

## 2013 NIDA Summer Internship Program

### Washington

<b>Investigator:</b>	Karl G. Hill, Ph.D.
<b>Institution:</b>	University of Washington, Social Development Research Group, Seattle, Washington – <a href="http://www.ssdp-tip.org">www.ssdp-tip.org</a>
<b>Research Area:</b>	Gene-Environment Influences on Tobacco, Alcohol and Other Drug Addiction
<b>Project Title:</b>	Gene-Environment Interplay in the Development of Drug Abuse, HIV Sexual Risk Behavior and Comorbid Problems
<b>Start Date, Program Length:</b>	6/17/2013 -10 Weeks
<b>Housing Available:</b>	Yes
<b>High School Students</b>	No
<b>Undergraduate Students</b>	Yes
<b>Student Attributes:</b>	Seeking undergraduate students from disciplines such as psychology, social welfare, public health and allied disciplines. A strong interest in the topic of the grant and an interest in drug prevention are important. DNA and environmental data are already collected, and we are in the analysis phase. Although sophisticated research and statistical skills are not required, the students should be comfortable with a quantitative social science approach. These are among the skills that will be gained in the internship. Also, although not a requirement, there may be an opportunity for students to attend the annual Society for Prevention Research meeting.

#### **Project Description:**

This lab would enjoy mentoring one or two (preferably two) undergraduate students interested in working to understand how genes and environmental factors work together to affect the development of addiction. The Seattle Social Development Project (SSDP) is a long-term study that looks at the development of positive and problem behaviors among adolescents and young adults. J. David Hawkins founded the study in the early 1980s, and Karl G. Hill is currently the Principal Investigator. The SSDP study began in 1985 with 808 fifth-grade students from 18 elementary schools in the Seattle Public School District. These participants and their parents have been interviewed thirteen times, most recently at age 35. For the present gene-environment study, SSDP has partnered with two other longitudinal studies: the Raising Healthy Children Project (RHC, Richard F. Catalano, PI) and projects from the Minnesota Center for Twin and Family Research (MCTFR, Matthew McGue, and William Iacono, PIs). The goal of the study is to learn how, at different developmental periods, environmental factors might amplify or reduce genetic vulnerability to tobacco and alcohol problems. The genetic and environmental data have all been collected, and the lab is now in the analysis phase of the study. The student interns would join the SSDP team of five investigators and four doctoral students, who would also help mentor their development. SSDP and RHC are two studies at the larger research center called the Social Development Research Group. SDRG is a nationally-recognized, interdisciplinary team of researchers working to understand and promote healthy behaviors and positive social development among diverse populations. SDRG conducts research on factors that influence development, develops and tests the effectiveness of preventive interventions, and works with communities to design and adopt science-based solutions to health and behavior problems. The student interns will also benefit from becoming involved in the SDRG-wide community and activities.

Complete application materials and other project descriptions:

<http://www.drugabuse.gov/about-nida/organization/offices/office-nida-director-od/special-populations-office-spo/research-training-opportunities>