

**The Maya Angelou Center for Health Equity (MACHE) Center of Excellence  
Health Equity Research Opportunity (HERO) Fellowship**

**Program Description**

**Why is there a need for a Fellowship focused on Health Equity research?**

- Increasing the number and quality of underrepresented and minority researchers have received substantial interest nationally. Studies have shown that minority scholars conduct the vast majority of minority-related research; therefore, escalating the pool of minority investigators is essential to improving overall health disparities.
- Comprehensive and targeted research training in health disparities research has lacked defined structure, particularly since this field of research is typically transdisciplinary.

**What is the Health Equity Research Opportunity (HERO) Fellowship Program?**

- HERO is a **research collaboration program** to provide opportunities to establish a sustained interaction with ongoing health equity projects within the Maya Angelou Center for Health Equity (MACHE) and affiliated Wake Forest School of Medicine departments and centers. The 8-week summer research experience is accompanied **by three 2-day professional advancement workshops**. These workshops will be offered for course credit by Wake Forest School of Health Sciences at a reduced tuition scholarship for HERO participants who would like their participation documented on a Wake Forest University transcript.
  - Fellows will identify potential **faculty collaborators** from the MACHE or other Wake Forest School of Medicine departments or centers during their application and interview process. After the HERO fellow and MACHE/WFSM investigator have been appropriately matched, they will identify a research project of current importance to health equities or a basic science project critical to a relevant translational health care need.
  - Each individual HERO research project may require additional training or certification for Environmental Health and Safety, Animal Care and Use, and/or Human Subjects Research.
  - A workshop will be provided for HERO fellows and their WFSM faculty collaborators to identify the best mechanism for continued funding of the collaborative research project. Mechanisms such as diversity supplements on R or P type grants at WFSM, new MBRS or AREA grants to be submitted by HERO fellows from their institutions, and other mechanisms will be addressed.

**Who is the target audience?**

- We are targeting underrepresented minority faculty from various backgrounds who have a common interest in biomedical research and education pursuits. These post-doctoral faculty members will be recruited from regional schools/universities including: Wake Forest University Health Sciences and surrounding Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) such as North Carolina Agriculture and Technical State University, Johnson C. Smith University, Winston-Salem State University, North Carolina Central University, and Livingstone College.
- Faculty who have tenure as an Associate or Full Professor are not eligible.
- This is a federally-funded program that is restricted to U.S. Citizens and Permanent Residents.

**What are the key dates for the fellowship?**

- |                        |   |
|------------------------|---|
| • Mid- November 2016   | Announcement & Application Packet released            |
| • March 15, 2017       | Deadline for Fellowship application <b>{EXTENDED}</b> |
| • By early April, 2017 | Conduct interviews with fellows                       |
| • By early May, 2017   | Announce fellows                                      |
| • June 1, 2017         | Fellowship begins                                     |

**What is the application process?**

Eligible faculty should electronically submit an online application and will include the following:

- a) their curriculum vitae,
- b) a one-page statement indicating why they are interested in the program,
- c) a letter of support from their department Chair, and
- d) a commitment to initiate a research project and complete the workshops in the program

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**What is the recruitment and selection process?**

- Faculty representatives from each institution will assist with recruitment of fellows on their campuses.
- Applications will undergo administrative review for completeness before the selection process begins.
- To select participants, the staff and faculty from the Maya Angelou Center for Health Equity will review the applications and conduct a face-to-face or SKYPE meeting with high priority applicants.
- Selection criteria will include the applicant' stated commitment to a career focused on health disparities research, the chair's assessment of the applicant's potential for success, and evidence of prior research in health disparities.

**What are the expectations of the participants?**

- A commitment to complete the HERO educational program which entails participation in **three non-consecutive 2 day workshops** in Winston-Salem, NC. This will entail pre and post reading/assignments and presentations.
- Complete **the summer Research Collaborative experience** which will pair the fellow with a PI of a research project that can expand or generate new knowledge related to health disparities.
- Fellows will generate a **"white paper" or review article** on the health disparity/equity topic within their chosen area, providing a tangible program outcome. Guidance and feedback will be provided by MACHE faculty and the research faculty mentor.

**What will the curriculum consist of?**

A comprehensive organizing framework was selected to guide the research, training and educational experiences that provides a foundation of for integrating research within the context of the health care system, coupled with an acknowledgement of the external social and environmental factors that can contribute to racial/ethnic health disparities. It is possible for HERO fellows to receive course credit for the summer workshops at a reduced tuition scholarship rate.

- **Introduction to Responsible Conduct of Research:** TBA (generally the 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday in June): 1 – 4pm.
- **Three 2 day Workshops during the Summer (Please note date revisions highlighted below)**
  - Summer Sessions I & II: (1 credit hr. each workshop = 3 credit hours total)
    - Workshop 1: Introduction to Translational & Educational Research - June 8-9, 2017
    - Workshop 2: Identifying the Problem of Health Disparity - June 29 – 30, 2017
    - Workshop 3: Promoting Health Equity - July 20 – 21, 2017
- **Summer Research Collaborative** - Independent Study: (2 credit hrs.)
- **Location & Logistics:**
  - Three 2-day Workshops
    - Location: Wake Forest Biotech Place located at 575 North Patterson Ave. Winston-Salem, NC) 8:30 am – 5pm (45 min -1 hr. lunch)
    - Networking/Guest Lecture opportunity on Tuesday evenings
  - Tuition costs: To obtain course credit, participants are offered a reduced tuition rate. Participants may also audit courses to receive credit on their transcript.
  - Note: There is no cost to participate in the summer workshops and the research collaborative if course credit is not needed.

Click [HERE](#) or go to

<http://www.wakehealth.edu/MACHE/P60/HERO---Health-Equity-Research-Opportunities.htm>  
to access the online application located on the HERO Webpage.

**If you have any questions, please contact Ms. Montez Lane, Program Manager  
336-713-5066 or ymlane@wakehealth.edu**