

Cancer Prevention Postdoctoral Training Opportunity in Health Services Research

We are looking for candidates for postdoctoral fellowships to join the *Shared Decision Making Collaborative* in the **Department of Health Services Research** at The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center. This postdoctoral fellowship will provide individuals with the opportunity to contribute to the design, implementation, analysis, and publication of studies in patient decision making in cancer prevention. Under the mentorship of **Dr. Robert J. Volk**, Professor of Health Services Research, this fellowship will focus on quantitative methods for assessing critical issues in supporting patients facing difficult cancer care decisions, such as:

- Developing and testing methods for presenting information about risks and uncertainty to patients,
- Developing and testing methods and instruments for assessing the quality of patient decision making, or
- Developing and testing methods of assessing preferences in making decisions about care and treatment.

Qualified candidates should have a doctorate in health services, public health, psychology, epidemiology, biostatistics, engineering, informatics, human factors, graphic design, or a related field. Prior experience in cancer prevention, health services, or decision-making research is preferred. Publications in decision science and strong statistical skills are important. All candidates must have evidence of strong writing skills. This postdoctoral fellowship provides an exceptional opportunity to develop research experience and publications in cancer prevention and patient decision making.

The Shared Decision Making Collaborative of the *Duncan Family Institute for Cancer Prevention and Risk Assessment* is an innovative program bringing together multidisciplinary teams of clinicians, researchers, and patients to develop evidence-based, meaningful, and timely tools called “patient decision aids.” These tools help patients become well-informed, consider what matters most to them, and prepare to talk with their clinical team about a personalized cancer care plan.

Eligible candidates interested in this opportunity will partner with the Shared Decision Making Collaborative to apply, and will seek funding through the *Cancer Prevention Research Training Program* (CP RTP) with Dr. Volk or other faculty as sponsoring mentors.

At MD Anderson, the CP RTP prepares health scientists and clinicians to assume leadership roles as research investigators in cancer prevention and control. Trainees appointed to the program will increase their knowledge of cancer prevention and control research and practice through curriculum-based learning; obtain hands-on experience in ongoing cancer prevention and control research projects under the mentorship of



Making Cancer History®

established investigators; and participate in workshops, scientific presentations, scientific writing, grant preparation, and professional development skills. Centered around mentored research in cancer prevention and control guided by experienced faculty mentors, multidisciplinary training will be accomplished through a robust training plan that is founded on rigorous quantitative methods, a specialized cancer prevention educational curriculum, an individual development plan, and career development activities. Trainees are immersed in the type of cross-disciplinary research environment characteristic of cancer prevention and control, with the objective of launching the trainee in the role of principal investigator early in his or her career. The CP RTP is committed to building a demographically and scientifically diverse research workforce.

Selected applicants will be appointed to a two-year, full-time research postdoctoral fellowship position with a competitive salary and benefits. These positions are funded by a research training grant award from the Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas (Award# RP170259, Drs. Shine Chang & Sanjay Shete, Principal Investigators). For more details about the CP RTP, please visit:

<https://www.mdanderson.org/education-training/clinical-research-training/postdoctoral-training/postdoctoral-fellowships/cprtp-postdoctoral-fellowship-in-cancer-prevention.html>.

For inquiries specific to working with the Shared Decision Making Collaborative, please email: SDMC@MDAnderson.org. Please also visit our Department website:

<https://www.mdanderson.org/research/departments-labs-institutes/departments-divisions/health-services-research.html>.

All application documents due to the CP RTP on Monday, May 1, 2017 by 11:59 p.m. CT.

Thank you,

Robert J. Volk, PhD
Professor and Director, Shared Decision Making Collaborative
Department of Health Services Research
Division of Cancer Prevention & Population Sciences
The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center