Division of Cancer Prevention & Population Sciences  
University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center  

**Duncan Family Institute for Cancer Prevention and Risk Assessment**  
**Mentored Junior Faculty Fellowship in Cancer Prevention Research**  

*Open to U.S. Citizens, Permanent Residents, and Foreign Nationals Holding Visas*  

**ANNOUNCEMENTS AND INSTRUCTIONS**

**August 2017**  
Phase 1 – Application deadline: October 30, 2017, 5pm CST  
Pre-Application Webinar: Early September 2017  
Invitation to Interview Notification: Early December 2017  
Interviews: Planned for February 2018  
Appointment Decision: Planned for February 2018  
Expected Start Date: No later than August 31, 2018

**Purpose:** The funding for a Duncan Family Institute Mentored Junior Faculty Fellowship in Cancer Prevention Research supports the critical transition of individuals from training positions to junior faculty at the instructor level, launching them towards research independence. Such funding fills a gap between support available to postdoctoral fellows and early career scientists transitioning to a faculty position at the assistant professor level. In most cases, fellows will take advantage of the research resources and infrastructure of their faculty mentors and work with them to build and focus their own research projects and scientific agendas. Fellows are expected to develop independence from their mentors’ research focus over the time of the fellowship and to become competitive for assistant professor level positions.

This fellowship supports individuals whose research focus is cancer prevention and control. The Duncan Family Institute supports research in primary, secondary and tertiary prevention. Further, it supports behavioral and lifestyle research studies in individuals and populations across the cancer continuum – healthy people, individuals at elevated risk, cancer patients and cancer survivors.

Examples of research within the scope of this fellowship include: studies targeted to prevention of cancer in healthy individuals; research on prevention of second primary cancers; cancer prevention-relevant molecular and genetic animal studies, such as a chemoprevention study in animals; pilot clinical studies; studies of psychosocial factors that extend survival by reducing co-morbidity and/or improve well-being and quality of life; and research on symptom management and quality of life in cancer patients and survivors.

Examples of research studies that are outside the scope of this funding opportunity include research on prevention of recurrences or metastases and research to predict metastases.

**Funding duration:** Mentored junior faculty fellowships are appointed for a maximum of two years, with appointment subject to renewal after the first year based on research progress and availability of funds.

**Pre-application Webinar:** A pre-application webinar will be scheduled for early September. The purpose is to provide applicants information regarding the guidelines and instructions for completing the application. Interested persons may register by emailing dfi@mdanderson.org. Once registered, an email detailing the date and time of the presentation and how to join the webinar will be sent.
Eligibility:

- **Citizenship:** *This faculty fellowship is available without regard to the applicant’s citizenship status.* Foreign nationals must hold valid and appropriate visas at the time of appointment.

- **Prior Training & Education:** Applicants may have training from a variety of disciplines in the basic biomedical sciences, medicine, biomedical statistics, epidemiology, behavioral and social sciences, nursing, health services research and other related public health disciplines.

- **Applicant Academic Status:** Applicants may be graduate students, postdoctoral fellows, individuals in a junior faculty appointment, or others seeking research careers in cancer prevention and control. Preference is for candidates who demonstrate a trajectory to scientific and career independence including a publication record and plans for extramural support.

- **Grant Writing Plans:** *Applicants must have prior training and experience sufficient to be highly competitive for externally funded grants early in the appointment.* Applicants must describe in their research statement plans to submit grants early within the initial appointment, for either career development or research awards, or both. The overall objective is for the fellow and the mentors to secure funding and salary support to provide 100% support for the individual at the end of the two year fellowship.

- **Funding Experience:** *Applicants who have already been awarded career development awards are not eligible to apply for this funding mechanism.* Moreover, individuals supported by these funds will become ineligible for support once salary support at 100% has been achieved, either through career development awards or research grants. Fellows who compete successfully for tenure-track appointments with salary and start-up funds become ineligible for continued fellowship support upon term tenure-track or term tenure appointment.

- **Mentorship Requirements:** Applicants must identify a primary mentor in a department within the Division of Cancer Prevention and Population Sciences (Behavioral Science, Clinical Cancer Prevention, Epidemiology, Health Disparities Research or Health Services Research) and, with the assistance of their primary mentor, select a co-mentor(s), ideally a faculty member(s) in a department other than that of their primary mentor to broaden expertise in disciplines related to the applicant’s primary interests. The primary mentor must submit a letter of support. Applicants may wish to contact the Duncan Family Institute and/or the Cancer Prevention Research Training Program for assistance in finding appropriate mentors.

- **Appointment Requirements:** Fellows must have their primary faculty appointment at MD Anderson in the department in the Division of Cancer Prevention and Population Sciences (Departments of Behavioral Science, Clinical Cancer Prevention, Epidemiology, Health Disparities Research or Health Services Research) in which their primary mentor holds a primary faculty appointment.

**Review Process and Criteria:** The fellowship will be competitively awarded based on merit evaluated through review of application materials and an interview. The Duncan Family Institute Executive Committee reviews the applications; representatives from the Cancer Prevention Research Training Program (CPRTP) will participate in an advisory capacity. Review criteria include:

1. **Promise:** Does the candidate show promise for initiative and growth in research? Is the candidate able to demonstrate a trajectory indicating the potential to design, implement and evaluate innovative studies and to seek peer-reviewed research funding? Does the candidate possess a strong record of scholarly achievement? Does the candidate show evidence of scientific productivity and of excellent written and oral communication skills? Is the mentor support appropriate for preparing the candidate for an academic position?

2. **Relevance:** Is the research proposed in the Research Statement clearly in the realm of cancer prevention and control?

After review of the initial application, applicants may be invited to Phase 2, which includes a campus visit, career talk and interview. Those applicants who will not be given further consideration will be notified by the Duncan Family Institute.
**Fellowship Appointment:** The fellowship appointment is contingent upon the candidate’s appointment to a non-tenure track research faculty (RFA) or clinical faculty (CFA) position at the level of instructor, which is necessary for serving as principal investigator for grant applications at MD Anderson.

The process to apply for appointment for an applicant selected for this fellowship to an instructor level RFA/CFA position will begin after notification of fellowship award. (An applicant is not required to hold this position at the time of application submission.) Appointment to an instructor level position will be done in accordance with the department, division and institution requirements and with the approval of the appropriate institutional committees. On an exception basis, the candidate may be considered for a non-tenure track research faculty (RFA) or clinical faculty (CFA) position at the level of assistant professor. However, no additional Duncan Family Institute fellowship support will be provided beyond the support described below. If a candidate does not hold the required appointment, the candidate’s mentor will guide him/her through the process.

Upon completion of the fellowship (at the end of the two year period or earlier), the fellow may continue as an instructor in a research faculty appointment or clinical faculty position assuming the fellow meets all requirements for this position and depending on the availability of funds for salary and research support.

**Fellowship Support:** Salary support is $65,000 per year plus benefits. Benefits include health insurance, paid institutional holidays, and paid time off. Support is also provided annually for limited research costs, meeting registration and travel expenses, workshop and tuition fees, and reference books ($10,000 for research and education expenses, and $1,000 for travel per year). Fellowship appointees relocating more than 100 miles may be eligible for relocation assistance. In rare cases, salary supplements may be available through the applicant’s mentors department (e.g., M.D./Ph.D. with a clinical practice requirement).

**About The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center**

**About MD Anderson’s Division of Cancer Prevention and Population Sciences**
MD Anderson’s multifaceted approach to cancer prevention and risk assessment brings together scientists with diverse expertise to conduct research at multiple levels, ranging from basic science to preclinical and clinical studies and from population-based to health system studies. Expanding research efforts in **epidemiology** and **behavioral science** complement achievements made in **clinical cancer prevention**. Laboratory activities support developmental and practical applications of cancer prevention. Research programs focus attention on disparities in prevention and care among ethnic minorities and medically underserved populations and translate discoveries into real world settings through our **health disparities research** department. Both the growing need to develop strategies to answer key national and institutional questions regarding cancer care delivery and the need to demonstrate “value” in health care and, specifically, in the cancer care cycle of prevention, intervention and survivorship, contributed to the decision to establish the department of **health services research**. For more information on the Division of Cancer Prevention and Population Sciences [http://www.mdanderson.org/cancerpreventiondivision](http://www.mdanderson.org/cancerpreventiondivision). For more information on the Duncan Family Institute [http://www.mdanderson.org/duncanfamilyinstitute](http://www.mdanderson.org/duncanfamilyinstitute).
DFI MENTORED JUNIOR FACULTY FELLOWSHIP – ROUND 10

Application Process: The application process consists of two phases:

Phase 1 Initial Application
Phase 2 Invitation to Interview: upon invitation, applicants will be invited to make a campus visit to give a career talk (also called a “job talk”) and to interview with the Duncan Family Institute Executive Committee.

Phase 1 – Initial Application deadline: October 30, 2017, 5pm CST
To begin the application process, the applicant should call or email Mickie Lubin (phone: 713-563-2053; email: dfi@mdanderson.org) and notify her of intention to apply.

Application Materials: The initial application materials include the items listed below. Supplemental items may be requested. Page margins should be no smaller than ½ inch and font size should be Arial 11 pt. All materials must be sent via email to dfi@mdanderson.org.

- Cover Letter
  No more than 2 pages single-spaced

- Research Statement
  No more than 2 pages single-spaced, not including references
  We suggest ⅛ a page for past accomplishments and ⅝ pages for future plans and path to achieve your plans; link past training and accomplishments to future plans. Be specific about how you will build on prior experiences to accomplish your goals. Include comments on how the fellowship will contribute to your goals, plans to seek extramural career development or research funding, relevance of your research interests to cancer prevention, and the potential for your research to have translational impact on cancer prevention and human health.
  Note: use of MD Anderson Scientific Publications for editing is not permitted

- Curriculum Vitae (CV)

- Mentor Letter of Support
  Applicants must identify a primary mentor from a department in the Division of Cancer Prevention and Population Sciences and, with the assistance of their primary mentor, a co-mentor(s), ideally a faculty member(s) in a department other than that of their primary mentor, to broaden expertise to disciplines related to the applicant’s primary interests. The primary mentor must submit a letter of support. The mentor letter of support should describe how the mentor and co-mentor(s) will prepare the applicant to compete for a tenure track academic position at the assistant professor level. Applicants who need assistance identifying a mentor are encouraged to contact Mickie Lubin, Program Manager, at mdlubin@mdanderson.org or 713-563-2053.

- 3 Letters of References
  Applicants must provide 3 reference letters, one of which should be from the current (or most recent) mentor. The applicant is responsible for notifying references and requesting letters. If the primary fellowship mentor is the current mentor, then a separate reference letter is not required. Letters should be emailed directly to dfi@mdanderson.org, by the reference.

- Mentor and Co-mentor(s) Curriculum Vitae (CV)

All materials, including Reference Letters must be sent directly to dfi@mdanderson.org
Reference Letters should not come from applicant but directly from the reference.
Phase 2 – Invitation to Interview

Invitation to Interview Notification: Early December 2017
Interviews: Planned for February 2018
Appointment Decision: Planned for February 2018
Expected Start Date: No later than August 31, 2018

Applicants selected for Phase 2 will be invited for a campus visit. Applicants will be expected to give a career talk (also known as a “job talk”) and complete an interview with the Duncan Family Institute Executive Committee. Mentors are encouraged to attend the interview. Mentors are not expected to participate in the “job talk” portion of the interview, but should be prepared to respond to questions regarding the mentorship plan and resources available to the applicant.

Interview Guidance

Each applicant will interview with the Duncan Family Institute Executive Committee (DFI EC). The interview is scheduled for 30 minutes. The applicant is expected to use 15 minutes to deliver a career talk (“job talk”). The remainder of the time will be a panel interview format.

Career Talk (“Job Talk”) Presentation Topics

In addition to whatever the applicant feels is relevant for a career talk, it will be important to include the following:

1. Grant Writing and Publication Plans with Timeline: Describe plans to seek extramural funding to support the applicant’s research. Include information on the plan for publications and a timeline for both grants and publications.

2. Relevance of Research to Cancer Prevention and Human Health: The Institute’s donors have conveyed their interest in cancer prevention and in making an impact on human health. The applicant should be able to describe, in plain language that can be understood by a general audience, the relevance of his/her research to cancer prevention and human health.

Selection of Duncan Family Institute Fellow

Once the application and review process is complete, the Duncan Family Institute Executive Committee in consultation with the Cancer Prevention Research Training Program will select an applicant to appoint to the fellowship. The Duncan Family Institute office will notify the applicants of the review outcome. The fellowship appointment is contingent upon the applicant receiving an RFA/CFA position at the instructor level in the department of their primary mentor in the Division of Cancer Prevention and Population Sciences.