Who We Are
The Dr. James A. Ferguson Emerging Infectious Diseases RISE (Research Initiatives for Student Enhancement) Fellowship supports public health research and professional development in the areas of infectious diseases and health disparities, with a special focus on increasing knowledge and interest in public health research careers among students from underrepresented populations. The nine-week fellowship program is funded by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Fellows may also gain clinical experience and develop professional leadership skills in the public health field.

The Fellowship
All fellows participate in an orientation at Kennedy Krieger Institute and The Johns Hopkins Hospital focusing on understanding health disparities and career opportunities in public health. Following orientation, fellows learn about research design and analysis and participate in research projects in infectious diseases, health disparities, men’s health, mental health, adverse childhood experiences, LGBTQI health, developmental disabilities, cancer, cardiovascular health, or prevention of and treatment for drug dependence at either the CDC in Atlanta, Georgia, or one of the Baltimore, Maryland, sites.

Fellows assigned to the CDC site may participate in research in epidemiology, laboratory science, public health education, prevention and treatment policy, economics, informatics and communications. Fellows assigned to a Baltimore site may participate in research at Kennedy Krieger Institute, the Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, or The Johns Hopkins University’s School of Medicine, School of Nursing or School of Public Health. The Baltimore sites integrate clinical opportunities and research experiences in hospital, national, state and community settings.

Our Fellows
To qualify for the fellowship, an applicant should meet the following eligibility requirements:

• Must be currently enrolled as a full-time student in a medical, dental, pharmacy or veterinary graduate program, or must be a graduate student in a public health, allied health and/or social sciences program.
• Must have a 3.0 GPA or higher on a 4.0 scale.
• Must be able to commit to the full length of the fellowship.

Students should have a strong interest in research addressing health disparities. Students who are members of underrepresented populations as defined by the federal government (diversity.nih.gov/about-us/population-underrepresented) are strongly encouraged to apply.

Please note: Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, there may be changes to program activities and format.
Program Benefits
If selected for this nine-week summer program, fellows receive a stipend and membership in the American Public Health Association, and (as funding allows) are sponsored to attend a scientific meeting. Out-of-state students will receive round-trip travel and housing.

The fellowship is designed to offer students outstanding educational and professional opportunities. Participants are expected to:

• Attend weekly public health learning seminars during the summer.
• Deliver a formal research or public health presentation to peers and mentors at the end of the summer session.
• Submit a research abstract to a national scientific meeting. Students will be sponsored to attend the meeting as funding allows.

What Do Former Students Say?
“One of the most beneficial (and coolest) aspects of the program was seeing how the CDC operates... networking is a major part of what I’ve been able to do at the CDC. I have a better idea of what I would (and would not) want to do in my future career in public health.”

“My mentor was amazing. She gave me numerous opportunities to develop my research as well as clinical skills. These opportunities included selecting a research project based on my interests, shadowing during grand rounds, participating in outreach events such as Baltimore Pride, and attending infectious diseases conferences.”

Contact and Application Information
Please visit KennedyKrieger.org/Ferguson or email Ferguson_Fellowship@KennedyKrieger.org for more information or to apply.

Application must be submitted by January 31.

For general Kennedy Krieger Institute information, visit KennedyKrieger.org or call 888-554-2080.