



Information Packet

To promote health equity research and to train early career researchers from underrepresented backgrounds, the Drexel University Dornsife School of Public Health is pleased to invite applications from doctoral and postdoctoral trainees interested in research addressing health inequities within and outside of the United States. The Global Alliance for Training in Health Equity Research (GATHER) program is a T-37 training grant with funding from the National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities (NIMHD), offering training and an immersive mentored research experience.

As a trainee, you will:

- Virtually participate in an [Urban Health Summer Institute](#) course (June 24 – July 1, 2022)*
- Virtually attend the GATHER Cohort 4 Launch Event (TBD June/July 2022)*
- Be matched with two mentors to help guide your individual development plan for your research; one faculty mentor will be US-based and the other will be based at one of the following GATHER global sites:
 - **Belo Horizonte, Brazil:** Observatory for Urban Health in Belo Horizonte (OSUBH), School of Medicine, Federal University of Minas Gerais
 - **Mexico City or Cuernavaca, Mexico:** National Institute of Public Health (INSP)
 - **Nairobi, Kenya:** African Population and Health Research Center (APHRC)
- Share research updates and learn through weekly virtual seminars (Summer 2022)
- Travel (if feasible*) to an assigned global site for 4-6 weeks for an immersive research experience
- Participate in cross-cohort events hosted (in Philadelphia if travel is feasible*) in 2022 and 2023 to foster the development of supportive professional networks

*Given the uncertainty of safe travel pending vaccine distribution progress, events in June 2022 will be planned as virtual; immersive research experiences and cross-cohort events in 2022 may be virtual as well if travel remains restricted. If travel can safely resume during their period of participation, trainees may choose to travel to their global site or a cross-cohort event in Philadelphia, but will not be required to do so. Please refer to Drexel University's institutional guidance [here](#).

Award

Doctoral and postdoctoral trainees will be supported by for a minimum of 12 weeks (June 1, 2022 – August 31, 2022) at [NIH designated stipend levels](#). Trainees may request to extend their time on the training grant for 3 months (through November 30, 2022), 6 months (through February 28, 2023), or 9 months (through May 31, 2023). In addition, the training grant will support the costs of:

- Travel for approved GATHER training events and experiences during the period of participation as a trainee (as noted above, feasibility and safety of travel remain uncertain, and travel will not be required):
 - Flights, accommodations, and limited reimbursement for ground transportation and meals (subject to federal funding and institutional policies)
 - Costs related to travel insurance (if not otherwise provided) and visa
- Up to \$500 toward language learning courses/materials in preparation for global travel or other approved professional development resources/materials
- Up to \$1,500 toward hosted conference travel within the following year to present health equity research

Eligibility Requirements

To be eligible for the GATHER training program, an applicant must:

1. Be a US citizen or have permanent resident status in the US.
2. Commit to full-time participation in the GATHER program for the time period awarded. Trainees must confirm that they will **not receive salary or stipend funding from any other source during the GATHER program period**. An “Other Support” document (described by NIH [here](#)) will be requested from those receiving an offer letter, to be returned prior to confirming training grant participation.
3. Identify as belonging to a health disparities population, as defined by the NIH:
NIH-designated U.S. health disparity populations include Blacks/African Americans, Hispanics/Latinos, American Indians/Alaska Natives, Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians and other Pacific Islanders, socioeconomically disadvantaged populations, underserved rural populations, and sexual and gender minorities.

More information on the National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities and these definitions can be found [here](#).

4. If you are applying as a **Doctoral Trainee**, you must be:
 - An advanced doctoral student enrolled in a doctoral program in the US who is either finished or nearing completion of required coursework (anticipated graduation date within two years following the conclusion of training grant participation).
5. If you are applying as a **Post-Doctoral Trainee**, you must be:
 - Recently graduated from a doctoral program, within the 2 years prior to June 1, 2022.

Application Instructions

All applications must be submitted via the [online application form](#). The application includes:

- Questions relevant to applicant contact information and eligibility
- Resume/Curriculum Vitae or NIH Biosketch
- Personal statement (up to 1,000 words) outlining health equity research interests and goals for the program
- One letter of support from a supervisor or faculty mentor
- An opportunity to provide additional information (e.g., preferences for mentor or global site placement)

Timeline

March 24, 2022	Application due (Extended from original due date March 14)
April 4 – 8, 2022	Applicant interviews
April 15, 2022	Notification to applicants if selected, not selected, or added to waitlist
April 29, 2022	Confirmation of participation and other support documentation due
June 1, 2022	Trainee participation and stipend support begins
June 24 – July 1, 2022	Trainee participates in Urban Health Summer Institute (likely to be virtual)
TBD June/July, 2022	Trainee attends GATHER Launch Event (virtual)
July – August 2022	Trainee attends weekly virtual seminars and conducts research with mentors
August 31, 2022	3-month program end (minimum)
November 30, 2022	3-month extension end
February 28, 2023	6-month extension end
May 31, 2023	9-month extension end

There will be opportunities to stay engaged after completion of the program through activities such as conference travel or cross-cohort events. For questions about the program or application, please email t37gather@drexel.edu.

Institutional Sites

Below you will find more detailed information about the lead organization and each of our three global sites.

Dornsife School of Public Health, Drexel University (Lead Organization)

The mission of the Dornsife School of Public Health is to provide education, conduct research, and partner with communities and organizations to improve the health of populations. The School views health as a human right and has a special commitment to improving health in cities, eliminating health disparities, and promoting health in all policies. Improving population health requires a fundamental commitment to social justice and the elimination of inequities in health. The goal of improving population health also cannot be achieved without meaningful and sustained partnerships. The School is committed to providing rigorous evidence and training, to building equitable partnerships, and to translating knowledge into actions that improve population health and reduce health inequities.

Learn more [here](#).

Observatory for Urban Health in Belo Horizonte (OSUBH), Federal University of Minas Gerais

The mission of OSUBH is to build workforce capacity in population health research and to conduct urban-themed studies that can drive planning for improving urban health, especially in the intense urbanization areas associated with intra-urban inequalities. Ongoing research projects at OSUBH focus on the acquisition of advanced knowledge on urban health through scientific research, to contribute to public policies that may affect health, both at individual and community levels.

Learn more [here](#).

National Institute of Public Health (INSP)

The mission of the INSP is to contribute to social equity and the full realization of the right to health protection through the generation and dissemination of knowledge, state-of-the-art training of human resources, and innovation in multidisciplinary research in order to develop evidence-based public policies. The INSP is focused on competency-based education, offering continuing education through multiple formats (online, executive and combined), reorganized research to become mission-oriented, and developed public health services that are linked to scientific results from INSP research projects.

Learn more [here](#).

African Population and Health Research Center (APHRC)

APHRC's mission is to generate evidence, strengthen research capacity and engage policy to inform action on population health and wellbeing. Research programs at APHRC include urbanization and wellbeing in Africa, maternal and child wellbeing, health and systems for health, education and youth empowerment, and aging and development. The Center runs an urban-based longitudinal demographic and health surveillance systems in the slums of Nairobi, Kenya, and hosts the Consortium for Advanced Research Training in Africa (CARTA) and the African Doctoral Dissertation Research Fellowship (ADDRF) programs that have supported hundreds of pre- and postdoctoral fellows across Africa.

Learn more [here](#).

Global Site Leads

In the application you will be asked to rank your preferences for global site placements. The Global Site Leads can serve as mentors, but they can also help match candidates with other mentors at their institution based on research interests.

Name	Institution	Research Interests
Waleska Teixeira Caiaffa, MD, PhD Professor of Epidemiology and Public Health	Observatory for Urban Health in Belo Horizonte (OSUBH) <i>Brazil</i>	Urban inequalities, evaluation of city and neighborhood-level policy/interventions, social determinants of health
Tonatiuh Barrientos Gutiérrez, MD, PhD Researcher in Medical Sciences	National Institute of Public Health (INSP) <i>Mexico</i>	Occupational, environmental and social epidemiology; drug, alcohol and tobacco use in work environments; exposure measurement and statistical modeling of environmental data
Catherine Kyobutungi, PhD, MS Executive Director of APHRC	African Population and Health Research Center (APHRC) <i>Kenya</i>	Migrant health, community participation in health, epidemiology of non-communicable diseases

US-Based Faculty Mentors

Below you will find brief descriptions of each of our faculty mentors. If you have preferences for being matched with any specific mentor or if you have an existing relationship with a mentor, please include the relevant information in your application form.

Name	Institution	Research Interests
Gina Lovasi, PhD, MPH Dornsife Associate Professor of Urban Health in Epidemiology and Biostatistics; GATHER MPI	Drexel University, Dornsife School of Public Health	Urban health, cardiovascular disease and retail environment, spatial analysis, built environment, informal communities
Alex Ezeh, PhD Dornsife Professor of Global Health in Community Health and Prevention; GATHER MPI	Drexel University, Dornsife School of Public Health	Global/international Health, reproductive and sexual health, urban health

Ana V. Diez Roux, MD, PhD, MPH Dean and Distinguished University Professor in Epidemiology	Drexel University, Dornsife School of Public Health	Social epidemiology, urban health, complex systems, multilevel methods
Félice Lê-Scherban, PhD, MPH Associate Professor in Epidemiology; UHC Training Core Lead	Drexel University, Dornsife School of Public Health	Intergenerational influences, childhood adversity, educational and community contributions to health disparities
Ana Martinez-Donate, PhD, MPH Professor in Community Health and Prevention; Migration, Ethnicity, Race and Health Working Group Lead	Drexel University, Dornsife School of Public Health	Latino immigrant health, social ecological framework, community-based interventions
Suruchi Sood, PhD Associate Professor in Community Health and Prevention	Drexel University, Dornsife School of Public Health	Health communication, entertainment-education, global health
Hedwig Lee, PhD Professor in Sociology	Washington University in St. Louis	Health disparities, population health, race and ethnicity, social demography, social stratification/inequality
Belinda L. Needham, PhD Chair and Associate Professor in Epidemiology; Co-Director of the Center for Social Epidemiology and Population Health	University of Michigan, Ann Arbor	Health disparities, biodemography, and aging and the life course
Olivia Affuso, PhD Associate Professor in Epidemiology; Associate Scientist in Nutrition Obesity Research and the Center for Exercise Medicine	University of Alabama at Birmingham	Obesity and chronic disease prevention, physical activity, measuring body composition
Kristie Lancaster, PhD, MS, RD Associate Professor in Nutrition	New York University	Cultural, psychosocial and environmental influences on dietary behaviors; cardiovascular disease, diabetes, and obesity in vulnerable communities
Jonathan Purtle, DrPH, MSc Associate Professor in Public Health Policy & Management; Director of Policy Research, Global Center for Implementation Science	New York University School of Global Public Health	Dissemination and implementation science, mental health policy, health services research

Scarlett L. Bellamy, ScD Professor in Biostatistics; Associate Dean for Diversity and Inclusion	Drexel University, Dornsife School of Public Health	Statistical methods, HIV, cardiovascular health, lung injury and transplantation, critical care
Usama Bilal, MD, MPH, PhD Assistant Professor in Epidemiology and Biostatistics, Urban Health Collaborative	Drexel University, Dornsife School of Public Health	Neighborhood social and physical contexts, large-scale societal influences on health, cardiovascular disease, tobacco and alcohol use
Jane E. Clougherty, ScD Associate Professor in Environmental and Occupational Health; Chair of Executive Committee of the Faculty	Drexel University, Dornsife School of Public Health	Combined health effects of social factors and air pollution exposures, spatial variation of air pollutants
Ali K. Groves, PhD Assistant Professor in Community Health and Prevention	Drexel University, Dornsife School of Public Health	Social and structural factors that affect sexual and reproductive health, gender inequality, HIV, intimate partner violence
Jessie Kemmick Pintor, PhD, MPH Assistant Professor in Health Management and Policy	Drexel University, Dornsife School of Public Health	Mixed methods health services research, immigration and healthcare policy, disparities in access to and quality of care
Shiriki K. Kumanyika, PhD, MPH Research Professor in Community Health and Prevention; Founding Chair of the Council on Black Health	Drexel University, Dornsife School of Public Health	Nutrition-related chronic disease risks, Black American health inequity
Stephen Lankenau, PhD Professor in Community Health and Prevention; Associate Dean of Research	Drexel University, Dornsife School of Public Health	Substance use and misuse, homelessness, HIV/AIDS, overdose, ethnography
James Stimpson, PhD Professor in Health Management and Policy	Drexel University, Dornsife School of Public Health	Data-driven policy change, social determinants of population health and inequalities
Jennifer Taylor, PhD, MPH Arthur L. and Joanne B. Frank Professor in Environmental and Occupational Health	Drexel University, Dornsife School of Public Health	Injury prevention and control, occupational health and safety, first responder and healthcare employee safety