



CALL FOR APPLICATIONS The Cancer Research Network Scholars Program

Description: The Cancer Research Network (CRN) Scholars Program is a 26-month training activity that aims to help junior investigators develop research independence using the CRN resource to conduct population-based multi-site and multi-disciplinary studies that leverage the CRN's strengths.

Eligibility: The Scholars Program is open to junior investigators from academic institutions, cancer centers, and other research centers. Potential applicants are required to have a local mentor. Additionally, we strongly recommend all potential applicants identify a potential CRN collaborator for your proposal, and encourage communication with your collaborator before submission.

Application Due Date: December 15, 2012. Program to begin in March 2013.

Topic Areas: We especially encourage applications in the focus areas of the CRN, which include:

- Prevention and Screening
- Health Care Quality and Cost
- Communications and Dissemination/Implementation
- Epidemiology of Cancer Prognosis and Outcomes
- Informatics

The Cancer Research Network – a brief overview

The Cancer Research Network (CRN) conducts groundbreaking cancer research through a consortium of research centers housed within nine nonprofit integrated health care delivery systems that serve nearly 10 million individuals. Continuously funded by the National Cancer Institute since 1999, the CRN brings together epidemiologists, biostatisticians and health services researchers to conduct collaborative studies, often in conjunction with clinical and operations leaders in these integrated care delivery organizations, and with researchers at other institutions. Advantages include well characterized populations, for whom CRN member organizations provide comprehensive health care and health care coverage; clinical and administrative data systems that capture most aspects of health care in these defined populations; development and implementation of common, standardized data models through the federated HMO Research Network Virtual Data Warehouse; extraction of data from clinical and administrative sources to facilitate collaborative and multi-institutional research; and linkage with clinicians and administrators to facilitate translation of research findings into practice.

The CRN Scholars Program

The CRN Scholars Program is one of the core elements in the CRN. It is a 26-month training activity to help junior investigators develop research independence using the CRN resources to conduct population-based multi-site and multi-disciplinary studies. Specific goals that CRN Scholars work toward during their training include becoming a Principal Investigator (PI) on a successful investigator-initiated grant, and being first author on a peer-reviewed, published article reporting original research. The CRN Scholars Program is designed to provide training and mentoring in research that takes place in the CRN setting and leverages the CRN's unique strengths. The program focuses on skills that are not acquired in most training programs, including collaborating with stakeholders involved in integrated health care systems, developing and using complex multisite

data, and working in collaborative research teams anchored in delivery systems that have understandable tensions around innovation and efficiency.

Primary aims of this program are to:

1. Train junior investigators – CRN Scholars – in the methods, culture, and research opportunities available through the CRN.
2. Enable CRN Scholars to establish research contacts within the CRN to facilitate collaborative research, and to improve access to CRN-affiliated researchers, CRN-specific resources, and the resources of the integrated health care systems in the network.
3. Support and mentor CRN Scholars to achieve rapidly two critical career landmarks of independent investigators: a) becoming PI on a successful R01 grant (or equivalent); and b) becoming first author on an original research paper derived from research led by the Scholar and published in a peer-reviewed journal.
4. Foster and facilitate the development of research careers that focus on the use of integrated health care systems with electronic health records as a means for answering critical questions on improving the quality, outcomes, and costs of medical care and population health.

The CRN Scholars Program anticipates two 26-month training programs for two groups of eight scholars from CRN research centers, academic institutions, cancer centers, and other research organizations. The first cohort will start in March 2013. CRN Scholars are expected to develop grant applications and/or manuscripts through one-on-one mentoring by one of the co-directors of the Program and by participating in twice-monthly conference calls with their peers in the Program. Bi-annual in-person meetings are also scheduled as part of the training program. Scholars are also required to work with a local research mentor or a mentoring team. The Program curriculum is based on principles of adult learning, in which participants identify their own needs and faculty act as facilitators. At the completion of their training, Scholars will have cutting-edge skills for conducting research in integrated delivery systems.

Past CRN Scholars are happy to discuss their experiences with interested persons. To learn more about the program and connect with past Scholars and investigators who may serve as collaborators/mentors, please contact:

- Sarah McDonald (mcdonald.sj@ghc.org), Program Coordinator
- Dr. Diana Buist (buist.d@ghc.org), Program Co-Director
- Dr. Terry Field (Terry.Field@umassmed.edu), Program Co-Director

[Learn more about the CRN Scholars Program](#)

[Learn more about the Cancer Research Network](#)

Eligibility and Selection Criteria

Junior investigators are defined as doctoral-level (MD/PhD or equivalent) researchers who are eligible to serve as [a new investigator on an NIH R01 or equivalent grant](#). If not already in place, applicants and their institutions must be willing to establish a connection to one of the nine CRN sites. The CRN sites include Group Health Research Institute, Seattle, WA; Henry Ford Health System, Detroit, MI; Kaiser Permanente Colorado, Denver, CO; Kaiser Permanente Hawai'i, Honolulu, HI; Kaiser Permanente Northern California, Oakland, CA; Kaiser Permanente Northwest, Portland, OR; Kaiser

Permanente Southern California, Pasadena, CA; Marshfield Clinic Research Foundation, Marshfield, WI; and Meyers Primary Care Institute, Worcester, MA.

We are seeking candidates with a demonstrated commitment to conducting population-based cancer research within integrated health care settings. Applicants must have at least 20% FTE available to participate in the Scholars program. The CRN will provide 10% salary support and the Scholar's host institution must be willing to cover an additional 10% so that the Scholar can devote a minimum of 20% FTE to CRN training and career development activities.¹ The program is designed to complement, not replace, local mentorship; therefore, applicants must have a demonstrated local mentor or mentoring team that will provide local oversight throughout the duration of the program. Successful applicants will need to be available to participate in an in-person meeting in San Francisco, CA on April 15 2013, which will be held in conjunction with the Annual HMO Research Network Conference, April 16-18. Travel funds for this meeting will be provided by the CRN.

Priority will be given to applicants who:

- Intend to conduct research that requires in depth understanding of the strengths, appropriate uses, and weaknesses of the multi-system electronic medical records and virtual data warehouse and/or related unique resources of the CRN. Preference will be given to applicants whose research interests are aligned with one of the CRN Scientific Working Groups or the CRN Informatics Core. Scientific Working Groups focus on prevention and screening; epidemiology of cancer prognosis and outcomes; health care quality and cost; and communications and dissemination/implementation.
- Demonstrated strong local mentorship with a clear commitment to the required minimum (20%) protected time
- Have identified at least one collaborator from a CRN site (if institution is not a CRN member)

After review of written applications, candidates who are eligible may be contacted by telephone by one of the Program's co-directors. Final selections will be made in January 2013 by the Program's co-directors and a selection committee who will consider the individual candidates' training, research interests, motivation, and the amount and quality of local support and mentoring. Selection will also take into account the CRN's interest in bolstering clinician researchers and extending linkages to academic institutions and cancer centers. Individuals from underrepresented racial and ethnic groups as well as individuals with disabilities are always encouraged to apply for NIH-supported programs.

Completing the application

Applications are due by December 15, 2012 to Ms. Sarah McDonald (mcdonald.sj@ghc.org)

Please send an **electronic** copy of the following:

1. The application form (in the attached file)
 - a. 1 page statement on research interests and career goals (part of the application) as they relate to conducting population-based research for the CRN Scholars program
 - b. 1-2 description of specific project or grant application you plan to work on during the Scholars Program (significance, approach)
 - c. A current curriculum vitae

¹ These are NIH funds and are subject to NIH requirements, including current salary limitations.

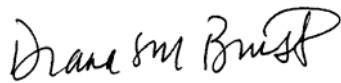
2. Signed letter from department head or appropriate institution official confirming at least 10% FTE institutional salary support for applicant's participation in the CRN Scholars Program
3. CV and letter of support from primary local mentor
4. Biosketch for additional members of the mentorship team with a statement of the proposed mentoring for the applicant
5. Optional, but strongly encouraged, letter of support to collaborate with the applicant and their mentor from an investigator from a CRN site for applicants whose home institution is not within the CRN

Send the completed application to:

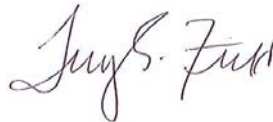
Ms. Sarah McDonald (mcdonald.sj@ghc.org)
CRN Scholars Program Coordinator
Group Health Research Institute
1730 Minor Avenue, Suite 1600
Seattle, WA 98101

Thank you.

CRN Scholars Program Directors



Diana SM Buist, PhD, MPH
Group Health Research Institute
buist.d@ghc.org



Terry Field, DSc, MPH
Meyers Primary Care Institute
terry.field@umassmed.edu & tfield@meyersprimary.org