

REQUEST FOR APPLICATION (RFA)

Robert Randolph Jones III Memorial Fund support of REACH Equity research

6/28/2023

Due date: 7/31/2023, 5pm

Application: https://duke.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_9ouHrxcMauMq1GC

Overview

Funding is available from the Robert Randolph Jones III Memorial Fund to support and mentor an early-stage investigator (fellow or junior faculty) to contribute to an on-going REACH Equity research project by adding a focus on hypertension control.

The on-going REACH Equity project, under co-PI's Laura Svetkey (Medicine/Nephrology) and Sadie Wilson (Psychiatry and Population Health), is developing and testing a curriculum designed to mitigate implicit bias in clinical care. There is evidence that implicit bias contributes to disparities in hypertension control (e.g., clinical inertia) and hypertension is an important disparity condition. Therefore, incorporating hypertension control in this project has the potential to significantly increase its impact.

The Jones Memorial funding will support effort, research expenses, and access to all REACH Equity cores and educational programs for 1 year starting September 1, 2023. Drs Svetkey and Wilson, with REACH Equity director Kimberly Johnson (Medicine/Geriatrics) will provide mentorship in collaboration with the candidate's existing mentor(s). Assuming sufficient engagement and productivity, the scholar will be a co-investigator on a clinical trial proposal to be submitted during the Jones Memorial funding period.

Project details

The Robert Randolph Jones III Memorial Fund is intended to support education and research on hypertension. This RFA will apply those funds to specifically support a junior investigator to define and develop an assessment protocol for a hypertension treatment and control outcome in the REACH Equity-sponsored clinical trial of a provider implicit bias training intervention aimed at reducing racial disparities in clinical care. Hypertension treatment and control display significant racial disparities that can at least in part be explained by implicit bias operating in the clinical setting. Therefore, hypertension treatment and control are appropriate outcomes in assessing the impact of a provider implicit bias mitigation intervention.

The goals of the ongoing REACH Equity-sponsored study of an implicit bias training intervention ("REACHing Equity") are to: further develop and refine the intervention; define outcomes for a clinical trial that include both measures of implicit bias mitigation skill and clinical outcomes; and design a cluster randomized trial to be conducted in primary care practice.

In collaboration with and with mentorship from the investigators, the Jones Scholar will perform these specific tasks:

- Provide hypertension-specific content to the REACHing Equity intervention
- Define hypertension outcome measure(s)
- Develop strategy for implementation of a cluster-randomized trial and data collection (including hypertension outcomes) in Duke Primary Care (DPC) clinics
- Assist with development of a clinical trial proposal based on these activities and prior preliminary data from this REACH Equity research project.

Eligibility

The Jones Memorial Fund will be used to support effort, mentorship, and research expenses for an investigator meeting these criteria:

- Duke University School of Medicine fellow or early-stage faculty member
- Must be practicing clinician who treats hypertension
- Must have some training, experience and existing mentorship in human subjects research
- Member of any clinical department/division
- Members of under-represented racial and ethnic groups are encouraged to apply

Resources available

- 25-50% salary and fringe benefits for scholar
- Support for mentors, CRC, consultants, and other research expenses
- Up to \$2500/year in travel expenses
- Access to REACH Equity resources consistent with the career development award in the Investigator Development Core:
 - Biannual Individual Scholar Meeting
 - Biannual Mentorship Committee Meeting
 - Career development seminar series
 - Annual colloquium
 - Health Disparities Research Curriculum
 - Consultation with Measures, Methods, and Analysis Core
 - Consultation with Community Engagement and Dissemination Core
 - Input from Stakeholder Advisory Board
 - Input from all REACH Equity investigators through its Executive Operating Committee
 - Input from REACH Equity internal and external advisory boards
 - Research Works in Progress seminar series (as presenter and participant)

Mentorship

- Mentorship committee
 - Candidate's existing primary mentor and mentorship team

- Dr Laura Svetkey, an established hypertension and disparities investigator and a board-certified hypertension specialist
- Dr Sarah (Sadie) Wilson, an established behavioral science, disparities and dissemination/implementation investigator
- Dr Kimberly Johnson, Principal Investigator and Director, REACH Equity Center
- Scholar is expected to meet weekly with REACH Equity team (Svetkey, Wilson, Johnson) and at least twice monthly with primary mentor.

Timeline

- Application deadline 7/31/2023
- Awardee selection 8/14/2023
- Funding: 9/1/2023 through 8/31/2024