

Start Date: November or December 2022

Job Description/Responsibilities

We seek a post-doctoral researcher to join a dynamic, interdisciplinary team of social-behavioral scientists studying the social sciences and ethical factors at play in HIV cure-related research in the United States.

HIV cure research is a high-priority for the National Institutes of Health, private foundations and industry, and is targeting a strategy that can lead to sustained antiretroviral treatment (ART)-free suppression. However, because there are no clear biomarkers for an HIV cure, the only way to evaluate the efficacy of a strategy is to require otherwise healthy people with HIV (PWH) who have achieved viral suppression to pause their treatment. This pausing of treatment is called a treatment interruption and is the most controversial aspect of HIV cure research. Further, to advance HIV cure research, participants are required to tolerate long periods without HIV treatment, which can lead to detectable viral loads.

The goals of the proposed research are to apply social and behavioral science methods to better understand and improve the informed consent process, participants' understanding and experiences with treatment interruptions, and using mixed methods to help solve the most pressing ethical challenges in HIV cure research, including enhancing diversity in clinical trials, protecting sexual partners during treatment interruptions, and the role of mental health support in HIV cure trials.

We are seeking a post-doctoral researcher to help analyze longitudinal data collected across multiple HIV cure trials with extended ATIs within the AIDS Clinical Trials Group (ACTG) and at the University of California San Francisco (UCSF). The post-doctoral researcher will also help design a series of surveys to help resolve difficult outstanding issues in HIV cure research and analyze qualitative research with participants going through HIV cure trials. Principal responsibilities include creating and managing databases, performing data analyses, manuscript development, assisting with study protocols and design, and working with the team to develop new grants to build on the currently funded research. Analysis and manuscript development will be conducted under the direction of an interdisciplinary investigative team, with strong emphasis placed on career development, training in grantsmanship, interdisciplinary research, and translation of science.

This position will be supervised by Dr. Karine Dubé (UCSD School of Medicine Division of Infectious Diseases and Global Public Health) and Dr. John Saucedo (UCSF Division of Prevention Sciences, Center for AIDS Prevention Studies). The post-doctoral researcher will also have the opportunity to get involved in other socio-behavioral research projects related to HIV cure research. This position is supported by an R01 to Drs. Dubé and Saucedo and has funding until 2026.

Qualifications and Benefits

This position requires a PhD in psychology, epidemiology, biostatistics or a related scientific discipline that requires strong quantitative skills and some mixed methods skills. Other required qualifications include (1) strong skills with database programming (e.g., Qualtrics software), (2) strong skills in statistical programming and analysis using SAS, R, and/or Stata, including the ability to generate univariate and bivariate descriptive statistics, experience with fitting cross-sectional linear, logistic, and survival analysis regression models, and exposure to longitudinal data analysis; (3) experience with qualitative research, (4) excellent writing and communication skills, and (5) demonstrated cultural humility and commitment to community engagement and passion for person-centered research, and (5) 1-2 years professional experience (post-masters).

Application Process Please submit the following materials to Dr. Karine Dube (karine_dube@med.unc.edu and kdube@health.ucsd.edu) and Dr. John Saucedo (john.saucedo@ucsf.edu) by September 30, 2022:

- Curriculum Vitae
- A detailed Cover Letter, including a summary of relevant experience, research interests, and statement of long-term career goals
- Two letters of reference

Interviews will take place in Fall 2022 and the position will begin in November or December 2022.

To be eligible for the post-doctoral fellowship, applicants must hold a PhD or equivalent degree and must be an American citizen, a non-citizen national of the U.S. (e.g., from American Samoa), or have been lawfully admitted to the U.S. for permanent residence and have an Alien Registration Receipt Card (I-151 or I-551).