

Chief, Health Behaviors Research Branch, National Cancer Institute, 2024

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).

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 HBRB Chief, in partnership with division leaders, provides direction and expertise in planning, developing, and the administration of an integrated behavioral science research program that addresses the cancer burden. The HBRB Chief is vital in increasing the functional integration of behavioral research across the National Institutes of Health and other federal agencies.

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 research tools and public-use resources. Priority research areas within BRP and HBRB include novel data strategies to measure health behaviors and digital health in health promotion and behavior maintenance; evidence-based cancer control policy and promotion; and implications of climate change on cancer control.

ANNOUNCEMENT DETAILS

Letters of interest are encouraged from behavioral and social science researchers with a strong record of scholarship in relevant areas, leadership and management experience, and familiarity with the extramural community. Submit a 2–3-page letter of interest and current CV to ncidccpsbrpadvances@mail.nih.gov with “HBRB chief” as the subject line. Letters/CVs will be reviewed beginning July 2024 until the position is filled.

Read about the “[power to transform](#)” and how a visionary founder of DCCPS outlined core tenants of DCCPS and federal service in the paper, *Government Service as a Public and Personal Good* ([Rimer 2016](#)).

DCCPS Branch Chiefs are widely published, participate in continuing education *as students and teachers*, and help inform the research agenda in cancer prevention and control.

In addition to a stimulating scientific and engaging cooperative environment, staff may take advantage of tremendous federal employee [benefits](#), including voluntary health, dental, and vision insurance programs, an attractive retirement system, [workplace flexibilities](#), personal/sick leave and paid holidays, and may be eligible for other incentives such as [student loan repayment](#).

DCCPS values a healthy work-life balance, recognizes personal achievements and excellence in collaboration, and celebrates the whole-person employee.

Contact us to learn more about being part of the team and advantages of federal service. Email: ncidccpsbrpadvances@mail.nih.gov

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),
- analyze data, review evidence, 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 should demonstrate:

- dynamic leadership and experience overseeing scientific and administrative teams focused on health promotion or health behavior research,
- experience managing and evaluating 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 or health research, and management of multidisciplinary groups with established successful health research partnerships.



100% of BRP staff responded, “**I recommend my organization as a good place to work**” and “It is important to me that my work **contributes to the common good**” among those who completed the 2023 Federal Employee Viewpoint Survey (FEVS; see <https://hr.nih.gov/workforce/fevs>).

100% of BRP staff also responded, “My supervisor supports my need to **balance work and other life issues**” and “I am given a **real opportunity to improve** my skills” among >92% of staff who completed the FEVS.

Find out why BRP and DCCPS consistently receive positive feedback on measures of performance, employee engagement, and satisfaction—[contact us today!](#)

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.

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.

HHS, NIH, and NCI are Equal Opportunity Employers