Director, Center for Obesity Research and Education

Temple University seeks a dynamic individual with strong scientific leadership, creative vision, and an outstanding record of excellence in obesity research to serve as Director for the Center for Obesity Research and Education. The Center’s mission is to advance and elevate interdisciplinary scientific knowledge, training, and education on the etiology, consequences, prevention, and treatment of obesity, particularly among minorities of lower socioeconomic status for whom obesity is most prevalent. The Directorship is a tenured position at the level of Full Professor in one of the nine academic units in the College of Public Health.

The Center for Obesity Research and Education is located on Temple University’s Health Sciences Campus and operates in 8,669 square feet of dedicated research space including a large behavioral and feeding laboratory, dedicated DEXA and Bod Pod, clinical exam rooms, and office space. Faculty expertise spans multiple disciplines including epidemiology, family dynamics, ingestive behavior, obesity medicine, food law and policy, and behavioral interventions across the lifespan. Current research encompasses underlying biological and environmental factors affecting our understanding of obesity risk, prevention and treatment among individuals, families, and communities as well as implications for policy. The Center’s faculty members serve as investigators on federal, foundation, and industry-sponsored grants with awarded costs exceeding $28M since the Center’s inception in 2006.

The Director will provide leadership in the field and within the University to a diverse set of scientists focusing on community-based behavioral and policy determinants of obesity as well as interventions to address obesity and its health disparities. The Director will work collaboratively to develop vision for the Center. The Director will actively seek external funding for research, mentor faculty, and participate in teaching activities. The Director will represent and actively promote the Center at and outside the University as an internationally-recognized leader in interdisciplinary obesity research. The Director will take primary responsibility for administrative oversight of the Center.

An urban, research-intensive university, Temple is the 31st largest university and the 6th largest provider of professional education in the nation with Schools of Law, Medicine, Pharmacy, Podiatry, and Dentistry in addition to research centers including the NCI-designated Fox Chase Cancer Center. The College of Public Health is one of 17 schools/colleges within the University and is located minutes from the historically rich and culturally vibrant center of Philadelphia.

The College of Public Health is a leader in the discovery, dissemination and integration of health related research and practice. Enrolling 4,500 students and supported by more than 160 faculty, the College includes academic departments of Communication Sciences and Disorders, Kinesiology, Nursing, Physical Therapy, and Rehabilitation Sciences (Therapeutic Recreation and
Occupational Therapy). The public health programs are found in three departments: Epidemiology/Biostatistics with a division of Environmental Health, Social and Behavioral Sciences, and Health Services, Administration and Policy with a division of Health Information Management. The College is also home to the School of Social Work.

The College has seen remarkable growth and organizational change in the shape and configuration of programs, research profile, increase in rankings, and collaboration with other academic units. In FY 2014, the College ranked 2nd of the 17 colleges/schools at Temple in research expenditures totaling more than $15 million with more than $22 million in annual awards to 44 principal investigators. The College’s innovative research focuses on medical interventions, social, behavioral, and environmental inquiries, and basic science and is sponsored by NIH, NSF, the US Department of Education, the Administration for Children and Families, HRSA, the Department of Defense, and the VA as well as by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, City of Philadelphia, and private foundations. In addition to collaborations with researchers in Temple’s other colleges and Fox Chase Cancer Center (part of the Temple Health system), there are many established interdisciplinary collaborations within this major metropolitan health center with community based organizations and health settings.

Applicants for the position of Director of the Center for Obesity Research and Education will hold a Ph.D. or M.D./Ph.D. degree in public health, psychology, epidemiology, nutrition, kinesiology, medicine, human development or other obesity-relevant field. Interested candidates should currently possess a faculty position with funding experience and rank at the level of Associate or Full Professor. Applicants must demonstrate a commitment to and investment in the growth of research and mentoring. Successful candidates will have an internationally recognized research program in the field of obesity that reflects a commitment to interdisciplinary research and a professional record reflecting prominence in the field of obesity. Salary and benefits are highly competitive and will be commensurate with credentials and experience.

Inquiries about this position may be made to: Jennifer O. Fisher, Ph.D., Search Committee Chair, Center for Obesity Research and Education, Department of Public Health (jofisher@temple.edu). Electronic submissions should include a cover letter, curriculum vitae, and list of five references and be sent to: chpsw-search@temple.edu. Application review will begin immediately and continue until the position is filled.

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Temple University is an equal opportunity/affirmative action institution.

People of color, women, veterans, and persons with disabilities are encouraged to apply.