

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

THE ROBERT WOOD JOHNSON
HEALTH
&
SOCIETY

SCHOLARS
PROGRAM

2006-2007

Deadline: October 13, 2006



Robert Wood Johnson
Foundation

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

(Please refer to specific sections for complete detail.)

Purpose

The Robert Wood Johnson Health & Society Scholars Program is designed to build the nation's capacity for research, leadership and action to address the broad range of factors that affect health. The program is founded on the principle that progress in the field of population health depends upon collaboration and exchange among the social, behavioral and health sciences. Its goal is to improve health by training scholars to:

1. rigorously investigate the connections among biological, behavioral, environmental, economic and social determinants of health;
2. develop, evaluate and disseminate knowledge and interventions based upon integration of these determinants.

The program is intended to produce leaders who will change the questions asked, the methods employed to analyze problems and the range of solutions offered to reduce population health disparities and improve the health of all Americans.

Eligibility Criteria (page 7)

To be eligible, scholars must:

- have completed doctoral training by the time of entry into the program (August or September 2007) in one of a variety of disciplines, ranging from the behavioral and social sciences to the biological and natural sciences and health professions;
- have significant research experience;
- clearly connect their research interests to substantive population health concerns;
- be U.S. citizens or permanent residents.

Selection Criteria (page 8)

Applicants will be evaluated based on the criteria listed on page 8.

Total Awards

- Up to 18 scholars will be selected for the two-year appointments that will begin in the fall semester of 2007.
- Scholars will receive an annual stipend of \$80,000 in year one and \$83,000 in year two.

Deadlines

- **October 13, 2006**—Deadline for receipt of applications.
- **January 2007**—Finalist interviews.
- **Mid to Late February 2007**—Notification of acceptance.
- **August or September 2007**—Entry of scholars into the program at participating universities.

How to Apply (page 9)

Individuals must apply online through the program's Web site.

Additional information and instructions may be obtained by contacting:

Gerard P. Lebeda, *Program Coordinator*

Phone: (800) 734-7635

E-mail: hss@rwjf.org

www.healthandsocietyscholars.org

BACKGROUND

Despite the fact that the United States spends more for medical care services than any other country in the world, our nation ranks poorly on many indicators of health and well-being. Studies comparing the health status of different population groups within the United States also repeatedly demonstrate marked variations in disease patterns associated with social, economic and environmental conditions.

There is also growing recognition that decisions made outside the health sphere can have unanticipated effects that directly and indirectly affect the health of populations.

The Robert Wood Johnson Health & Society Scholars Program seeks to improve the nation's health by directing greater attention and resources to the full spectrum of factors that affect health. To increase the array of population-wide interventions, more scholars will need to explore the effects of contextual factors on behavior and biology. A new multidisciplinary field of population health is emerging, and there is a growing demand among government agencies, universities and public health organizations for interdisciplinary collaboration.

There are new sources of funding to support such work and a growing job market for individuals capable of researching, developing and implementing programs to improve population health. However, experts with such knowledge and skills are in critically short supply. *The Robert Wood Johnson Health & Society Scholars Program* helps fill the current void in training and bridges disciplinary perspectives and methods to develop the next generation of leaders who will expand the current knowledge base and extend their findings into practice.

This program is part of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation's (RWJF) Human Capital portfolio, which seeks to build and maintain a strong and diverse leadership and workforce in health and health care, and to help develop specific fields.

THE PROGRAM

The Robert Wood Johnson Health & Society Scholars Program enhances and broadens the intellectual perspectives that scholars bring from their original disciplines. Each year, the program enables up to 18 outstanding individuals who have completed their doctoral training to engage in an intensive two-year program at one of six nationally prominent universities. Training activities at the participating universities are intentionally flexible, to meet the diverse backgrounds, interests and needs of individual scholars. Specific offerings vary by site, but include two years of intensive seminars, mentored research and focused training in the skills necessary for effective leadership, program implementation and policy change. Scholar-directed research and analysis conducted with the guidance or collaboration of distinguished faculty mentors are major elements of the program at all sites.

Scholars become familiar with various means of assessing the broad range of factors that influence health, as well as measurement issues related to population health. Scholars study interactions among context, behavior and biology across the life span, and learn to think creatively about the intersections among different disciplines by considering dynamic time processes, inference and causality, and multilevel analytic techniques. Training may include learning about: various approaches to program design, implementation and evaluation; the effective communication of knowledge to decision-makers and opinion leaders in multiple sectors; models of behavior change; methods of determining cost-effectiveness; and the evaluation of complex multilevel interventions.

The curriculum will foster cross-disciplinary thinking and dialogue, as scholars and faculty from different disciplines explore contributing risk factors, interactions among contextual forces, behavioral predispositions, biological susceptibility, developmental timing and influences, and approaches to intervention. The program thus expands the intellectual scope, collaborative competence, shared language and scientific creativity of both scholars and faculty.

The program gives graduates the tools they need to create new knowledge and generate interventions to improve population health. It is anticipated that graduates of the program will be sought after for leadership positions in academic, government and policy settings.

Scholars are expected to concentrate their intellectual energies on program-related activities and research. They should not pursue other degrees during the program period, and *the Robert Wood Johnson Health & Society Scholars Program* will not provide tuition support for any degree program. Scholars must be in residence at the site throughout the program period.

PARTICIPATING UNIVERSITIES

The six universities in this program were selected because of their outstanding talent in specific disciplines, their commitment to interdisciplinary collaboration, the breadth and depth of their research opportunities, and the presence of faculty leaders in population health. These institutions have demonstrated an ability to conceptualize and investigate the full range of determinants of health. The six sites share their training and research resources for the benefit of scholars and faculty at all sites.

Participating universities and program directors are:

Columbia University

Peter Bearman, Ph.D.

Bruce G. Link, Ph.D., M.S.

E-mail: chssp@columbia.edu

Harvard University

Lisa F. Berkman, Ph.D.

Ichiro Kawachi, M.D., Ph.D.

E-mail: society@hsph.harvard.edu

University of California, San Francisco and Berkeley

Nancy E. Adler, Ph.D.

Ralph Catalano, Ph.D.

Robert Hiatt, M.D., Ph.D.

William A. Satariano, Ph.D., M.P.H.

E-mail: hss@chc.ucsf.edu

University of Michigan

George A. Kaplan, Ph.D.

Ana V. Diez Roux, M.D., Ph.D.

James S. House, Ph.D.

David R. Williams, Ph.D., M.P.H.

E-mail: healthandsocietyscholars@umich.edu

University of Pennsylvania

Robert A. Aronowitz, M.D.

David A. Asch, M.D., M.B.A.

E-mail: mkulynyc@wharton.upenn.edu

University of Wisconsin

David A. Kindig, M.D., Ph.D.

John Mullahy, Ph.D.

Stephanie A. Robert, M.S.W., Ph.D.

E-mail: rwjscholars@lists.services.wisc.edu

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

Outstanding individuals who have completed their doctoral training by the time of entry into the program (August or September 2007) in one of a variety of disciplines, including behavioral and social sciences, biological and natural sciences and health professions, are eligible. Applicants are expected to have significant research experience. Past training in health-related areas is not a requirement, but applicants must clearly connect their research interests to substantive population health concerns. Applicants should welcome the challenge of building the field of population health.

RWJF is committed to a program that embraces racial, ethnic, gender and disciplinary diversity, and we encourage applications from candidates with diverse backgrounds. Applicants must be U.S. citizens or permanent residents at the time of their application to the program.

SELECTION CRITERIA

The following criteria will be considered in evaluating applicants:

- Potential to contribute creatively to the field of population health.
- Demonstrated openness to new ideas.
- Demonstrated critical thinking skills.
- An active interest in interdisciplinary collaboration.
- Commitment to a career consistent with the program's purpose and goals.
- Quality of past research.
- Leadership potential.
- Ability to take advantage of this program's opportunities.
- Recommendations by faculty and other individuals with whom the applicant has studied or worked.

USE OF FOUNDATION FUNDS

Grants have been made to the six participating universities in accordance with RWJF's regular funding guidelines. Scholars will have access to a full range of university resources and will receive annual stipend support of \$80,000 in year one and \$83,000 in year two, plus health insurance from their university site. Scholars additionally will have access to financial support for research-related expenses, training workshops and travel to professional meetings.

HOW TO APPLY

Individuals must apply through our online system, which will be available through the program's Web site at www.healthandsocietyscholars.org beginning July 14, 2006.

Applications to *the Robert Wood Johnson Health & Society Scholars Program* will be screened by RWJF and forwarded to members of the National Advisory Committee (NAC) and program site directors for review. Approximately 50 finalists will be selected for interviews at one or more of the participating sites. After these interviews, up to 18 scholars will be selected to enter the program in August or September of 2007, depending upon each university's academic calendar. Assignment to sites will be based upon a review of selected scholars' preferences for sites and the sites' preferences for specific scholars. RWJF does not provide individual critiques of applications submitted.

For information and answers to Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs), please visit the program's Web site at www.healthandsocietyscholars.org or contact:

Gerard P. Lebeda, Program Coordinator

Phone: (800) 734-7635

E-mail: hss@rwjf.org

PROGRAM DIRECTION

Direction and technical assistance for the program will be provided by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, which serves as the national program office (NPO):

**The Robert Wood Johnson Health & Society Scholars Program
Route 1 and College Road East**

Princeton, NJ 08543

Phone: (800) 734-7635

Fax: (609) 419-8348

E-mail: hss@rwjf.org

www.healthandsocietyscholars.org

RWJF will provide technical assistance and direction to the sites, monitor site performance and program progress, manage the annual scholar recruitment and selection process, organize the program's annual meetings, and convene a NAC. The NAC consists of distinguished representatives from academia, government agencies and public policy.

The NAC guides program policy, reviews scholar applications, participates in annual meetings and assists in monitoring site performance.

Responsible RWJF staff members at the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation are:

- Pamela G. Russo, M.D., M.P.H., *Senior Program Officer*
- Carol S. Chang, M.P.H., M.P.A., *Program Officer*
- David C. Colby, Ph.D., *Interim Vice President, Research and Evaluation*
- Paul Tarini, M.A., *Senior Communications Officer*
- Thomas Andruszewski, *Grants Administrator*
- Gerard P. Lebeda, *Program Coordinator*

NATIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

HARVEY V. FINEBERG, M.D., M.P.P., Ph.D.

Chair

President, Institute of Medicine of the National Academies
Washington, D.C.

CHRISTINE A. BACHRACH, Ph.D.

Chief, Demographic and Behavioral Sciences Branch

National Institute of Child Health and Human Development
Bethesda, Maryland

MARTHA L. BRUCE, Ph.D., M.P.H.

Professor of Sociology in Psychiatry

Department of Psychiatry, Westchester Division

Weill Medical College of Cornell University

White Plains, New York

JONATHAN E. FIELDING, M.D., M.P.H., M.B.A.

Director of Public Health and Health Officer

Los Angeles County

Department of Health Services

Professor of Health Services and Pediatrics

University of California, Los Angeles

Los Angeles, California

DAVID W. FRASER, M.D.

Independent Consultant

Yardley, Pennsylvania

MUIN J. KHOURY, M.D., Ph.D.
Director, Office of Genomics and Disease Prevention
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
Atlanta, Georgia

THOMAS A. LAVEIST, Ph.D.
Director, Center for Health Disparities Solutions
The Bloomberg School of Public Health
The Johns Hopkins University
Baltimore, Maryland

SARA S. McLANAHAN, Ph.D.
Director, Center for Research on Child Wellbeing
Princeton University
Princeton, New Jersey

DAVID MECHANIC, Ph.D.
Director, Institute for Health, Health Care Policy and Aging Research
Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey
New Brunswick, New Jersey

KENNETH OLDEN, Ph.D., SC.D., L.H.D.
Section Chief, Metastasis Group
Laboratory of Molecular Carcinogenesis
National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences
Research Triangle Park, North Carolina

ALONZO L. PLOUGH, Ph.D., M.P.H.
Vice President, Program, Planning and Evaluation
The California Endowment
Los Angeles, California

SUSAN C. SCRIMSHAW, Ph.D.
Dean, School of Public Health
University of Illinois at Chicago
Chicago, Illinois

TERESA SEEMAN, Ph.D.
Professor of Medicine and Epidemiology
University of California, Los Angeles
Los Angeles, California

ALVIN R. TARLOV, M.D.
Independent Consultant
Chicago, Illinois

ABOUT RWJF

The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation® focuses on the pressing health and health care issues facing our country. As the nation's largest philanthropy devoted exclusively to improving the health and health care of all Americans, the Foundation works with a diverse group of organizations and individuals to identify solutions and achieve comprehensive, meaningful and timely change. The Foundation seeks to:

- assure that all Americans have access to quality health care at reasonable cost;
- improve the quality of care and support for people with chronic health conditions;
- promote healthy communities and lifestyles;
- reduce the personal, social and economic harm caused by substance abuse—tobacco, alcohol and illicit drugs.

For more than 30 years the Foundation has brought experience, commitment and a rigorous, balanced approach to the problems that affect the health and health care of those it serves. When it comes to helping Americans lead healthier lives and get the care they need, the Foundation expects to make a difference in your lifetime.

For more information, visit www.rwjf.org.

Sign up to receive e-mail alerts on upcoming calls for proposals at: <http://subscribe.rwjf.org>.



Robert Wood Johnson
Foundation

Route 1 and College Road East
P.O. Box 2316
Princeton, NJ 08543-2316



This paper is recycled and can be recycled again.

5/2006