

Postdoctoral Scholar in Network Epidemiology and HIV Prevention Research at the University of Chicago

The Department of Medicine and the Chicago Center for HIV Elimination announces a post-doctoral scholar position at the University of Chicago, focusing on network epidemiology and HIV/STI prevention research.

The position is under the direct supervision of John Schneider MD, MPH and in collaboration with other Center faculty (<http://hivelimitation.uchicago.edu/people/faculty>) to support a skilled health and social scientist interested in developing a career in network epidemiology and HIV/STI prevention research. The position includes opportunities for didactic course work, leadership roles on ongoing projects, grant writing and developing an independent area of research. The position will include analysis of data and publishing first-authored publications from ongoing population based cohorts, randomized controlled trials and substantive health department data in the United States, Greece and India.

A central characteristic of the program of research is its integration of network characterization, analysis and visualization with HIV/STI prevention as the need for interventions that address factors beyond individual level behavior is increasingly recognized. Network epidemiology as applied to HIV/STI prevention involves statistical analyses, mathematical modeling, and direct client interventions that leverage networks (defined broadly), as the intervention or unit of analysis. Interventions include existing or forthcoming strategies which integrate biomedical, behavioral and structural features with network level forces to work toward eliminating new transmission events. Research, service provision, and community engagement at the Center focus on networks of men who have sex with men, opioid users and transgender populations in the United States. Ongoing projects include cross-sectional surveys, large longitudinal cohort studies, venue-based surveys, Department of Public Health interventions, and multi-city multisite network-based interventions funded by multiple institutes of the National Institutes of Health (NIAID, NIMH, NICHD, NIDA, NHLBI) and the CDC. The successful candidate will benefit from infrastructure and training through existing centers (Center for AIDS Research, Center for Prevention Implementation Methodology and Advanced Methods in Opioid use). Innovation is at the core of the research program and includes digital network generation and intervention along with adaptation of novel biomedical prevention strategies.

Requirements for this position include having completed a doctoral degree, demonstrated strong quantitative analytic skills, evidence of published scientific articles, and a strong interest in publishing network-based HIV/STI prevention research. A requirement includes the ability to integrate work within a diverse set of academic and professional partners across the University including the Department of Sociology, National Opinion Research Center, Social Services Administration, Computational Institute, Pritzker School of Medicine, and the Booth School of Business. This position offers a competitive stipend/salary, benefits, office space, access to internal sources of pilot project support, travel support to research conferences and access to internationally based University of Chicago Academic Centers.

Interested researchers should email a current CV, 2 representative papers/publications, and names of at least two references to Jessi Dehlin at jdehlin@medicine.bsd.uchicago.edu

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Our aim is to eliminate new HIV transmission events domestically by 2041 which would mark the second 30-year period since the first cases were identified in 1981. For example, at the end of this period in South Chicago, we would envision new transmission events as being newsworthy – and not just numbers collected for research or other documentation purposes. We take an innovative approach to HIV transmission elimination through network science, next-generation testing and notification methods, integrated prevention, and community mobilization. Through this approach, we advance previous strategies to limit onward infectious disease transmission, such as those targeting polio and smallpox.

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