



Randi Singer, PhD •

Seeking 2 graduate level interns with a strong commitment to public health and HIV prevention and experience with qualitative data management and analysis using dedoose, manuscript preparation and community engagement. Must be a great communicator who is organized and prioritizes health equity among historically marginalized populations including Black cisgender women, LGBTQ+, and sex workers. Experience developing surveys and quantitative data analysis is also welcome.

## Project 1:

# Development of A Group PrEP Care Model

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Right now, Black women are getting HIV more often than any other group of women. This project aims to reduce new HIV cases in Black women in Chicago to zero by 2030. Many PrEP programs target men and transgender women, but few focus on Black women.

Goals of the project include:

- Highlighting the impact of Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP), for preventing HIV.
- Adapting a group care model Centering Healthcare to provide PrEP care for Black women to facilitate community empowered care.
- Using ADAPT-ITT to collaboratively and iteratively adapt the model for Black women.
- Preparing for a larger study to determine feasibility and acceptability of C-PrEP+ among Black women

2 Interns Desired

The goal of achieving zero new HIV infections by 2030 is a crucial public health priority, particularly by focusing on at-risk populations like sex workers who have a significantly higher HIV prevalence. Increasing the optimal use of pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) among sex workers can significantly contribute to this goal. Community empowerment interventions have been effective in reducing HIV risk among sex workers by involving them in the design, implementation, and evaluation of interventions. One such approach being explored is the adaptation of the Centering Healthcare model, which creates a collaborative and respectful environment for interactive learning and community building.

A study is proposed to evaluate the feasibility and acceptability of this culturally adapted Centering PrEP (C-PrEP+) model for education, navigation, and adherence among HIV-negative sex workers in Chicago. The study aims to produce an implementation plan for integrating C-PrEP+ into a Federally Qualified Health Care (FQHC) system, conduct a pilot feasibility and acceptability trial, and evaluate implementation barriers and facilitators.

The research plan will be supported by expert mentoring and research training, focusing on quantitative methods, health intervention study design, and mixed-methodological evaluation. This training aims to prepare the principal investigator for leading a larger-scale randomized controlled trial to determine the efficacy and sustainability of C-PrEP+ in preventing HIV among sex workers.

## Project 2:

# Centering Those Engaged in Transactional Sex: A PrEP Innovation for Getting To Zero

Project:

# Addressing Structural Racism in Latinx Communities

Structural racism, including immigration fears, discrimination, and linguistic isolation, drives disproportionate stress among Latinx immigrant families. A community-engaged or community-based participatory research approach can contribute to our understanding of what interventions are most helpful in addressing these stressors and provide critical perspectives regarding how to optimize implementation. This proposal builds off ongoing work with a community-based organization in Chicago and aims to develop and pilot test a community-based, multilevel (community, family, individual) intervention called FIESTA (Familias Inmigrantes Empoderándose contra Estrés Tomando Acción). FIESTA aims to address stress and promote resilience in the context of structural racism for Latinx immigrant parents and youth.

1 Intern Desired

## Project Description Continued

The specific aims of the project are to:

- 1) develop a multilevel, family-based intervention to be delivered by community health workers (CHWs) in community settings.
- 2) conduct initial pilot testing of the ten-session intervention
- 3) examine intervention's acceptability, appropriateness, feasibility, and fidelity.

The project is currently working on Aim 2 and will launch its first pilot groups in the summer.

## INTERN DUTIES

- Conduct literature reviews
- Coordinate and schedule meetings with community partners
- Recruit and screen potential participants for the intervention
- Collect, process, and manage data
- Assist in intervention groups

## INTERN REQUIREMENTS

- Must be fluent in Spanish

## Stephanie Torres, PhD



Angela Kong, PhD, MPH, RDN •



1 Intern Desired

Project:

# Addressing health-related social needs in pharmacy settings

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The purpose of this project is to examine the implementation of a health-related social needs (HSRN) program delivered by pharmacy technicians trained in patient navigation (PT/PN) in a comprehensive medication therapy management (CMTM) clinic. We will also examine the potential to implement this program in other healthcare settings within and outside of UI Health.

Specific aims:

- 1) To examine the implementation of PT/PN delivered HSRN program in a CMTM clinic.
- 2) To gather patients' perceptions of social needs screening and referrals in healthcare settings
- 3) To identify facilitators, barriers, and contextual factors identified by leadership and essential personnel from OSF healthcare that may affect adoption and implementation of an HSRN program
- 4) To develop a plan for estimating program and patient level costs

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## Intern Duties

- Setting up survey and interview guides in REDCap
- Assisting with recruitment, scheduling, and data collection.
- Reconciling transcribed audio files
- Preparing manual operations (e.g., training, program delivery, etc.)
- Assisting with coding and analysis using qualitative software

## Project 1:

# Alzheimer's Disease Awareness Campaign Evaluation and an Alzheimer's Needs Assessment for the state of Illinois

The Alzheimer's Disease and other dementias needs assessment is a partnership with the state public health department to determine what services and supports are currently available and what unmet needs exist. This information will be used as a baseline measurement for efforts underway through the State Dementia plan and, if funded, the CDC BOLD funding.

## Project 2:

# HIV and Older Women

Cannabis Use by Older Women with HIV is a Pilot study based on MACS-WIHS Combined Cohort Study which seeks to understand and reduce the impact of chronic health conditions that affect people living with HIV. We will be interviewing 30 women in the WIHS cohort about cannabis use throughout the lifetime.

## INTERN DUTIES

For the needs assessment, we will be conducting a landscape survey of Alzheimer's services and supports across the state so there will be some research involved with identifying what already exists. We have also been collecting qualitative data and students may have the opportunity to code this.

We will also be looking to develop some infographics and graphics for the needs assessment. Finally, we will be starting the survey collection and there will likely be data entry for those.

On the second project, I will be conducting interviews. I will do these via Zoom so they are transcribed, however I will need assistance reconciling the transcripts with the audio files. We are also going to start developing the project into a larger one and will have some background literature to research. Additionally, I would invite the intern to participate in project meetings so that they are involved in the project and understand it from a higher level perspective.

## Julie Bobitt, PhD



**1-2 Interns Desired**

Natasha Crooks, PhD, RN •



Project:

## **IMARA for Male Caregivers and Girls Empowerment**

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**IMAGE emphasizes Black male caregivers' desire to participate in girls' lives and protect and support them while challenging toxic masculinity and the use of dominance, violence, and control to assert power and superiority. The program addresses sexual violence and objectification of Black girls and women, promotes healthy relationships, and emphasizes positive role modeling. IMAGE is delivered over two days, Saturdays and Sundays, at local community-based organizations. The intern may be asked to attend programming, help with data collection, and be an additional set of hands for project needs**

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1-2 Interns Desired

Project:

# Designing and Integrated Substance Use and Traumatic Stress Intervention for Youth Experiencing Homelessness

Youth experiencing homelessness report significantly greater co-occurring substance use and traumatic stress compared to their housed peers, which increases their risk for chronic homelessness as well as other health and societal concerns. This study will develop a conceptual model of risk and protective factors that could be targeted to reduce substance use and traumatic stress in this population by conducting secondary data analysis and partnering with organizations serving youth experiencing homelessness. Based on this conceptual model, four intervention components of an integrated intervention addressing substance use and traumatic stress for youth experiencing homelessness will be developed and pilot tested so that it is feasible and sustainable in the settings where they receive services.

## Nyssa Snow-Hill, PhD



**1 Intern Desired**

## Intern Duties

- Conduct literature reviews
- Assist in recruitment
- Assist with qualitative data analysis
- Assist with dataset management
- Participation in team meetings



Kate Merrill, PhD •

1 Intern Desired

### Intern Duties:

- Recruiting Latina teens and/or mothers/female caregivers for workshops
- Supporting with workshop day tasks (e.g., consenting participants, administering questionnaires, observing workshops)
- Supporting on other tasks as they arise (e.g., tabulating observer data, etc.)
- Participating in team meetings

### Intern Requirements:

- Proficiency or fluency in Spanish preferred but not required
- Comfort speaking with teens and mothers/female caregivers a plus

Project 1:

## **Floreciendo sexual and reproductive health workshop for Latina teens and their female caregivers**

**This project aims to address health disparities and improve sexual and reproductive health outcomes among Latina teens (14-18 years old). In partnership with community-based organizations in the Chicagoland area and drawing on an implementation science approach, we are adapting and testing an evidence-based sexual and reproductive health program for Latina teens and their mothers/female caregivers. We are currently running a pilot optimization trial of the Floreciendo workshop, which is being implemented across four partner sites in the Chicagoland area. A community advisory board informs all aspects of the research.**

# Grassroot Soccer's Global Adolescent Health Initiatives

Grassroot Soccer (GRS) is an adolescent health organization that leverages the power of soccer to equip young people with the life-saving information, services, and mentorship they need to live healthier lives and be agents of change in their communities. Since 2002, GRS has reached over 18M adolescents and youth globally. GRS trains young adult mentors (Caring Coaches) as community change agents to deliver evidence-based curricula. GRS runs these programs through fixed and outreach sites, which operate as safe spaces for young people 10-24 years old to access engaging sport-based activities as well as health and social services across the continuum of care. GRS brings deep experience in HIV, sexual and reproductive health and rights, mental health, and positive youth development. GRS is looking for an exceptional intern to support a range of implementation science activities within its Global Research & Development and Global Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning departments, in partnership with the Center for Dissemination and Implementation Science (CDIS).

## Intern Duties

- Supporting on the 8+ ongoing research and evaluation project by carrying out literature reviews, conducting data analysis and visualization, and generating summaries of findings.
- Help develop a new GRS data analysis framework; clean and analyze annual outcomes monitoring data.
- Support the creation of new issues of GRS's monthly Scouting Report, which captures insights and best practices in the field of adolescent health and is shared internally and with GRS's entire partner network.

## Kate Merrill, PhD



**1 Intern Desired**

## Intern Requirements

- Interest in implementation science in a global context.



## Project 3:

# Implementing the IMARA-South Africa sexual health program for adolescent girls/young women and their female caregivers

IMARA South Africa (IMARA-SA) is a sexual and reproductive health workshop for adolescent girls and young women (AGYW) (ages 15-19) and their female caregivers (FC) (e.g., mothers, aunts, grandmothers). A randomized controlled trial is currently being conducted to assess the effectiveness of the program in reducing HIV/STIs, increasing HIV counseling and testing, and increasing uptake of PrEP among over 600 pairs of South Africa AGYW and their FCs. Qualitative data—in the form of focus group discussions and key informant interviews—were collected to explore the implementation of the workshops from the perspective of staff, in combination with questionnaires completed by staff and participants about their experiences with the program. We are looking for an intern to support with a rapid analysis of the data and the preparation of a manuscript for publication.

## Intern Duties:

- Receive training to analyze focus group discussions and interviews by coding into a framework matrix in Excel.
- Support with the analysis of questionnaires completed by staff and participants.
- Conduct literature reviews, help prepare tables, and support with other tasks as needed.

## Intern Requirements:

- Background in qualitative methods and basic qualitative data analysis a plus.



Kate Merrill, PhD.

1 Intern Desired

Project:

# Research in the Implementation Science + Health Equity Advancement Lab (I+HEAL) at Lurie Children's Hospital

Adolescents with a chronic medication condition (A-CMC), estimated to be 1 in 4 adolescents in the US, are more likely to use alcohol and other drugs (AOD) than adolescents without CMCs. Screening, Brief Intervention, and Referral to Treatment (SBIRT) is an evidence-based practice to reduce AOD use among adolescents and young adults. SBIRT has been developed for primary care environments and holds promise for extension to additional pediatric-serving settings. Research in I+HEAL emphasizes the implementation of evidence-based alcohol and substance use interventions for A-CMCs in three novel settings: 1) Lurie Children's Hospital pediatric inpatient units, 2) school-based health centers through Chicago Public Schools, and 3) global settings such as community health clinics in Sub-Saharan Africa.

## Intern Duties

Duties can vary based on interest, but may include:

- Inpatient clinic workflow observations
- Attending/co-facilitating focus groups/interviews
- Assisting with literature searches/development of study recruitment materials
- Coding qualitative (focus group) and quantitative (survey) data

## Intern Requirements

- Interest and commitment to health equity and justice
- Comfortable in medical environments (primary care and inpatient settings)
- Comfortable working with/speaking with teens, caregivers, and medical professionals

## Faith Summersett Williams, PhD



**1 Intern Desired**