Faculty Positions in Health Promotion and Health Behavior

Overview

The University of Texas System with The Health Science Center San Antonio (UTHSCSA) is making a historic commitment to the South Texas area by hiring several interdisciplinary faculty. These faculty will be on the ground floor of an innovative and multidisciplinary translational research program in three of its campus locations: Edinburg, Harlingen and Laredo. All three locations are near or on the US-Mexico border, in the heart of vibrant and growing Mexican American minority communities, that are medically underserved and economically disadvantaged. The campuses are part of a six-campus network of new health and academic programs in South Texas closely linked to the large Health Science Centers in San Antonio and Houston. A collaborative graduate research and education program is being created across all of the campuses to enhance the opportunities for graduate education and to provide opportunities for graduate level research. The candidates will be expected to participate in creating and expanding funded research programs with a strong group of existing and new transdisciplinary collaborators to address obesity and diabetes and their many related conditions among this population where we find some of the highest prevalences of obesity and diabetes and related disease in the country.

This unique opportunity includes access to community-based, translational research programs including extensive community outreach, four Clinical Research Units and state-of-the-art laboratories dedicated to population based science. The access these programs provide to people on both sides of the US/Mexico border is just one of the unusual opportunities. Participation in this new team will provide intellectual space to contribute and build on current programs while developing innovative ideas and fresh questions. Faculty are also being recruited in epidemiology and biomedical research particularly bioinformatics, genetics and microbiology to form a larger interactive team. Joint appointments with UT School of Public Health, University of Texas Pan American, and University of Texas at Brownsville are available. UT School of Public Health has 150 faculty and 1000 graduate students at the masters’ and doctoral level at its six campuses located across Texas in Houston, Dallas, Austin, San Antonio, El Paso and Brownsville.

Facilities and Locations

The three campus locations (Edinburg, Harlingen, Laredo) offer recently constructed facilities with up-to-date dedicated Interactive Television (ITV) equipment that allows extensive electronic interactions, collaborations and teaching between campuses. Newly created clinical research units in these sites are available for population and clinic-based community studies ranging from a longitudinal cohort study to community based clinical trials. Strong relationships with researchers at UT Health Science Centers in San Antonio and Houston already exist. For example, support and infrastructure for research is provided through Center for Translational Science (CTSA) programs in San Antonio and Houston. Many opportunities to foster community based participatory research abound with major universities and numerous community and clinical partners.
The fast-growing South Texas Border region is home to 1.7 million people, drawn to the border from Mexico but also from further north for its abundant sunshine, proximity to the Gulf Coast, year-round golf, family-oriented culture, and affordable cost of living, and now a great opportunity to develop a strong academic career in population-based and translational science.

Research Interests

UTHSCSA invites applications for tenure-track positions in health promotion / health behavior at the assistant or associate professor level with competitive salary and start-up resources. Ideal candidates will have a track record of extramural funding and scientific publication, doctoral degree with expertise in the relevant disciplines or associated disciplines, and the desire to develop both a solid research career and effective teaching. Applicants with expertise in community based participatory research or policy and environmental change research with an emphasis on obesity and diabetes and related conditions (cardiovascular disease, related cancers) are particularly encouraged to apply. Fluency in Spanish is an advantage and ability to work in a multi-cultural environment is essential. The ability to work independently while collaborating effectively in larger studies will be important including those with biological and genetic research questions. Primary responsibilities will be to develop funded research efforts that generate publications in the professional journals and to engage in teaching at the graduate level.

Application Process (electronic submissions are preferred):

Review of applicants will begin immediately and continue until all the positions are filled.

Applicants should send the following: 1) a letter describing areas of expertise, research interests, and career goals, and ideas for how they might approach research in this setting 2) a current curriculum vita, and 3) three letters of professional reference with contact information (including email addresses). Please send this information to: c/o Ms. Rosie Anzaldua at 2102 Treasure Hills Blvd, Harlingen, TX, 78550 or anzaldua@uthscsa.edu. If you have any questions or need additional information regarding these positions, please call (956) 365-8823. All faculty appointments are designated as security sensitive positions.

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