CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

Clarence Pearson Fellowship in Public Health and Aging

Summer/Fall 2020

The American Federation for Aging Research welcomes applications from master's degree candidates or recent graduates for the Clarence Pearson Fellowship in Public Health and Aging. The fellowship will be 3-4 months, spanning Summer-Fall 2020.

The Pearson program was launched by AFAR in 2015 to provide future leaders in public health and related academic fields with exposure to the range of policy, administration, research, and engagement opportunities to better serve the growing older population.

AFAR will offer two Pearson Fellowships for Summer/Fall 2020. Given the global coronavirus pandemic and its disproportionate impact on older adults, AFAR is seeking individuals interested in examining COVID-19 through the lens of the aging research infrastructure or health disparities. Applicants must indicate to which track (i.e. A or B below) they are applying.

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A. The Impact of COVID-19 on the Aging Research Infrastructure.

This “COVID-19 & the Aging Research Infrastructure” Pearson Fellow will be asked to consider the following:

- Funding: Will the coronavirus pandemic redirect funding (both in positive and negative ways) for AFAR and aging researchers?
- Research: Will this pandemic refocus research efforts and/or put more funding in certain areas of investigation? How will clinical trials be affected?
- Career Development: How does the pandemic affect the research community, including early career investigators?
- Networking and Collaboration: How will this affect how researchers connect and collaborate given that many connections and ideas are shared at meetings/conferences?

Goal: Provide guidance to AFAR on how the aging research infrastructure can reset and reboot after this unprecedented time, including strategies that are currently being implemented or piloted. This may include, but is not limited to, recommendations for policy, research operations, private-public partnership, and health communications.

B. COVID-19-Related Health Disparities Among Older Adults.

This “COVID-19 & Health Disparities” Pearson Fellow will be asked to consider the impact of race/ethnicity, living environments (e.g. nursing homes), and other factors on:

- Contracting COVID-19 and the severity of outcomes
- Testing and related representation in COVID-19 data/research
- Public health messaging related to preventative health behaviors, testing and potential treatments
• Eventual access to treatments and vaccination adherence
• Effectiveness of eventual treatments and vaccines

Goal: Describe health disparities among older adults and how these disparities have been highlighted or exacerbated by COVID-19. Further, this Pearson will explore how these health disparities have been addressed in the public health response and how underlying health disparities among older adults may affect access, effectiveness and adherence to treatments and vaccines. This may include, but is not limited to, providing recommendations for policy, research, clinicians, health systems, private-public partnerships, and health communications.

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Both Pearson Fellows will be encouraged to determine the most effective format for communicating their findings and recommendations to their defined target audience (e.g. white paper, Op Ed, webinar, podcast, social media campaign, etc.) AFAR will support each Pearson Fellow in identifying partners for these activities, including leaders in aging research and programming.

The Pearson Fellowship will be entirely remote and AFAR encourages applications from across the U.S. The Pearson Fellow will conduct independent research with regular communication by phone and teleconference with Erin Beck MPH (Strategic Partnership and Development Manager at AFAR).

Application:
• Cover letter that addresses:
  o Your previous/current academic or community work in aging-related topics
  o How this Fellowship would support your on-going research interests and future academic or career goals, including a brief description of financial need
  o Which topic you would like to pursue and why
• Current resume or CV
• Letter of recommendation from a faculty or professional who may provide additional mentoring to your research project.

Honorarium
$2,500 honorarium

Eligibility
• Student must be either currently enrolled in a graduate program with at least one semester completed or be a recent master’s-level graduate still pursuing further education in a related field
• Must be able to work well in a self-directed environment and have a demonstrated interest in age-related issues

Deadline
Please send completed application by **July 20, 2020** to Erin Beck MPH, Strategic Partnerships and Development Manager at **erin@afar.org**.