

Dr. James A. Ferguson Emerging Infectious Diseases RISE Fellowship

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 fellowship program is funded by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Ferguson RISE fellows may participate in public health research experiences lasting 12 months (full-time), nine weeks (summer) or six months (part-time or full-time, beginning in February). 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 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, LGBTQ+ health, developmental disabilities, cancer, cardiovascular health, or prevention of and treatment for drug dependence. Ferguson RISE Fellowship sites include Kennedy Krieger, The Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, The Johns Hopkins University School of Nursing, Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, Morgan State University, Howard University, Morehouse School of Medicine, the Rollins School of Public Health at Emory University, the Maryland Department of Health and CDC sites in Atlanta and elsewhere.

The sites at Kennedy Krieger, Johns Hopkins, Morgan State University, Howard University College of Medicine, Rollins School of Public Health and Morehouse School of Medicine 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 enrolled as a full-time student in a medical, dental, pharmacy or veterinary program, or in a graduate program in public health, allied health or one of the social sciences, or must be a recent (within 12 months) master's or doctoral degree recipient in one of these fields. Students with graduate degrees received within 12 months of the current Ferguson RISE Fellowship orientation (last week in May) are also eligible.
- 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.



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Program Benefits

If selected for the Ferguson RISE Fellowship program, fellows receive a stipend and research and professional mentorship, and (as funding allows) are sponsored to attend a scientific meeting. Out-of-state students will receive round-trip travel and housing.

The Ferguson RISE Fellowship is designed to offer students outstanding educational and professional opportunities.

Participants are expected to:

- Attend weekly public health learning seminars during the summer (summer and 12-month Ferguson RISE Fellows).
- 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.
- Publish research in peer-reviewed journals.

What Do Former Fellows 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.

Applications for the Ferguson RISE Six-Month Fellowship must be submitted by November 28.

Applications for the Ferguson RISE Summer Fellowship and Ferguson RISE 12-Month Fellowship must be submitted by January 31.

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

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