Call for Research Assistants: Asthma in New Haven

Professors Amy Kapczynski, Anika Singh Lemar, and Marianne Engelman Lado, working with collaborators at the School of Public Health and School of Medicine, seek 3-4 students to serve as Research Assistants, to help explore the possibility of a high-impact, community-focused project on asthma. We aim to build an interdisciplinary RA team, ideally with student representation from law, public health, and clinical medicine.

New Haven has a high asthma burden, and a group of faculty across the campus is interested in developing health justice projects to improve asthma care and prevention in the community. Asthma prevalence is known to be linked to a range of environmental and socioeconomic factors, including housing, workplace conditions, and exposure to airborne emissions. Rates in New Haven are also highest among women, Black and Hispanic/Latinx communities, as well as those in poverty, making asthma a critical health justice issue.

**RA Objectives:** RAs will, over the course of the semester, help us map the causes of the local asthma burden. They will also identify governmental units, non-profit organizations, community groups and others that are working to address that burden. Those groups’ strategies may include but are not limited to the following: preventative efforts to reduce risk factors for asthma; occupational-, school-, or home-based remediation programs; and legal and clinical avenues aimed at structural reductions in risk or mitigation of disease.

RAs will scope out the issue, through both desk research and interviews. RAs will do a public health literature review and map existing programs, resources, activism, and policies to help understand the current status, gaps, and needs in asthma prevention and care in New Haven. This issue and resource mapping will inform possible opportunities for interdisciplinary action across medical, legal, public health, and community approaches.

**Position Details:**
1) Expected time commitment is 8-10 hours/week for the duration of the spring 2018 semester. There will be in-person meetings during the launch of the project and occasional check in meetings throughout the semester but the majority of the research can be completed remotely
2) The position will be compensated according to a standard hourly rate for graduate RA positions.

**Desired qualifications:**
1) Current graduate or professional student enrolled in law, public health, medicine, nursing or physician assistant program at Yale
2) Demonstrated interest in social determinants of health and issues of health justice
3) Experience conducting literature reviews (for at least 1-2 RAs)
4) Strong written communication skills, particularly in academic writing
5) Experience conducting interviews for research purposes is a plus
6) Please indicate any language abilities on your CV

**To apply:** Please email your resume and a cover letter explaining your interest in the position and relevant experience to Poonam Daryani at poonam.daryani@yale.edu. Deadline to apply is January 31, 2018, but applications will be considered on a rolling basis until all positions are filled.