Faculty Specialist (Research Coordinator) Opening in Global Mental Health and Local Addiction Science at University of Maryland, College Park

There is a Faculty Specialist (Research Coordinator) opening in the Global Mental Health and Addiction Program (GMAP) at University of Maryland, directed by Dr. Jessica Magidson.

The position will be involved in two research projects both evaluating behavioral activation interventions delivered by peer and lay health worker counselors: one based globally in Cape Town, South Africa and the second based locally in Baltimore, MD in collaboration with researchers at University of Maryland Baltimore in the Department of Nursing. Both projects aim to understand the effectiveness and implementation success of a peer-delivered behavioral activation intervention for individuals with substance use disorders in primary care. Start date is July 15, 2019.

Applicants interested in global mental health, implementation science, and addiction who are interested in pursuing PhD programs in clinical psychology, public health, or global health, or medical school are encouraged to apply. Dr. Magidson’s program of research at University of Maryland offers an exciting opportunity to be engaged in local and global addiction science and mental health research.

The position will be based at University of Maryland, College Park, the flagship campus of University of Maryland, located only 5 miles outside of Washington DC, and 30 miles from Baltimore, MD. This position will involve on-site data collection in Baltimore, MD and does require someone to have a car to travel to the community center. The position is a one-year appointment with possible renewal of a second year based on performance and funding.

Research assistant responsibilities include but are not limited to the following: coordinating day-to-day operations of the Baltimore-based study, including supporting recruitment and retention efforts; conducting oral and written screenings and assessments; arranging visits with study participants; assessing and documenting eligibility and participation status of candidates for studies; managing IRB submissions and study protocols; supporting data management and other data analysis as requested. For the international project, this position will support data cleaning, data quality assurance and management; assisting in the implementation of effective data flow systems as specified by study protocol; overseeing follow-up, retention and compliance rates; and other administrative responsibilities to support the local team based in Cape Town, South Africa.

In addition to work on the two active research projects in the lab, additional duties in this position include but are not limited to: assisting with administrative responsibilities to support the research program, assisting with presentations for scientific conferences and manuscript/grant preparation, and supporting oversight and mentorship of undergraduate students in the lab. There may be opportunities to get involved in other projects based in DC and/or South Africa depending on interests.

Key skills for this position include the ability to organize and manage time and multiple tasks, attention to detail and excellent written skills, the ability to work independently, ability to demonstrate a high level of cross-cultural sensitivity, and the ability to maintain effective communications and working relationships with other study team members.

Necessary qualifications include: 1) a BA/BS in Social Sciences (Psychology, Public Health, or related field); 2) prior research experience working with diverse populations, particularly
vulnerable populations and/or individuals with substance use disorders or chronic medical conditions; 3) excellent organizational, interpersonal and communication skills. Prior experience with manuscript and grant writing, developing research protocols, IRB submissions, and familiarity with electronic data capture tools (RedCap) and statistical software (SPSS) preferred.

Interested applicants should send their CV, a cover letter (describing research interests and how prior experiences and skill set meet the above requirements), transcript with relevant coursework (unofficial is fine), a writing sample, and contact info for 2-3 references to Drs. Jessica Magidson (jmagidso@umd.edu) with the subject line “Global Mental Health and Addiction RA position.” Applications are being reviewed immediately. Deadline is rolling until the position has been filled.

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