

CRDF Global Request for Applications (RFA) **FIC Stigma Research Training Institute**

Proposal Submission Deadline: Monday, February 10th, 2020 (23:59) U.S. Eastern Standard Time (EST)

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I. PROGRAM SNAPSHOT

Eligible Applicant(s)	Early- to mid-career investigators seeking to conduct health-related stigma research and affiliated with a U.S. or Low- and Middle-Income (LMIC) institution.
RFP Opens	Monday, December 16 th , 2019
Submission Deadline	Monday, February 10 th , 2020 (23:59) U.S. Standard Time (EST)
Notification of Review Outcome	March 2020
Award Scope	CRDF Global is accepting applications on behalf of the U.S. National Institutes of Health (NIH) Fogarty International Center for a four-day Stigma Research Training Institute at the NIH main campus in Bethesda, Maryland on June 8-11, 2020. Fogarty's Center for Global Health Studies is hosting a short-term training to promote transdisciplinary and novel health-related stigma research methods to a cohort of researchers from diverse fields to strengthen research capacity in this area.
Travel Scholarships	All accepted Institute trainees will be provided travel scholarships, inclusive of airfare accommodation, and per diem to subsidize their attendance.
How to Apply	<p>All proposals <u>must</u> be submitted through the Electronic Proposal Submission (EPS) website: https://eps.crdfglobal.org/Stigma (NOTE: website will be active by January 6th, 2020)</p> <p>CRDF Global will <u>not</u> accept applications via mail or e-mail. Please refer to Section VI. A Proposal Submission for additional information and instructions. E-mail attachments and hard copies will not be accepted</p>
Point of Contact	<p>Stephanie Pozuelos, CRDF Global (spozuelos@crdfglobal.org) Arianne Malekzadeh, FIC NIH (arianne.malekzadeh@nih.gov)</p>

II. BACKGROUND and SCOPE

CRDF Global is accepting applications on behalf of the U.S. National Institutes of Health (NIH) Fogarty International Center for a four-day Stigma Research Training Institute at the NIH main campus in Bethesda, Maryland on June 8-11, 2020. Fogarty's Center for Global Health Studies is hosting a short-term training to promote transdisciplinary and novel health-related stigma research methods to a cohort of researchers from diverse fields to strengthen research capacity in this area.

Participation in this Institute is by application only and we expect to accept up to 40 of scholars from the applicant pool. Accepted trainees will receive travel scholarships, inclusive of airfare, accommodation, and per diem to subsidize their attendance.

The Fogarty International Center is dedicated to advancing the mission of the National Institutes of Health (NIH) by supporting and facilitating global health research conducted by U.S. and international investigators, building partnerships between health research institutions in the U.S. and abroad, and training the next generation of scientists to address global health needs. For information visit <http://www.fic.nih.gov/Pages/Default.aspx>.

CRDF Global is an independent nonprofit organization that promotes international scientific and technical collaboration through grants, technical resources, training, and services. CRDF Global's Research Partnerships (RP) competitions enable cross-border collaboration and the strengthening of international research through the implementation of peer-reviewed research grant competitions. Research partnerships open avenues for new research directions and foster new collaborative opportunities for U.S. and non-U.S. scientists. More information about CRDF Global and the RP competitions can be found at www.crdfglobal.org.

IV. ELIGIBILITY

Applicants from U.S. and low- and middle-income country institutions/organizations are encouraged to apply.

All proposals **must** meet each of the following eligibility criteria:

1. Candidates should be early- to mid-career investigators with a minimum of 3 years of experience conducting research on a topic where stigma is a relevant factor. This can include research on stigma itself or on stigmatized health conditions or populations. Research experience may be demonstrated through peer-reviewed publications, research funding, and/or contributions to relevant research projects.
2. Applicants must be affiliated with a U.S. or Low- and Middle-Income (LMIC²) institution (LMIC is defined by the World Bank [here](#)) at the time of application, and return to their home institution after the Training Institute to conduct research and/or train researchers in stigma research methods. Applicants do not have to be of any given nationality or residency. Applicants from LMIC institutions are strongly encouraged to apply.
3. The ideal candidate will have strong interest in the transdisciplinary science of health-related stigma research and will use the training to inform research on key public health problems in resource-limited settings. Commitment to conducting cross-cutting health-related stigma research (i.e. stigma research that cuts across health conditions and/or populations) is encouraged but not required.

CRDF Global reserves the right to restrict the participation of any individual or institution in its programs. CRDF Global complies with all U.S. laws and regulations pertaining to export control and the participation of foreign nationals or institutions in its activities. It is the policy of CRDF Global not to conduct any transactions with U.S. restricted entities without appropriate authorization from the U.S. Government.

V. REVIEW OF PROPOSALS

Applications will be reviewed by the Stigma Research Training Institute scientific co-chairs and NIH planning committee members. Acceptance to the Institute will be based on the quality of the applicant's scholarship and research, the extent to which the applicant is committed to conducting future research on health-related stigma in resource limited settings, the applicant's willingness to collaborate outside their particular area of interest or expertise in a team setting, and the applicant's institutional support. Additional factors such as the geographic and transdisciplinary balance of the trainees may also be considered.

Evaluation Criteria:

1. **Scholarship and Research Quality-** Overall quality of applicant's scholarship and research relevant to stage in career, academic rank, etc. .
2. **Commitment to Stigma Research-** Evidence of applicant's commitment to future projects using health-related stigma research methods and approaches in resource-limited settings (indicated, in part, by previous experience).
3. **Flexibility and Collaboration-** Willingness of the applicant to collaborate outside their particular area of interest or expertise, and their comfort level interacting in transdisciplinary team settings.
4. **Research Support-** Evidence of research support (i.e. history of research projects, grant funding, institutional support, access to mentors, etc.).
5. **Increased Capacity-** Likelihood that attendance will increase capacity for stigma research at applicant's location or institution.

Each proposal will be evaluated independently and therefore should not be part of, nor depend on the success of other proposals submitted to this competition.

CRDF Global will email applicants to inform them of the decision. All decisions by CRDF Global are final. All applicants will receive feedback on their proposals once award decisions are made.

VI. PROPOSAL PREPARATION AND SUBMISSION

Only proposals received according to the submission instructions and which follow the formatting and include all the required elements listed below will be considered responsive and reviewed.

A. Proposal Submission

All proposals must be submitted electronically through CRDF Global's Electronic Proposal Submission (EPS) website, no later than **Monday, February 10th, 2020 (23:59) U.S. Standard Time (EST)**

EPS Link: <https://eps.crdfglobal.org/Stigma>

Applicants should plan to complete the entire submission in one attempt. The site does not allow you to save partial submissions. Applicants must have all documents ready before beginning submission process. Further instructions on electronic proposal submission are available at the above link.

Proposals should be submitted only once. After the electronic submission process, applicants will receive a confirmation message from CRDF Global.

Proposal application materials submitted to CRDF Global **must be prepared in English** and compiled in the following separate document files for submission to the EPS. Acceptable file formats are MS Word (.doc) or Adobe Acrobat (.pdf).

Required:

1. Completed proposal document (all applicable elements under [Section VI.D Proposal Elements](#))

B. CRDF Global Policies and Applicant Resources

Before Writing a Proposal applicants should review all documents and policies on the [CRDF Global Applicant Resources page](#).

C. Proposal Formatting

- Typed
- Single-spaced
- One-inch margins on ALL sides
- Font size of no less than Arial 10pt (Times New Roman 10pt font is not acceptable)*

**A font size of less than 10 points may be used for mathematical formulas or equations, figure, table or diagram captions and when using a Symbol font to insert Greek letters or special characters. Pls are cautioned, however, that the text must still be readable.*

D. Proposal Elements (required unless otherwise noted)

Applicants are required to follow instructions and use the electronic forms and templates included in this RFP.

Detailed information for all necessary elements of a proposal is listed below. Appendices may not be included. Any proposal submitted without ALL required information, including signatures and forms, may be disqualified and removed from the competition. Applicants are encouraged to carefully review proposals prior to submission to ensure accuracy and completeness.

Applicants should respond to the following sections to be considered a complete application. Applicants must submit application forms and supporting documentation via the electronic proposal system. See Appendix A for a copy of the application form.

Application Form (Appendix A)

- 1. Personal Information.**
- 2. Professional Background.** Provide a brief summary of your professional background, including any work relevant to health-related stigma research and, if relevant, to cross-cutting health-related stigma research (i.e. stigma research that cuts across health conditions and/or populations). (Maximum one-half page).
- 3. Training Interests.** Describe what you will personally and professionally gain from participation in this Institute, including any plans to submit grants or manuscripts. Identify the knowledge and research skills you seek to carry out future health-related stigma research. (Maximum one-half page).
- 4. Research Interests.** Succinctly describe a research question that you are interested in addressing with health-related stigma methodologies, and your plans to pursue this area of research in the future. For example, an applicant might be interested in studying the effects of intersectional stigma around substance use and HIV on mental health outcomes among clients utilizing an HIV clinic, or in studying the pathways through which stigma and depression influence health outcomes for people living with tuberculosis in LMICs. This will inform the identification of team projects to be developed during the Institute. (Maximum one-half page).
- 5. Team Selection.** The Institute environment is especially suited to individuals who are willing to collaborate outside their particular area of interest or expertise, can think innovatively, and can network easily with researchers with diverse backgrounds. Please describe an experience you have had in a comparable environment. (Maximum one-half page).

Additional Supporting Documentation

The following documents should be prepared and uploaded separately from the main proposal file:

6. **Curriculum vitae.** Use CV Sample shown on page 13 of [this guide](#). (Maximum four pages).
7. **Institutional Letter of Support.** Provide a signed letter of support from your Dean, Department Chair, or employer. This letter should include a description of your strengths and research potential and the type and duration (start and end dates) of employment. It should include confirmation that if you are invited to attend the Stigma Research Training Institute you will be released from regular duties during the training period (June 8-11, 2020). In addition, the letter of support should highlight available institutional resources (such as financial assistance, research assistants, infrastructure, protected time, and/or additional training) that will enable you to leverage your stigma research training experience into successful research projects.
8. **Letter of Reference.** Supply one signed letter of reference on institutional letterhead from a colleague who knows you well enough to address your suitability for a stigma research training institute that involves transdisciplinary work.

CRDF Global reserves the right to request greater detail if necessary to proceed with award selection.

VIII. CRDF GLOBAL EXPECTATIONS OF AWARDEES

Awardees from this competition will be expected to:

- ☐ Attendance of the Stigma Research Training Institute at the NIH main campus in Bethesda, Maryland on June 8-11, 2020.

IX. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION AND SUPPORT

For information on sponsor organization award administration policies, please review the following websites:

CRDF Global Policies:

- **Grant Funding Opportunities:** <http://www.crdfglobal.org/grants/funding-opportunities>
- **Information for Applicants:** <http://www.crdfglobal.org/grants/information-applicants>
- **Information for Awardees:** <http://www.crdfglobal.org/grants/information-awardees>

X. PROGRAM SUPPORT INFORMATION

For further information about this program, please contact the program manager below. **Inquiries by e-mail are strongly encouraged and will result in prompt response.**

CRDF Global
Stephanie Pozuelos
Project Lead
1776 Wilson Blvd., Suite 300
Arlington, VA 22209
Phone: 703-526-6765
Email: spozuelos@crdfglobal.org

Fogarty International Center
Arianne Malekzadeh, M.A.
Global Health Research and Policy Analyst
Center for Global Health Studies
Fogarty International Center
National Institutes of Health
Phone: 301-827-7855
Email: arianne.malekzadeh@nih.gov

APPENDIX A: APPLICATION FORM

APPLICANT CONTACT INFORMATION					
Last Name (surname)		First Name (Given)		Middle (Patronymic)	
Position/Title					
Institution Name			Country Based		
Complete Mailing Address (building #, street, city, postal code)					
Institution type	<input type="checkbox"/> University/Academic <input type="checkbox"/> Research Institution <input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> For-profit <input type="checkbox"/> Non-profit/non-governmental <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____				
E-mail			Alternative E-mail <i>(optional)</i>		
Telephone #			Gender	<input type="checkbox"/> Male <input type="checkbox"/> Female	
Country Citizenship status (check all that apply):	<input type="checkbox"/> Citizen of (country): _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Permanent Resident of (country): _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Non-Resident/Citizen with legal visa status of (country): _____				

APPLICANT PROFESSIONAL INFORMATION			
Degree(s) Earned (list all)	Field of Degree	Year Awarded	
1			
2			
3			
4			
5			
Years of Research Experience			
Areas of expertise (check all that apply)	<input type="checkbox"/> Behavioral and social sciences <input type="checkbox"/> Medical and health science specialties <input type="checkbox"/> Public health <input type="checkbox"/> Biological, physical or earth sciences <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please describe): _____		
Demonstration of Research experience (e.g. peer reviewed publications, research grants, research trainings. List items and where appropriate, years).			

Instructions: In the spaces below, please provide thorough but brief responses to each component of the application narrative. Your narrative responses may not exceed the length indicated for each section and must be

completely contained inside the text boxes. **All answers must be typed, in English, single-spaced and no less than Arial 10pt font.**

Professional Background. Provide a brief summary of your professional background, including any work relevant to health-related stigma research and, if relevant, to cross-cutting health-related stigma research (i.e. stigma research that cuts across health conditions and/or populations). (Maximum one-half page).

Training Interests. Describe what you will personally and professionally gain from participation in this Institute, including any plans to submit grants or manuscripts. Identify the knowledge and research skills you seek to carry out future health-related stigma research. (Maximum one-half page).

Research Interests. Succinctly describe a research question that you are interested in addressing with health-related stigma methodologies, and your plans to pursue this area of research in the future. For example, an applicant might be interested in studying the effects of intersectional stigma around substance use and HIV on mental health outcomes among clients utilizing an HIV clinic, or in studying the pathways through which stigma and depression influence health outcomes for people living with tuberculosis in LMICs. This will inform the identification of team projects to be developed during the Institute. (Maximum one-half page).

Team Selection. The Institute environment is especially suited to individuals who are willing to collaborate outside their particular area of interest or expertise, can think innovatively, and can network easily with researchers with diverse backgrounds. Please describe an experience you have had in a comparable environment. (Maximum one-half page).

The following materials should be prepared and submitted as **ONE** document.

1. **APPLICANT'S CURRICULUM VITAE:** Use CV Sample shown on page 13 of [this guide](#). (maximum 4 pages.)
2. **SUPPORT LETTERS:**
 - a. **Institutional Letter of Support.** Provide a signed letter of support from your Dean, Department Chair, or employer. This letter should include a description of your strengths and research potential and the type and duration (start and end dates) of employment. It should include confirmation that if you are invited to attend the Stigma Research Training Institute you will be released from regular duties during the training period (June 8-11, 2020). In addition, the letter of support should highlight available institutional resources (such as financial assistance, research assistants, infrastructure, protected time, and/or additional training) that will enable you to leverage your stigma research training experience into successful research projects.
 - b. **Letter of Reference.** Supply one signed letter of reference on institutional letterhead from a colleague who knows you well enough to address your suitability for a stigma research training institute that involves transdisciplinary work.