Wits-UCT- UNC Partnership – Summer 2021 Student Opportunity

Application and Faculty Evaluation Due March 10, 2021

Wits-UNC Partnership: Expanding Capacity in HIV Implementation Science in South Africa

In 2014, UNC partnered with the University of Witwatersrand (Wits) in Johannesburg, South Africa establishing Wits as a center of excellence in implementation science (IS) training in South Africa. Led by UNC’s Drs. Audrey Pettifor (epidemiology) and Rohit Ramaswamy (PHL and MCH), and the Head of the Wits School of Public Health Dr. Tobias Chirwa, the program has recently engaged key HIV research organizations in Johannesburg: Wits Reproductive Health Institute, Anova Health Institute, and the Aurum Institute; as well as Desmond Tutu Health Foundation at the University of Cape Town. The program aims to continue to build IS capacity within these research organizations through short- and long-term training opportunities.

**Position title:** Practicum experience in implementation science in HIV research in South Africa.

**Number of positions:** 1

**Funding:** $2,000

**Short project description:** UNC master’s degree candidates interested in implementation science will have the opportunity to work in South Africa at one of the partnering institutes. This experience will leverage the student’s time to work in an assisting role on on-going projects at the site. A $2,000 award supports one trainee to work on HIV programs based in South Africa. The student project will have a focus on HIV and implementation science.

**Roles and responsibilities of student:** Due COVID-19 related travel restrictions, activities will take place primarily in Chapel Hill. Outputs will be based on project needs and the student’s schedule. Specifics on the project and expectations will be determined by the practicum mentor prior to the student’s engagement at the site.

**Examples of topic areas:**

-Retention in HIV care among young people during COVID-19
-Implementing novel HIV service delivery models
-Multi-level factors impacting compliance with COVID-19 prevention guidelines
-Health seeking behavior and healthcare/SRH access during COVID-19
-COVID-19 incidence, knowledge, risk perception, and vaccine interest
-Mental health, substance use, and social support during national lockdowns
-Prevalence of GBV among young people and developing a GBV intervention
Expected outputs:
Determined by student and mentor/organization (potential for: involvement in project implementation, overseeing data collection/QC and helping to manage the project’s data systems (e.g., Redcap, Telerivet), helping develop follow-up and program evaluation measures, and baseline data cleaning, analysis, and writing for presentations or publication

Skills or experience required:
- Current master's student in Global Health, Health Policy, Maternal and Child Health with an interest in implementation science
- Some research experience
- Some experience abroad and in cross-cultural situations
- Interest in HIV prevention, care and treatment; women’s and children’s health, or child/adolescent HIV intervention
- Must be organized, self-motivated, and able to work independently

In-country supervisor: Danielle Gioenco, PhD

Location: Chapel Hill, NC and remote work with Cape Town, South Africa

Minimum duration (minimum 6 weeks): 8 weeks

How to apply:
1. Fill-out the online application form and upload the materials below to the form:
   - Cover letter
   - CV/Resume

2. Faculty Evaluation: Please identify a UNC Gillings faculty member who is able to evaluate you on the specific skills listed in the position description
   Send the Faculty Evaluation Form link to the faculty member: https://unc.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_bq4feR9MfvwxKyW

Questions?
Please contact Naya Villarreal, MPH, at naya@unc.edu