April 29, 2020

Dear Deans and Faculty of Schools of Public Health and MCH Leaders:

The Maternal and Child Health (MCH) Section of the American Public Health Association (APHA) is seeking applications for its **Student Fellows Program**. This program is an exciting and unique opportunity for students to learn more about the MCH field and to be actively engaged in the activities of the MCH Section. Please circulate this material to interested students and faculty.

Student Fellows serve for a one-year term. The 2020-2021 cohort will primarily support activities for the 100th anniversary of the MCH Section. This unique opportunity will afford Student Fellows engagement in Section-wide communications and event planning, as well as knowledge of the history of the Section. Student Fellows will also network extensively with past and present leaders of the MCH Section and other experienced professionals.

This year, each Student Fellow will have an opportunity to learn more about APHA and the MCH Section by joining a standing committee, such as Communications, Professional Development, or Membership. For the full list of standing committees, please visit [https://apha.org/apha-communities/member-sections/maternal-and-child-health/who-we-are/leadership](https://apha.org/apha-communities/member-sections/maternal-and-child-health/who-we-are/leadership). Student Fellows will also support 100th anniversary planning and activities, as described above. Members of the 2020-2021 cohort may also join a topic committee of their choice to learn more about a particular area of MCH. The list of topic committees is available at [https://apha.org/apha-communities/member-sections/maternal-and-child-health/who-we-are/committees](https://apha.org/apha-communities/member-sections/maternal-and-child-health/who-we-are/committees).

The MCH Section aims to support/offset Student Fellows’ expenses to attend the APHA Annual Meeting (MCH annual budget and travel restrictions permitting). In past years, the Section has covered conference registration and some incidentals. Please note that the level of support may vary from year to year, depending on available funds. The Student Fellows’ qualifications and responsibilities are described in the enclosed call for applications.

If you know of a student who may be interested, please take the time to nominate him or her for this opportunity by writing a letter addressing how the student meets each of the qualifications for the fellowship (see next page). In addition to the nomination letter, applications should include the following:

- Letter of interest from the student candidate that outlines his/her interest in the MCH Section and APHA, as well as how the student meets the qualifications for the Fellowship.
- Copy of the student’s most recent Curriculum Vitae or resume
- Copy of the student’s most recent unofficial transcript

**Application packets should be submitted to me, Leslie Carson, Secretary-Elect of the MCH Section, via email at lesliemcarson.419@gmail.com by June 1, 2020.** Students will be selected and notified by the first week of August 2020 and Fellowships will begin October 2020. Questions about the program can be directed to me at the email specified above. Additional information about the APHA MCH Section is available at: [https://www.apha.org/apha-communities/member-sections/maternal-and-child-health](https://www.apha.org/apha-communities/member-sections/maternal-and-child-health)

The MCH Section is committed to diverse student representation in the Section, as we recognize the tremendous contributions students of all backgrounds and interests can make to the field now and in the future. Thank you for your assistance with this important program!

Sincerely,

Leslie M. Carson, M.P.H., M.S.W.
Secretary-Elect, MCH Section, APHA
Call for Applications for MCH Section Student Fellows

Qualifications

1. Current graduate or professional student (master’s or doctoral level) in public health or related field during the 2020-2021 academic year. The student may graduate during the Fellowship term, but must be an enrolled graduate or professional student at the time of application to the Student Fellows Program AND must be enrolled at the start of the Fellowship period (October 2020).
2. Commitment to join the MCH Section of APHA and attend the annual APHA Meeting & Exposition. *(Note: The Section has limited funds to assist in covering Fellows’ costs associated with APHA meeting attendance. Students must be prepared to assume expenses associated with meeting attendance.)*
3. Outstanding student scholarship (e.g., graduate school GPA and honors)
4. Outstanding student leadership (e.g., school or community leadership activities)
5. Commitment to MCH populations and demonstrated MCH-related interest

MCH Fellowship Opportunities

1. Learn more about the field of MCH, APHA, and the MCH Section
2. Meet key leaders in the MCH field and build a professional network of MCH colleagues
3. Become actively engaged in the activities of the MCH Section
4. Learn more about what it means to be a leader in MCH
5. Contribute to the field of MCH and the work of the MCH Section

MCH Fellowship Description and Responsibilities

1. Program goals are:
   a. Student Fellows will develop leadership skills in order to affect future change in the field of MCH.
   b. Student Fellows will receive adequate networking opportunities throughout the program.
   c. Upon program completion, Student Fellows will pursue leadership positions within the MCH Section.
   d. Upon program completion, Student Fellows will remain members of the MCH Section.
2. Student Fellows will be matched with MCH Section standing committees in their areas of interest, to the extent possible. Fellows will be expected to participate in the various activities related to the 100th anniversary of the MCH Section. Fellows also have the option to join a Section standing committee.
3. All Student Fellows must attend the APHA Annual Meeting & Exposition, whether it is held in-person or online. Fellows must attend the MCH Section Business and Leadership meetings and the Martha May Eliot Awards Luncheon held during the meeting. Each Fellow will also partner with another Section member to staff a two-hour block of time at the MCH Section booth for the exposition. The theme for APHA’s 2020 Annual Meeting & Exposition is *Creating the Healthiest Nation: Preventing Violence*. The meeting will be held in San Francisco, CA, from Oct. 24 to October 28, 2020.
4. Fellows participate in monthly leadership development conference calls that will begin after the annual meeting, as well as complete a specific project of interest during the Fellowship year.
Application Contents (Applications are due June 1, 2020)

Please consolidate the following items into a single pdf file for submission:

1. Letter of nomination from a Graduate School or professional faculty member or past or current MCH Section Leader, addressing how the nominee meets the fellowship qualifications.
2. Letter of interest from the student candidate. The letter should outline the student’s interest in the MCH Section and APHA. The letter should clearly address how the student meets the criteria listed in the Qualifications section above.
3. Copy of the student’s most recent Curriculum Vitae or resume.
4. Copy of the student’s unofficial transcript for his/her current graduate or professional program.

Application Submission

Please email completed applications to Leslie Carson, MCH Section Secretary-Elect, at lesliemcarson.419@gmail.com by 11:59 PM ET on June 1, 2020.

Frequently Asked Questions

Please see the MCH Section Student Fellows Program Application Frequently Asked Questions document.