

Graduate Student Researcher (GSR) Needed at UCSF for Pregnancy- and Newborn- Related Research



Preterm birth (gestational age at < 37 completed weeks gestation), is the leading cause of infant mortality and morbidity. Risk factors associated with preterm birth include social factors like racism, poverty, and exposure to environmental contaminants (based on neighborhood of residence), and related clinical factors like maternal hypertension, diabetes, and infection. Most recently, infection with the virus that causes COVID-19 during pregnancy has been linked to an increased risk of preterm birth. Black and Brown women, birthing people, and their babies are at the highest risk of preterm birth and adverse outcomes associated with preterm birth.

The **Healthy Outcomes of Pregnancy for Everyone (HOPE)** study and the **Prediction Of Maturity, Morbidity, and Mortality in PreTerm Infants (PROMPT)** study are working to better understand what factors lead to preterm birth and what factors contribute to better or worse outcomes in babies born preterm. These studies also examine what factors contribute to the pervasive race/ethnic and socioeconomic inequities in both the rate of preterm birth and in adverse outcomes (e.g. death or major complications) in infants with preterm birth.

In partnership with stakeholders from the UCSF California Preterm Birth Initiative (**PTBi-CA**), the University of Iowa, the Benioff Center for Microbiome Medicine (**BCMM**), and others, HOPE and PROMPT teams prospectively enroll and partner with pregnant people and infants in these two studies. Participants in HOPE enroll during pregnancy. These people and their infants are followed until 18-months after birth. This study includes two arms – a survey only arm (which involves completing surveys online only) and a survey + testing arm which includes survey collection, use of wearable and digital technologies, and the collection of biospecimens (e.g. blood, baby urine). Preterm infants born at < 32 weeks are enrolled in PROMPT during their stay in the neonatal intensive care Unit (NICU) at UCSF or at the University of Iowa. Clinical data is collected for these babies as are biospecimens.

The HOPE and PROMPT teams are looking to add 1-2 GSRs to their team (wherein the number hired will be dependent on time each is able to dedicate). The GSRs will perform under the general direction of the study Principal Investigators (Dr. Laura Jelliffe-Pawlowski, Dr. Elizabeth Rogers), senior study epidemiologists, and the lead clinical research coordinator. Depending on time commitment and study needs, GSRs may be assigned to one study or both but will work with a faculty and support team with commitments across HOPE and PROMPT studies.

Incumbent duties may include, but will not be limited to: helping with participant enrollment in HOPE and PROMPT, providing participant support for HOPE and PROMPT (including helping with compensation for participation, supporting the management of participant data in HOPE and PROMPT, aiding in the transfer of study biospecimens to testing labs, participating in the presentation of study results, and help and participation in the writing and presentation of results). Those hired may also help with grants and other funding requests to help support study activities as well as with helping with the management and submission of human subjects (IRB) proposals and modifications.

Location and schedule:

Most work is on-site in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) at the UCSF Benioff Children's Hospital in San Francisco (1975 4th St, San Francisco, CA 94158). Some work and meetings will happen online or nearby the hospital at the UCSF HOPE, PROMPT, or PTBi-CA Offices (UCSF Mission Bay). GSRs are expected to help transport specimens (a maximum of two times per week via the campus shuttle) from UCSF Mission Bay to the UCSF School of Nursing (2 Koret Way, San Francisco, CA 94143).

Highly flexible on schedule but prefer people with some evening and weekend availability to help cover different times of births. Prefer ability to commit to a minimum 6-month period and prefer at least 1-year.

Minimum qualifications:

- 1) High School graduation and sufficient experience and demonstrated skills to successfully perform the assigned duties and responsibilities.
- 2) Attention to detail; strong interpersonal skills; excellent, effective verbal and written communication skills to coordinate with subjects, team members, other departments and outside institutions; and the ability to multi-task in a fast-paced environment while working with a diverse subject population.
- 3) Ability to work well independently, complete projects in a timely manner, and prioritize multiple projects to ensure the completion of essential tasks by deadlines.

Qualifications that an ideal candidate would possess, but are not required for a candidate to be considered for the position:

- 4) Understanding of patient population (and especially working with minority populations) to create rapport and a relationship, while also giving insight to what is realistic and appropriate for patient participation.
- 5) Experience with electronic medical records.
- 6) Knowledge of UCSF and departmental policies for dealing with reimbursement, guidelines for research, confidentiality and HIPPA regulations, following the UCSF mission statement and purpose for research, and a clear understanding of policies and procedures on patient safety and confidentiality (electronic and hard copy medical records, patient charts, communication, etc.); knowledge of medical terminology, research policies and guidelines, guidelines for packing/shipping infectious substances database building/analysis, and data management within some of the following: Access, Stata, SASS/SPSS, and Teleform programming platforms.
- 7) Experience applying the following regulations and guidelines:
 - a. Good Clinical Practice Guidelines
 - b. Health Information and Accountability Act (HIPAA)
 - c. The Protection of Human Research Subjects
 - d. CHR regulations for recruitment and consent of research subjects
 - e. Effective Cash Handling Procedures
 - f. Environmental Health and Safety Training
 - g. Fire Safety Training
- 8) Fluent in Spanish – both with respect to writing and verbal skills.
- 9) Licensed in phlebotomy with experience in working with adult, pediatric, and infant populations.

Compensation in keeping with UCSF GSR guidelines (<https://www.ucop.edu/academic-personnel-programs/files/2022/oct-2021-scales/t22.pdf>) depending on experience (with fee remuneration for appointments of 25-50%).

Ideal start would be in early to mid-May 2022. If interested, please send a current resume along with a cover letter to Dr. Laura Jelliffe-Pawlowski at Laura.Jelliffe@UCSF.edu.

In your cover letter (maximum 2 pages) please address the following (applications will not be considered that do not answer these questions in detail).

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- a) Quick introduction – Please introduce yourself and why in general you would like to be considered for this position.
- b) Why do you think this position fits your current and future personal, educational, and professional needs?
- c) What do you hope to gain from this experience?
- d) Work availability. Please include the following in your letter:

Start date available (earliest May 16th, latest start data June 13th)

Days and times of the week available to work:

How many hours a week are you available to work: (minimum – maximum)

How long are you able to commit to this position (understanding of course that unexpected events arise): 6-months (minimum), 9-months, 12-months, longer?

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- e) Please describe in detail how you meet the minimum qualifications for the job as described in 1-3 above.
- f) Please describe in detail what preferred qualifications for the job as described in 4-9 above you possess – please provide additional detail you feel would be helpful for reviewers to consider.

Separate page

- g) Please provide the names, positions, and contact information for three professional references (a minimum of one of which should be an academic contact (previous or current teacher or mentor) and a minimum of one which should be a current or previous supervisor). *References will only be contacted after your zoom interview and with your permission.*

Applications due by April 29th but please submit ASAP as interviews will be scheduled for the most qualified applicants on an on-going, rolling basis. Must be available for interview by zoom during the first week of May.