POSTDOC OPPORTUNITY IN SOCIAL EPIDEMIOLOGY RESEARCH GROUP

Dr. Tim Bruckner seeks a Postdoctoral Fellow in the Program in Public Health at the University of California, Irvine (UCI), to understand the dynamics across time and place in racial disparities in stillbirth and live birth outcomes in the US. The fellowship is a one-year appointment with the possibility of one-to-two-year renewal. This appointment is contingent upon receipt of the Ph.D. prior to the start date. The start date is negotiable but could begin as early as November 1, 2021.

Background: The newly funded project (R01 HD103736) aims to understand racial differences over time in stillbirth, preterm birth, and neonatal mortality in the US. We will use the universe of live births, infant deaths, and fetal deaths in the US (~70 million records) to rigorously examine race-specific trends in preterm birth and infant mortality rates. In addition, we will use a structural racism theoretical framework to examine the extent to which dynamic race-based spatial indicators of inequality affect patterns in fetal loss, selection in utero, and infant mortality among preterm births. The scale and detail of US data and other microdata birth files, as well as their linkage to other environmental, inequality, and other datasets, is unparalleled and will permit research on areas such as (a) the role of place-based measures of structural racism on disparities in fetal death; (b) selection in utero and other demographic determinants of infant health; and (c) perinatal outcomes following population shocks and/or policy changes (e.g., COVID-19, adoption of new obstetrical guidelines).

Duties:
* Conduct independent research using the US birth file and the California microdata birth cohort file, under the guidance of Professor Tim Bruckner, Department of Health, Society & Behavior. Submit articles for publication.
* Harmonize US vital statistics birth files across years (1995-2020) and merge publicly available datasets to the birth files.
* Participate in project meetings and other events with the team from Johns Hopkins, Berkeley, Columbia, and Washington University, as well as colloquia in the Program in Public Health. You will also attend colloquia at the Center for Population, Inequality, and Policy, as relevant.
* Have the option to attend graduate coursework in the Program in Public Health and elsewhere.

The Postdoctoral Fellow will work both collaboratively and independently, forming connections with the Project Team, the Program in Public Health and the Center for Population, Inequality, and Policy. The Fellow is expected to take advantage of the many resources at UCI (e.g., colloquia, workshops, and other events) to develop a research career.
Qualifications - the candidate will be expected to have:
* PhD in epidemiology, demography, economics, sociology or a related field
* Background in epidemiology, demography, health policy or biostatistics
* Background in maternal and infant health
* Fluency in R; familiarity with SAS
* Familiarity with UNIX operating system

Compensation: Salary is commensurate with experience and qualifications.

Application Process: To apply, please log onto UC Irvine’s recruitment site located at https://recruit.ap.uci.edu/apply/JPF07140
Applicants should complete an online application profile and upload the following application materials electronically to be considered for this position: CV and Cover Letter.

Serious applicants should direct inquiries regarding this position to: Professor Tim Bruckner (tim.bruckner@uci.edu). Position open until filled.

UC Irvine is one of ten campuses of the highly regarded University of California system. With approximately 37,000 students, 1,500 ladder-rank faculty members, a highly ranked medical school, and over $500 million per year of extramural grant funding, our campus offers a wealth of opportunities for research collaboration and is ranked among the top 10 public universities in the US. UC Irvine is building on excellence in its Program in Public Health to develop a School of Public and Population Health.
Accredited by the Council on Education for Public Health since October 2012, our rapidly growing Program in Public Health offers BA, BS, MPH, and PhD degrees in a variety of emphasis areas including environmental health sciences and was recently ranked among the top 40 schools and programs in public health in the country by U.S. News and World Report. More information is available on our web site at http://publichealth.uci.edu/.

The University of California, Irvine is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer advancing inclusive excellence. All qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin, disability, age, protected veteran status, or other protected categories covered by the UC nondiscrimination policy.