Postdoctoral Fellow Position Description

The Health Evaluation and Analytics Lab (HEAL)—led by Dr. Charles Neighbors—is offering a postdoctoral fellowship with emphasis on improving treatment for substance use disorders in a large regulated system. The position offers unique opportunities to work closely with state policy makers as well as administrative data (e.g., Medicaid, treatment registry). Dr. Neighbors is behavioral scientist who brings together clinical, statistical, and business expertise to understand and inform about healthcare reform and its impact on individuals struggling with addictions and mental health disorders. His research focuses on examining quality and efficiency of the current treatment system for Substance Use Disorders (SUDs), studying the impact of system reform efforts, and bringing evidence-based interventions to practice.

HEAL is a unique research resource that contains New York Medicaid and other state administrative data to support studies of health and healthcare. The postdoctoral fellow will work within one of HEAL's Cores: Addiction Health Services Research (AHSR). The mission of AHSR is to work with government agencies and community partners to improve the quality of care for individuals with addiction. The Core uses sophisticated analyses of large administrative data, qualitative data collection, and randomized step-wedge trials of interventions targeting organizations to improve the effectiveness of clinical practices while addressing issues of race/ethnicity, gender, social determinants, and their intersections.

Dr. Neighbors leads a portfolio of NIH-funded studies focusing on studying the addiction treatment system in New York State as well as interventions to improve quality of care. The Lab has a special emphasis on disparities in treatment.

The Fellow will collaborate with a multidisciplinary team of health services researchers, implementation scientists, organizational management researchers, state policy makers, and other and public health officials to advance the aims of these projects. There will be an opportunity to engage in all stages of research, from design through publication and dissemination. The Fellow will work independently to develop and execute complex analysis of data, including spearheading specific sub-projects and making decisions and recommendations about analytical techniques, scope, and approach. The Fellow will have ample opportunities to attend scientific meetings, present results at professional conferences as well as to interested state-level stakeholders, develop independent research projects, first-author research articles, and assist in developing grant applications.

Job Responsibilities

- Participate in discussions to shape the direction of the research project with a stellar team of interdisciplinary scientists
- Maintain a thorough knowledge of advances in their specialized field and contribute creative ideas and approaches
- Work effectively with large, complex, and noisy administrative data to solve challenging problems
- Define scope and selection of advanced econometric and statistical techniques according to study design, including cohort analyses. Time series, difference-in-differences and related techniques

- Clearly communicate processes used and results achieved to technical and non-technical audiences; lead critical discussions of results and techniques
- Detect and address complex issues in data and analytics, suggest new and alternative approaches to solve problems
- Draft articles for peer-reviewed publications, as well as reports and presentations to a range of audiences

Minimum Qualifications

- PhD in Behavioral Sciences, Health Services Research, Public Health, Public Policy, Statistics, Biostatistics, Economics, Sociology or related quantitative or mixed-methods research field.
- Advanced quantitative analytical skills and demonstrated experience running complex analyses.
- Experience or interest in qualitative research methods
- Proficiency in at least one programming language.
- Solid experience working with large data to answer complex questions.
- Excellent written and oral communication skills.
- Strong ability to identify, analyze and solve problems.
- Self-directed and able to manage priorities on multiple projects simultaneously.

How to Apply:

Interested candidates should send a CV, a cover letter explaining their research experience and their interest in this position, and contact information for three references to Kamila.Kiszko@nyulangone.org. Fellowship begins in Summer/Fall 2023.