POST-DOCTORAL FELLOWSHIP IN HEALTH SYSTEM IMPROVEMENT

Faculty: School of Public Health
Unit: Alliance for Canadian Health Outcomes Research in Diabetes (ACHORD)
Position Title: Post Doctoral Fellow

The School of Public Health at the University of Alberta, in partnership with Alberta Health, is offering a postdoctoral fellowship in health system improvement. The position is supported by a grant from the Canadian Institute for Health Research Institute for Health Services and Policy Research (IHSPR) for Training Modernization in Health Services and Policy Research. The objective is to develop the next generation of leaders with the skills, competencies and experiences for broader career readiness and maximum health system impact. This unique post-doctoral fellowship opportunity will be co-led by Dr. Jeffrey Johnson (Professor, University of Alberta) and Ms. Kathleen Ness (Assistant Deputy Minister, Health Service Delivery, Alberta Health). Under this funding opportunity, the post-doctoral fellow is expected to spend at least 50% of their time physically located at Alberta Health offices.

A postdoctoral fellow is being sought to work with the co-leads in undertaking collaborative research projects under the Primary, Community and Indigenous Health portfolio under Ms. Ness at Alberta Health. Under this portfolio, a number of opportunities would be possible for the incumbent fellow to work. Of particular strategic importance are implementation of policy changes to Alberta’s Primary Care Networks (PCNs), which provide interdisciplinary team-based primary health care in as joint venture governance partnerships between groups of family physicians and Alberta Health Services. Alberta’s PCNs arose beginning in 2003 under a trilateral Master Agreement between the AMA, AH and AHS. There are currently 42 PCNs in Alberta, with over 3,800 family physician members and more that 1,000 FTE interdisciplinary team members serving the primary health care needs of over 80% of Albertans. Underpinning quality improvement within the PCNs is the concept of a person-centered health home model that is designed around Albertans rather than diseases or programs, health care professionals or separate funding streams. There are a number of key elements to policy changes for PCNs, but two that could serve as the focus areas for experiential learning are governance and accountability.

The successful candidate will:

• Have the opportunity to participate in the Northwest Territories SPOR Network in Primary and Integrated Health Care Innovations, which is hosted by the Institute for Circumpolar Health Research (ICHR) based in Yellowknife. The fellow would have the opportunity, with a one-month visit to Yellowknife, to work with the health system groups affiliated with the NWT SPOR network, such as the territorial health authority, indigenous governance organizations such as Dene Nation, T’licho government, and the Inuvialuit Regional Corporation
• Be involved in, and have the opportunity to publish from, ongoing projects and existing databases arising from projects.
• The fellow can also assume leadership responsibilities in the training and mentorship of graduate students in the School of Public Health.
• The postdoctoral fellow will function as a junior investigator, participating fully in research and related scholarly activities, working closely and cooperatively with the faculty in the health services and policy research program.
• The incoming fellow will also participate in the efforts led by the CIHR IHSPR for the development of a pan-Canadian curriculum for enriched core competencies in health services and policy research.

Applications are invited from recent PhD graduates. Funding is available to support a one-year post-doctoral fellowship. The base salary is $70,000 CDN per annum, plus benefits under the University of...
Alberta Post-doctoral fellowship agreement. An allowance ($10,000) will also be available to support the post-doctoral fellows research and professional development.

Qualifications will include:
- The successful applicant will have an excellent academic record
- A beginning record of publication, and a planned research program
- Applicants will be encouraged and receive guidance to apply for independent salary and research funding.
- Successful applications in provincial and national funding competitions for postdoctoral awards could supplement the base salary.

To Apply:
Interested applicants with backgrounds in public health, health services research, population health, health promotion, or related fields should submit an application consisting of a cover letter and a curriculum vitae and contact information for three references to:

Dr. Jeffrey Johnson  
School of Public Health  
University of Alberta  
2-040 Li Ka Shing Centre for Health Research Innovation  
Edmonton, AB, CANADA T6G 2E1  
Phone: (780) 492-7317 (Sherry Lydynuik) [+1 if outside North America]  
Email: jeff.johnson@ualberta.ca

Please contact Dr. Johnson for further information

Closing date:
This position will be open until a suitable candidate is identified

We thank all applicants for their interest; however, only those individuals selected for an interview will be contacted.

The University of Alberta offers appointments on the basis of merit. We are committed to the principle of equity in employment. We welcome diversity and encourage applications from all qualified women and men, including persons with disabilities, members of visible minorities and Aboriginal persons.