

Postdoctoral Research Fellowship Behavioral and Psychosocial Topics in Behavioral and Psychosocial topics in Genomics

The Department of Medical Social Sciences at the Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine (NU/FSM) is seeking strong applicants for a new postdoctoral fellowship position. This position will provide a Fellow with an outstanding mentored research and training experience, with the goal of supporting the Fellow's growth into an independent leader in behavioral and psychosocial research on topics related to use of genomic sequencing or genetic testing in clinical care and research. The Department of Medical Social Sciences provides a unique scientific home for researchers who integrate biomedical and social science approaches to improve health and health care delivery (www.mss.northwestern.edu). Its rich resources include biostatistical and health informatics cores, expertise in assessment methods, and collaborative relationships across Northwestern's biomedical and life sciences campuses. The Fellow will also have access to outstanding resources available at Northwestern University, the Feinberg School of Medicine, and the Robert H. Lurie Comprehensive Cancer Center. The Northwestern University Office of Postdoctoral Affairs offers connections with a large community of Fellows, professional development, and career advising.

The Fellow will be mentored by Dr. Christine Rini, who is one of the principal investigators of a study of clinical diagnostic exome sequencing being conducted at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (UNC). Consequently, in addition to the resources described above, the Fellow will have the opportunity to build collaborations with an interdisciplinary research team at UNC. Because this study is part of an NIH-funded national consortium of research sites studying clinical sequencing, it will also be possible to become involved in collaborative projects with colleagues from across consortium sites. The Fellow will develop an independent line of research using a rich dataset from a completed study of diagnostic genomic sequencing in adults and children with suspected genetic disorders, and/or an ongoing study investigating diagnostic sequencing in a highly diverse population of families of children with suspected genetic disorders. Some possible topics include patient decision making, patient-physician communication, clarifying and optimizing patients understanding of genomic sequencing and the results it produces, responses to receiving one's own or a child's genomic sequencing findings, and use of genomic sequencing in underserved families, but other topics are possible. The Fellow may also plan new data collection relevant to genomics/genetics or in related areas. The Fellow will gain experience in grant writing and develop an individualized training plan in an environment that offers numerous opportunities for professional growth and learning. There will be ample opportunity to lead and collaborate on manuscripts.

Candidates are required to: (1) possess a PhD or other doctoral-level degree in psychology, public health, or a similar behavioral/social science discipline or be enrolled

in an accredited doctoral degree program and fulfill all degree requirements prior to program entry, and (2) be a citizen or permanent resident of the United States at the time of application. Minority applicants are encouraged. This position is supported in part by an NIH U01 research grant. It is a full-time appointment, initially for 1 year and renewable for up to 2 years. Salary and benefits are highly competitive. To apply, please send a cover letter, a curriculum vitae, and a statement describing research interests and experience to Dr. Christine Rini at Christine.rini@northwestern.edu.

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Ben Wilfond
Amy McGuire
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