

Research Fellowship in Cardiovascular Disease Epidemiology & Prevention

This program is intended to prepare fellows for research careers in cardiovascular disease epidemiology and prevention. Fellows will be involved in ongoing studies having existing databases and will also initiate research, including data collection and analysis, on their own. Trainees complete one or more projects for which they bear primary responsibility.

- [Application form \(PDF\)](#) (Download to your desktop to use as a PDF)
- [Application Form \(docx\)](#) (Download to your desktop to use as a Word Docx.)

Eligibility

- Applicants must be U.S. citizens or permanent residents.
- Postdoctoral fellowship applicants must have earned doctoral degrees (MD, PhD, DVM, ScD, etc.) in biologic or behavioral disciplines.
- Demonstrated potential or experience in research are the primary criteria for appointments.
- Predoctoral fellows will typically have a master's degree or equivalent degree in a biologic or behavioral discipline and must apply and be accepted into the Epidemiology PhD program.

Availability

There are four predoctoral and three postdoctoral fellowship positions. Positions become available at irregular intervals.

Please contact the program director, Aaron R. Folsom, by phone or via email to find out current availability before applying.

P.I. and Director:
Aaron R. Folsom, M.D.
612-626-8862
folso001@umn.edu

Grant Secretary:
Laura Kemmis
612-626-8867

The Fellowship Experience

The training philosophy at Minnesota is that research is best learned by hands-on experience with appropriate faculty guidance.

Specific research areas include the description and explanation of cardiovascular disease (CVD) trends in populations, individual and population correlations between risk characteristics and disease rates in defined cohorts, studies of the genetic epidemiology of cardiovascular disease, controlled laboratory studies in the modification of risk characteristics, public health trials of interventions in schools and whole communities, and the development of new methods to study etiology, treatment and prevention.

For postdoctoral fellows, the coursework component of the program is based on areas outside their prior experience. An MPH degree is available. For predoctoral fellows, specific coursework is usually required depending on the individual background. The areas of importance are epidemiology and biostatistics, behavioral science and nutritional epidemiology.

Fellowship Length

- For predoctoral fellows, the fellowship supports the Ph.D. degree. A minimum of three years fellowship is anticipated.
- For postdoctoral fellows the training period is usually three years but depends on interest, prior skills and experience; only rarely is a one-year fellowship considered.

Application Process

- Confirm that you are eligible and that a fellowship slot is available.
- Complete the application: Fellowship Application (PDF) | Fellowship Application (Doc)
- Obtain three references

Mail to: Aaron R. Folsom
Division of Epidemiology and Community Health
School of Public Health
University of Minnesota
1300 South 2nd Street, Suite 300
Minneapolis, MN 55454-101

Stipend & Benefits

Stipend: Each fellow receives \$1,400 professional travel allowance per year of fellowship and full tuition, books and fees. Each receives individual health insurance. Certain other research related expenses are covered.

Stipends are based on current NIH-approved levels.

Annual appointments, with a three-year minimum commitment expected of predoctoral trainees, a two-year minimum commitment of postdoctoral trainees. Five-year maximum predoctoral support, three-year maximum postdoctoral support.

- **Predoctoral Stipend: \$23,844**
- **Postdoctoral Stipend: \$47,484-\$58,560** (based on experience since receipt of the doctoral degree)

Advisors:

- Postdocs: This is a mutual choice between the fellow and a faculty member.
- Predocs: Advisor assignments for pre-doctoral fellows are typically made by the Director of Graduate Studies with consultation of the faculty and student.

Allowed expenses: Tuition, health insurance, books, travel, certain research-related expenses.

Clerical support: No routine secretarial support is provided. Fellows usually work with the secretary of the research study advisor to whom they are assigned.

The grant assistant will coordinate administrative details related to the training grant (such as travel or other reimbursements on training grant funds, appointment documentation, etc.).

Employee status

- Postdoc: Nonservice employee/trainee
- Predoc: Student

Evaluations: Yearly evaluations plus annual updates for Human Subjects documentation and grant

continuations/renewals are required.

Health insurance: Postdoctoral fellows find their own health insurance provider and the Division will reimburse them at the single coverage rate. Fellows must send a copy of the check to accounting. Predocs are eligible for the Graduate Assistant Health Plan.

Vacation/sick leave: Pre- and postdoctoral fellows are allowed up to 15 days of paid leave per year for vacation and/or sick leave.

Maternity: Fellows may take up to 30 days of maternity leave, plus whatever is left of the 15 days of regular leave. Insurance is covered during this time.

Housing contacts: University of Minnesota Housing Service: (612) 624-2994

Office space: Fellows are usually housed individually with the research study advisor to whom they are assigned.

Rank

- Postdoctoral Fellow (**postdoc**)
- Graduate School Trainee (**predoc**)

Research ethics: NIH has adopted a policy that all fellows take formal instruction in research ethics.

Travel: Currently supported at \$1400 annually.

Tuition: Support is provided for predoctoral fellows, and, upon approval by NIH, may become available for postdoctoral coursework.

Fellowship Faculty

Program Director

Aaron R. Folsom, MD, MPH

Program Director: Cardiovascular and Chronic Disease
Epidemiology, Biology and Prevention

Epidemiology

Ellen W. Demerath, PhD

Obesity, Childhood Risk, Genetic Epidemiology

Ryan T. Demmer, PhD

Diabetes, Microbiome, Biomarkers

David R. Jacobs, Jr., PhD

Design and Analysis, Nutrition Methodology

Kamakshi Lakshminarayan, MD, PhD

Stroke

Pamela L. Lutsey, PhD

Epidemiology

Pamela J. Schreiner, PhD

Cardiovascular Disease Epidemiology, Biology

Preventive Cardiology

Russell V. Luepker, MD

Cardiovascular Disease Epidemiology & Prevention

Biology / Physiology

Myron D. Gross, PhD

Lab Methods, Marker Studies

Biostatistics

Richard F. MacLehose, PhD

Statistical Methods, Data Analysis

Genetic Epidemiology

James S. Pankow, PhD

Weihong Tang, PhD, MS, MD

Cardiovascular Disease Epidemiology and Diabetes

Cardiovascular Disease Epidemiology

Nutrition

Lisa Harnack, DrPH, RD

Mark A. Pereira, PhD

Lyn M. Steffen, PhD

Nutritional Epidemiology

Nutrition, Metabolism, Diabetes, Exercise

Nutritional Epidemiology

Social Epidemiology

J. Michael Oakes, PhD

Rachel Widome, PhD

Social Epidemiology, Methodology

Tobacco and Policy