

CANCER HEALTH DISPARITIES TRAINING PROGRAM

Leadership



Co-Principal Investigator **Geni Eng, DrPH** is a professor in the Department of Health Behavior. Her research focuses on the integration of community development and health education interventions in the rural United States and developing countries. Her current projects apply a community-based participatory research approach to the design and evaluation of interventions relevant to women, racial and ethnic communities, and developing nations. She teaches community organization, cross-cultural aspects of health education practices, community-based participatory research methodology of photovoice.



Co-Principal Investigator **Deborah Tate, PhD** is a professor in the Departments of Nutrition and Health Behavior. She has over 20 years of research in behavioral weight management, particularly delivered through web and mobile platforms. She is also Director of the Communications for Health Applications and Intervention (CHAI) Core for the UNC Lineberger Comprehensive Cancer Center and the Department of Nutrition's NIH Clinical Nutrition Research Center.



Program Director **Alexandra Lightfoot, EdD** is associate professor in the Department of Health Behavior and directs the Community Engagement and Training Cores at the Center for Health Promotion and Disease Prevention, a CDC-funded Prevention Research Center.

Cancer is the second leading cause of death in the United States.

Although cancer incidence and mortality have stabilized since the early 1990s, **rates vary appreciably by race, ethnicity, gender, and socioeconomic status**. In particular, incidence and mortality are generally higher in marginalized ethnic and racial groups.

Cancer disparities can be defined broadly as unequal health care and distribution of disease and disease risk factors for specific population segments, resulting in inferior health outcomes and an unequal burden in disease incidence, morbidity, mortality, survival, and quality of life.



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Postdoctoral Fellowship Opportunity

CANCER HEALTH DISPARITIES TRAINING PROGRAM

Department of Health Behavior
Gillings School of Global Public Health
The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill



The overall goal of the Cancer Health Disparities Training Program at the Gillings School of Public Health, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (UNC-CH) is to educate and train talented scientists to become future leaders in cancer health disparities research.

A pivotal component to success in addressing these disparities is the availability of well-trained and energetic scientists to foster new, innovative research on both the causes of cancer disparities and methods to translate biologic and epidemiologic findings into effective prevention and control programs for use by government and community organizations.

Program Description

The Cancer Health Disparities Training Program (CHDP) at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill offers post-doctoral training on cross-cutting health disparity issues across the cancer continuum, from etiology and primary prevention to survivorship.

The program is inclusive of the major cancers (including, lung, breast, colorectal, prostate, and skin) and their risk factors (such as diet, physical activity, obesity, tobacco, screening and early detection, and environmental exposures).



Dr. Eng has extensive experience in cancer health disparities research and mentoring postdoctoral scholars.

Training includes education on environmental and molecular epidemiological bases of disparities; detection; cancer epidemiology; research methods; cancer prevention and control (health

promotion, screening/early communications, community-based participatory research, dissemination, health policy); as well as issues related to access to care, socio-economic disparities in and cultural differences in treatment and survivorship issues, such as treatment preferences and beliefs that affect health care utilization and participation in clinical trials, use of complementary and alternative medicine, and other factors that differentially affect quality of life.

The program is open to 3 post-doctoral trainees per grant year and offers:

A specialized curriculum that fosters multidisciplinary understanding of cancer health disparities, including a cancer disparities seminar, training on research ethics and recommended courses in health disparities and cultural competency.

- Training experience in interdisciplinary research that focuses on cancer health disparities
- Career development experiences that enhance professional skills and build professional networks.

Fellows receive up to two years of funding. Performance is evaluated at the end of each year; subsequent years are awarded depending on progress.

Capitalizing on the highly collaborative, productive, and multidisciplinary faculty at UNC-CH, Fellows are assigned mentors in more than one discipline, learn research communication and grant writing skills, create tailored career development plans, and learn how to transition from training to productive career paths. Email Alexandra Lightfoot for brief profiles of potential mentors.

To Apply

Eligible postdoctoral candidates will have successfully completed a doctoral degree (PhD, DrPH, MD, or equivalent) in fields related to public health and cancer, pharmacy, or medicine. In addition, the successful candidate will be required to articulate a strong commitment to conducting research in can-

cer health disparities and to ultimately obtaining a (career) position that would enable him/her to actively participate in initiatives aimed at eliminating cancer health disparities. Applications must be submitted via the Careers at Carolina [website](#) at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Two positions available **NOW** for recent or upcoming graduates with a start date prior to August 30, 2021. Three positions available after September 1, 2021. Initial application must include:

- Curriculum Vitae
- Cover Letter
- List of References

Candidates selected for interviews will be provided a list of potential CHDP mentors and asked to submit supplemental material including:

- Personal Statement of qualifications and professional objectives, cancer health disparities experience, example of research project/s conducted.
- Three Letters of Reference providing information on how long recommenders have known the applicant and in what capacity, the applicant's facility at working with multicultural groups, research skills, demonstrated productivity, written and oral communication skills, ability to work as part of a team, leadership capacity, and potential for successful career in cancer health disparities research.

Address program questions to Alexandra Lightfoot:
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