

Research Scientist (Healthy Communities & Healthy Individual Behaviours)

Location: Calgary, Alberta, Canada

Requisition #: ALB00215835 & ALB00194379

Salary Range: \$34.52 - \$59.20 per hour

Job Type: Regular Full Time

Your Opportunity:

The Provincial Knowledge, Evidence, and Innovation (PKEI) team within Provincial Population and Public Health (PPPH) at AHS is seeking two Research Scientists to play key leadership roles in reaching its cancer prevention and screening goals and objectives.

- [Research Scientist - Healthy Communities](#)
- [Research Scientist - Healthy Individual Behaviours](#)

Our goal is to reduce new cancer cases, detect cancer at earlier stages (when improved outcomes are more likely), and decrease unjust and avoidable difference in cancer risk. Our purpose is to collaborate with health system and community partners to translate new knowledge into innovative, scalable cancer prevention and screening interventions to reduce modifiable cancer risk factors in defined populations, including those with high need, and ensure proven strategies are transitioned to sustained province-wide initiatives. Our work takes a settings-based approach and is structured around improving key environments that shape the health of individuals and families in Alberta, namely communities, workplaces, health services, and virtual.

To accomplish these goals our strategic objectives are: (1) delivery of a visionary, engaging strategy that takes a settings-based approach to addressing social determinants and enhancing prevention and screening; (2) implementation of innovative, scalable initiatives that reduce the risk of cancer and chronic disease while promoting the health of people living in Alberta more broadly and reducing unjust and avoidable differences in health outcomes; (3) alignment with stakeholders and sharing information and findings effectively to support the transition of successful projects into sustainable operations, and (4) efficient conversion of resources to results.

The successful candidates will join a dynamic team of researchers and practitioners who are committed to making a difference in cancer prevention and screening in Alberta.

Description:

The Research Scientists will lead and provide direction and ensure scientific rigor on applied health research initiatives, and work collaboratively with a multi-disciplinary team both internal and external to the PKEI.

Healthy Communities Stream

The Healthy Communities Stream aims to support communities to build capacity and plan, implement, and evaluate comprehensive interventions to promote prevention and screening.

This includes the development of innovative community-based interventions that will promote action on the Social Determinants of Health (SDOH) and build supportive environments that positively impact Modifiable Risk Factors (MRFs) for cancer prevention.

Current areas of innovation for cancer prevention in the Community Stream include using a Healthy Communities approach to mobilize local communities to prioritize, design and implement upstream interventions that support cancer prevention and overall health.

The successful candidate will contribute to these key projects as outlined in the business plan, as well as develop new innovations in collaboration with key partners and in response to priorities and needs of the people who live, learn, work, and play in Alberta. It is expected that the successful candidate displays competencies in the core principles of equity, accountability, collaboration, and scientific rigor.

Furthermore, the successful candidate must be able to integrate best available research evidence, population characteristics, values and needs, available resources and expertise and environmental and organizational context into all new innovations to ensure both effectiveness and sustainability.

Individual & Families Innovation Stream

The Individuals and Families Innovation Stream aims to motivate, influence, and enable individual Albertans and families, including those who are vulnerable to poorer health outcomes, to reduce their cancer risk and increase appropriate use of cancer screening.

This includes the development of innovative virtual and settings-based interventions that will promote healthy behaviours for cancer prevention through mechanisms that influence social norms and decision-making of individuals where they live, learn, work, play and seek care. Because of the intersection of the Individuals and Families Innovation Stream with other settings-based innovation areas, the successful candidate may also play a leadership role in collaborative research projects occurring in the Workplace, Community, or Health Services Innovation Streams.

Current areas of innovation for cancer prevention in the Individuals and Families Innovation Stream include the development of innovative virtual systems to promote engagement, awareness and behaviour changes as well as research to better understand social influencers and norms for Human Papillomavirus (HPV) immunization.

The successful candidate will contribute to these key projects as outlined in the business plan, as well as develop new innovations in collaboration with key partners and in response to priorities and needs of the people of Alberta.

Healthy Communities

Required Qualifications:

A PhD and a minimum of 5 years of experience in Implementation Science, Population or Public Health, Community Health Sciences, Anthropology, Sociology, or a related field (can include doctoral/post-doctoral work).

Expertise in evidence synthesis, co-design, implementation, and evaluation of settings-based interventions. Ability to work with other researchers in the field (locally, provincially, nationally) to determine interventions that will have the most impact on cancer prevention. Experience providing direction and mentoring to research and evaluation associates/assistants.

Experience in community-based participatory research and intervention design. Experience creating knowledge products for academic and public audiences. A demonstrated clear pattern of professional and personal development. Excellent interpersonal and communication (written and verbal) skills. Excellent critical appraisal skills. Strong conceptual and problem-solving skills. Demonstrated ability to work independently and in a team setting.

Healthy Individuals Behaviours

Required Qualifications:

A PhD and a minimum of 5 years of experience in Implementation Science, Population or Public Health, Epidemiology, Anthropology, Sociology, Social Marketing, Cancer Prevention, or a related field (can include doctoral/post-doctoral work).

Expertise in evidence synthesis, co-design, implementation, and evaluation of individual level AND/OR settings-based interventions (i.e., virtual/online and or workplaces).

It is expected that the successful candidate displays competencies in the core principles of equity, accountability, collaboration, and scientific rigor. Furthermore, the successful candidate must be able to integrate best available research evidence, population characteristics, values and needs, available resources and expertise and environmental and organizational context into all new innovations to ensure both effectiveness and sustainability.

Preferred Qualifications:

Experience managing multidisciplinary projects that involve multiple stakeholders. Proven ability to liaise with senior leaders in health service organizations, universities, government, and other marketing agencies/organizations. Strong ability to plan, organize and manage short and long-term projects and deliver customer-focused results. Experience with strategic and business planning, budgeting and operations management would be an asset.

Apply today and join our dynamic team:

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