their Story

Day 2: *There's No such Thing as the "Hard-To-Reach": The Range & Reach of Cancer Disparities Research*

- ❖ It All Starts Here: Finding Out Who Gets Cancer and Why
- ❖ Research on Cancer Trends & Disparities
- ❖ Disparities in Cancer Survivorship

Day 3: *Tools of the Trade: The Many Facets of Health Disparities Research*

- ❖ Navigating a Diverse Society for Cancer Disparities
- ❖ Accessing Culture and Addressing Disparities Through Research
- ❖ Qualitative and Quantitative Research Design: Pulling It All Together
- ❖ *Putting on My Researcher Hat*

Day 4: *Let's Consider a Doctorate + Stepping Out: Transition from Student to Researcher*

- ❖ Forum with University Representatives & Doctoral Funding Strategies
- ❖ Getting In & Getting Through a Doctoral Program: Doctoral Students Panel
- ❖ Writing Your Way to the Ph.D.
- ❖ Staying the Course: Using Emotional Intelligence Skills
- ❖ Ethnic Identity Politics: Navigating the Doctorate Experience

FUNDING

Participants receive free registration and meals during institute sessions. Out-of-town participants are responsible for their own housing accommodations and long-distance travel. Very limited funds are available for applicants experiencing extreme financial hardship. To be considered for financial assistance, a request *MUST* be included with your initial application. Any request for financial assistance received after the deadline CANNOT be considered. *International students are eligible to apply to the MTPCCR but financial support for international air travel cannot be provided.* If you have further questions, please contact the Program Coordinator as soon as possible.

COLLABORATING INSTITUTIONS

The collaborating institutions are a network of affiliated schools where campus advisors conduct outreach and recruitment on behalf of the MTPCCR. Additionally, many faculty members at these institutions host student internships based on project availability and matching interests between the faculty and student.

UCLA-Southern California Collaborating Institutions

- California State University, Dominguez Hills
- California State University, East Bay
- California State University, Fullerton
- California State University, Los Angeles
- California State University, Northridge
- San Francisco State University
- San Diego State University
- University of California, San Diego
- University of Southern California

For additional information on academic faculty or student contacts, please refer to the *Minority Training Program in Cancer Control Research (MTPCCR)* website at <https://www.racialhealthequity.org/mtpccr>.

INTERNSHIP INFORMATION – OPTIONAL COMPONENT

Internship Objectives:

- ❖ Expose interns to cancer disparities research issues and methods.
- ❖ Under close supervision, give interns responsibility for participation in a research project.
- ❖ Mentor interns through a crucial decision-making period, which may lead to pursuit of a doctoral degree.
- ❖ Meet each intern's academic requirements for an internship.

Internship Criteria:

- ❖ Eligible only to Summer Institute participants.
- ❖ A total of 360 hours will be paid by the MTPCCR at a rate of \$17.00 per hour.
- ❖ Internships can be completed on a full-time or part-time basis (*determined by the Preceptor and Intern*).
 - **Full-time:** Hours begin following the last day of the Summer Institute in June and are completed in September, lasting 9 weeks.
 - **Part-time:** Hours begin following the last day of the Summer Institute in June. The duration may be negotiated on a case-by-case basis, *but is not to exceed 6 months*.
- ❖ Internship selection and matching process will involve application review/screening and personal interviews.
- ❖ Placements are granted based on project need as well as matching interests of the Preceptor and Intern.
- ❖ Interns are responsible for their own lodging and travel arrangements as well as daily transportation for the duration of the internship.

Paid internships will be offered across the spectrum of cancer disparities research, with opportunities at the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) and other sites in our region. Internships may be available in areas that emphasize skills in Epidemiology, Biostatistics, Community Health, Health Behavior, and Health Policy. Individuals requiring an internship to fulfill an academic requirement will be given priority consideration in placement. It may also be possible to arrange an internship at a student's home institution if a qualified cancer disparities research mentor is available and willing to follow MTPCCR guidelines (please contact Program Coordinator if you are interested in this option).

NOTE: Internships are limited by the availability of preceptors. Not all requests for internships can be granted. At times, first and second choices may not be available. Applicants accepted into the program will be notified about *the possibility* of an internship, and interview(s) will be scheduled.

INTERNSHIP RESEARCH AREAS

➤ **Epidemiology**

Cancer epidemiologists design, conduct and analyze a variety of studies aimed to identify the causes and patterns of cancer. Research also focuses on multiethnic populations and on identification of modifiable lifestyle factors (including diet and physical activity), genetic variation in risk, and viral associations.

Internship description: Opportunities exist at any or all stages of current studies and in the development of future studies.

Benefits to intern: Interns will have hands-on epidemiology experience that may include development of research questions and study design, ongoing oversight of studies in progress, and laboratory-based analyses of data.

➤ **Biostatistics**

Cancer biostatisticians provide assistance with study design, statistical analyses, and data management to a variety of cancer disparities research projects. Biostatisticians work closely with cancer disparities researchers and the services they provide range from brief consultations on statistical issues to extensive involvement from the initial stages of project development through the data analysis phase, to the preparation of manuscripts and presentations.

Internship description: Biostatistics interns perform data management and analysis activities for cancer disparities projects using statistical packages such as SAS, SPSS, or other statistical software.

Benefits to intern: Interns will gain experience in applying statistical methods such as logistic and linear regression to data from ongoing research studies, and in interpretation of results.

➤ **Community Health/Health Behavior/Health Policy**

There are a variety of internship opportunities available in community and clinic-based intervention research. Internships may be available in health education/behavioral science, health economics, health psychology, anthropology, and survey research. Interns may work in academic, community or medical care settings. Projects include developing, implementing and evaluating (for effectiveness and/or cost-effectiveness) community-based outreach and education. Examples include research to increase cancer screening among low-income and ethnically diverse communities, studies of breast cancer survivorship, research on provider-patient communication, and research on tobacco behavior and policy.

Internship description: Interns may work with investigators in the community or in clinical settings. They may take part in qualitative, quantitative, or mixed methods data collection/analysis, program planning, evaluation, or collaborate with educational/outreach activities in the community.

Benefits to intern: Interns may gain experience in any phase of intervention development or evaluation.

APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS AND CHECKLIST

In order to be eligible for selection, **ALL** the documents noted in the checklist below, including Faculty Advisor Approvals and Letters of Recommendation, must be received through Google Forms by **March 10, 2023 at 5:00 pm (PT)**. Incomplete applications will not be evaluated.

- Submit the [MTPCCR Summer Institute Application](#) through Google Forms.**
 - Within the Google Forms application, ensure that you typed or uploaded the following items and ensure that your name is noted on all uploaded documents:
 - Faculty Advisor Approval or Graduate Diploma** - Upload a copy of your diploma (master's graduates) or send the ["Faculty Advisor Approval Form" link](#) to your advisor (current students).
 - Personal Statement**
 - Transcript/Verification of GPA** - If you have less than one year of coursework in a master's program, please upload your undergraduate transcript in addition to your current graduate transcript.
 - Résumé or Curriculum Vitae**
 - (Optional) Financial Aid Request – Very limited funds may be available to assist out-of-town participants with travel expenses. Refer to "Funding" section on page 5.
 - (Optional) Internship Skills and Inventory – Complete this section only if you are applying for an internship. Internships are not guaranteed.
- Send the ["Recommendation Form" link](#) to the two people who have agreed to write letters on your behalf.

Questions about this application may be directed to both Sherry Kidd, MEd (mtppccr@ph.ucla.edu) and Minelle David, MA (emdavid@ucla.edu).

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