



THE UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS BOSTON – DANA-FARBER/HARVARD CANCER CENTER
U54 COMPREHENSIVE PARTNERSHIP FOR CANCER DISPARITIES RESEARCH

Post-Doctoral Nursing Fellowship in Cancer and Health Disparities

Robert and Donna Manning College of Nursing and Health Sciences | University
of Massachusetts Boston
Dana-Farber/Harvard Cancer Center affiliated with Harvard Medical School and
Harvard School of Public Health

Fellowship Description

University of Massachusetts Boston (UMass Boston) and Dana Farber/Harvard Cancer (DF/HCC) jointly announce an innovative Nursing Post-Doctoral Fellowship Program designed to ensure a diverse and highly trained workforce to meet the national need for highly skilled nursing faculty and researchers committed to better understand and address cancer health disparities. The joint Post-Doctoral Fellowship Program between UMass Boston's Robert and Donna Manning College of Nursing and Health Sciences and Phyllis F. Cantor Center for Research in Nursing and Patient Care Services at Dana-Farber Cancer Institute is one of the first to develop a nursing post-doctoral program in collaboration with and a clinical partner. This program will build up on the new educational model established by the existing partnership between the two institutions, which embraces and is made stronger by interdisciplinary participation with a blend of resource sharing and talents from practice and academe. It is also the only program offered which focuses on oncology care, research, health disparities, and health policy.

Fellowship Components

The Program is modeled after the National Science Foundation (NSF) Post-Doctoral Research Fellowship Program and the NIH/NINR Ruth L. Kirschstein National Research Service Award, institutional research training grant (T32). Funding through the National Cancer Institute is awarded. The Program consists of three interrelated components:

- 1) *Educational training*: an individualized curriculum plan that will include course work and seminar attendance addressing substantive, conceptual, and methodological areas relevant to the fellow's needs and objectives for post- doctoral education, and will support fellows in acquiring skills and knowledge required to conduct independent research in nursing, and address issues and problems associated with cancer disparities in racial and ethnic minority and socioeconomically disadvantaged populations.
- 2) *Research Training*: development and implementation of independent research with the guidance and mentorship of an experienced, funded nurse researcher from UMass Boston or DF/HCC. Areas of emphasis for research purposes will include biobehavioral and health disparities research focused on the patient/family experience of living with, or at risk for, a cancer diagnosis including prevention, screening, early detection, treatment decision making, symptoms, various interventions, quality of life, end-of-life care, survivorship and outcomes of diverse populations. Research training will include travel to scientific meetings and workshops related to the trainee's research interests and research training needs.
- 3) *Professional Development Training*: provide direction and resources for career guidance and preparation for an academic or research career. Resources will address leadership development, project management, training in grant writing and other skills necessary for success as an independent investigator with an established program of research.

Fellowship Options

- *Traditional Option* - fellows may complete the Program in 2 consecutive full-time years
- *Summer (non-traditional) Option* - fellows attend on-site (Boston-based) training for 3 months of each summer over 3 years, while also working on your research project at your home institution and visiting Boston as needed each semester in year 2 and 3

Resources available to Nursing Post-Doctoral Fellows:

Each post-doctoral fellow is eligible to receive financial support comprised of:

- Annual salary of \$65,000
- Tuition and fees waiver at UMass Boston
- Financial support to attend one conference per academic year
- Financial support for purchasing books or software

Additional resources include:

- Work directly with DF/HCC nurse scientists, all of whom have active, funded programs of research ranging from health promotion, treatment decision making at diagnosis, acute and palliative care symptom management and survivorship care.
- Access to expert co-mentors, clinicians and researchers at DF/HCC, including scientists from the Center for Population Sciences, who have expertise in biostatistics, cancer epidemiology, outcomes research, palliative care, and cancer risk reduction.
- Mentorship support in preparing for an academic or research career. Guidance toward resources and training opportunities in the areas of leadership development, project management, grant writing, and other skills necessary to obtain future funding and support through fellowships, award programs, and independent research grants.
- Access to enroll in courses offered in any of the 14 doctoral, 42 masters, or 20 graduate certificate programs at UMass Boston. They include, but are not limited to, gerontology, biotechnology, public policy, clinical psychology, sociology, computer science: database technology, and biomedical science. Courses offered in the nursing PhD program (including Biostatistics I and II, Mixed Methods, Population Health I & II, Secondary Data Analysis) and courses at UMass Boston and Harvard School of Public Health will be available by audit.
- Option of enrolling in select master's degree or graduate certificate programs at UMass Boston and attending coursework, clinical and research seminars conducted at DF/HCC and UMass Boston.
- Access to a wide range of online courses and select summer courses and seminars available to the non-traditional post-doctoral trainees.
- Ability to participate in DF/HCC post-doctoral network and UMass Boston Manning College of Nursing and Health Sciences professional development activities.
- Access to services offered by DF/HCC's Office for Post-Doctoral Training and Career Development (OPTCD).

Eligibility Criteria

Eligibility criteria include:

- Completed PhD or DNSc
- Eligible for RN licensure in Massachusetts
- Primary research interest in understanding and addressing cancer health disparities

Applicants from various socioeconomically disadvantaged, racially or ethnically diverse backgrounds are strongly encouraged to apply.

Apply Now – Rolling Admission process

Interested candidates should submit following to: Lexi Salters – U54partnership@umb.edu

- Curriculum vitae
- Goal statement
 - Describe your career goals and how the fellowship program will help you achieve them. Explicitly describe activities desired in the training program. Each candidate will be matched with two mentors; if you are particularly interested in working with an individual, please specify. Include previous research experiences and how those experiences relate to your research career goals
- Statement about how your proposed research fits within cancer health disparities and your future professional goals
- 3 contacts from which we will request letters of reference (including the doctoral committee chairperson)