Position Announcement

Postdoctoral Fellow

Occupational Summary

We are seeking a Postdoctoral Fellow who will work across several global projects that focus on social and behavioral issues related to HIV infection and women’s health. The work will be performed under the mentorship of two faculty members in the Duke Global Health Institute: Kathleen Sikkema, Professor of Psychology and Neuroscience and Global Health, and Melissa Watt, Assistant Professor of Global Health. The Postdoctoral Fellow will get hands-on experience in the implementation of observational and intervention outcome research in low-resource settings, quantitative and qualitative data analysis, manuscript preparation, and NIH grant writing.

Work performed

The Postdoctoral Fellow will work across three primary research studies. The individual can expect authorship commensurate with contribution, with ample opportunity for publications.

**Improving AIDS Care after Trauma (ImpACT) in South Africa (R34 MH102001; PI, Sikkema)**

Research shows that HIV-infected women report high rates of sexual trauma, and that sexual trauma can negatively affect a woman’s ability to adhere to HIV medications or to remain in HIV care. In this NIH-funded study, we are developing and pilot testing a 7 session psychological intervention to promote HIV care engagement among women with sexual trauma histories.

We have now completed the formative phase of the study, including in-depth interviews with 12 service providers and 15 HIV-infected women with sexual trauma histories, screening data from 70 clinic patients. In February 2016, we will commence the randomized control trial (RCT) with 60 participants, in order to examine feasibility and potential efficacy of the intervention. Preliminary outcome data will be available in March 2017.

The Postdoctoral Fellow will have an important role in the implementation of this study, with the following tasks:

- Work with the South African collaborators to ensure the timely and efficient conduct of the RCT, responding to challenges that may arise in the field.
- Lead the data transfer, management and preliminary analysis of data collected through the RCT.
- Contribute to academic manuscripts and conference presentations.
- Contribute to an R01 application to NIH in May 2017, proposing a full RCT of the intervention in a clinical setting in Cape Town.
FASD prevention among South African women at high risk for alcohol-exposed pregnancies (DGHI small grant; PI, Watt)

The Western Cape of South Africa has one of the highest rates of fetal alcohol syndrome disorders (FASD) globally. Reducing FASD requires interventions targeting women at highest risk of alcohol-exposed pregnancies. With a DGHI pilot grant, we are examining pregnancy intentions and contraceptive use among women who attend alcohol-serving venues, in order to identify opportunities for novel community-based interventions for primary prevention of FASD.

Data collection will occur between November 2015 and March 2016. We expect to collect cross-sectional surveys with 120 female patrons; in-depth qualitative interviews with a sub-set of 24 women; and institutional assessments of contraceptive services from local facilities.

The Postdoctoral Fellow will work with the PI will help to advance this research area through the following tasks:

- Analyze the quantitative and qualitative data.
- Contribute to academic manuscripts and conference presentations.
- Contribute to an R34 application to NIH in February 2017, to develop a venue-based intervention for primary prevention of FASD.

Opportunities to promote engagement in HIV care following childbirth
(Duke Center for AIDS Research small grant; PI, Watt & NIH R21, funding pending; PI, Watt)

Under the new Option B+ protocol for prevention of mother to child transmission of HIV (PMTCT), all HIV-infected pregnant women initiate lifelong antiretroviral therapy (ART). We have two studies that are examining the complex array of factors that support or obstruct women’s engagement with HIV care in the postpartum period. This data can help to inform specific intervention targets at the individual, dyadic or systems levels.

In South Africa, we have a Duke Center for AIDS Research (CFAR) small grant to conduct qualitative in-depth interviews with 20 HIV-infected women at two time points (third trimester of pregnancy and 3 months postpartum), and accompanying interviews with women’s self-identified treatment supporters. Data collection is on-going and should be complete by December 2016.

In Tanzania, we are collaborating with the Kilimanjaro Christian Medical Center (KCMC) to launch a two-year study to examine the implementation of Option B+ in three sites in the Kilimanjaro Region. Using the Consolidated Framework for Implementation Research, we will collect mixed methods data, including key informant interviews with providers, a review of patient medical records, a cohort of 100 HIV-infected women initiating ART during pregnancy, qualitative interviews with a sub-set of 24 women, and 9 focus group discussions to discuss findings and implications. Data collection is anticipated to begin in June 2016.

The Postdoctoral Fellow will work with the PI will help to advance this research area through the following tasks:

- Be involved in co-analysis of the qualitative data from South Africa.
- Develop study instruments and protocols for the study in Tanzania.
- Work with the Tanzanian collaborators to ensure the timely and efficient conduct of the study.
- Contribute to academic manuscripts and conference presentations.
• Contribute to an R34 application to NICHD in May 2017, to develop a group intervention to improve post-partum HIV care engagement among women who initiate ART during pregnancy.

**Education, experience and key skills**

- A Ph.D. in public health, clinical psychology, or related fields
- Proficiency in SPSS and/or other software programs
- Demonstrated abilities in quantitative data analysis, including intervention outcome data
- Global health experiences, with prior work in sub-Saharan Africa preferred
- Ability to work independently without direct supervision
- Excellent writing skills, with publication track-record preferred
- Team member who has a positive attitude and is a good problem solver

The appointment for the position is two years, beginning approximately August 15, 2016. The position is located at the Duke Global Health Institute in Durham, NC.

Applications should include a curriculum vitae and a cover letter that includes research experience, envisioned contribution to the studies described in this announcement, and any envisioned areas of independent research. Please include the contact details of up to three faculty and/or supervisory references. Please send materials to melissa.watt@duke.edu. Applications received by January 15, 2016 will be guaranteed consideration. Applications will be accepted until the position is filled. Duke University is an Equal Employment Opportunity/Affirmative Action employer. We value diversity in all of its many facets and meanings.