

Health Equity Research Education Certificate Program 2023-2024

Faculty Members at MSM, TU, UA and UAB, and Collaborating Institutions

You are invited to apply to the **MHERC Health Equity Research Education Certificate Program (HEREP)**, focusing on health equity and health disparities research in cancer, aging, CVD, HIV, and other disease conditions.

We are now accepting applications from junior level faculty, and mid-level faculty who are new to research or are interested in making a transition to disparities research (transitional faculty). Medical fellows and post-doctoral fellows may also apply. This **one-year research education certificate program starts in October 2023 and continues through September 2024.**

The applications are due **by Wednesday, September 20, 2023.** [Click here to submit application](#)

The **Objectives** of the **MHERC Health Equity Research Education Certificate Program** are to:

1. Develop independent researchers in health equity/disparities research through individualized mentored training.
2. Provide instruction in scientific research methodology and design.
3. Provide training on the topic of health disparities and innovative approaches to reduce them.
4. Teach scientific writing and grant preparation skills to produce a grant submission to an external agency.

A final product of an R03 (or equivalent) grant proposal may be written and submitted by each scholar during the training period or shortly after. The scholars will also focus on secondary data analysis and development of manuscripts for publication, in addition to the research training faculty development discussions.

Portions of the training will include web-based training courses and independent grant development with a mentor at times scheduled by the scholar/mentor dyads. In addition, scholars will be required to participate in scheduled video conference faculty development group discussions. The video conference format allows trainees to participate from their home institutions. Two Bioethics Workshops and the Grant Writing Retreat may require travel.

Through participation in faculty development discussions and workshops, scholars will be able to enhance their knowledge and scientific skills, as well as gain expertise in health equity/disparities research. Participants in these activities will become stronger candidates for grant funding as independent investigators.

- **Interested early stage investigators should apply. All candidates must submit an application, CV, Statement of Intent, and Letter of Support (LOS) through the UAB MHERC website.**
- **Request LOS now - from a supervising senior faculty person, Director, Dean, or Chair, in order to upload with other documents.** The LOS should address support of research career and release time to participate in HEREP.
- **Please have all materials ready to upload in separate Adobe PDF files and submit at one time.**
- **Application deadline is Wednesday, September 20, 2023, by 11:59pm Central Time.**
- You will receive **immediate confirmation** that your application was uploaded successfully. If you do not, please email annsmith@uab.edu ASAP. Use **Internet Explorer** and short file names with no punctuation.



Sponsored by grants from the NIH National Cancer Institute (NCI), NIH National Institute on Aging (NIA) and NIH National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities (NIMHD), Creighton University, Morehouse School of Medicine, Tuskegee University, the University of Alabama, and the University of Alabama at Birmingham, and coordinated by the UAB MHERC.

Education Program Information and Schedule

The **MHERC Health Equity Research Education Certificate Program (HEREP)** has a one-year training period. As a scholar with the program, you must commit your schedule to include seminars and courses, as well as time to work with your mentor or mentoring team on writing manuscripts for publication and developing a grant proposal and submitting it.

Your attendance is required for all activities listed below. The program will provide you:

- 1) **Faculty Development Discussion Video Conferences (VC) weekly** connecting to UAB via zoom. 26 x 1.5 hour sessions (3-5/mo thru May). **Tuesdays at 1:30-3:00pm Central Time (2:30-4:00 ET) - proposed start is Oct 24, 2023**
- 2) **Two one-day virtual Workshops on Bioethics** and cross-cultural issues by Tuskegee University (a Friday in Nov and May)- **proposed dates are Nov. 17, 2023 and May 17, 2024**
- 3) **Online Video Course** in basic **Biostatistics** by O. Dale Williams, PhD
- 4) **Online Video Course** in **Epidemiology** by the CDC
- 5) **Online Video Course** in **Minority Aging** by Patricia Sawyer, PhD
- 6) **Independent research and grant proposal development guided by a mentor**
- 7) **Individual Grant Development and Critique Session** – Grant Writing methodological training and in-depth critique of research grant proposals

- The MHERC HEREP is a 1-year individualized mentored research training certificate program, which is sponsored by multiple grants and institutions, and coordinated by the UAB Minority Health & Health Equity Research Center (UAB MHERC).
- During the program, the didactic HER education described above will be provided, with emphasis on development of manuscripts for publication, including secondary data analysis, and research proposal development for submitting one or more grant applications.
- Individual Scholars will be encouraged to apply for small pilot projects, larger intramural pilot grants, or larger foundation or NIH grant funding, based on their experience and needs.
- Individual Scholars who complete all program requirements will receive a Certificate in Health Equity/Disparities Research, signifying specialized training in Health Equity/Disparities Research.
- Scholars may be sponsored by a grant, or by their own center, institution, or professional association.

Examples of topics for the video conference faculty development discussions include Health Disparities Research, Research Design and Methods, Program Evaluation, Community-Based Participatory Research, Translational Research, Basic Science, Models of Behavioral Change, Health Economics, and Manuscript and Grant Preparation. For the face-to-face workshops, travel to other campuses may be reimbursed.

As part of the **individualized mentoring**, each HEREP Scholar will develop a Scholar/Mentor Research Work Plan Agreement. The Scholar and Mentor will work together to set the Scholar's personal HEREP goals based on where the Scholar is in his/her career, and grant and publication history.

Statement of Intent should include a brief personal statement that addresses the following:

- Why are you interested in this training opportunity in health equity/disparities research?
 - How will you fit the required HEREP time into your current schedule?
 - How does this training program relate to your career goals?
 - When do you plan to submit a grant application on health equity/disparities research?
1. Program Requirements include: at least one manuscript written and submitted, timely submission of HEREP reports, and at least 80% attendance at HEREP activities.
 2. Scholars will be expected to submit a grant application to an external funding agency (K-award or R-series grant); or a small pilot grant application, which will be reviewed and must receive a competitive score; and complete/submit one to two manuscripts for publication.
 3. If you would like more information, please contact Ann Smith at (205) 934-9903, or via email at annsmith@uab.edu .
 4. Applicants will be notified by Oct. 13, 2023.