

POSITION DESCRIPTION - **Research Scientist** (100%)
Social Development Research Group - University of Washington

The Social Development Research Group (SDRG) at the University of Washington is seeking a Research Scientist to work on the **Seattle Social Development Project** (SSDP; Karl G. Hill, PI) to join us in *investigating person/gene-environment interplay in the development of tobacco and alcohol use disorder*.

SDRG, part of the School of Social Work, is a nationally recognized, multi-disciplinary group of more than 60 researchers and staff members united in a common mission: To understand and promote healthy behaviors and positive social development among children, adolescents, and young adults by:

- conducting research on factors that influence development;
- testing the effectiveness of interventions;
- studying service systems and working to improve them;
- presenting science-based solutions to health and behavior problems; and
- disseminating knowledge produced by this research.

More information about SDRG is available on the web at www.sdrg.org.

Started in 1985 by David Hawkins and Richard Catalano, SSDP has focused on understanding childhood, adolescent and young adult risk and protective factors predictive of substance abuse, risky sexual behavior, delinquency, crime, and related health and behavior problems; on understanding the consequences of adolescent and adult drug use; and on the short and long term effects of preventive intervention in the elementary grades on achievement, bonding, violence, drug use, risky sexual behavior, sexually transmitted disease, and other outcomes. SSDP is a gender balanced, community-based sample over-representing youths from high-crime neighborhoods. The study includes DSM-IV diagnoses as well as other categorical and quantitative measures of substance abuse and related phenotypes of demonstrated heritability. The project is expanding the assessment battery to include DNA to investigate how gene-environment interplay influences the development of tobacco and alcohol dependence and related risk behavior from early adolescence through mid-adulthood. SSDP investigators are joined by members of the Institute for Behavioral Genetics (University of Colorado, Boulder), a leading center for behavioral and molecular genetic studies in the US, whose investigators have a history of successful collaboration with other longitudinal studies of health and behavior. The Research Scientist will work in a collegial setting as a collaborator with the SSDP and IBG project teams, under the supervision of the Principal Investigator.

RESPONSIBILITIES:

- Conduct statistical analyses on person-environment interplay in the development of tobacco and alcohol use disorder, using advanced statistical analysis techniques, including multilevel modeling, growth curve modeling, survival analysis, structural equation modeling, and multiple imputation analysis.
- Participate in analysis and writing teams in the preparation of scholarly publications; assist with the preparation of project reports.
- Assist the project team in developing, documenting and maintaining analysis data sets.
- Present project findings at local and national conferences.
- Develop own line of inquiry over time within SDRG.

Requirements:

- PhD degree in psychology, public health, epidemiology, sociology, social work, behavioral neuroscience, behavioral genetics or related field.
- Strong analytical background, including experience with advanced longitudinal and epidemiological analysis techniques, such as structural equation modeling, hierarchical linear modeling, missing data procedures, as well as scale construction, and assessment of reliability and validity of measures.
- Thorough knowledge and experience using SPSS and SAS; HLM or Mplus.
- Knowledge of etiological research on human development.
- Experience working on collaborative research teams.
- Demonstrated ability to write for publication in peer-reviewed, scientific journals.
- Flexible and available for participation at local and national conferences as required.
- *Equivalent education/experience will substitute for all minimum qualifications except when there are legal requirements, such as a license/certification/registration.*

Desired:

- Experience analyzing longitudinal datasets.
- Interest in relevant substantive research areas, such as substance use, problem behavior, genetic epidemiology, behavioral genetics and social development.

Inquiries, contact: Karl G. Hill, Ph.D.: khill@u.washington.edu ; 206.685.3859

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