



ASSISTANT RESEARCH SCIENTIST / GROUP LEADER

The NYU Child Study Center (CSC), an independent outpatient clinical and research center of the NYU School of Medicine, seeks a highly organized, motivated individual to serve as an assistant research scientist on a large-scale, school-based intervention to improve the physical and mental health of middle-school students with asthma.

Responsibilities: (a) recruit students with asthma and their parents from participating middle schools; (b) interview students and parents every two months; (c) lead psycho-educational support groups for participating students; (d) assist in the delivery of group workshops to parents of participating students; (e) data entry, management and analysis; and (f) assist study investigators in retention efforts.

Qualifications: Minimum of a Bachelor's degree in Psychology, Public Health or related field; Master's preferred. Experience in group facilitation is required. Group facilitation may be in health education (e.g., asthma, HIV, diabetes) or psychology (e.g., therapy groups); teaching experience may be substituted for group facilitation in some cases. Research experience required. This may include interviewing, data entry, data analysis, use of standardized assessment tools, recruitment of participants/patients, literature searches, and writing of literature reviews. Experience working with children or adolescents, and parents strongly preferred. Bilingual [Spanish-English] strongly preferred. Minimum two-year commitment required. Must possess excellent interpersonal and organizational skills. Flexibility and willingness to work evenings and weekends are necessary as are strong computer skills.

Nature of the Study: Using a randomized control design, we are evaluating the efficacy of a family-focused, school-based intervention to teach 11- to 14-year-olds with asthma and their caregivers to successfully manage the illness by improving family relations and asthma management skills. The intervention, based on social-cognitive theory and family-systems theories, consists of two complementary components: (a) a school-based curriculum to empower middle school students to manage their asthma and (b) a parent training curriculum to teach caregivers childrearing skills that support the youth's growing autonomy and need to self-manage the disease. Students and caregivers will meet weekly in their respective groups for up to 6 weeks and individually with project assistants or group leaders for make-up sessions as needed. The study is significant because it is among the first to evaluate the impact of asthma education and group support to 11- to 14-year-olds and it is the first to couple such youth groups with parent training strategies to enhance parent-child relations as a means of improving asthma management.

This full-time position is funded by the National Institutes of Health for five years; we are currently in the 2nd year. The position affords the opportunity to work in a stimulating environment with researchers and clinicians committed to bridging the gap between science and practice and integrating the finest research with patient care. Opportunities for independent research, grant writing and manuscript preparation available. Interested candidates should email a resume to **Lynne Unikel, Ph.D.** at **Lynne.Unikel@med.nyu.edu** or call Dr. Unikel at **(212) 263-3693**.

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