Research Associate at Harvard/MGH

Opioids Systems Modeling

The Institute for Technology Assessment at Massachusetts General Hospital and Harvard Medical School seeks a research associate for developing an opioids systems model. This model aims to improve and inform the national-level decision and policy making necessary to address the opioid crisis.

Working in an interdisciplinary research group, the candidate will help with data analysis and model quantification, verifying its ability to provide realistic outputs historically and into the future. The verified model will be used to answer key policy questions and identify the best combination of interventions to combat the opioid crisis. The model is developed using system dynamics with close collaboration with the FDA. Candidates are expected to have some data analytics background, exposure to opioid databases (NSDUH, TEDS, and CDC’s WONDER, among others), and familiarity with the literature related to opioids.

This position is best for individuals interested in building their data analytics portfolio, especially those planning to apply for PhD/MD programs in the future. This is a one-year position, with the expectation of renewal for a second year upon mutual consent. The researcher will directly report to the Principal Investigator (Dr. Jalali). Selected candidates are expected to join the project as soon as possible.

PRINCIPAL DUTIES & RESPONSIBILITIES:

Anticipated responsibilities include:

1) Statistical analysis of various opioid datasets as well as data visualization
2) Review and assimilation of the opioid literature
3) Documenting the workflow and data analysis procedure
4) Providing support in generating parameter inputs and running of the simulation model
5) Providing support for developing and updating the project website and disseminating the results
6) Composition of presentations & presentation of the results
7) Commensurate with experience and motivation, opportunity exists to participate in scientific manuscript preparation and writing

Creative thinking, ability to work independently, willingness to learn new software and skills, and the ability to handle multiple tasks are expected. Priority goes to highly motivated and organized individuals, committed to doing impactful research, with great attention to details.

SKILLS & COMPETENCIES REQUIRED:

- A strong interest in public health and health policy aspects related to the opioid research
- Experience with at least one statistical software (Stata or SAS preferred)
- Exposure to programming
- Excellent writing skills for contributing to article writing
- Ability to perform literature searches and critically analyze the literature
- Strong work ethic and excellent organization skills
EDUCATION:
Minimum Required: Bachelor’s degree
Preferred: Master’s degree

FIELD OF STUDY:
Public health, epidemiology, biostatistics, psychology, social sciences, and other similar fields. Familiarity with opioid research (data analysis and population-based outcome research or policy analytics) is a requirement. Familiarity with simulation/mathematical/statistical modeling is a plus, but not a requirement.

EXPERIENCE:
Zero to two years of research or working experience

WORKING CONDITIONS:
Candidates will work closely with Dr. Jalali in a collaborative, productive, and friendly research team at the Institute for Technology Assessment: 101 Merrimac St, Boston, MA 02114. Access to desktop or laptop computer with relevant software, local area network and printer access, telephone services, and general office supplied as needed.

HOW TO APPLY:
Send your CV and a cover letter to Dr. Mohammad Jalali (‘MJ’) at msjalali@mgh.harvard.edu——(subject line: Research Associate). Feel free to ask any questions.

DEADLINE:
No hard deadline but applicants are recommended to submit their applications as soon as possible.