



National Institutes of Health
National Cancer Institute
Bethesda, Maryland 20892

**Cancer Research Training Award Fellowship
Opportunity Announcement**
Basic Biobehavioral and Psychological Sciences Branch

Announcement Title

Post-Doctoral Fellowship in Basic Biobehavioral and Psychological Sciences, 2015

Introduction

The [Basic Biobehavioral and Psychological Sciences Branch \(BBPSB\)](#) seeks a Cancer Research Training Award (CRTA) Fellow to work on basic mechanisms of sensation, attention, and visual perception as related to cancer risk and control. This is an outstanding opportunity to conduct interesting science while helping to improve public health and reduce the burden of cancer. The fellowship is a full-time postdoctoral position, renewable for up to two years.

The ideal candidate will have training in cognitive psychology, vision science, or allied fields, a demonstrated ability to conduct independent research projects and publish the results, and a desire to use these skills to advance the cause of cancer control.

Why is NCI interested in the basic science of visual perception and attention? NCI has recognized that research in this area is critical to a range of cancer control goals, such as improving cancer screening by understanding how radiologists, pathologists, and cytologists interpret complex medical images, or understanding the attentional problems that plague a subset of cancer survivors. This is a new area of emphasis for NCI, and the fellow would be helping to push forward research in this field at a critical time.

BBPSB is within the National Cancer Institute's (NCI) Behavioral Research Program (BRP), in the Division of Cancer Control and Population Sciences (DCCPS). CRTA Fellows interact daily with researchers in public health, behavioral medicine, and cancer prevention, as well as with various extramural scientists across the National Institutes of Health. Additionally, the Fellow may have the opportunity to travel to national conferences, such as annual meetings of the Association for Psychological Science, the Psychonomic Society, or Vision Sciences Society.

Position Description

Examples of potential research topics may include:

- The accuracy of cancer screening procedures and attentional limitations placed on the human observer;
- Effects of various cancer treatments on cognitive functioning and the burden of perceptual deficits on quality of life;
- The communication of probabilistic information (such as risks or benefits of certain behaviors) and visual system processes of quantitative information; and
- Influences of the "built environment" on the propensity for physical activity and other behavioral factors via spatial cognition;

Day-to-day activities include, but are not limited to:

- Conducting literature reviews and synthesizing scientific content;
- Performing data analyses and contributing to scientific manuscripts, reports, and presentations;
- Analyzing the research portfolio and aiding in the development of emergent research areas;
- Participating in meetings and engaging stakeholders;
- Leading or assisting with the planning and execution of think-tank meetings and webinars; and
- Conducting web- or laboratory-based experiments



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Qualifications

- Candidates with a PhD or equivalent degree in cognitive psychology, cognitive neuroscience, or a related field;
- Skills in both quantitative and qualitative methods and research design;
- Excellent academic standing and professional record;
- Excellent organizational and project management skills; and
- Excellent interpersonal skills and ability to work independently and in teams.
- Must be US citizen or resident alien

Application Requirements

1. Cover letter (provide an explanation of your interest in the BBPSB Fellowship and explain your professional development goals and research interests);
2. Resume or CV;
3. Two letters of recommendation;
4. One first-authored manuscript;
5. Proof of citizenship (photocopy of birth certificate or passport) or resident alien status; and
6. Official transcripts and/or proof of academic good standing (transcript of highest degree conferred or Proof of Academic Good Standing on official letterhead and signed by graduate program director, advisor, or equivalent).

Application materials may be submitted via email to Donna Hopkins at: hopkinsd@mail.nih.gov; paper copies and official transcripts and/ or proof of academic good standing must be mailed to:

Ms. Donna Hopkins, ATTN: BBPSB CRTA
Behavioral Research Program
9609 Medical Center Drive, room 3E202
Bethesda, MD 20892-9764

Application Deadline

This announcement will remain active until the position is successfully filled.

Start Date

Earliest possible start date is April 1, 2015

Stipend and Benefits

This position is a one-year full-time Cancer Research Training Award (CRTA) Fellowship with a possibility for renewal. The stipends for CRTA Fellows are adjusted yearly, and are commensurate with academic achievement and relevant experience. More information is available online at: <http://cancercontrol.cancer.gov/brp/stipend.html>. Benefits include health insurance at no cost and a wide range of career development activities.

Branch Contacts

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[Todd Horowitz, PhD](#) (Fellowship Mentor)

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Candidates are encouraged to contact current and past Fellows, Mentors, and other staff members. Please visit <http://staffprofiles.cancer.gov/brp> to learn more about our network of mentorship and collaboration.