

Discovery Program Research Opportunity

Title: Health behaviors and health outcomes in persons living with HIV in Florida

Faculty mentor contact information

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Faculty mentor department

Epidemiology and General Internal Medicine.

Research project description

The Florida Cohort is an ongoing research study that is currently enrolling up to 1500 persons with HIV infection from multiple settings in Florida. Participants complete a baseline survey that includes a range of questions about their health, healthcare, mental health, and alcohol and drug use. We link the survey information to the participants' medical records and to statewide HIV surveillance data that tracks HIV viral load testing. We currently have data from over 750 participants. Medical students interested in HIV-related health, healthcare services, or outcomes, could look at our list of variables and come up with an original research question. For example, previous students have studied the relationship of homelessness and/or depression symptoms on HIV health outcomes. The summer project would be based within the Southern HIV Alcohol Research Consortium (SHARC) (www.sharc-research.org). Students would have a workspace either in the Emerging Pathogens Institute or the Clinical and Translational Research Building. During the summer, students would complete appropriate IRB and study-specific training, work with Dr. Cook to identify a research question, and gain skills related to the day-to-day operations of the project (e.g. data entry, updating web site, generating project reports, shadowing a study recruiter). The student will also work with other interns and trainees from different disciplines, which will help expose the student to team science. Students will complete an abstract to present at the Medical Student Research Day, and will try to complete a manuscript for publication.