

Chief, Health Behaviors Research Branch National Cancer Institute

November 2023

The National Cancer Institute (NCI) welcomes letters of interest to serve as Chief of the Health Behaviors Research Branch (HBRB) within the Division of Cancer Control and Population Sciences (DCCPS). For more information on HBRB's mission and vision, please see <https://cancercontrol.cancer.gov/brp/hbrb>.

ABOUT HBRB

One of four branches in the [Behavioral Research Program](#) (BRP), HBRB supports research on cancer prevention behaviors and outcomes, including diet and alcohol use, physical activity, sedentary behavior, energy balance, obesity, sun safety and indoor tanning, sleep and circadian function, genetic influences on behaviors, and virus exposure. The branch provides leadership in these areas by focusing research on effective multi-level influences and approaches to individual, relational, environmental, and community-based interventions. The HBRB grant portfolio spans the cancer control continuum, and the branch's research opportunities seek to promote health equity in cancer prevention and control.

The HBRB Chief, in partnership with the BRP leadership team and DCCPS senior staff, provides scientific leadership and expertise in the planning, development, direction, and administration of an integrated program of behavioral research that addresses the cancer burden. The HBRB Chief supervises a staff of program directors (health science administrators) and fellows with expertise in several fields related to the branch mission.

BACKGROUND

BRP maintains a robust surveillance capacity through routine administration of population surveys and data analysis initiatives, such as the Health Information National Trends Survey® ([HINTS®](#)) and Classification of Laws Associated with School Students ([CLASS](#)). Staff contribute to scientific literature in behavioral research and inform several research tools and public-use resources to support cancer control researchers. Priority research areas within BRP and HBRB include using novel data strategies to measure health behaviors and the role of digital health in health promotion and behavior maintenance; evidence-based cancer control policy and promotion; and implications of climate change on cancer control.

POSITION DESCRIPTION

BRP Branch Chiefs enjoy a scientifically energizing and collegial environment with opportunities to

- manage and mentor engaged scientific and programmatic staff, fellows, and trainees;
- develop research and funding priorities to cultivate a diverse portfolio of grant-supported research;
- lead and participate in cross-disciplinary collaborations in public, private, and academic sectors;
- create national and international scientific programming (e.g., symposia, special journal issues and supplements, conferences, and workshops);
- conduct independent research, publish, and present at professional meetings; and
- inform documents and reports to advance the public health agenda in cancer prevention and control.

The HBRB Chief plays a vital role in increasing functional integration of behavioral research across NIH and collaborating with other federal agencies, including the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the US Department of Agriculture (USDA), as well as with non-governmental agencies on a range of health behavior initiatives to advance public health.

ANNOUNCEMENT DETAILS

Letters of interest are encouraged from behavioral and social science researchers with a strong record of scholarship in relevant areas, supervisory experience, and familiarity with the extramural community.

The HBRB Chief should demonstrate

- dynamic leadership and supervisory experience overseeing scientific and administrative teams focused on health promotion and health behavior research;
- experience managing and evaluating cancer control and population science research programs involving epidemiological, behavioral, social sciences, health services, and/or surveillance research;
- ability to provide authoritative guidance, make budget decisions, and resolve issues with conflicting priorities;
- knowledge of current trends and technologies in cancer control research; and
- management of multidisciplinary groups with established successful health research partnerships.

Evidence of doctoral-level achievement in a field relevant to the branch’s research mission is desirable.

Appointees may be US citizens or resident aliens. Applications from women, persons from underrepresented groups, and persons with disabilities are strongly encouraged. The position is subject to a background check.

The incumbent will report to the BRP Associate Director, [Dr. William Klein](#). For organizational information, see <https://staffprofiles.cancer.gov/brp/prgmStaffHome.do>. Interested candidates are welcome to explore the program’s [online staff directory](#) and contact any of our staff members to learn more about behavioral research at the National Cancer Institute.

LETTERS OF INTEREST

Please submit a 2- to 3-page letter of interest and current CV by **January 31, 2024**, to ncidccpsbrpadvances@mail.nih.gov with “HBRB Chief” as the email subject line.

DCCPS is deeply committed to building a diverse health sciences workforce that maintains, fosters, and promotes an equitable, inclusive, accessible, and nurturing work environment. Diverse teams foster scientific innovation, improve the quality of research, contribute their lived experiences to a robust learning environment, advance the likelihood that underserved or health disparity populations participate and benefit from health research, and enhance public trust.



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