IRTI Summer Training Program June 7-13, 2016

at the
University of Southern California
School of Social Work

Hispanic Drug Abuse Research
Hispanics are one of the fastest-growing segments of the U.S. population, with growing rates of health disparities associated with drug use. Despite these facts, there is a shortage of highly trained researchers who are able to address this problem among Hispanic populations. The need to prepare the next generation of drug researchers in this field is acute. Specifically, there is a need to train researchers to develop a broad-based set of scientific knowledge and research skills that will equip them for the conduct of interdisciplinary drug abuse research.

Interdisciplinary Research Training Institute
The Interdisciplinary Research Training Institute (IRTI) on Hispanic Drug Abuse promotes the development of NIH-funded and scholarly leaders focused on conducting research on drug use as it affects the Hispanic population. The IRTI includes an international component that will provide the opportunity for fellows from Mexico to participate. This will promote their development as independent scientists focused on drug use and addiction research.

The IRTI is funded by the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) and provides three core activities to research fellows including: Training, Mentoring and Networking. The aim is to ensure a constant support infrastructure for fellows to conduct, present, publish and acquire funding for National Institutes of Health (NIH) research. The IRTI conducts an intensive interdisciplinary summer training program along with a formal mentorship process. To foster a formal mentoring relationship between the fellow and a senior faculty mentor, the IRTI provides a variety of organized mentorship activities during a period of two years. These include assistance with identifying appropriate mentors and support for travel to: 1) mentor institution; 2) professional conferences/workshops; and 3) IRTI Annual Mentoring Meetings.

IRTI Summer Training Program
The IRTI on Hispanic Drug Abuse Summer Training Program is the initial core activity of the institute. Selected fellows will attend a 7-day interdisciplinary training, led by NIDA funded scientists. The training includes a series of didactic lectures and discussions, imparting general and specialized knowledge and specific research skills as well as a career development seminar that will address emerging challenges. A balance of clinically focused social and behavioral scientists and bio-medical scientists will lead this training. The summer training program integrates the overarching theme of translational research bringing the social, behavioral, biological and medical sciences to the clinical or to community prevention and service provision.

During this training, fellows have the opportunity to meet, receive consultation and begin to foster potential mentoring relationships with senior faculty who are experts in the fellows’ area of interest.

The IRTI Summer Training Program is held at the University of Southern California. Selected fellows will receive travel to/from Los Angeles, California, lodging, meals and a $500 stipend.

Expectations
Selected IRTI fellows are expected to make a two year commitment beginning with their participation in the IRTI Summer Training Program. Fellows are expected to arrive to the Summer Training Institute with a research prospectus. This prospectus will take the form of an abbreviated NIH research application (8 pages maximum). During this two year period, fellows along with their respective mentors are expected to achieve benchmarks of progress including academic career progress, if applicable (i.e. candidacy and/or dissertation); scientific publications in peer reviewed journals; scientific presentations at national scientific meetings; and preparation and submission of an NIH application (K awards, F31, F32, R03, R21, or R01).

Eligibility
Applicants must have completed at least 2 years of their doctoral or medical program by the start of the summer institute or be a current post-doc or be early career faculty/investigators (having less than five years of academic experience after completing doctoral dissertation) who have a strong professional interest in drug abuse issues among Hispanics. Social-behavioral, biological and medical scientists are encouraged to apply. Preference will be given to applicants who have previous research experience and knowledge of the Hispanic population.

Application
Submit via e-mail: 1) application form; 2) statement of research interests and career objectives; 3) curriculum vitae; 4) two letters of recommendation; and 5) official transcripts from currently enrolled institution or last completed degree.

Deadlines
Applications are available at http://sowkweb.usc.edu/interdisciplinary-research-training-institute and must be received by 5:00pm Pacific Standard Time January 8, 2016. Applicants will be notified of award decisions by January 31, 2016. For more information, please call Erika Guerrero Smith, Program Administrator, (213)821-3537 or erikag@usc.edu