Increasing diversity in obesity research.
Overview

The University of Houston Obesity Health Disparities (OHD) Program is designed to train, mentor, and sustain early career investigators from backgrounds underrepresented in the biomedical and behavioral sciences to become highly talented, independent investigators in obesity and obesity health disparities research.

Fellows will receive:

- **Training** in the interdisciplinary research skills needed to develop successful careers in obesity health disparities research.
- **Mentoring** from faculty who have extensive experience in obesity and obesity health disparities research.
- **Support** for research project development through critical review of early proposal drafts, mock study sections, and acquisition of pilot data and funds through small research projects.
- **Networking** opportunities to build professional relationships with a diverse group of researchers, scholars, and NIH program officials at scientific meeting, including an annual conference in Bethesda, Maryland hosted by the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute (NHLBI) and the PRIDE program.
- **Ongoing support** through the OHD PRIDE Alumni Network that provides additional research support, online training sessions, and continuous monitoring of career objectives.

About PRIDE

The Programs for Inclusion and Diversity Among Individuals Engaged in Health Related Research, collectively referred to as PRIDE, were established to mentor early-career faculty and transitioning postdoctoral fellows whose backgrounds are currently underrepresented in biomedical research. PRIDE helps these early career investigators gain the knowledge and behavioral tools they need to carry out independent and meaningful research and advance their careers. This initiative is funded by NHLBI.
Program Components

Summer Institute I
Participate in a 10-day Summer Institute in Year 1 delivered in a phased, hybrid format, and a 5-day Summer Institute in Year 2.

Mid-year Meeting
A two-day, in-person meeting in which fellows receive critical feedback on analysis, manuscript drafts, and conference abstracts to be presented at the PRIDE Annual Meeting.

PRIDE Annual Meeting
A three-day, scientific conference in Bethesda, Maryland where fellows will present results from their small research projects, meet NHLBI program officers, and network with fellows from other PRIDE sites.

Summer Institute II
A five-day, interactive program in Houston, Texas, where fellows will participate in intensive writing accountability groups, receive critical reviews of manuscripts, and finalize plans for future federal grant applications.

The OHD PRIDE Alumni Network
Professional development seminars focusing on topics including participating in mock study sections, developments in obesity research, grants management, and promotion and tenure.

Participant Details
Each year OHD PRIDE seeks to accept eight (8) research-oriented individuals from backgrounds underrepresented in the biomedical and behavioral sciences.

Eligibility Criteria:
- Education/Degree (clinical or research doctoral degrees such as PhD, MD, MBBS, DO, DrPH, EdD or equivalent)
- Full-Time Faculty Appointment (or Transitioning Post-doctoral fellow)
- An early stage investigator
- Demonstrated primary commitment/interest to heart, lung, blood disorders research or relevant cross-cutting areas.
- Citizen of the United States OR a permanent resident of the U.S.

Individuals from groups identified by the National Science Foundation (NSF) as underrepresented in the biomedical, clinical, behavioral, and social sciences (see NIH Notice NOT OD-20-031) are encouraged to apply.

Application Process
The application process for the OHD PRIDE program will be managed through the Coordination Core of the NHLBI-sponsored PRIDE programs.

Applicants should complete and submit a PRIDE pre-application form (and a full application, if invited) through the PRIDE Coordination Core website.

To submit a pre-application form, please visit PRIDE Coordination Core (wustl.edu) application page.

The target for application submission is May 1, 2024 with a rolling deadline until all positions are filled.