



### **Branch Chief of NCI's Health Behaviors Research Branch**

The Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), National Cancer Institute's (NCI), Division of Cancer Control and Population Sciences (DCCPS), Behavioral Research Program (BRP) is seeking a senior scientist to serve as Chief of the Health Behaviors Research Branch (HBRB). HBRB supports research on cancer prevention behaviors and outcomes, which includes diet, physical activity, sedentary behavior, energy balance, obesity, sun safety and indoor tanning, genetic influences on behaviors and virus exposure. It provides leadership in these areas by focusing research on effective multi-level influences and approaches to individual, relational, environmental, and community-based interventions.

The successful candidate will lead a group of behavioral and social scientists, fellows, and administrative staff to develop innovative research initiatives, and to encourage research in key scientific areas, to advance health behaviors research. The Branch Chief supports and directs the development and growth of a national program in behavioral cancer prevention and control research. The Branch Chief will work collaboratively with the Associate Director and other Branch Chiefs in BRP to lead new initiatives within the program, the NCI, and the NIH. Moreover, the Branch Chief will play an important role in increasing functional integration of health behaviors research across NIH, and collaborate with senior leadership across agencies within DHHS, and other Federal Agencies including the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and the U.S. Department of Agriculture, as well as with diverse non-governmental agencies on a range of health behavior programs and initiatives to advance public health.

There are many opportunities to advance health behavior research including new prevention efforts driven by national, state, and local policies (e.g. the Affordable Care Act). Priority research initiatives within the Behavioral Research Program focus on health disparities and secondary prevention with cancer survivors as well as innovative approaches to promote health behaviors such as network medicine and computational models, and the study of multiple health behaviors. Priorities within the HBRB include skin cancer prevention, diet and physical activity behaviors, the examination of gene-environment interactions that contribute to obesity, the effects of social-contextual factors such as relationships with friends, family and close others as well as cultural and socio-economic influences in cancer preventive behaviors, virus exposure (HPV) and health behaviors, the built environment, and policy issues related to cancer prevention and control.

The BRP provides a unique and nationally visible multidisciplinary environment and participates in NCI's many internship, postdoctoral training, and visiting scientist programs. The HBRB Chief will enjoy a scientifically energizing and collegial environment with opportunities to:

- Develop research and funding initiatives;
- Cultivate a diverse portfolio of grant-supported research;
- Lead and participate in cross-disciplinary research collaborations involving public, private, and academic stakeholders;
- Develop national and international scientific programming (e.g., symposia, special journal issues and supplements, conferences, and workshops);
- Conduct research, publish, and present at professional meetings; and

- Contribute to the development of major health behavior-related documents.

Candidates must have earned an MD or PhD or the equivalent in the behavioral or social sciences, public health, quantitative sciences, medicine, or related areas appropriate to the position. Successful candidates will have an exceptional record of publications and extramural funding as well as a high degree of national/international visibility in one or more areas related to the mission of the HBRB. Substantial knowledge of the theoretical principles and practices of chronic disease prevention and behavior research is desired. Extensive experience in several areas of health behavior research, the ability to manage complex research projects and engage in interdisciplinary collaborations, supervise scientific staff and manage budgets is also essential.

The salary range for this position is a GS-15 pay grade. The work site location is the Washington, D.C. suburb of Rockville, Maryland. United States citizenship is required for all applicants. Excellent benefits will be provided; a relocation package will be negotiable. All applicants will receive consideration without regard to ethnicity, gender, national origin, age, religion, disability, or sexual orientation. The Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), National Institutes of Health (NIH) and NCI are Equal Opportunity Employers.

Please submit a letter of interest, CV, and copies of two representative publications to Ms. Michele Fisher ([fishermm@od.nih.gov](mailto:fishermm@od.nih.gov)). For questions about the position, contact Dr. Jerry Suls (search committee chair) at [jerry.suls@nih.gov](mailto:jerry.suls@nih.gov), or Dr. William Klein (Associate Director, Behavioral Research Program) at [kleinwm@mail.nih.gov](mailto:kleinwm@mail.nih.gov). Review of submitted materials will begin March 16, 2015. We request that materials be submitted by April 30, 2015, but applicants will be considered until the position is filled. To learn more about the HBRB, please visit: <http://cancercontrol.cancer.gov/brp/hbrb/index.html>. To learn more about the BRP, please visit: <http://cancercontrol.cancer.gov/brp/>. The position will be posted on USAJOBS, the federal government's official job site.