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

- 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

Sarah Gollust
IRL Associate Director
Curriculum

Andriana Abariotes
Executive Director
Twin Cities-LISC

Michael Oakes
Director, Interdisciplinary Research Leaders

Ezra Golberstein
IRL Associate Director
Research
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
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

- Research Planning
- Research Implementation
- Research & Leadership Training
- Translation & Action
- Alumni
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

Local Community Development Organizations

Capital

Grants
Loans
Equity
Technical Assistance

LISC

Great Places to Live

Healthy Neighborhoods
Schools
Businesses
Jobs
Homes
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
Curriculum
Program Experience

6 MONTHS
Research Planning

2 YEARS
Research Implementation

6 MONTHS
Translation & Action

Research & Leadership Training

Alumni
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
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

6 MONTHS
Research Planning

2 YEARS
Research Implementation

6 MONTHS
Translation & Action

Research & Leadership Training

Alumni
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
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
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>EVENT</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>January 4, 2017</td>
<td>Call for applications opens</td>
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<tr>
<td>February 2</td>
<td>Webinar for prospective applicants to learn more</td>
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<td>March 8 (3pm ET)</td>
<td>Applications due</td>
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<td>Applications reviewed</td>
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<td>April 19 - May 17</td>
<td>Applicant interviews</td>
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<td>Selection meetings</td>
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<td>Mid June</td>
<td>Finalists selected</td>
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<td>September 1</td>
<td>Program begins</td>
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<td>October, 2017</td>
<td>Required in-person RWJF Cross-Program Fall Institute meeting (Nashville, Tenn.)</td>
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<tr>
<td>November, 2017</td>
<td>Required in-person Interdisciplinary Research Leaders meeting (St Paul, Minn.)</td>
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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
What are the expectations of the community-based partner?
If I am a PhD student, am I eligible to apply as either the research partner or community partner?
What is the definition for a mid-career researcher?
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
  - Sign up for program updates and funding alerts
  - Link to the call for applications
- Contact us at ResearchLeaders@umn.edu
- Follow us on Twitter @IRLeaders