

Project Title/ Job Position title: Effectiveness of a telephone-based intervention for smoking cessation in patients with severe mental disorders: a pragmatic randomized controlled trial: The QuitMental

Area of Knowledge: Life sciences

Group of disciplines: Public health, Tobacco control

Research project/ Research Group description

The Tobacco Control Unit (TCU) at the Catalan Institute of Oncology is a multidisciplinary research and practice group dedicated to the study and the implementation of tobacco control policies and interventions to effectively tackle tobacco epidemic. To achieve these objectives, we evaluate several policies included in the Framework Convention on Tobacco Control. In addition, we design, implement and evaluate innovative smoking cessation and training interventions addressed to specific target populations, such as hospitalized patients, population with mental disorders, etc. The TCU has particular expertise in designing pioneering programs in the framework of health care services, due to its role as coordinator of the Catalan Network for Tobacco Free Health Care Services. This research is used to advocate future population programs and public policies. Our Unit has been a WHO Collaborating Center since 2015.

The pre-doctoral fellow will perform research tasks within the QuitMental study, a pragmatic randomized control trial funded by the Spanish Government. The QuitMental study aims to assess the effectiveness of a community quitline addressed to smokers with severe mental disorders after discharge from five adult inpatient acute units in Barcelona (whose smoking prevalence reaches up to 75%). The intervention group will receive a telephone intervention to quit smoking (including psychological and psycho-educational support and pharmacological treatment advice) proactively for 12 months, and the control group will only receive brief counselling after discharge.

The pre-doctoral researcher will perform tasks related to the study, including supervision of the implementation process, data processing and analysis. The fellow will also contribute to dissemination of the results: preparation of reports, scientific publications, and presentation of results at conferences. The researcher will work together with the Principal Investigator and the QuitMental team.

Job position description

The fellow could come from a variety of fields including the basic sciences, social sciences, public health practitioners, clinical fields and political science. The candidate will be a part of TCU Team, a young and enthusiastic unit that comprises a multidisciplinary group of professionals trained in medicine, psychology, epidemiology, nursing, statistics and other fields of health science. The TCU offers an exciting opportunity for a pre-doctoral researcher who aims to develop an outstanding research career in the field of tobacco control interventions. The selected candidate will acquire abilities to proactively and independently carry out research activities in quantitative and qualitative methodologies, communication skills, etc.

The fellow will participate in scientific and training activities organized by TCU, including scientific seminars. The candidate is expected to join a Doctoral Program in Biomedicine at the University of Barcelona to pursue a Doctoral degree. Finally, the researcher could have a short pre-doctoral stay at an international/national partner institution.

During the first year, pre-doctoral researcher will be actively involved in the conduction of the study; later the tasks will be mainly focused on data analyses and dissemination of the results: manuscripts preparation, research presentations and policy reports.

Responsibilities:

Design his/her study and research plan

- Study coordination and data collection
- Data management: cleaning, data set preparation, and data analysis
- Results interpretation
- Participation in scientific meetings
- Dissemination: publications, reports, conferences, and thesis (minimum 3 papers)
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All candidates should satisfy INPhINIT eligibility requirements. In addition, the following skills are preferred for the announced position:

- Master of Public Health, Community Health, or Health Policy
- Proven ability to work with initiative and discretion
- Proven ability to work in team environment
- Excellent written and oral communication skills
- Knowledge of Spanish or Catalan would be a benefit
- Interest in tobacco control and implementation research

Group Leader

Dr. Cristina Martínez (cmartinez@iconcologia.net)

Research project/ Research Group website: <https://www.icoprevencio.cat/uct/en/>

Related links to the position (optional)

Catalan Institute of Oncology (ICO): <http://ico.gencat.cat/en/inici/index.html>

Bellvitge Biomedical Research Institute (IDIBELL): <http://www.idibell.cat/en>

Health Universitat de Barcelona Campus: <http://hubc.ub.edu/en>

PhD Programme: <http://www.ub.edu/medicina/doctorat/programa-medicina/en/index.htm>