

# Interdisciplinary Research Leaders

A Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Change Leadership Program

**2017 Call for Applications  
Informational Webinar  
February 2, 2017**



# Webinar Overview

- Learn about RWJF's Culture of Health vision and leadership development programs
  - Read more at: [www.rwjf.org/changeleaders](http://www.rwjf.org/changeleaders)
- Understand the Interdisciplinary Research Leaders program and the 2017 funding opportunity
- Understand the application process
  - Call for Applications is available at: <http://interdisciplinaryresearch-leaders.org>
- Opportunity to ask questions



Moderator:  
Mandy LaBreche  
Program Manager, IRL



# Presenters



Nancy Fishman  
Senior Program Officer  
Robert Wood Johnson Foundation



Michael Oakes  
Director, Interdisciplinary  
Research Leaders



Sarah Gollust  
IRL Associate Director  
Curriculum



Andriana Abariotes  
Executive Director  
Twin Cities-LISC



Ezra Golberstein  
IRL Associate Director  
Research



# Presenters



Billy Kirkpatrick, Safiya George, and George Mugoya  
Current Interdisciplinary Research Leaders  
Location: Tuscaloosa, Alabama





# Culture of Health

# A National Movement: Building a Culture of Health

- Create a society where every person has an equal opportunity to live the healthiest life they can; equity matters
- Embrace a more integrated, comprehensive approach to health
- Requires unprecedented collaboration with everyone playing a role



# Blazing the Path: Change Leadership

- Visionary leaders bridging health care and nonmedical factors that influence health
- Leaders who embrace change, adapt and innovate in rapidly evolving landscape
- Networks of leaders across sectors, professions, perspectives
- Engaged champions well-positioned to move the nation toward a Culture of Health



# Seeking Leaders Who...

- Prioritize health equity, diversity, and inclusion
- Work collaboratively across sectors
- Embrace lifelong learning, complexity, and risk-taking
- Want to have real impact
- Are ready to take their leadership and influence to the next level



# RWJF leadership development programs

- Health Policy Research Scholars
- Culture of Health Leaders
- Clinical Scholars
- **Interdisciplinary Research Leaders**
- Visit [www.rwjf.org/changeleaders](http://www.rwjf.org/changeleaders) for a summary of these RWJF programs and links to the program websites





# Interdisciplinary Research Leaders

# Interdisciplinary Research Leaders

- A groundbreaking program supporting teams of research and community leaders to do catalytic, collaborative, and impactful research
  - Connect communities and researchers
  - True collaboration is essential
  - Develop leadership skills to enhance impact
  - Attract and cultivate new, diverse, leaders



# Program Partners



UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA



AcademyHealth



ISAIAH

*Faith in Democracy*



LISC

Twin Cities



# Activating Teams of Researchers and Community Partners

- Three-year program for teams of fellows
- Equipping teams with advanced leadership skills and a clear focus on action for health equity
- Create leaders in research: both researchers and community partners to lead research
- **The IRL is both a “training” and research program**



# Program Elements

- Teamwork
- Leadership training
- Curriculum for research methods, policy, and dissemination
- Interdisciplinary collaboration
- Community-engaged action research
- Cohort-specific research topic areas
- Collaboration with all four programs and RWJF
- Active alumni



# Time Commitment

- Spend about 1 day per week on IRL activities
  - Weekly webinars (sharing and learning)
  - Online discussions
  - Web-based mini courses
  - Within and between team/program collaboration
  - Research project
- A few in-person meetings per year



# Dedicated Cohort

- Annual cohorts
- Each cohort will enroll 15-20 teams
- Teams are 2 mid-career researchers and 1 community leader
- No relocation: Complete program from home institution through sophisticated online platform



# Robust Support

- \$25,000 annual fellow support per person per year
- One-time research project grants of about \$100,000
- Travel expenses paid



# Who is a Mid-Career Researcher?

- Difficult to define
- Someone with experience doing excellent research
- Perhaps 5 years post PhD and not retiring within 10 years
- No graduate or post-doctoral students or trainees
- All researchers must be mid-career: no averaging



# Community Partner?

- Difficult to define
- Someone who works in and for communities
- Community partners may work in a variety of organizational settings, as long as their experience and expertise is germane to the proposed research project
- Community partners are to be and/or become research leaders



# Program Experience



# Summary of Eligibility Criteria

*See full criteria listing in Call for Applications*

- Apply as a team of 3 persons
- Researchers from different disciplinary and/or scientific perspectives; novel interdisciplinary partnerships are desired.
- Community partner has experience and expertise that is relevant to the proposed research project and the partner has authentic engagement with the community.
- Team is expected to be fully collaborative with cohesive vision and demonstrate ability to work together equitably.
- Each team member must be U.S. citizens, permanent residents, or individuals granted DACA status at the time of application



# Summary of Selection Criteria

*\* See full criteria listing in Call for Applications*

- Capacity and desire to become leaders in advancing population health and health equity at local and national levels
- A compelling vision for how the research and community partners will work together equitably and collaboratively
- Researchers are excellent, interdisciplinary, and diverse
- Community partner has investment and expertise in the proposed research, authentic relationships with community
- A preliminary research proposal that has strong potential to inform policy or action at local and/or national level
- Demonstrated expertise in research and/or community concerns



# Selection Process

- Selection committee of program leadership, external consultants, IRL national advisory committee (NAC), and RWJF staff
- Semifinalists will be invited for online team interviews
- IRL staff and IRL NAC make funding recommendations
- RWJF makes the final funding decisions

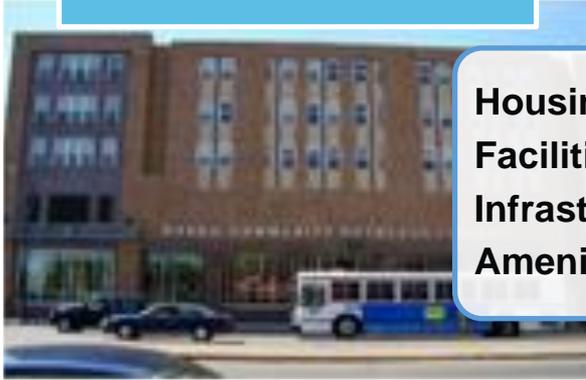




# Community Partners

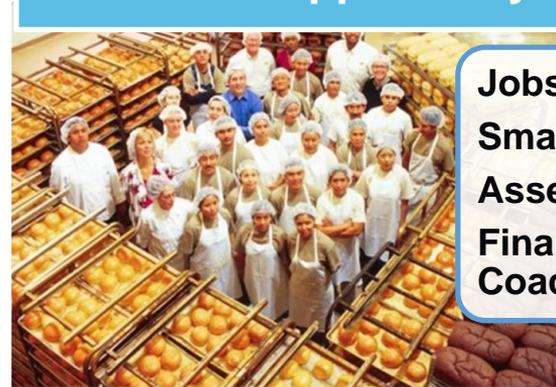
# Community-based Partners

## Built Environment



**Housing  
Facilities  
Infrastructure  
Amenities**

## Economic Opportunity



**Jobs  
Small Business  
Asset Building  
Financial  
Coaching**

## Human Capital



**Education  
Early  
Childhood  
Workforce  
Training**

## Social Capital



**Engagement  
Organizing  
Civic  
Participation**



# Investors

Companies  
Philanthropy  
Banks  
Government



Capital



Grants  
Loans  
Equity  
Technical Assistance



# Local Community Development Organizations



## Great Places to Live

Healthy  
Neighborhoods

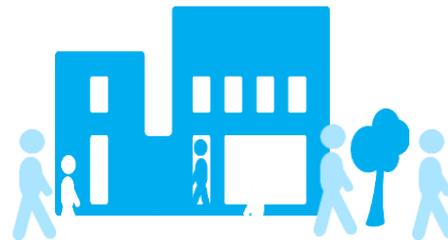


Schools



Businesses

Jobs



Homes



# Value of IRL to Communities

- Neighborhood-level action is meaningful to how communities develop, but research often episodic or driven from outside.
- Community partners making impacts, but often don't have tools or research partnerships to build evidence.
- Social determinants of health framework has initiated partnerships with health care and public health, but more research needed.
- Research skills and utilization desired by communities, but needs to be co-created and a cross-learning agenda.



# Meet a current IRL team



Billy Kirkpatrick, Safiya George, George Mugoya  
Current Interdisciplinary Research Leaders  
Location: Tuscaloosa, Alabama



**West Alabama AIDS Outreach**

THE UNIVERSITY OF

**ALABAMA**<sup>®</sup>





# Curriculum

# Program Experience



# Curriculum Areas

- **Leadership for Change** – Cultivating research and community leaders, with an emphasis on how leaders can create change to promote health equity and social justice
- **Policy and Communication** – Providing a thorough understanding of the policy process and how to communicate research to achieve policy objectives
- **Collaboration and Connection** – Facilitating effective research-community partnerships that collaborate across diverse disciplines and sectors, in both virtual and in-person contexts, and in accordance with the highest principles of ethical partnerships
- **Research Rigor** – Ensuring teams have the skills and capacity to conduct qualitative and quantitative research that is rigorous and scientifically sound



# Curriculum Delivery and Application

- Hybrid model of delivery
  - Eight in-person sessions over three years
    - RWJF Fall Institute (October)
    - Annual IRL meeting in Minnesota (November)
    - Washington, DC meeting (Year 1 and Year 3, spring)
  - Flexible, online courses
  - Regular webinars for learning and professional development
  - Targeted mentoring
- Goal is application of each of the 4 skill areas into the research project planning, coordination, communication, implementation, translation, and impact





# Action Research

# Research Projects

- Should focus on issues for which there is clear potential for action and change
- May be qualitative or quantitative
- Should be methodologically rigorous and properly scaled for a two-year study time frame and budget constraints
- May be case studies; evaluations of interventions; experiments; financial, economic, or cost-effectiveness studies; health impact assessments; legal analyses; natural experiments; policy analyses; existing data analyses; qualitative/ethnographic investigations or other action-oriented designs



# Program Experience



# Research Topic Areas

- IRL aims to support a variety of types of research projects, study populations, and research disciplines, provided the research is:
  - Action-oriented, community-engaged, policy-relevant
- Each IRL cohort will be organized around topic areas defined in the call for applications
  - IRL teams work within their topic area for the entirety of their fellowship
  - All IRL teams will interact with each other, regardless of their topic area
  - Cohort 2 topic areas
    - Youth Development approaches for the prevention of violence and promotion of health
    - Community and individual resilience and health
  - Future cohort topic areas to be developed and released over time



# Topic Area 1: Youth development approaches to prevent violence and promote health

- Increased understanding of the impact of youth violence on the health of victims, perpetrators, and society more generally
- Youth violence refers to behaviors that are harmful to people, whether the harm is emotional or physical
- IRL program aims to support research that will improve outcomes and reduce gaps between more- and less-advantaged populations
- Approaches to prevent youth violence come in many forms
- More interdisciplinary community-engaged action research on what policies and norms are effective in creating and/or sustaining infrastructure for the prevention of youth violence, and equity therein, is needed.
- Youth: birth to 24 years old



# Topic Area 2: Community and individual resilience and health

- Resilience= the capacity of a person and/or community to anticipate and adapt successfully to challenges
- How is resilience linked to health?
- Stressors on individuals and communities comes in many forms, leads to negative health consequences
- Positive responses to stressors can directly enhance resilience by providing stability in the face of the changing environment
- More interdisciplinary community-engaged action research is needed on how to foster resilience for both individuals and communities.
- Seeking proposals across a variety of topics that support resilience over both the short term, in the face of an acute challenge, and the long term, as a measure of adaptive capacity over time.





**More Details on Applications**

# How to Apply

- Each team of three individuals will submit one application
- Applications must be submitted through the RWJF online system
- Applicants must follow the instructions and use the templates provided in the RWJF online system
- Fellowship program applications from teams (due **March 8, 2017**)
  - Short individual essays
  - Collaborative statement for the team
  - Research project description related to one of the two themes for the second cohort of IRL
  - Biographical sketches
  - Limited appendices



# RWJF Online Application System

<http://my.rwjf.org>

Robert Wood Johnson Foundation

## Interdisciplinary Research Leaders

2016 Call for Applications ID: 43782 [Print Application](#)

**Fellowship Application Home**

- Reference
- Informational Webinars
- Applicant Guide
- Call for Applications
- Budget Preparation Guidelines
- FAQs
- Program Website
- Troubleshooting Tips
- Contact Us

[Invite](#)

[Cancel My Application](#)

**NOTICE** Close

### Informational Webinars

We will host informational webinars for interested applicants on February 25, 2016 from 1-2 p.m. ET and on Wednesday, March 16, 2016, from 3-4 p.m. ET. For additional information registration, select the "Informational Webinars" link to the left.

**Welcome to the online system for the *Interdisciplinary Research Leaders* program.**

- You may submit your Application until the deadline on **April 19, 2016 at 3 p.m. ET.**
- Complete the sections shown below (in any order) to provide information for your fellowship application. Once all required information has been provided, the "Submit" button shown below to the right will become available.
- Finalist teams will be notified in mid-July 2016.

**Deadline: Apr 19, 2016 03:00 PM ET** **35 days remaining** [Submit](#)

Status	Section	Description
<input type="radio"/>	<a href="#">Eligibility Criteria</a>	Review the eligibility criteria and indicate whether all applicant team members meet these conditions.
<input type="radio"/>	<a href="#">Team Member Contact Information</a>	Provide contact information for the three team members.
<input type="radio"/>	<a href="#">Project Summary</a>	Provide project summary information.
<input type="radio"/>	<a href="#">Project Information Questions</a>	As appropriate, please respond to the questions listed.
<input type="radio"/>	<a href="#">Individual &amp; Team Essays</a>	Provide essays for the proposed project.
<input type="radio"/>	<a href="#">Budget Narratives</a>	Provide a detailed budget narrative for each team member.
<input type="radio"/>	<a href="#">Supporting Documents</a>	Provide supporting documents for your proposal.



# 2017 Timeline

DATE	EVENT
January 4, 2017	Call for applications opens
February 2	Webinar for prospective applicants to learn more
March 8 (3pm ET)	Applications due
	Applications reviewed
April 19- May 17	Applicant interviews
	Selection meetings
Mid June	Finalists selected
September 1	Program begins
October, 2017	Required in-person RWJF Cross-Program Fall Institute meeting (Nashville, Tenn.)
November, 2017	Required in-person Interdisciplinary Research Leaders meeting (St Paul, Minn.)



# Questions?

- We will now take questions from webinar participants
- Enter your question in the chat box on your computer screen
- We will sort and select questions of general interest
- Your name and institution will not be identified
- If we don't get to all of the questions today, we will follow up after the webinar with individual responses via email



# Applicant Questions

*What are the expectations of the community-based partner?*



# Applicant Questions

*If I am a PhD student, am I eligible to apply as either the research partner or community partner?*



# Applicant Questions

*What is the definition for a mid-career researcher?*



# Applicant Questions

*I would like to apply to the IRL program but do not have an existing team. Will help be provided in forming teams?*



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# Thank You

- Thank you for participating today
- This webinar will be archived on the program website next week
- Visit [interdisciplinaryresearch-leaders.org](https://interdisciplinaryresearch-leaders.org)
  - Sign up for program updates and funding alerts
  - Link to the call for applications
- Contact us at [ResearchLeaders@umn.edu](mailto:ResearchLeaders@umn.edu)
- Follow us on Twitter @IRLeaders

