

Summer Research Positions in Global Health and Technology Access Program

Are you interested in making a difference in global health?

The Program on Global Health and Technology Access (GHTA) seeks interns for paid fellowship positions during the summer of 2009.

The GHTA Program, based at the Terry Sanford Institute of Public Policy at Duke University, explores issues of globalization and health equity, particularly how to improve innovation and access to health technologies in resource-poor settings. Broadly speaking, we develop and evaluate models for innovation, sharing and access of health technologies for the poor and excluded; gauge the potential of various kinds of technology transfer to build local capacity for poor communities; examine the distributive impact of the delivery of these technologies; and measure fair returns from publicly financed research and development. Additionally, the Program acts as the Strategic Policy Unit for ReAct, a global coalition dedicated to combating antibiotic resistance, and it has also received funding from NIH's Fogarty International Center on the "Political Economy of Tobacco Control in Southeast Asia." The Program's ongoing work is also described at <http://pubpol.duke.edu/globalhealth>.

This fellowship provides an opportunity for undergraduate and graduate students to contribute meaningfully to global health research and policy work in several of the project areas of the Program on Global Health and Technology Access (GHTA): (1) access to essential medicines; (2) building a technology trust; (3) antibiotic resistance; and (4) the political economy of tobacco control.

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Access to Essential Medicines

Around the Program's access to medicines work, fellows may assist in the exploration of factors that influence innovation and affordable access of new and existing health technologies, in particular for developing countries. Research and policy efforts in this space focus on realigning incentives for neglected disease research, review of financing mechanisms, and other access to medicines policy issues.

Antibiotic Resistance

As part of the Program's role as Strategic Policy Unit for ReAct, this project attempts to curb the global trend of rising antibiotic resistance. Work for this project looks to find policies that will spur antibiotic research and to incorporate discussion of antibiotic resistance into patient safety efforts, particularly in global policy fora and in the developing world.

Building a Technology Trust

For the Program's work to build a technology trust, fellows will help to explore the possibility to pool intellectual property so as to increase access to promising genomic technologies with the support of an NIH grant. This work spans from the use of patent databases and data visualization software to legal and economic analysis. The project considers various functions for a technology trust, from lowering the

transaction costs associated with bundling intellectual property to changing norms of research to enhance R&D for neglected diseases.

Political Economy of Tobacco Control in Southeast Asia

In partnership with the Southeast Asian Tobacco Control Alliance and the American Cancer Society, the Program works with researchers and advocates in Southeast Asia to develop the regional capacity in tobacco control research. Under this NIH Fogarty grant, the program seeks to seed and inspire research with clear policy relevance and impact on tobacco smuggling, taxation, and other aspects of the political economy of tobacco.

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Examples of activities within these areas may include:

- Generating policy briefs on topics related to policy issues on access to medicines, pharmaceutical innovation for neglected diseases, intellectual property, and/or tobacco control in developing countries
- Analyzing of primary or secondary data about drug pipelines, patent landscapes, or surveys
- Conducting literature reviews and surveillance of the innovation landscape for health technologies
- Building of a database of relevant literature and resources for a research network in the developing world
- Developing technical assistance tools for researchers in the developing world
- Use of IT and visualization tools to create policy-relevant diagrams to illustrate research and innovation networks
- Supporting the preparation for and organizing of policy conferences and presentations
- Strategizing, assessing, and piloting information technology platforms for research collaboration, information sharing, and communication
- Assisting with other Program needs and tasks as they arise

Eligibility Criteria:

- Undergraduate or graduate student in public policy, public health, law, sociology, economics, or related field (applications from beyond Duke University are welcomed)
- Interest in global health, medicine, intellectual property, social network analysis, strategic use of information technology, and/or documentary studies.
- Strong interpersonal, teamwork, and communication skills essential, preferably with a track record of organizing activities
- Highly organized with capability of taking independent initiative and of multi-tasking across several projects
- Research experience, strong writing and policy analytic skills a plus
- Facility with information technology tools, statistical packages, or web design software a plus
- Experience working in global health, cross-cultural or international settings desirable

Interested candidates should email ghta@duke.edu with current resume and a cover note indicating interest plus how this position will enhance personal and/or professional development. Applications are due by April 1, 2009, but positions may fill sooner. Candidates should indicate what dates they would be available to work over the summer.