

**Research Participation Program
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
Office of the Secretary
Washington, DC**

**Office of Public Health and Science
Project # DHHS OPHS 2009-0003**

A project is available in the Office of Public Health and Science (OPHS) within the Office of the Secretary (OS) at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) in Washington, DC.

OPHS provides leadership to the Nation on public health and science matters, and communicates on these subjects to the American people. OPHS is a Staff Division in HHS that performs both policy and program roles and is led by the Assistant Secretary for Health (ASH) whose chief interest is promoting, protecting, and improving the Nation's health. This role encompasses responsibilities as senior advisor for public health and science to the Secretary, thereby providing senior professional leadership on population-based public health and clinical preventive services, directing a variety of program offices housing essential public health activities, providing senior professional leadership across HHS on White House and special Secretarial initiatives involving public health and science, and guiding and providing technical assistance to the ten Regional Health Administrators. For additional information, please visit www.hhs.gov/ophs.

One project within OPHS is the reduction, prevention, and elimination of healthcare-associated or nosocomial infections. Healthcare-associated infections exact a significant toll on human life. They are among the top ten leading causes of death in the United States, accounting for an estimated 1.7 million infections and 99,000 associated deaths in 2002. In addition to the substantial human suffering exacted by HAIs, the financial burden attributable to these infections is staggering. For these reasons, the reduction of HAIs is a top priority for HHS.

In January 2009, the Department released the HHS Action Plan to Prevent Healthcare-Associated Infections. The Action Plan establishes five-year national prevention targets to reduce and prevent healthcare-associated infections and outlines key actions to progress towards the elimination of the infections. For additional information, please visit www.hhs.gov/ophs/initiatives/hai/index.html.

The participant will gain experience in the development of public health policy and implementation of various projects tied to the HHS Action Plan.

Responsibilities

- Assist the senior-level HHS Steering Committee for the Prevention of Healthcare-Associated Infections and its Working Groups.

- Participate in the development of future revisions to the HHS Action Plan, including synthesizing information received from within the government and from individuals and groups across the country into an enhanced version of the HHS Action Plan.
- Participate in the development of infection control training resources for healthcare providers, healthcare institutions, and healthcare consumers.
- Assist in planning a series of engagement meetings for the public and key stakeholder groups around the HHS Action Plan, including developing content for the meetings.
- Assist with the development of communication materials (articles, talking points for speeches, etc.) related to the healthcare-associated infections initiative.

Requirements

A master's degree in public health or a related field is preferred. A bachelor's degree is required. Applicant must demonstrate ability to work in a dynamic, fast-paced, team-oriented environment including managing multiple priorities with tight deadlines and exhibiting flexibility in response to changing situations. Applicant must demonstrate ability to present information, both orally and written, for various audiences in clear and concise formats. Strong organizational and management skills are required. A high degree of self-motivation and resourcefulness is preferred.

The appointment is for up to one year and may be renewed upon recommendation of OPHS and subject to availability of funds. The participant will receive a monthly stipend depending on background and experience. The participant must show proof of health and medical insurance. The appointment is full time at OPHS in Washington, DC. Participants do not become employees of HHS, OS, or OPHS or the program administrator and no fringe benefits are paid.

The Research Participation for OPHS is administered by the Oak Ridge Institute for Science and Education. To be considered, send a current resume, professional references, and writing sample to Debbie Alcorn via email at Debbie.Alcorn@ornl.gov or via fax at (865) 241-5219. Please reference Project #DHHS OPOHS 2009-0003.