

# THE | NIH ACADEMY

A health disparities research training program  
for NIH Postbaccalaureates

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES | NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH | OFFICE OF INTRAMURAL TRAINING & EDUCATION

**THE NIH ACADEMY** offers trainees the opportunity to learn about health disparities, enhance their knowledge of gaps in health outcomes, and investigate what is being done to address health disparity issues. The NIH Academy trains future researchers and physician scientists to actively engage in promoting a society in which all people live healthy lives and have equal access to health care. The NIH Academy will provide an overview of the scientific, socio-economic, cultural, environmental, and policy factors that contribute to health disparities. Postbaccalaureates can choose between the NIH Academy Certificate Program and the NIH Academy Fellows Program.



*Why do twice as many African American and Native American babies die before year one compared to Caucasian babies?*



*Why do Vietnamese-American women have a cervical cancer rate nearly five-times the rate of Caucasian women?*



*Why do African American women have a lower incidence of breast cancer than white women yet a higher death rate?*



*Why is the rate of diabetes among Native Americans 3 times the national average?*

## **THE NIH ACADEMY Certificate Program**

Certificate participation will require approximately 35 hours total over the course of 10 months.

Certificate candidates must...

- Attend the NIH Academy Health Disparities Short Course
- Attend the NIH Academy Diversity Workshop
- Attend two NIH Academy Roundtable Sessions
- Attend one NIH Health Disparities Seminar
- Participate in one community outreach activity
- Attend the NIH Academy Career Planning Workshop

## **THE NIH ACADEMY Fellows Program**

NIH Academy Fellows Program will require approximately 3 hours per week over the course of 10 months.

Fellows must ...

- Attend the NIH Academy Health Disparities Short Course
- Attend the NIH Academy Retreat
- Attend the NIH Academy Diversity Workshop
- Attend eight NIH Academy Roundtable Sessions
- Complete a community outreach project
- Attend three NIH Health Disparities Seminars
- Attend the NIH Academy Career Planning Workshop





*"I've always known that my career would involve addressing health disparities. My experience in the [NIH] Academy gave me a preview of issues I will encounter later on."*

*"Being a part of [the NIH Academy] was life-changing. It [has] inspired me to continue working with under-served communities in my career. That is priceless."*

### **Eligibility**

All Postbaccalaureate Intramural Research Training Awardees (IRTAs), Cancer Research Training Awardees (CRTAs) and Technical IRTA/CRTAs at the NIH are eligible to participate in the NIH Academy as are individuals who have accepted a position as an IRTA/CRTA. If you are not currently a NIH Postbaccalaureate but want to be a part of the NIH Academy you must first [apply to the NIH Postbac IRTA program](#) and be accepted into a research group. Once you are accepted into the Postbac IRTA Program, you can apply to the NIH Academy.

### **Roundtable Sessions**

An exciting feature of both programs is the NIH Academy Roundtable Sessions. Roundtables are comprised of three sessions centered around one health disparity topic. During session one, participants will engage in a journal club discussion of publications recommended by a leader in health disparities research. In session two, that leader will visit the Academy and lead an interactive seminar. In session three, the Academy will host community professionals working directly with individuals impacted by the specific health disparity community.

### **Community Outreach**

A rewarding aspect of the NIH Academy is engagement in community outreach. Previous community outreach activities have included participating in the AIDS Walk, volunteering at the Black Family Reunion and distributing NIH health related brochures at the Langley Park Hispanic Festival. Both NIH certificate candidates and NIH Academy Fellows come together to engage in these types of community outreach activities working side by side with groups impacted by health disparities.

A new feature of the NIH Academy Fellows Program is the engagement in a yearlong community organization project. Examples of projects include serving as a translator at the NIH Medical Center, developing a health related outreach project for K-12 students or the elderly or participating in an NIH Institute/Center community outreach program.

### **FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE PROGRAM VISIT**

[www.training.nih.gov/new\\_nih\\_academy\\_home](http://www.training.nih.gov/new_nih_academy_home)