

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

You are invited to apply to the **MHRC Health Disparities Research Education Certificate Program**, focusing on **developing a grant application in health disparities research in obesity, cancer, aging, cardiovascular disease, 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). Post-doctoral fellows and medical fellows may also apply. This **one-year program starts in October 2020, and continues through September 2021.**

The applications are due **by Wednesday, September 16, 2020.** [Click here to submit application](#)

The **Objectives** of the **MHRC Health Disparities Research Education Certificate Program** are to:

1. Develop independent researchers in health 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 should be written and submitted by each scholar** during the training period, or shortly after. The Early Stage Investigator scholars will also focus on secondary data analysis and development of manuscripts for publication, in addition to the research training faculty discussions.

- This year's HDREP will be **virtual – via zoom** video conference and an online course portal in Canvas
- A focus of the program will include independent **grant application development** with a mentor/reviewer team, virtually, on a timeline to be developed by the scholars and mentor/reviewers
- In addition, scholars are required to participate in scheduled faculty development group discussions, also virtual via zoom; and web-based training courses
- Two **Bioethics Workshops** have been transitioned to virtual workshops and will not require travel
- A previous component of the HDREP, the Grant Writing Retreat, is being modified to a virtual **Grant Writing Review Plan**, which will not require travel or in-person gatherings

Through participation in the HDREP, scholars will be able to enhance their knowledge and scientific skills, as well as gain expertise in health disparities research. Participants in these activities will become stronger candidates for grant funding awards as independent investigators. Future R01 grant awards are a desired outcome.

- **Interested Early Stage Investigators should apply. All candidates must submit an application, CV, Statement of Intent, and Letter of Support (LOS) through the UAB MHRC website.**
- **Request LOS now - from a supervising senior faculty person, Director, Dean, or Chair, in order to upload with other documents.** LOS should address support of research career and release time to participate in HDREP.
- **Please have all materials ready to upload in separate Adobe PDF files and submit at one time.**
- **Application deadline is Wednesday, September 16, 2020, 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.



Education Program Information and Schedule

The **MHRC Health Disparities Research Education Certificate Program (HDREP)** 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/reviewer or team on developing a grant proposal for submission, and writing manuscripts for publication.

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

- 1) **Faculty Development Discussion Video Conferences (VC) weekly** at all sites, connecting to UAB. 26 x 1.5 hour sessions (2 to 5 per month). **Tuesdays at 1:30-3:00pm Central Time (2:30-4:00 ET) – starting Tues, Oct 27, 2020**
- 2) **Two one-day Workshops on Bioethics and cross cultural issues** by Tuskegee University (a Friday in Nov and May) – **Dates proposed Nov. 20, 2020, and May 14, 2021** to be held virtually
- 3) **Online Video Course** in basic **Biostatistics** by O. Dale Williams, PhD
- 4) **Online Video Course** in **Epidemiology** by Olivia T. Affuso, PhD
- 5) **Online Video Course** in **Minority Aging** by Patricia Sawyer, PhD
- 6) **Independent research manuscript development guided by a mentor**
- 7) **Individual Grant Application Development** – Grant Writing methodological training and in-depth review and critique of research grant proposals through the virtual **Grant Writing Review Plan: develop timeline for 1) Specific Aims, 2) First Draft, 3) Final Draft of grant proposal application**

- The MHRC HDREP 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 Disparities Research Center (UAB MHRC).
- During the program, the didactic HDR education described above will be provided, with emphasis on development of manuscripts for publication, including secondary data analysis, and particular focus on **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 Disparities Research, signifying specialized training in Health Disparities Research.
- Scholars may be sponsored by a grant, or by their own center, institution, or professional association.

Examples of topics for the Faculty Development Discussions include Health Disparities Research (HDR), Research Design and Methods, Program Evaluation, Community-Based Participatory Research, Translational Research, Basic Science HDR, Models of Behavioral Change, Health Economics, and Manuscript and Grant Preparation.

As part of the **individualized mentoring**, each HDREP Scholar will develop a **Scholar/Mentor Research Work Plan Agreement**. The Scholar and Mentor will work together to set the Scholar's personal HDREP goals and grant development timeline 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 Disparities Research?
- How will you fit the required HDREP time into your current schedule?
- How does this training program relate to your career goals?
- How would you use this training to focus on health disparities research?

1. **Program Requirements** include: at least one manuscript written and submitted, timely submission of HDREP reports, and at least 80% attendance at HDREP activities.
2. Scholars are expected to submit a grant application to an external funding agency (K-award or R-series grant), or a small pilot grant application, to be reviewed by Reviewer/Mentor team; and complete/submit one to two manuscripts for publication. For more information, please email Ann Smith at annsmith@uab.edu .
3. Applicants will be **notified by Oct. 7, 2020**

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), Morehouse School of Medicine, Tuskegee University, the University of Alabama, and the University of Alabama at Birmingham, and coordinated by the UAB MHRC.