

## Health Disparities Research, Assistants Needed

**Job Description:** Researchers at San Diego State University and the Center for Behavioral and Community Health Studies are seeking a graduate-level research assistant for a multi-year NIH/NHLBI-funded study of psychosocial influences on cardiovascular risk in Mexican-American women. Three hundred women will be recruited from the community to participate in a comprehensive assessment of stress, psychosocial risk and resilient factors, socio-cultural factors, health behaviors (e.g., diet, physical activity), and bio-behavioral markers of cardiovascular risk (e.g., body mass index, waist and hip circumference, blood pressure, plasma glucose and lipids, stress hormones, blood markers of hemostatic functioning and inflammation). Women will also participate in a 2-day assessment of momentary psychosocial experiences and ambulatory blood pressure. The research is collaborative and multi-disciplinary, involving investigators from SDSU's department of Psychology (Dr. Linda Gallo, PI) and Graduate School of Public Health (Dr. John Elder, Dr. Greg Talavera and Dr. Ming Ji, co-Is), UCSD's School of Medicine (Dr. Paul Mills, Psychiatry; Dr. Elizabeth-Barrett Connor, Department of Family and Preventive Medicine, Co-Is), and other institutions (Dr. Karen Matthews, Department of Psychiatry, University of Pittsburgh; Dr. Timothy Smith, Department of Psychology, University of Utah). The study targets a high-profile research area using state-of-the-art techniques. Assistants will benefit from a rich, dynamic environment that will provide ample opportunities for learning and experience-building.

**Responsibilities:** The research assistant will contribute to numerous aspects of project implementation including: translating and testing materials and measures; conducting focus groups to pilot materials and procedures; recruiting participants via letter, telephone, and/or in-person in community settings; traveling to participant homes in the South Bay area (Chula Vista; National city) to collect physical, behavioral, and psychosocial data; providing participants with written feedback concerning their risk factor profiles; processing and storing physiological samples; creating and maintaining project databases using SPSS; uploading ambulatory and diary data using specialized software packages; creating and reproducing study materials; performing literature reviews; contributing to dissemination of research findings through publications and presentations (if desired); and performing other related duties as required or assigned.

**Requirements:** A one to two-year commitment to the laboratory; availability in the mornings (some early mornings) on **some or all days**, Monday through Thursday; possession of reliable transportation and willingness to travel locally between laboratory location in Sky Park (approximately 5 miles north of campus) and the South Bay area (approximately 5-10 miles south of campus; local travel will be reimbursed); excellent **Spanish and English** oral and written communication skills; comfort with telephone communication; strong computer skills (and preferably, knowledge of SPSS); willingness to learn and perform physical measurements; excellent organizational and interpersonal skills; ability to work independently and handle complex tasks; some background or knowledge in the life sciences. Prior research experience preferred. Must be female as we are working only with female participants.

**Salary:** \$12.00 to \$13.00 per hour (depending on experience),  
up to 20 hours per week, academic year and summer.

Please contact Wendy Davila-Fraga for more information: [wfraga@projects.sdsu.edu](mailto:wfraga@projects.sdsu.edu), or 619.594.8385