Potential Research Plan - Biobehavioral Cancer Prevention and Training Program

Name of Post Doctoral Applicant:

Mentors Identified:

Your research plan is a map for your career as a research science professional. It is your chance to demonstrate your intellectual vision and aspirations. It's also an opportunity to begin to demonstrate the creative and independent thinking required of a successful scientist. The most important element of the proposal is the plan of work for the term of the postdoc. You need to explain a specific plan — a month-by-month or term-by-term schedule of the research, writing, and publishing that will be accomplished during the postdoctoral fellowship.  A second important element is to show how your work relates – in specific and concrete ways – to the BCPT program and your mentors research.

In general, think about the following things:

1. Topic:

Present your topic and state clearly why it is important to study it. Please bear in mind that an idea is not the same as a topic; to formulate your topic, you must define your subject area, select an approach, familiarize yourself with previous research and place your study in that context. What is already known about the topic?

1. Formulate your research problem and related research questions in as much detail as possible. What are you actually studying? Formulate your research questions in such a way that you can answer them.
2. Explain how you will answer your research questions. If your study is empirical, your research plan should specify your research data and methods. You can describe them in more detail later but try to be as specific as possible. How will you access or produce your data? How will you acquire your research subjects? How will you analyze your data?
3. Draw up a schedule describing when and how you will conduct your study and when you plan to publish your findings. State what you will do or accomplish in year 1 and in year 2.

Example format

**Summary:** Research including publication plans, classes, other

Put in background material to give the context/relevance/significance of your research.

List major findings, outcomes, and implications.

Describe both current and planned (future) research.

Communicate a sense that your research will follow logically from what you have done and that it will be unique, significant, and innovative.

**Year 1:**

Your specific goals for the year

Topic 1 or Question 1:

* Methods (what will you do)
* Data Sources
* Analyses
* Publication goals

Topic 2 or Question 2:

* Methods (what will you do, how do you plan to do it, what resources will you use)
* Data Sources
* Analyses
* Publication goals

Other Publication plans (for past projects, mentor’s project, etc)

Coursework

**Year 2:**

Your specific goals for the year

Topic 3 or Question 3:

* Methods (what will you do)
* Data Sources
* Analyses
* Publication goals

Topic 4 or Question 4:

* Methods (what will you do)
* Data Sources
* Analyses
* Publication goals

Other Publication plans

Coursework

Networking plans

Grantwriting plans