Postdoctoral Fellowship in Health Economics & Data Science

The Department of Public Health Sciences at the University of Rochester announces an immediate opening for a postdoctoral associate under the supervision of Dr. Elaine L. Hill. Additional mentors include Dr. Meredith Adams (Wake Forest), Dr. Sumedha Gupta (IUPUI), and Dr. Kosali Simon (IU). The successful candidate will participate in a recently funded project by NIH NIDA. The project seeks to characterize the impact of SARS-CoV-2 and associated mitigation efforts on people with opioid use disorder (OUD) by leveraging national Medicare and Medicaid Claims covering close to 150 million persons per year, National COVID Cohort Collaborative (N3C) covering 8 million patients, and Optum Clinformatics Data Mart covering roughly 65 million unique lives over a 15-year period. First, we will evaluate whether OUD outcomes during the first nine months of the pandemic have been worse among communities that had been harder hit by the opioid epidemic pre-pandemic or have experienced a disparately higher incidence of COVID-19 morbidity/mortality during the pandemic. Next, we will evaluate longer-run OUD trajectories for communities that experienced 1) greater degrees of economic loss, 2) higher COVID-19 morbidity and mortality, and 3) have disparate levels of vaccination uptake over the first five years. We will further examine disparities in OUD outcomes and leverage individual longitudinal data for particularly vulnerable subpopulations (pregnancy, adolescents, disability, older adults).

Applications from a wide-range of disciplinary backgrounds will be considered, including economics, data science, informatics, statistics, health services, health policy, and related fields. The successful candidate will have recently completed a PhD in their field or will have completed their degree by the start of the position. Strong quantitative and writing skills are a must. Experience with statistical programming in any of the following is required: SQL, Python, SAS, STATA, and/or R. The research will also benefit from the knowledge of GIS. Preference will be given to candidates that demonstrate a desire to work in a collaborative multi-disciplinary environment and can work independently and in group settings. The fellowship will require analysis of data, preparation and publication of manuscripts, and presentation of study results at national and international conferences. The appointee will receive mentorship and financial support for research and travel to conferences, where applicable.

The position is initially available for one year with the possibility of renewal (up to 3 years) based upon performance and a mutual desire to continue the appointment. The start date for this position is flexible, but ideally would begin as soon as possible or before/around July 1, 2023. Interested applicants should send a cover letter, 2 example research papers (published or preprint/working paper), C.V., and contact details for up to 3 references to Dr. Elaine L Hill (elaine_hill@urmc.rochester.edu); please reference "Postdoctoral Position" in the subject line). Review of candidates will continue until a candidate is identified.

The University of Rochester is committed to fostering, cultivating and preserving a culture of equity and inclusion. The University believes that a diverse workforce and inclusive workplace culture enhances the performance of our organization and our ability to fulfill our important missions. The University is committed to fostering and supporting a workplace culture inclusive of people regardless of their race, ethnicity, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, socio-economic status, marital status, age, physical abilities, political affiliation, religious beliefs or any other non-merit fact, so that all employees and students feel included, equally valued, and supported.