

Postdoctoral Research Scholar

Under the direction of the Principal Investigators (Drs. Arjan van der Star, Aaron Blashill, and Kristen Wells), the Postdoctoral Research Scholar will be involved in two NIH-funded research projects 1) an epidemiological data harmonization study on the socioecology of sexual minority stigma and sexual minority mental health and 2) an intervention study focusing on suicide prevention among sexual and gender minority youth. Specifically, the first research project harmonizes and integrates data from various public health surveys and combines these data with newly developed markers of structural sexual minority stigma across 50 US states and numerous counties, to study multilevel mechanisms driving poor mental health among sexual minorities. The second research project focuses on evaluating the preliminary efficacy of an innovative patient navigation program (*QueerCare*) to reduce suicide attempts among at-risk sexual and gender minority youth and young adults between the ages of 15 and 29 years.

The Postdoctoral Research Scholar is responsible for but not limited to:

Research Activities:

Serving as Project (Co-)Director, the Postdoctoral Research Scholar will oversee day-to-day operations of the two research projects. This individual will report directly to the PIs for the respective projects. The Scholar will be involved in data management and access, harmonization, construction of structural stigma indices, and data integration and analysis, as well as supervise the full-time research coordinators in general project management, supervising of research assistants, and IRB/NIH documentation, correspondence, and compliance reports. The Scholar will also lead weekly project meetings and work with the Co-Investigators on data management, analysis, and manuscript preparation.

In addition to the role of Project (Co-)Director of the projects (i.e., split equally across the projects), the Scholar will have the opportunity to pursue independent data analysis/manuscripts on multiple existing datasets focused on patient navigation, suicide risk, and sexual orientation/gender identity health disparities, more broadly. The Scholar will also have opportunities for mentorship in career development, research methodology, teaching, and grant writing, and will be encouraged to develop their own F, K, or other career development award applications. Structured mentorship will be available from Drs. Blashill and Van der Star, as well as informally from Dr. Wells, across the disciplines of epidemiology, health disparity research, and clinical psychology.

The position will be full-time (salaried), with benefits included. The position will be with the San Diego State Research Foundation for a minimum of two years, with the possibility of extension for the full length of the grant (3 years).

Other Duties and Responsibilities:

Attend seminars, colloquia, and other regularly scheduled educational activities at San Diego State University, the University of California, San Diego, and other identified locations. Attend weekly project and lab meetings. Participate in mentoring undergraduate and graduate students and research staff across multiple research labs.

Education/Qualification and Training:

- Doctoral degree in clinical psychology, epidemiology, public health, social and behavioral sciences, or related fields
- Training and experience in quantitative research methods, research design, and statistical methods

Knowledge and Abilities:

- Ability to communicate effectively (both written and verbal), including communication with staff, faculty, students, and research participants, as well as groups
- Ability to train and supervise staff and students
- Ability to establish and maintain cooperative working relationships and interact effectively with young adults, coworkers, research teams, and administrative staff
- Knowledge of manuscript writing, grant proposals, and other grant responsibilities such as summary or progress reports
- Ability to prepare conference presentations and make presentations to groups
- Ability to mentor undergraduate and postgraduate students and research staff
- Ability to understand and follow work procedures
- Ability to be well organized, meet deadlines, display detail orientation, and possess good judgment and common sense
- Knowledge of sexual orientation/gender identity health disparities in adolescents and young adults
- Knowledge of suicide risk literature
- Ability to work with vulnerable, marginalized and diverse populations including sexual or gender minority individuals
- Ability to demonstrate a high level of cross-cultural sensitivity

Experience:

- Relevant research experience (e.g., quantitative research methods and analysis, epidemiological methodologies, intervention development and evaluation)
- Relevant regulatory experience (e.g., institutional research boards, data and safety monitoring boards, funding agencies, quality management systems, reportable event management)
- Experience using statistical software programs (e.g., SPSS, Stata, R, Mplus)
- Experience conducting statistical analysis with large databases
- Experience with longitudinal research methods and data analysis
- Experience in leadership, group coordination, or management
- Experience in working with vulnerable, marginalized and diverse populations, including sexual and/or gender minority individuals (preferred)
- Experience in working in an ethnically, culturally, and racially diverse environment (preferred)

Personal characteristics/other requirements:

- Motivated and enthusiastic
- Good attention to detail and high standards of accuracy in all aspects of work
- A high level of cross-cultural sensitivity
- Ability to work independently and within a team, and with a wide range of colleagues

To Apply:

Please email Dr. Arjan van der Star (PI; avanderstar@sdsu.edu) with initial interest. Prepare current CV, cover letter describing fit with the position, and research/career goals, and the names/contact information of two professional references. Apply through the application system once the official job ad comes online. Applicants will be considered as soon as the application portal has been set up. Start date is flexible, with preference for Summer 2023.

A background check (including a criminal records check) must be completed satisfactorily before any candidate can be offered a position with SDSU Research Foundation.

San Diego State University Research Foundation is an EEO/AA/Disability/Vets Employer.