

CIPHR New Investigator Program Targeted RFA

This RFA solicits proposals from UNC post-doctoral trainees, junior faculty, and clinical fellows who propose to use multi-payer North Carolina cancer registry linked data, SEER-Medicare, or other surveillance or administrative data in cancer outcomes research. Successful applicants will receive support for data acquisition, analyst assistance, and staff time for his or her project, and structured mentoring from senior CIPHR investigators including Dr. Chris Baggett, PhD and Dr. Jennifer Lund, PhD (both of the department of Epidemiology) and Dr. Katherine Reeder-Hayes, MD, MBA, MS (Division of Hematology/Oncology). Mentoring includes regular weekly meetings with other program participants and one on one assistance as needed.

Key Dates

- Application Due Date: **April 16, 2021**
- Acceptance Notification Date: **May 14, 2021**
- Program Timeline: **July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2022**

Terms of the Program

Successful applicants will be entitled to in-kind support for data acquisition, analyst assistance, and staff time for his or her project. This program does not provide support for faculty salary, travel, or equipment other than data costs and basic supplies for supporting CIPHR personnel. A report shall be submitted no later than two months after the end of the program summarizing the scientific outcome of the project and referencing all research products generated, including abstracts submitted/published, peer-reviewed articles submitted/published, grant applications submitted/funded, and potential/actual intellectual property. When requested, all participants will be expected to provide updates of publications and long-term grant support or other accomplishments that originated from this program. Attendance at weekly program meetings is mandatory for all participants. Program faculty and other participants who make intellectual contributions to research products are expected to be recognized as co-authors; senior authorship for a mentoring faculty member is the norm.

Eligibility

The CIPHR New Investigator Program is open to post-doctoral fellows, junior faculty, and clinical fellows conducting cancer etiology or outcomes research.

Review Criteria

Review will be conducted by the faculty leaders of the CIPHR New Investigator Program. Proposals will be judged on the following criteria:

- Scientific merit;
- Relevance to population science;
- Qualifications and experience of the applicant;
- Project feasibility given time and resources available; and
- Potential for future external funding and publications

Requirements for Participation

Participants in the New Investigator Program will commit to:

- Attendance at weekly team meetings;
- Mutual support of each other's projects including contribution of discipline-specific knowledge, document review, feedback during team meetings, and co-authorship of research products;
- Preparation of appropriate data use approval documents and IRB submission as required by relevant data owners;
- Preparation of an analytic plan in collaboration with faculty and analysts;
- Attendance at data security training;
- Submission of a research product, which could include a meeting abstract or manuscript, by July 2021; and
- Submission of a research manuscript before or within six months of program completion

Application Format

To apply, please submit the following to ciphr@unc.edu:

- **Cover Letter** briefly describing your academic background/training, why you would like to be part of the program, and what kind of career you plan to pursue after the program.
- **Title Page** to include the title of the proposal, the PI's name, primary appointment and department
- **Scientific Abstract:** 250-word maximum.
- **Specific Aims: Page** detailing the motivation, need, overarching objectives and specific aims of the study.
- **Research Plan:** The application should follow the format: Significance, Innovation, and Approach. Include where applicable clear evidence of how the proposal meets the review criteria and is relevant specifically to cancer. Five-page limit, including tables and figures. Specific Aims and References do not count towards the 5-page limit; single spacing, font no smaller than Arial 11, and half-inch margins. You may include an appendix, but reviewers are not required to read beyond the 5-page limit. Letters of support may be beyond the 5-page limit. All should be in the one PDF. **Note:** Specific Aims and Approach may be refined over the course of the program, but the applicant's preliminary plan for study design and analysis should be presented.
- **CV or NIH Biosketch**
- **Letter of Support:** A letter of support from department chair or primary mentor stating that the applicant will have adequate protected time to attend program activities and complete the planned research.

About CIPHR

The Cancer Information and Population Health Resource (CIPHR) program is a central component of the UNC Lineberger Comprehensive Cancer Center's Outcomes Research Program, and specializes in using secondary data for patient-centered outcomes research, including outcomes, patterns of care, innovation diffusion, comparative effectiveness, health services research, and organization studies. CIPHR incorporates a world class

computing system, several healthcare data resources, systems for data management and project tracking, and expert staff to support a broad range of research using these data and systems. Beyond these primary resources, CIPHR, as part of its multidisciplinary focus, maintains numerous collaborative relationships with researchers and leadership across the university.

The CIPHR data inventory includes an innovative, comprehensive, and prospectively linked North Carolina population-level data sets and existing linked national data sets. CIPHR linked data include cancer case data from the North Carolina Central Cancer Registry linked to administrative and claims data for a 100% sample of North Carolinians from Medicare, Medicaid, and private insurance plans. Linked, this data resource covers approximately 80% of the North Carolina cancer population and approximately 55% of the total North Carolina population (cancer and non-cancer). Other national linked data sources available to researchers include the Surveillance, Epidemiology, and End Results (SEER) program linkages with Medicare enrollment and claims (SEER-Medicare), the Consumer Assessment of Healthcare Providers and Systems (SEER-CAHPS), and Medicare Health Outcomes Survey (SEER-MHOS). The CIPHR analytic team can also work with similarly structured data (e.g., Truven MarketScan) from other sources on a case-by-case basis.