Seeking Post-doctoral Diversity Supplement Candidates for R01 refugee project: Research Program for Children and Adversity: Refugee Program

Project: Addressing Mental Health Disparities in Refugee Children through Family and Community-based Prevention

Sponsor: National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities

Principal Investigator: Theresa S. Betancourt, Sc.D., M.A.

Project summary:

The Research Program for Children and Adversity (RPCA) Refugee Program is seeking individuals from groups underrepresented in the biomedical sciences, at the post-doctoral, and investigator level to support a community based participatory action research (CBPR) project on refugee mental health for the RPCA, a research program that focuses on the health and mental health of children and youth facing adversity. The program involves a randomized control trial of a family home-visiting intervention to strengthen Somali Bantu and Bhutanese refugees resettled in Massachusetts and Maine.

Refugee children and families who are resettled in the United States face dramatic disparities in the incidence and treatment of mental health disorders. Resettlement stressors such as, poverty, limited access to care, differences in cultural norms, and discrimination often exacerbate risks due to war-related trauma exposure. As a result of war-related exposures and adjustment to a new living environment beset by numerous daily stressors, Somali Bantu and Bhutanese children, adolescents, and families face an increased risk of emotional/behavioral problems.

Soliciting: Candidates interested in applying as a Diversity Fellow (must be US citizen or Green-card holder) to join.

Particularly interested in candidates with a background in global mental health, clinical psychology, public health, social work, and/or implementation science in relation to interagency collaboration, and prior experience with large scale capacity building, in particular, in working with national and international institutions and government leadership. Must have strong quantitative and data management skills; experience with qualitative data collection and analyses preferred. The program includes a mixed-methods approach, uses digital data collection platforms, and emphasizes translational research. Candidates should have a background and keen interest in implementation science and helping to develop mechanisms for fidelity monitoring and quality improvement in mental health services as delivered by community health workers. The ideal candidate must be a self-starter and able to work independently. The position is based in Boston and will involve occasional travel to communities and partner agencies in New England.

Eligibility: Applicants must be US citizens or permanent residents.

NIH encourages institutions to diversify their student and faculty populations to enhance the participation of individuals from groups identified as underrepresented in the biomedical, clinical, behavioral and social sciences, such as:

A. Individuals from racial and ethnic groups that have been shown by the National Science Foundation to be underrepresented in health-related sciences;
B. Individuals with disabilities, who are defined as those with a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities;
C. Individuals from disadvantaged backgrounds, defined as:
   1. Individuals who come from a family with an annual income below established low-income thresholds. These thresholds are based on family size, published by the U.S. Bureau of the Census; adjusted annually.
for changes in the Consumer Price Index; and adjusted by the Secretary for use in all health professions programs.

2. Individuals who come from an educational environment such as that found in certain rural or inner-city environments that has demonstrably and directly inhibited the individual from obtaining the knowledge, skills, and abilities necessary to develop and participate in a research career. The disadvantaged background category (C1 and C2) refers to the financial and educational status of individuals while residing in the United States, and is only applicable to programs focused on high school and undergraduate candidates.

Preferred qualifications:

- Doctoral degree, preferably in Public Health, Implementation Science, Social Work, Developmental Psychology, Mental Health, or other related field required
- The Postdoctoral Fellow will need to be a self-driven, creative thinker with strong qualitative and statistical skills to help develop methods which investigate intervention effectiveness in terms of child development and parenting outcomes. Coursework/training in psychometrics and implementation science is a plus
- Strong ability in use of advanced statistical and computational programming
- Training in implementation science to include hybrid design, cluster randomized control trials, longitudinal studies, and quality improvement approaches to fidelity and supervision that relate to long-term sustainability and scalability
- Some background related to conducting research in culturally diverse contexts
- Publication record that demonstrates candidate’s capacities is also desirable.
- Proficiency in utilizing computer applications including Microsoft Office, STATA, R, MAXQDA, and other applicable quantitative and qualitative data analysis platforms.
- Expert knowledge of qualitative and quantitative research methodologies including implementation science in LMICs, fidelity monitoring and mixed methodology
- Understanding of the application of technology both for data collection as well as routine symptom monitoring, fidelity monitoring and quality improvement efforts in global mental health and child development

Application Process:

Qualified applicants will be asked to submit an application to NIH with mentorship and guidance from the Principal Investigator. The application process is competitive and funding is not guaranteed. Diversity supplements generally run 12 to 24 months at the discretion of the sponsor. The awards do not include funding for conducting original research outside the scope of the R01 refugee project. The review process for the application can take up to six months. Doctoral candidates with an expected graduation date within the next six months are welcome to apply with the expectation that an awarded supplement would begin immediately after graduation.

To express interest, please submit your CV and cover letter to the email address linked to rpalab_ssw@bc.edu

Details on putting together an application for a diversity supplement to the RPCA R01 Refugee project (Diversity Supplement funding is determined following NIMHD internal review):

What kinds of plans are required with the application?

The application requires three specific plans:

Research Plan
The Research Plan should present evidence that the proposed experience is appropriate for the stage of the individual’s career, and that it will significantly enhance the individual’s research potential, while furthering the individual’s ability to pursue a research career.

Graduate, postdoctoral and investigator level candidates are expected to have defined research projects.

Note: projects or specific aims deleted during the initial peer review of the parent grant may not be proposed as the research basis for research supplement support.

**Career Development Plan**

Prepare a detailed Career Development Plan that will include objectives, benchmarks, and associated timelines.

Describe how the research experience will foster the research capabilities of the candidate and explain how the research experience is related to the research goals and objectives of the parent grant.

The Career Development Plan should also include plans for transition to the next stage of the candidate’s career level. For post doctoral, and investigator level candidates, a projected timeline delineating specific research milestones and other activities that will be made in an attempt to secure independent research funding (i.e., anticipated publications, grantsmanship workshops, timeframe for grant submissions and type of independent research support the candidate seeks).

**Mentorship Plan**

The Mentorship Plan should include:

- Guidance on preparation of oral scientific presentations
- Instructions on how to critically evaluate the literature and experimental design
- Training in scientific writing (including grant proposal preparation), such as manuscripts, abstracts;
- Instruction in responsible conduct of research and how to design experiments
- Guidance in the ethical conduct of research (including training in animal and human subjects' protection, if applicable)

**Interested Candidates are welcome contact our team with questions:**

Daniel Young, Associate Director Administration
Daniel.young.4@bc.edu

Jenna Berent, Program Manager
berent@bc.edu

Theresa Betancourt, Principal Investigator
rpcalab_ssw@bc.edu

Boston College School of Social Work
140 Commonwealth Ave.
Chestnut Hill, MA 02467
www.bc.edu/rpca
The Research Program on Children and Adversity is seeking a Diversity Fellow applicant whose interests and career goals for training align with the activities of our recently-funded NIMH U19 in Sierra Leone to establish an implementation science hub in West Africa with a dual mission: (a) to accelerate scaling up innovative and sustainable delivery of evidence-based mental health interventions for youth exposed to violence and other forms of adversity across a range of delivery settings; and (b) to serve as a global hub for capacity building in mental health services research on children, youth and families facing adversity and to conduct implementation science on the delivery of evidence-based mental health services via alternate delivery systems such as youth employment programs in West Africa.

Interested potential applicants with a background in quantitative research skills (field based survey data collection, early childhood assessment, psychometric and multivariate analyses of child and family mental health outcomes) as well as qualitative research skills are encouraged to be in touch with the research team whose contact information is below. Candidates should also have a background and keen interest in implementation science and developing mechanisms for fidelity monitoring and quality improvement in mental health services as delivered by lay workers. The RPCA and the potential fellow will then work together to co-construct a proposal for funding to NIMH comprising a one to two-year training and mentored research plan aligned with their career goals and project activities. Willingness to travel for field work as well as prior field based research in Africa or other low-resource settings is preferred.

Soliciting: Candidates who might be interested in applying as a Diversity Fellow (must be US citizen or Green-card holder) to join. Particularly interested in people with a background in global mental health, clinical psychology, public health, social work, and/or implementation science in relation to interagency collaboration, and prior experience with large scale capacity building, in particular, in working with national and international institutions and government leadership. Must have solid quantitative skills; experience with qualitative data collection and analyses preferred. The program includes a mixed-methods approach, uses digital data collection platforms, and emphasizes translational research. Candidates should have a background and keen interest in implementation science and developing mechanisms for fidelity monitoring and quality improvement in mental health services as delivered by lay workers. The ideal candidate must be a self-starter and able to work independently.

Location: The position would be based 100% of the time in Freetown, Sierra Leone.

Eligibility: Applicants must be US citizens or permanent residents.

NIH encourages institutions to diversify their student and faculty populations to enhance the participation of individuals from groups identified as underrepresented in the biomedical, clinical, behavioral and social sciences, such as:

A. Individuals from racial and ethnic groups that have been shown by the National Science Foundation to be underrepresented in health-related sciences;
B. Individuals with disabilities, who are defined as those with a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities;
C. Individuals from disadvantaged backgrounds, defined as:
1. Individuals who come from a family with an annual income below established low-income thresholds. These thresholds are based on family size, published by the U.S. Bureau of the Census; adjusted annually for changes in the Consumer Price Index; and adjusted by the Secretary for use in all health professions programs.

2. Individuals who come from an educational environment such as that found in certain rural or inner-city environments that has demonstrably and directly inhibited the individual from obtaining the knowledge, skills, and abilities necessary to develop and participate in a research career. The disadvantaged background category (C1 and C2) refers to the financial and educational status of individuals while residing in the United States, and is only applicable to programs focused on high school and undergraduate candidates.

Preferred qualifications:

- Doctoral degree (preferred), preferably in Public Health, Implementation Science, Social Work, Developmental Psychology, Mental Health, or other related field required. Strong pre-doctoral candidates at the master's level with strong quantitative analysis skills will also be considered.
- The Pre/Postdoctoral Fellow will need to be a self-driven, creative thinker with strong qualitative and statistical skills to help develop methods which investigate intervention effectiveness in terms of child development and parenting outcomes. Coursework/training in psychometrics and implementation science is a plus.
- Strong ability in use of advanced statistical and computational programming.
- Training in implementation science to include hybrid design, cluster randomized control trials, longitudinal studies, and quality improvement approaches to fidelity and supervision that relate to long-term sustainability and scalability.
- Some background related to conducting research in culturally diverse contexts, preferably in Low and Middle Income Countries (LMICs).
- Publication record that demonstrates candidate’s capacities is also desirable.
- Proficiency in utilizing computer applications including Microsoft Office, STATA, R, MAXQDA, and other applicable quantitative and qualitative data analysis platforms.
- Expert knowledge of qualitative and quantitative research methodologies including implementation science in LMICs, fidelity monitoring and mixed methodology.
- Understanding of the application of technology both for data collection as well as routine symptom monitoring, fidelity monitoring and quality improvement efforts in global mental health and child development.

Application Process:

Qualified applicants will be asked to submit an application to NIH with mentorship and guidance from the Principal Investigator. The application process is competitive and funding is not guaranteed. Diversity supplements generally run 12 to 24 months at the discretion of the sponsor. The awards do not include funding for conducting original research outside the scope of the U19 project. The review process for the application can take up to six months. Doctoral candidates with an expected graduation date within the next six months are welcome to apply with the expectation that an awarded supplement would begin immediately after graduation.

To express interest, please submit your CV and cover letter to the email address linked to rpcalab_ssw@bc.edu.

Details on putting together an application for a diversity supplement to the RPCA U19 grant (Diversity Supplement funding is determined following NIMH internal review):

What kinds of plans are required with the application?

The application requires three specific plans:
Research Plan

The Research Plan should present evidence that the proposed experience is appropriate for the stage of the individual's career, and that it will significantly enhance the individual's research potential, while furthering the individual's ability to pursue a research career.

Pre or post-doctoral and investigator level candidates are expected to have defined research projects.

Note: projects or specific aims deleted during the initial peer review of the parent grant may not be proposed as the research basis for research supplement support.

Career Development Plan

Prepare a detailed Career Development Plan that will include objectives, benchmarks, and associated timelines.

Describe how the research experience will foster the research capabilities of the candidate and explain how the research experience is related to the research goals and objectives of the parent grant.

The Career Development Plan should also include plans for transition to the next stage of the candidate’s career level. For pre or post-doctoral, and investigator level candidates, a projected timeline delineating specific research milestones and other activities that will be made in an attempt to secure independent research funding (i.e., anticipated publications, grantsmanship workshops, timeframe for grant submissions and type of independent research support the candidate seeks).

Mentorship Plan

The Mentorship Plan should include:

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- Guidance in the ethical conduct of research (including training in animal and human subjects' protection, if applicable)

Interested Candidates are welcome contact our team with questions:

Daniel Young, Associate Director, Administration
Daniel.young.4@bc.edu

Jordan Farrar, Associate Director, Research
farrarjb@bc.edu

Theresa Betancourt, Principal Investigator
rpcalab_ssw@bc.edu

Boston College School of Social Work
140 Commonwealth Ave.
Chestnut Hill, MA 02467
www.bc.edu/rpca
Position Title: Postdoctoral Fellow
Department: Research Program on Children & Adversity (RPCA)
School or Division: School of Social Work
Date posted: 03/27/18
Requisition number: 1817

Role Summary

The Postdoctoral fellow will work across projects at the direction of Theresa Betancourt (PI) based primarily at Boston College with responsibilities to oversee all aspects of data management, data analysis, study design, and implementation science related to three projects:

i) The Sugira Muryango (Strong Families) home-visiting Family Strengthening Intervention (FSI) that promotes positive parent-child relationships and fosters healthy early child development

ii) Youth Forward, NIH funded U19, to establish a regional hub for the advancement of implementation science focused on scaling up evidence-based mental health interventions via alternate delivery platforms for youth exposed to war, community violence, and other adversities in West Africa

iii) Refugee project, NIH funded R01, to address mental health disparities in refugee children through family and community-based prevention with Somali Bantu and Bhutanese refugees in New England

Reporting Relationship

The Postdoctoral fellow reports to the Principal Investigator of the studies.

Supervisory Responsibility

☒ No supervisory responsibility.

Position Scope/Size Parameters

The RPCA is an applied research program dedicated to improving the evidence base on the epidemiology of mental health problems and family functioning as well as intervention research to develop and test mental health services for children and families
affected by multiple forms of adversity, including armed conflict, poverty, and infectious disease.

Through quantitative and qualitative research methods, the program investigates key mechanisms shaping child development and mental health. The program develops targeted psychosocial interventions that support positive life outcomes that can be effectively delivered at scale in low-resource settings. Overall, the program team works to develop evidence-based, transdiagnostic interventions that are feasible and cost effective, to support positive life outcomes. These outcomes are key to child health, social services, and the economic development agendas.

The research fellow will be directed by Dr. Theresa S. Betancourt.

A particular focus for this position is to provide high level modeling, data analysis, study design oversight, and implementation science processes.

**Essential Functions**

**Data Management and Data Analysis (65%):**

- Apply statistical analysis using multilevel modeling, coding, multiple imputation to address missing data, and sound data management, while overseeing technology-based data collection and data monitoring.
- Utilize mixed methodologies to triangulate, analyze and interpret qualitative and quantitative data.
- Provide implementation science expertise to support Program Managers and local teams with strong understanding of hybrid design, cluster randomized control trials, and quality improvement approaches to fidelity and supervision.
- Work alongside Program Managers, other Postdoctoral fellows, and co-investigators to provide study oversight, conduct assessments and evaluate program as needed.

**Research and Dissemination (35%):**

- Engage in high-level research and analysis, publishing on projects regarding ongoing work related to RPCA research
- Research, collect data, and synthesize a costing analyses to determine the financial feasibility of delivering the interventions, with the goal of informing program policymakers in LMIC settings, by providing a Return on Investment (ROI) analysis
- Qualitative and mixed method analysis of process evaluation data
- Collaborate on concept notes, grant writing, publications, multi-stakeholder reports, and presentations for international conferences.

**Decision Making and Problem Solving**
The Postdoctoral Fellow will need to be a self-driven, creative thinker with strong statistical and qualitative skills to help develop methods which investigate intervention effectiveness in terms of child development and parenting outcomes.

Coursework/training in psychometrics, hybrid designs, cluster randomized control trials, and implementation science is preferred.

**Minimum Qualifications**

**University Core Competencies**

Teamwork, Continuous Learning, Decision Making/Problem Solving, Communication, Applying Technology, Valuing Diversity, Big Picture Perspective, Openness to Change, Productivity

**Functional and Technical Competencies. Education/Training and Certification, Licensure, etc…**

Doctoral degree, preferably in Public Health, Implementation Science, Social Work, Developmental Psychology, Mental Health, or other related field.

**Experience**

- Strong ability in use of advanced statistical and computational programming
- Strong background in implementation science to include hybrid design, cluster randomized control trials, longitudinal studies, and quality improvement approaches to fidelity and supervision that relate to long-term sustainability and scalability
- Some background related to conducting research in culturally diverse contexts, preferably in Low and Middle Income Countries (LMICs)
- Publication record that demonstrates candidate’s capacities is also desirable
- Proficiency in utilizing computer applications including Microsoft Office, STATA, R, MAXQDA, and other applicable quantitative and qualitative data analysis platforms.
- Expert knowledge of qualitative and quantitative research methodologies including mixed-methods
- Knowledge of Community Based Participatory Research (CPBR), implementation science in LMICs, processes related to fidelity monitoring and supervision, and costing analysis
- Understanding of the application of technology both for data collection as well as routine symptom monitoring, fidelity monitoring and quality improvement efforts in global mental health and child development.

**Exceptional Work Schedule Demands**
The Postdoctoral Fellow may work nights and weekends in order to meet project deadlines.

**Working Conditions and/or Physical Demands**

Ability to travel internationally in order to supervise and support research projects in Rwanda, Sierra Leone, and across New England. This position will be based 100% of the time in Boston. The fellowship is funded for one year, with the option to renew up to two years.

We welcome questions from interested candidates. Please contact: rpcalab_ssw@bc.edu

To apply, please refer to requisition 1817 on Boston College’s Careers website:

https://bc.csod.com/ats/careersite/search.aspx?site=1&c=bc
Role Summary

The Rwanda Postdoctoral research fellow (req 1663) in the Research Program on Children and Adversity (RPCA) in the Boston College School of Social Work will work with the in-country Program Manager and another Postdoctoral fellow to oversee all aspects of implementation science and intimate partner violence (IPV) related to the Sugira Muryango (Strong Families) home-visiting Family Strengthening Intervention (FSI) that promotes positive parent-child relationships and fosters healthy child development. The Rwanda Postdoctoral fellow reports to the Principal Investigator of the study.

This position will be based 100% of the time in Kigali, Rwanda, over a 12 month appointment.

The RPCA is an applied research program dedicated to improving the evidence base on the epidemiology of mental health problems and family functioning as well as intervention research to develop and test mental health services for children and families affected by multiple forms of adversity, including armed conflict, poverty, and infectious disease.

The Sugira Muryango (Strong Families) home-visiting Family Strengthening Intervention (FSI) promotes positive parent-child relationships and fosters healthy child development. This intervention is currently piloted with 37 households living in extreme poverty, which will inform a cluster randomized control trial scale-up to begin Spring 2018. The research fellow will be directed by Dr. Theresa S. Betancourt.

Reporting Relationship

The Postdoctoral fellow reports to the Principal Investigator of the studies.

Supervisory Responsibility

☐ No supervisory responsibility.
Position Scope/Size Parameters

The RPCA is an applied research program dedicated to improving the evidence base on the epidemiology of mental health problems and family functioning as well as intervention research to develop and test mental health services for children and families affected by multiple forms of adversity, including armed conflict, poverty, and infectious disease.

A particular focus for this position is to build on the rigorous analytical framework of the consortium funded Sugira Muryango trial in Rwanda to examine intimate partner violence (IPV), family functioning, and processes related to implementation science.

Essential Functions

Data Management and Data Analysis (65%):

The Rwanda Postdoctoral fellow will provide oversight of Rwanda Study. S/he will:

- Use statistical analysis to address missing data, conduct multilevel modeling, oversee technology-based data collection and data monitoring, and utilize mixed methodologies to triangulate qualitative and quantitative data.
- Provide implementation science expertise to local team with strong understanding of hybrid design, cluster randomized control trials, and quality improvement approaches to fidelity and supervision.
- Work alongside in-country Program Manager and one other Postdoctoral fellow to provide study oversight, conduct assessments and evaluate program as needed.

Research and Dissemination (35%):

The Rwanda Postdoctoral fellow will be responsible for research and dissemination. S/he will:

- Engage in high-level research and analysis, publishing on projects regarding ongoing work related to the Family Strengthening Intervention in Rwanda
- Present findings to the Government of Rwanda and donors with a focus on intimate partner violence (IPV)
- Qualitative analysis of key informant interviews and process evaluation data
- Collaborate on grant writing and publications, and present at international conferences.

Decision Making and Problem Solving

The Postdoctoral Fellow will need to be a self-driven, creative thinker with strong statistical and qualitative skills to help develop methods which investigate intervention effectiveness in terms of child development and parenting outcomes.
Coursework/training in psychometrics, hybrid designs, cluster randomized control trials, and implementation science is preferred.

**Minimum Qualifications**

**University Core Competencies**

Teamwork, Continuous Learning, Decision Making/Problem Solving, Communication, Applying Technology, Valuing Diversity, Big Picture Perspective, Openness to Change, Productivity

**Experience**

- Doctoral degree, preferably in Public Health, Implementation Science, Social Work, Developmental Psychology, Mental Health, or other related field required
- The Postdoctoral Fellow will need to be a self-driven, creative thinker with strong qualitative and statistical skills to help develop methods which investigate intervention effectiveness in terms of child development and parenting outcomes. Coursework/training in psychometrics and implementation science is a plus
- Strong ability in use of advanced statistical and computational programming.
- Strong background in implementation science to include hybrid design, cluster randomized control trials, longitudinal studies, and quality improvement approaches to fidelity and supervision that relate to long-term sustainability and scalability
- Particular research interest in intimate partner violence (IPV) desirable
- Some background related to conducting research in culturally diverse contexts, preferably in Low and Middle Income Countries (LMICs).
- Publication record that demonstrates candidate’s capacities is also desirable
- Proficiency in utilizing computer applications including Microsoft Office, STATA, R, MAXQDA, and other applicable quantitative and qualitative data analysis platforms
- Expert knowledge of qualitative and quantitative research methodologies including Community Based
- Expertise in implementation science in LMICs, fidelity monitoring and mixed methods research
- Understanding of the application of technology both for data collection as well as routine symptom monitoring, fidelity monitoring and quality improvement efforts in global mental health and child development
- Ability to travel internationally in order to supervise and support Rwanda research projects. This position will be based 100% of the time in Rwanda after an orientation period in Boston
Exceptional Work Schedule Demands

The Postdoctoral Fellow may work nights and weekends in order to meet project deadlines.

Working Conditions and/or Physical Demands

This position will be based 100% of the time in Kigali, Rwanda. The fellowship is funded for one year, with the option to renew up to two years.

We welcome questions from interested candidates. Please contact: rpcalab_ssw@bc.edu

To apply, please refer to requisition 1663 on Boston College’s Careers website:

https://bc.csod.com/ats/careersite/search.aspx?site=1&c=bc