Research Intern: Supporting Effective Partnership Strategies in Area Agencies on Aging to Improve Health Outcomes

Summary and Project Overview:
The Global Health Leadership Initiative (GHLI) harnesses the strengths of a leading research university to drive transformation in management, leadership, and organizational performance, creating stronger and more resilient health systems for all. We seek an intern to support the work, Supporting Effective Partnership Strategies in Area Agencies on Aging to Improve Health Outcomes. Services addressing social and behavioral determinants of health are associated with improved health outcomes and reductions in health care costs for older adults. Recent research suggests that patterns of collaboration among organizations providing health care and social services within a community may be related to health outcomes and that Area Agencies on Aging (AAAs) often serve as brokers for these collaborations. Accordingly, AAAs may be ideally positioned to lead the development of partnerships among health care and social services organizations.

Despite growing recognition of the importance of social determinants of health, evidence about how to effectively address them to improve health and contain costs is lacking. Our multi-site team including the Yale School of Public Health, University of California Berkeley School of Public Health, Scripps Gerontology Center at Miami University, and the National Association of Area Agencies on Aging (n4a) is conducting a project aimed at generating new insights regarding partnership strategies used by AAAs.

We aim to:
1. Understand how highly partnered AAAs in regions with low levels of avoidable health care utilization for older adults establish relationships with partners in health care and other health sectors
2. Understand how such partnerships are catalyzed, developed and sustained

Key Responsibilities:
- The intern will support multiple aspects of the project, including qualitative data analysis, reviews of relevant literature
- Will work with author teams on the development of empirical manuscripts for submission to peer reviewed journals and assist broader national dissemination efforts to be led by n4a.

Skills and Abilities:
- Ability to work effectively with diverse stakeholders across professional, geographic, and cultural boundaries
- Well-developed writing skills, including the ability to write public materials and reports for various constituencies.
- Proficiency in Microsoft Office Suite programs, including Word, Excel and PowerPoint required.
- Research skills to identify best practices and conduct literature reviews
• An entrepreneurial spirit, with strong verbal and written communication skills
• Success in working with diverse teams
• Ability to use online survey tools for program evaluation
• A passion for improving global health
• Strong organizational skills
• Exposure to qualitative research methods

**Anticipated experience outcome for the student(s):**
• Working in a multidisciplinary research team
• Making science accessible through multiple approaches to dissemination
• Experience in developing reports, manuscripts, and other dissemination materials; presentation/communication of scientific findings,
• Final oral presentation to the GHLI team
• Increasing knowledge related to social and health care service organizations providing care to older adults

**Duration of Internship:** This is a full time, from June 2021 – August 2021

**Deadline and Application Process:**
• Cover letter and resume required
• Applications accepted on a rolling basis
• Applicants may apply by reaching out to Marcia Schwartz, Director of Operations at marcia.schwartz@yale.edu

**Paid or Unpaid:** Internship is contingent on successfully securing internship funding from YSPH.

*Primary contact: Marcia Schwartz marcia.schwartz@yale.edu*