

Digital Wellness Lab Research Fellow

The Digital Wellness Lab (DWL) is seeking candidates for a one-year fully funded postdoctoral research fellowship at Boston Children's Hospital, a teaching hospital of Harvard Medical School, with the potential to renew for a second year.

The Digital Wellness Lab seeks to deepen our collective understanding of what digital wellness looks like in practice and how to foster it within existing and emerging technologies. We investigate how interactive media usage impacts the health and development of young people and provide evidence supporting strategies, tools, and best practices for media and technology use and design that support and promote wellness and healthy development.

Our research is focused on work that can inform meaningful, timely outreach and engagement materials for key stakeholders and/or have a direct application to enhancing digital wellness within industry design and approach. Timeliness is of the essence, given the scope of the challenge and the pace of technological change, so we aim to balance long-range academic research with quick turnaround research for understanding and application.

While we anticipate that the post-doctoral fellow will contribute to many of our research projects and outreach programs, the focus of the position is to study the effects of emerging technologies in the realm of social media on young people's mental health. We seek to answer questions including: What are the existing patterns of positive and negative effects of interactive media and technology; how are they mediated by behaviors, demographics, experiences, and other contexts; and how might they exist in future interactive media and technologies?

We aim to use these deeper understandings to inform outreach and engagement efforts and to identify what we can do now to design wellness into the foundations of interactive and immersive technologies, media, applications, and related supports.

The selected Fellow will be an essential part of the Lab's research team and will be expected to participate in data analysis and to lead and/or co-author the writing of scientific manuscripts. Publications will include those prescribed by the existing study protocols, as well as those conceived by the post-doctoral Fellow. Time will also be held for the Fellow to pursue independent work under the mentorship of the Lab's Director and Lead Research Scientist. A Research Assistant and Research Coordinator will help support the work of the Fellow.

The successful candidate will have access to career development opportunities throughout Boston Children's Hospital and the Division of Adolescent/Young Adult Medicine including workshops with an interdisciplinary group of fellows covering writing, teaching, qualitative methods, and other topics. Courses or additional training at Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health may also be made available.

The fellowship can begin at the earliest convenience of the successful candidate, preferably on or before June 1, 2022 but no later than September 1, 2022.

Compensation includes salary commensurate with NIH guidelines for post-doctoral fellows (<https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-OD-17-003.html>) and a generous benefits package. Candidates should be based within the Boston metro area or able to relocate for the duration of their fellowship. The successful fellowship candidate will be considered for an appointment as a Research Fellow at Harvard Medical School. Following a successful second year of the post-doctoral fellowship, additional years are possible but the fellow would be expected to obtain independent funding.

Minimum Requirements

- Ph.D. (or equivalent) in developmental psychology, communications, human development, public health or related field (awarded or anticipated)
- Strong data analysis skills with a preference for experience using developmental data and proficiency in SAS, STATA, or SPSS (at least some experience with the latter)
- Excellent written and oral communication skills
- Strong publication track record or evidence of the ability to develop one
- Ability to perform as a team member and good interpersonal skills

- Ability to work independently and effectively

Position responsibilities can include:

- Formulating original research from an existing dataset
- Conducting cross-sectional and longitudinal data analyses
- Writing scientific manuscripts for peer-reviewed journals
- Presenting research findings at local, national, and international meetings
- Working collaboratively with an interdisciplinary team
- Participating in divisional and hospital fellowship requirements, including attending workshops and short-term courses.

Applications are due by May 1st, 2022.

Please include all of the following documents in your application:

- CV
- A cover letter describing your research interests and how they are in line with the mission of the Digital Wellness Lab and the specific goals of the fellowship
- One representative publication
- Names and contact information for at least three references

To apply please email the above materials to Michael Rich, MD MPH and David Bickham, PhD at dwl@childrens.harvard.edu with the subject line “[Your Last Name] Research Fellow” no later than 11:59 EDT, Sunday, May 1, 2022.