

Post-Doctoral Training Opportunity in MS Self-Management Research

Start date: August 16, 2010. Funded by the National Multiple Sclerosis Society

This post-doctoral fellowship focuses on developing MS rehabilitation researchers who will have the skills necessary to conduct excellent, theory-driven MS self-management research. Through the training experience, fellows will develop the theoretical and methodological skills to develop, implement and evaluate self-management programs that enable people with MS to enhance their own ability to fully participate in everyday life. Fellows will be supervised and mentored by Dr. Marcia Finlayson, an established MS rehabilitation researcher. Depending on the interests of the fellow, additional mentoring will be available from Dr. James Rimmer (physical activity and disability) and Dr. Yolanda Suarez-Balcazar (program evaluation, cultural competency). The position is a 12-month, full-time appointment that is renewable for up to three years.

This training program is targeted towards individuals with a background in occupational therapy, although individuals with other rehabilitation-related disciplinary backgrounds will be considered. Prospective trainees must have completed a doctoral degree by July 2010. Individuals with a PhD or ScD are preferred, although individuals with other doctoral degrees will be considered (e.g., EdD, OTD, DrPH).

Competitive candidates will:

- Have completed a doctoral degree in the past five years,
- Have a strong academic background that includes a record of research activity (e.g., research assistant experience, peer-reviewed publications, conference presentations),
- Articulate clear interests in the development, implementation and evaluation of self-management programs as part of MS rehabilitation, and
- Articulate career goals consistent with the aims of the training program (i.e., independent MS rehabilitation researcher in a research intensive university).

Interested individuals should forward: (1) Curriculum vitae, (2) A copy of academic transcripts, (3) Three letters of reference from experienced researchers, in MS or other relevant fields, and (4) A personal statement (not exceeding 1200 words) describing learning goals for a post-doctoral fellowship, interests in MS rehabilitation, and career aspirations. Materials should be sent to Dr. Marcia Finlayson, Department of Occupational Therapy, 1919 W. Taylor (MC 811), Chicago, IL, 60612.

Applications received by May 15th, 2010 will receive fullest consideration. General inquiries can be directed to Dr. Finlayson by e-mail: marciaf@uic.edu. Salary will be based on previous research experience and National MS Society guidelines. The University of Illinois offers an excellent benefits package.