

## Postdoctoral Fellowship Information

January 2010

### Connections Research

The Connections program of **health services research** involves **mixed methods** (quantitative and qualitative). The goal of Connections research is to develop and evaluate an innovative knowledge translation and exchange strategy with meaningful involvement of stakeholders throughout the process, with the ultimate goal of improving services for women with substance abuse issues and their children in Canada. Connections is a national team of researchers led by Drs. Alison Niccols, Maureen Dobbins, and Wendy Sword at McMaster University and funded by the Canadian Institutes of Health Research. The nature of the project requires a multidisciplinary approach. The research team, consisting of 13 co-investigators, has combined expertise in the following topics:

- women's health
- substance abuse, addictions
- child development
- parenting
- knowledge translation and exchange
- intervention, service delivery
- at-risk populations
- research methods

The Connections co-investigators' affiliations include the BC Mental Health and Addiction Services, Centre for Addiction and Mental, Integra Foundation, McMaster University, Offord Centre for Child Studies, University of Western Ontario, University of Toronto, and University of British Columbia.

For more information on Connections research and the research team, please see the Connections website ([www.connectionsCanada.ca](http://www.connectionsCanada.ca)).

### Postdoctoral Fellowship

The Connections research team is committed to finding a candidate whose interests and expertise complement the project's goals, and to working with him or her to ensure a mutually enriching experience. The postdoctoral fellowship will provide the candidate with multiple opportunities to research independently, to contribute to existing projects, and to receive mentorship and training. It is expected that the fellowship will prepare the candidate for a successful career in research/academia.

The ideal candidate will have a strong interest and background in research in one or more of the Connections priority areas. Candidates from a variety of backgrounds (e.g. psychology, child psychiatry, nursing, epidemiology and biostatistics, public health and sociology) will be considered. The successful applicant will be a motivated individual who is able to work independently and collegially as part of a research team. Demonstrated writing ability and strong methodological and analytic skills are important.

The successful applicant will have the opportunity to be mentored and trained by a research supervisor. The research supervisor can be any member of the research team whose expertise reflects the postdoctoral fellow's academic interests and abilities, and who is available to take on a postdoctoral fellow at the intended start date. Before submitting an application, it is the responsibility of the potential applicant to contact one of the research team members to discuss his or her preferred research focus, research supervisor, and geographic location.

The fellowship can be flexible in structure in order to optimize the candidate's research training. The candidate will be able to contribute to existing research projects and to generate his or her own research questions based on interest and expertise.

### **Criteria & Policies**

The postdoctoral fellow must have been recently (within the past 5 years) awarded a Ph.D. or equivalent degree. The appointment is temporary, not to exceed 2 years, including renewals. The fellowship will be a full-time appointment. The postdoctoral fellow will work under the supervision of one or more of the project's co-investigators. The postdoctoral fellow is expected to apply for research grants and publish the results of her or his research during the period of the appointment, when appropriate, in conjunction with her or his research supervisor [see Connections Authorship Guidelines].

A successful applicant will have obtained the agreement of a researcher on the team to be his or her research supervisor. The supervisor will arrange for the postdoctoral fellow to obtain an official appointment from the host institution (the academic institution of the supervisor). The established policies of the fellow's host institution apply to the responsibilities and activities of the postdoctoral fellow, including, for example, intellectual property, research ethics, and human rights/equity.

### **Application Process**

Prior to submitting an application, potential candidates are invited to contact a research team member and ensure that his or her preferences regarding research focus, research supervisor, and host institution can be accommodated.

Interested candidates are invited to send a letter of application, curriculum vitae, and the names of three referees. The letter of application should include the following: (1) a statement of research experience and interests; (2) learning objectives; (3) a discussion of 'fit' between the candidate and Connections projects; (4) a statement of long-term career objectives.

Candidates will be selected on the basis of merit. The Connections team is committed to employment equity; all qualified individuals are encouraged to apply. Preference is given to Canadian citizens and permanent residents of Canada.

Please forward correspondence to Alison Niccols ([niccols@hhsc.ca](mailto:niccols@hhsc.ca)), Maureen Dobbins ([dobbinsm@mcmaster.ca](mailto:dobbinsm@mcmaster.ca)), and Wendy Sword ([sword@mcmaster.ca](mailto:sword@mcmaster.ca)).

### **Details**

Application deadline: April 1, 2010

Start date: May 1, 2010 (negotiable)

Hours: Full time (maximum 1 day per week can be devoted to teaching or clinical work)

Location: Hamilton, Ontario

Term: 1 year, renewable for a second year

Salary: \$40,000 per year plus benefits plus \$5,000 research allowance