Social Determinants of Health Initiative
www.pdx.edu/social-determinants-health/

Funding Opportunities
- NIMHD Social, Behavioral, Health Services, and Policy Research on Minority Health and Health Disparities (R01)
- NIMHD Basic and Applied Biomedical Research on Minority Health and Health Disparities (R01)
- Avon Foundation – Breast Cancer Safety Net
- NIA Mid-life Reversibility of Early-established Biobehavioral Risk Factors (R01)

Post-Doctoral Fellowships
- Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Health & Society Scholars
- Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Scholars in Health Policy Research

Job Opportunities
- Core Investigator, VA Evidence-based Synthesis Program (ESP) and the AHRQ Scientific Resource Center (SRC) Portland VA Research Foundation
  http://www.pvarf.org/careers.php

Workshops, Conferences, and Other Events
- African Community in Multnomah County: An Unsettling Profile at the Multnomah County Board hearing (501 SE Hawthorne-Board Room) on Tuesday, September 10th at 9:30am with a celebratory reception and light refreshments following the presentation.
- Health Benefits of Nearby Nature - Thursday, September 12, 2013, at Portland State University’s Hoffmann Hall; 6-9pm

See below for more details

Funding Opportunities

NIMHD Social, Behavioral, Health Services, and Policy Research on Minority Health and Health Disparities (R01)
Letter of Intent: October 19, 2013
Application due: November 19, 2013

The purpose of this Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) is to solicit innovative social, behavioral, health services, and policy research that can directly and demonstrably contribute to the elimination of health disparities. Projects may involve primary data collection or secondary analysis of existing datasets. Projects that examine understudied health conditions; examine the effectiveness of interventions, services, or policies for multiple health disparity populations;
and/or directly measure the impact of project activities on levels of health disparities are particularly encouraged.

**NIMHD Basic and Applied Biomedical Research on Minority Health and Health Disparities (R01)**


Letter of Intent: October 26, 2013
Application due: November 26, 2013

The overall goal of this initiative is to enhance our understanding of fundamental biological mechanisms involved in disease conditions that disproportionately affect health disparity populations and develop therapies or interventions that can directly or demonstrably contribute to the reduction or elimination of health disparities. This funding opportunity announcement (FOA) solicits applications to conduct:

1. Biological and genetic research to explore disease mechanisms or pathways that influence health outcomes in minority and health disparity populations.

2. Clinical and translational research linking basic science discovery with effective treatment or clinical practice to improve health outcomes in minority and health disparity populations.

Projects investigating the etiology, physiology, genetic risk factors, molecular pathways, gene-environmental interactions, pharmacogenomic and personalized medicine in health disparity populations are particularly encouraged.

**Avon Foundation – Breast Cancer Safety Net**


Up to $125,000 per year for up to two years.

Letter of Intent: September 12, 2013
Full application: October 24, 2013

The emphasis of this initiative is to provide hospitals and health care centers with patient navigation programs, partial equipment support and other personnel and infrastructure support that will enhance their breast cancer care services to the medically underserved.

Must have a demonstrated commitment to providing breast cancer care to the low-income, at-risk, uninsured, and medically underserved.

**Mid-life Reversibility of Early-established Biobehavioral Risk Factors (R01)**

National Institute on Aging


Letter of Intent: January 3, 2014
Application due date: February 3, 2014

The purpose of this funding opportunity announcement (FOA) issued by the National Institute on Aging (NIA) is to solicit two-year Research Project Grant (R01) applications that propose to explore the potential for midlife plasticity of biobehavioral or psychological systems affected by early life disadvantage. In order to speed the development of novel intervention strategies,
applicants are encouraged either to use existing human cohort data to identify circumstances that mitigate or exacerbate the effects of early adversity or to use human and/or animal models to test the feasibility of developing interventions aimed specifically at increasing malleability in adulthood of risk persistence mechanisms.

High Priority Behavioral and Social Research Networks (R24)  
National Institute on Aging  
Letter of intent: September 22, 2013  
Application Due Date: October 22, 2013

The purpose of this funding opportunity announcement (FOA) issued by the National Institute on Aging (NIA), working in part with funds contributed by the NIH Office of Behavioral and Social Sciences Research (http://obssr.od.nih.gov/index.aspx ), is to provide infrastructure support for advancing development of specific emerging and high priority interdisciplinary areas of behavioral and social research of relevance to aging. The infrastructure support will facilitate research networks through meetings, conferences, small scale pilots, training, and dissemination to encourage growth and development of specified priority areas and of resources for the field at large. Projects are solicited that will develop, strengthen, and evaluate transdisciplinary approaches and methods for basic behavioral and/or social research.

Port-Doctoral Fellowships

Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Health & Society Scholars –  

The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Health & Society Scholars program provides two years of support to postdoctoral scholars at all stages of their careers to build the nation’s capacity for research and leadership to address the multiple determinants of population health and contribute to policy change. The program is based on the principle that progress in the field of population health depends upon collaboration and exchange across disciplines and sectors. Its goal is to improve health by training scholars to:

1. investigate the connections among biological, genetic, behavioral, environmental, economic, and social determinants of health; and
2. develop, evaluate and disseminate knowledge, interventions, and policies that integrate and act on these determinants to improve health.

Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Scholars in Health Policy Research  

The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Scholars in Health Policy Research program develops and supports a new generation of creative health policy thinkers and researchers within the disciplines of economics, political science and sociology. Each year the program selects up to nine highly qualified individuals for two-year fellowships at one of three nationally prominent
universities with the expectation that they will make important research contributions to future U.S. health policy.

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**Job Opportunities**

**Core Investigator**
VA Evidence-based Synthesis Program (ESP) and the AHRQ Scientific Resource Center (SRC)
Portland VA Research Foundation
1.0 FTE
**Salary:** $72,540 to $94,300

**Overview**
The Core Investigator will divide their time equally between conducting evidence synthesis for the VA ESP and supporting methods development to advance comparative effectiveness research through the AHRQ SRC.

VHA Health Service Research and Development Service (HSR&D) created an Evidence-based Synthesis Program (ESP) in 2005 to help guide VA policy based on existing evidence. The ESP produces evidence reviews to address important, Veteran-specific topics to inform VA clinical policies and programs in such areas as the development of clinical practice guidelines, setting direction for future research to address gaps in knowledge, identifying the evidence to support VA performance measures, and rationalizing drug formulary decisions. Many topics focus on the health delivery system and address the broader social issues among Veterans. Because of the emphasis on collaboration between VA stakeholders and the evidence review team, ESP work products can have a strong impact on national policy.

http://www.hsrd.research.va.gov/publications/esp/

The SRC assists the AHRQ Effective Health Care Program in developing a research agenda for outcomes, comparative effectiveness reviews (CERs), and appropriateness of pharmaceuticals, devices, and health care services as well as providing methodological support to the 11 Evidence-based Practice Centers (EPCs) in North America. The SRC provides: program coordination, research topic selection and development, scientific, technical and methodologic support for systematic reviews and outcomes research, collaboration with partners and stakeholders, development of Effective Health Care Program tools, and support for and development of methods to advance comparative effectiveness research.

http://www.effectivehealthcare.ahrq.gov/search-for-guides-reviews-and-reports/?pageaction=displayproduct&mp=1&productID=318

**Key Responsibilities**
The Core Investigator will support the work of each program through the following activities:

**VA ESP**
Serve as principal investigator for evidence reviews relating to expertise; implement systematic review methods and procedures for social interventions and/or health system/policy issues; read abstracts and papers from medical journals, federal agencies, organizations, and other sources to determine whether they meet criteria for inclusion or exclusion; systematically abstract specific information into tables, figures, text, or other formats, which involves synthesizing and quality appraisal of the evidence; perform quality checks and dual review of data; interface with VA stakeholders for each topic; and work with national experts (technical expert panel) for topic refinement.

AHRQ SRC

Manage one or more methodological research project(s); formulate research designs, draft protocols and analytic frameworks; write reports; contribute to the writing of journal articles, white papers, and other types of academic writing; coordinate project teamwork and participate in regular meetings related to the various, parallel, deadline-driven reports under development.

Conduct research that engages stakeholders to identify and prioritize future health care research needs; methods may include semi-structured individual or group interviews, focus groups, key informant interviews, webinars, questionnaires, and the like; identify appropriate stakeholder perspectives; recruit stakeholders; implement strategies for prioritizing and organizing feedback (ranking, Delphi process).

Use systematic and transparent research approaches to interpret, analyze, and present data from qualitative and quantitative research; synthesize findings from stakeholder engagement; prepare reports and presentations.

Required Qualifications
Ph.D. in health services research, health policy, organizational theory, or a related field. The candidate should be: 1) experienced in critically evaluating scientific literature; 2) able to write and communicate effectively to scientific/technical audiences as well as non-clinical policy-makers; 3) comfortable working with senior leadership (clinicians and researchers) on complex scientific and policy issues; and 4) comfortable with core epidemiologic and biostatistical concepts. Candidates with prior experience conducting systematic reviews are preferred.

How to Apply
Applications will be accepted until the position is filled. Please provide a cover letter describing interests and qualifications, current curriculum vitae, and three (3) letters as of reference (as ONE Word document) to: http://www.pvarf.org/careers.php

Workshops and Conferences:

Please save the date for the release of the African Community in Multnomah County: An Unsettling Profile at the Multnomah County Board hearing (501 SE Hawthorne-Board Room) on Tuesday, September 10th at 9:30am with a celebratory reception and light refreshments following the presentation.

We will share research findings on the disparities as well as policy recommendations. Panel presenters to be announced but will include CCC members, lead PSU research staff and African community leaders.

Please pass this event on to your networks! (flyers are attached!)
Thank you,
Demi

Demetria (Demi) Espinoza, Coordinator
Coalition of Communities of Color & NAYA Family Center

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**Health Benefits of Nearby Nature**
Dr. Roger Ulrich and Dr. Geoffrey Donovan present on the relationship between trees, gardens, nature and public health: Trees and well-designed nature settings are part of our public health infrastructure!

Sponsored by: Friends of Trees, J. Frank Schmidt Family Charitable Foundation, Lewis & Clark Graduate School of Counseling, Legacy Health, PSU Institute for Sustainable Solutions, TKF Foundation and ZGF Architects LLP.

**Thursday, September 12, 2013, at Portland State University’s Hoffmann Hall** 1833 SW Eleventh Avenue, Portland, Oregon 97201.
Doors open at 6 pm for registration, networking, educational displays and refreshments. Presentation 7 pm – 9 pm.

$10 for early registration until Sept 5, 5 pm. No refunds for cancellations.
Register online: Health Benefits of Nearby Nature
$15 day of event. Cash or check accepted at the door. Sorry, no debit/credit.
6:00 pm Doors Open.
Registration, Networking, Educational Displays and Refreshments
7:00 pm Roger S. Ulrich, Ph.D. and Geoffrey Donovan, Ph.D.
Lecture, Dialogue between the Experts and Questions from the Audience

**Details:**
**Roger S. Ulrich, Ph.D.**
Nature heals the human body.

Roger S. Ulrich is Professor of Architecture at the Center for Healthcare Building Research at Chalmers University of Technology in Sweden, and is adjunct professor of architecture at Aalborg University in Denmark. He is the most frequently cited researcher internationally in evidence-based healthcare design. Among other achievements, his research was the first to document scientifically the stress-reducing and health-related benefits for hospital patients of viewing nature.

In his past role as director of the Center for Health Systems and Design at Texas A&M University, Dr. Ulrich found that nature can help the body heal. In his groundbreaking study, Dr. Ulrich investigated the effect that views from windows had on patients recovering from abdominal surgery. He discovered that patients whose hospital rooms provided a view of trees got out of the hospital faster, had fewer complications, and required less pain medication than those who had a view of a brick wall.

Like other researchers, Dr. Ulrich has found that simply viewing representations of nature can help. For example, he found that heart surgery patients in intensive care units at a Swedish
hospital could reduce their anxiety and need for pain medication by looking at pictures depicting nature of trees and water.

Dr. Ulrich’s work has received many awards, directly impacted the design of billions of dollars of hospital construction, and improved the health outcomes and safety of patients around the world. His work has influenced internationally the architecture and interior design of scores of major hospitals. Further, Dr. Ulrich has developed a Theory of Evidence-Based Design that has become influential as a scientifically grounded and “user friendly” guide for creating successful healthcare facilities. His recent work has dealt with subjects as varied as the effects of single- versus multi-bed patient rooms on infection transmission, the negative impacts of hospital noise on patients and nurses, and how nature, gardens, and art can lessen pain, stress, and healthcare costs.

Dr. Ulrich was co-founding director of the Center for Health Systems and Design at Texas A&M University, an interdisciplinary center housed jointly in the colleges of Architecture and Medicine. From 2005-2006 he served at the invitation of Britain’s National Health Service as senior adviser on patient care environments for the UK program to create scores of new hospitals.

Dr. Ulrich has published widely in both scientific and design journals, and his research has received international scientific recognition. He has worked extensively in Scandinavia, especially Sweden, where he has carried out research at Lund Institute of Technology, Uppsala University, and the Karolinska Institute of Medicine. He has also been Visiting Research Professor in Healthcare Architecture at the University of Florence, Italy and served as Invitation Research Fellow of the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science. He also serves as advisor on evidence–based healthcare design for the British National Health Services. He is a member of the Board of Directors of The Center for Health Design, California, and serves as co-chair of its national Research Committee.

Geoffrey Donovan, Ph.D.
Trees don’t make our cities livable, they make them survivable.

Geoffrey Donovan, Ph.D. will present results from two recent studies examining the relationship between trees and public health. Humans need green space and trees to survive. Dr. Donovan is a Research Forester with the USDA Forest Service and has quantified a wide range of urban-tree benefits. These have ranged from intuitive benefits—for example, reduced summertime cooling costs—to less intuitive benefits such as crime reduction. More recently, he has focused on the relationship between trees and public health. He found that mothers with trees around their homes are less likely to have underweight babies, and when trees are killed by an invasive pest, more people die from cardiovascular and lower-respiratory disease. He has a number of ongoing projects including a collaboration with the women’s health initiative.

Dr. Donovan has a bachelor’s degree from Sheffield University in biochemistry and a doctorate in forest economics from Colorado State University. Since 2001 he has worked as a research forester for the USDA Forest Service’s Pacific Northwest Research Station. His two main research areas are the economics of wildfire and the quantification of the benefits of urban trees. He enjoys running ultra-marathons and spending time with his four-legged friends.

Sponsored by: Friends of Trees, J. Frank Schmidt Family Charitable Foundation, Lewis & Clark Graduate School of Counseling, Legacy Health, PSU Institute for Sustainable Solutions, TKF Foundation and ZGF Architects LLP.