

INTERDISCIPLINARY RESEARCH LEADERS

A Robert Wood Johnson Foundation program



Interdisciplinary Research Leaders

A Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Change Leadership Program

**2022 Call for Applications
Informational Webinar
March 17, 2022
2:00-3:00pm Central Time**

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 2022 funding opportunity
- Understand the application process
 - Call for Applications is available at: <http://interdisciplinaryresearch-leaders.org>
- Opportunity to ask questions

Presenters



Sheldon Oliver Watts
Program Officer
Robert Wood Johnson Foundation



Vanya Jones
Co-Director
Interdisciplinary Research Leaders



Toben Nelson
Co-Director
Interdisciplinary Research Leaders



Zinzi Bailey
IRL Associate Director of
Research Leadership & Practice



Presenter

- **Marcus Bernard, Associate Professor at Kentucky State University**
- Cohort 2 Alumni from [Team Black Belt Alabama](#)



Presenters

- **Carlton Turner, Mina Para Matlon, Erica Kohl-Arenas (not present)**
- Team Mississippi - Cohort 4 Interdisciplinary Research Leaders team



Culture of Health

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A National Movement: Building a Culture of Health

- Create a society where everyone has an equal opportunity to live the healthiest life possible
- Embrace a more integrated, comprehensive approach to health
- Requires unprecedented collaboration with everyone playing a role

RWJF leadership development programs

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

IRL is 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



Interdisciplinary Research Leaders: Building a culture of health together

INTERDISCIPLINARY RESEARCH LEADERS

Structural Racism

- Structural racism refers to “the totality of ways in which societies foster racial discrimination through mutually reinforcing systems of housing, education, employment, earnings, benefits, credit, media, health care, and criminal justice” (Bailey et al., 2017)
- Manifested in policies, practices, and programs in ways that segregate and prioritize populations based on race and ethnicity
- Proposals based in institutional systems beyond health care
- Proposals that build evidence for solutions to eliminate the structures that perpetuate racial inequities in health, rather than proposals that seek to further document the existence or impact of structural racism

Program Features

- Community-engaged action research
 - Cohort-specific research topic areas
- Development and training
 - Methods
 - Policy
 - Dissemination
 - Networking opportunities
- Interdisciplinary collaboration
 - Team
 - Cohort
 - Program

Program Activities

- Co-develop a community-engaged, community impactful research project
 - Project is the foundation for experiential learning
- 2-3 in person meetings per year
 - Cross-cohort engagement and networking
- Ongoing cohort activities
 - Team/program collaboration to support team research projects
 - Team/project-specific mentorship
 - Weekly webinars (sharing and learning)
 - Web-based mini courses

Approximately 8 hours per week on IRL activities

Program Support

- \$25,000 annual fellow support
- One-time research project grants of up to \$125,000

RWJF allows the following indirect cost rates:

12% - US colleges/universities and health or hospital systems

20% - Nonprofit organizations

0% - For-profit organizations and government entities

- Travel expenses
- Mentorship and professional development opportunities

Summary of Eligibility Criteria

Teams must be:

- Comprised of *three* mid-career individuals:
 - one community partner
 - two researchers
- Fully collaborative, co-leadership (no Principal Investigator)
- Each team member must be U.S. citizens, permanent residents, or individuals granted DACA status at the time of application

See full criteria listing in Call for Applications

What do we mean by mid-career?

- Someone with experience
- Community partner
 - ~ 5 years experience and not retiring within 10 years
 - Established relationship in the community
- Research partner
 - ~ 5 years post PhD and not retiring within 10 years
 - No graduate or post-doctoral students or trainees

Selection Criteria

- The proposed research project must be developed with an engaged community perspective
- The project is responsive to the theme highlighted in the CFA
- Community partner can facilitate engagement with the community
- The team of fellows has a demonstrated commitment to interdisciplinary and community engaged work
- Research has strong potential to inform policy or action
- Ability to execute the research project within the timeframe and budget

See full criteria listing in Call for Applications

Selection Process

- Selection committee of IRL 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 team selection
- Cohort 7 will enroll up to 15 teams



Community Partners

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Communities can benefit from research that addresses their needs

- Authentic and reciprocal partnership between community leaders and researchers can help answer pressing questions that are meaningful to community members
- A process for research that engages an academic-community partnership can begin to address long standing barriers between researchers, community leaders, and community members
- Community engaged initiatives help frame how to translate research findings into practice and policy
- Community research partnerships are key to building relevant, credible evidence that drives equitable and sustainable change for improving health



Community Partners in the IRL Program



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Examples of Interdisciplinary Teams - Cohort 4

- Community Development and Health
 - **Landscape architect**, environmental psychologist, general pediatrician and public health researcher
 - Social sciences researcher, **manager of a 501[c][3] in 7 Southern U.S. states**, economist focused on health, housing and economic oppression
- Clinical practice, social services, and health
 - **Mental health professional**, trauma prevention and intervention researcher, researcher focused on intersections of public health and poverty to enact policy change
 - **Health services administrator**, general practitioner, vulnerable populations researcher



Meet a current IRL team - Team Mississippi - Cohort 4

Equitable Food Futures: Activating Community Memory, Story, and Imagination in Rural Mississippi

- **Mina Para Matlon, JD, MA**, Managing director of Imagining America
- **Carlton Turner**, Founder of the Mississippi Center for Cultural Production (MCCP)
- **Erica Kohl-Arenas, PhD, MS**, Associate Professor in the Department of American Studies at the University of California, Davis



Curriculum

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Program Experience



IRL Curriculum Domains— Leadership Development Throughout



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Curriculum Delivery and Application

- Hybrid model of delivery (in-person or virtual depending on the COVID-19 pandemic)
- Up to eight in-person sessions over three years
 - Annual IRL meeting in Minnesota
 - RWJF annual meeting, location varies
 - Washington, DC meeting
- Flexible, online courses
- Regular webinars for learning and professional development
- Targeted mentoring



Action Research

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Research Projects

- Focus the project on a topic that address the theme and has clear potential for action
- May be qualitative, quantitative, or mixed-method
- Are methodologically rigorous
- Are properly scaled and budgeted for a two-year study
- Variety of research designs are acceptable

Program Experience



Theme

- **Cohort 7 (2022) theme: Structural Racism -**

- Racism exists and contributes to health inequities.
- IRL seeks proposals that build evidence for solutions to eliminate the structures that perpetuate racial inequities in health.
- Proposals that seek to further document the existence or impact of structural racism and racist policies will not be selected.
- Focused on solutions for eliminating structural racism in health care and health services delivery

Theme

- **Cohort 7 (2022) theme: Structural Racism -**

- That generate community engaged evidence for equitable approaches for improving the wellbeing of Black, Brown, and Indigenous people
- That mitigate processes and mechanisms through which policies, practices, and programs uphold structural racism in institutional systems including access to housing, education, employment, criminal justice, and economic systems broadly
- That provide solutions to reduce and eliminate less explicit barriers (e.g., systemic disenfranchisement of political and social involvement for Black, Brown, and Indigenous communities, redlining on Black communities)



More Details on Applications

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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 **May 4, 2022 by 3 pm ET**)
 - Proposed research project description
 - Team collaboration description
 - Individual leadership and research influence and aspirations
 - Biographical sketches of team members
- Late Applications not accepted

RWJF Online Application System

<http://my.rwjf.org>

Interdisciplinary Research Leaders

2022 Call for Applications

Release Date: March 2, 2022 | Application Deadline: Wed, 4 May 2022

Purpose

We believe that leadership for health equity is an essential lever for change, especially the complex change needed to dismantle structural racism. Interdisciplinary Research Leaders (IRL) is a three-year national leadership development program that aims to foster and support new interdisciplinary, action-oriented research collaborations. Achieving health equity—especially for communities of color, those in low socioeconomic positions, and Native populations—is a core value of the program. The aim for the 2022 IRL program is to generate high-quality, community-engaged research useful for dismantling structural racism, improving health, and advancing health equity. There is an urgent need to identify solutions for eliminating and reversing the devastating effects of structural racism.

For the 2022 cohort, we will select up to 15 teams of three midcareer individuals each (two researchers and a community leader) from diverse disciplinary backgrounds or scientific perspectives. The applicant organization will receive up to \$125,000 for each team's specific research project, including \$25,000 stipend per fellow per year. After the fellowship begins, up to \$15,000 per year will be available from the national program center to the community partner, employer, sponsoring institution, or another community organization directly involved in the research project.

Do you share our vision to help build a Culture of Health—and do you want to take the next step in your leadership journey? We encourage you to explore complete details about the program at the [Interdisciplinary Research Leaders website](#) and in the informational webinar for prospective applicants.

Application Deadline

May 04, 2022, 3:00 p.m. ET

[APPLY ONLINE](#)

Key Materials

[Review the full application before applying →](#)

[Full Funding Opportunity \(PDF\) →](#)

[Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQs\) →](#)

[Program-Specific FAQs →](#)

Key Contacts

IRL National Program Center
(844) 210-9072 (toll-free)

Email: researchleaders@umn.edu

Interdisciplinary Research Leaders:

ID: 112548

[Print Application](#)

[Home](#)

Instruction:

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

[See More](#)

Deadline: May 4, 2022 03:00 PM ET
62 days remaining

[Submit](#)

Status	Section	Description
✓	Eligibility Criteria	Review the eligibility criteria and indicate if the applicant organization and all applicant team members meet these conditions.
✓	Team Member Contact Information	Provide contact information for the three team members.
✓	Project Title	Provide project summary information.
✓	Project Information Questions	Provide responses to team member and project questions.
✓	Research Project Questions	Provide responses to questions specific to the proposed research project.
✓	Team Collaboration Questions	Provide responses to team collaboration questions.
✓	Community Partner Questions	Provide responses to individual questions for Community Partner
✓	Research Partner #1 Questions	Provide responses to individual questions for Research Partner #1.
✓	Research Partner #2 Questions	Provide responses to individual questions for Research Partner #2.
✓	Biographical Sketch	Provide a biographical sketch for each team member.
✓	Outreach Efforts	Tell us how you heard about us.

Application status: In Progress

Last updated on 03/02/2022 by Debbie Malloy

2022 Timeline

DATE	EVENT
March 2, 2022	Call for Applications opens
March 17, 2022	Webinar for prospective applicants to learn more
May 4, 2022	Applications due
May - June 2022	Applications reviewed
July 2022	Applicant interviews (virtual)
August 2022	Selection meetings
Late-August 2022	Finalists selected
November 1, 2022	Official Start Date IRL program begins
May 2023	First in-person meeting Cohort 5 Graduation in Washington D.C.

Questions?

- We will now take questions from webinar participants
- Enter your question by clicking the Q&A feature
- We will sort and select questions of general interest
- Your name and institution will not be identified
- If your question doesn't get answered during this webinar, please email your question to ResearchLeaders@umn.edu and we will respond via email

Applicant Questions

What are the expectations of the community partner?

Applicant Questions

If I am a PhD student or completing a Post-doc, 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

Other questions?

Program Partners



Connect with IRL

- This webinar will be archived on the program recruitment website 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](https://twitter.com/IRLeaders)
- Visit our program website: IRLeaders.org



Thank you for participating from all of us at IRL!

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