



## **MindCrowd: Healthy Aging Together Student Ambassadors Program**

### Organization Name:

Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics

### Organization Background:

The Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics is one of the four academic units in the Mel and Enid Zuckerman College of Public Health (MEZCOPH), University of Arizona. The college was established in 2000 and is the only public health school in the State of Arizona. The Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics is one of the oldest unit in the college. The department has epidemiology and biostatistics programs for master of public health, master of science and doctoral degrees. Faculty in the department carry out innovative research and critical public health services.

MindCrowd HAT is an ongoing research project from The Translational Genomics Research Institute (TGen) and The University of Arizona. The project aims to study millions of individuals by harnessing the power of the internet to help us understand cognitive aging and to develop strategies to slow down the process. UA researchers from across campus, including the faculty from the Department of Epidemiology at MEZCOPH, are involved in the project that will ultimately aid in the development of the Precision Aging Network research center here at UA. MindCrowd Phase 1 of the project launched in 2013. It involves online memory testing with a goal of 1 million study participants, age 18 and up. Phase 2 recruits Phase 1 test-takers for an in-person follow-up visit to donate a DNA saliva sample and undergo more in person testing.

Website: [www.MindCrowd.org](http://www.MindCrowd.org) – Take the test for yourself!

### Internship Project Title

MindCrowd Healthy Aging Together Student Ambassadors

### Project Description:

MindCrowd HAT focuses on the recruitment of local Tucson Latino of any race and Non-Latino white adults into MindCrowd. Continually, we will expand the recruitment effort into additional regions in the United States. There will be future research opportunities on other healthy aging studies, as well.

The purpose of the program is to provide undergraduate and graduate students with interdisciplinary training and research experience in population health research and marketing (online, offline and face-to-face) through working with MindCrowd HAT research project. Students will serve as student ambassadors to engage your community and to recruit participants into MindCrowd HAT. Student ambassadors will help with retention, so participants stay with the project for follow-up studies. Through

the project, the interns will receive training and work with investigators in supporting community engagement, recruitment and retention research activities for MindCrowd HAT.

The learning objectives include:

- 1) Background in cognitive aging and Alzheimer's disease.
- 2) Population health research to advance cognitive aging and Alzheimer prevention and treatment.
- 3) Principles for effective communication with diverse populations: online, offline, face-to-face.
- 4) Challenges in recruitment and retention and strategies to mitigate challenges.

Through internship activities students will gain experience:

- Working on a diverse team in a large and nation-wide population health study.
- Recruitment and retention strategies, with a special focus on community recruitment among Latinos and older adults.
- Social media and other virtual recruitment and retention initiatives.
- Survey design and administration, preliminary recruitment data analysis.

The team: TGen and The University of Arizona researchers. You will work closely with study personnel from the Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics, Mel and Enid Zuckerman College of Public Health. The internship directors will be Drs. Zhao Chen and Kate Ellingson.

The expected outcomes/deliverables include weekly recruitment reports, recruitment materials, phone calls, emails, and one final internship report. Interns will be expected to participate in weekly research team Zoom meetings.

Internship project keywords (check all that apply). These keywords help students search for internships in our database based on their areas of interest:

- |                                                                    |                                                                                                                                      |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Health Disparities             | <input type="checkbox"/> Tobacco Use                                                                                                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Public Health Preparedness                | <input type="checkbox"/> Injury/Violence Prevention                                                                                  |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Collaborations with Community  | <input type="checkbox"/> Immunization                                                                                                |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Collaborations with University | <input type="checkbox"/> Infectious Disease                                                                                          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Community health service                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Oral Health                                                                                                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Physical Activity                         | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Evaluation                                                                                       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Substance Abuse                           | <input type="checkbox"/> Policy Development                                                                                          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mental Health                             | <input type="checkbox"/> Program Planning                                                                                            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Access to care                            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Data Analysis                                                                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Nutrition                                 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other recruitment and retention, social media, marketing, health promotion, community engagement |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Reproductive/Sexual Health                |                                                                                                                                      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Environmental Health                      |                                                                                                                                      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Maternal/Infant Health                    |                                                                                                                                      |

When: When do you want the work done? Check all that apply.

- ☒Fall Semester
- ☒Spring Semester

☒ Summer Term

☒ I want this listing to remain active indefinitely and we will accept applications from students for any upcoming semester.

☐ This listing is only for a specific semester/term: \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Two-semester internship experience preferred

Where:

Organization Mailing Address: Drachman Hall 1295 N. Martin Ave. Tucson, Arizona 85724

Address where Student will work (if different from above): *Remotely*

☒ Check here if the student may have the option to work remotely from a site not listed above for all or part of this project.

Student Characteristics:

We are looking for students with interests in population health, healthy aging research, Alzheimer's and Dementia, community outreach, study coordination, health disparity and marketing. We are especially interested in students with community ties to Latino communities and Spanish speaking students.

Level of Expertise Needed:

☒ MPH

☒ Undergraduate

☒ Either

Supervision

Dr. Zhao Chen, PhD, MPH, Distinguished Professor and Chair, Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics, Mel and Enid Zuckerman College of Public Health.

Dr. Chen has been focused on epidemiologic research of women's health and aging-related health conditions. She has a wealth of experience in studying body composition assessments, breast cancer risk factors, fracture risk in cancer survivors, osteoporosis prevention, epidemiology of anemia, biomarker and genetic variations for chronic diseases and sarcopenia measurements among women and elderly from different ethnic backgrounds. She is a member of the Arizona Cancer Center, Arizona Center on Aging, Arizona Arthritis Center and Bio5.

Compensation/Benefits

There is no compensation for this opportunity. Students could be included in publications.

Application Contact Information

To apply, please email resume and a brief cover letter including your research interests, date you hope to start, and general availability to Dr. Chen at:  
Mind-Crowd@arizona.edu.