

**Project 2: “Maximizing Retailers’ Responsiveness to FDA Regulatory
Authority in Minority Communities”
Summer or Fall 2017 Paid Internship Opportunity**

Project 2 (P2) is one of three research projects at the Tobacco Center of Regulatory Science (TCORS) in Vulnerable Populations at the University of Southern California (USC). The Principal Investigator for Project 2 is Dr. Lourdes Baezconde-Garbanati. The USC TCORS addresses the cross-cutting theme of tobacco use among **vulnerable populations**, with an agenda of methods development and research to assure activities of the FDA reach diverse groups at risk for nicotine addiction and the adverse consequences of tobacco use.

P2’s primary focus is to conduct interviews and observations among 800 tobacco retailers from five populations (African American, Korean, American Indian, Hispanic/Latino, and Non-Hispanic White) in California, primarily in Southern California and the greater Los Angeles area. This data will be used in analysis using Geographic Information Systems (GIS) to obtain the big picture of the retail environment. Focus groups with community leaders will also be conducted to examine perceptions of the FDA as a credible regulatory authority within each particularly vulnerable community; investigate how information can be conveyed and learn about the appropriate channels to communicate with tobacco retailers and their patrons in these vulnerable communities. One aspect of this study includes investigating e-cigarette sales, and attitudes, knowledge, and beliefs about e-cigarettes in tobacco retail stores.

Project 2 aims are:

- 1) Examine knowledge, attitudes, beliefs and behaviors of small independent retailers regarding FDA authority over sales of tobacco products and compliance with regulations.
- 2) Examine the most effective messages and best traditional and non-traditional modes of communication, and the confluence of traditional broadcast media with voice and written communication and the Internet, for communicating FDA messaging to owners, managers, and/or clerks in vulnerable communities.
- 3) Examine factors that influence key informants’ public’s perception of FDA as a credible source of tobacco product information; and how this information can be best conveyed to minority groups so it is clear and understandable.

P2 is seeking a USC undergraduate student for a paid, part-time Summer or Fall internship. We are interested in working with students who have an interest in research, population-based health disparities, and/or tobacco control. Students who have previous data collection skills and speak Spanish or Korean are highly encouraged to apply. Interning with P2 will give candidates the opportunity to work with faculty and staff members on an innovative community based project, where interns will learn about community participatory research, research in low socioeconomically vulnerable communities and the tobacco retail environment.

Duties Description

As an intern, you will have the opportunity to:

- Receive training on data collection and data entry procedures to conduct community based research. This includes entering, cleaning and analyzing data, and learning about GIS analysis, and both quantitative and qualitative types of data analysis, as this project uses a mixed methods approach.
- Be an integral part of the TCORS P2 team by helping with the coordination of focus groups with community leaders (this includes recruitment of key opinion leaders, handling logistics the day of the focus groups, and transcribing the transcripts to prepare for content analysis).
- Assist in the writing of literature reviews for manuscript preparations and summary briefs to disseminate research findings.
- Participate in project staff meetings.
- Prepare a culminating report (for example, a formal research paper, poster presentation, or similar demonstration of scholarly or creative accomplishments) about the internship position that will be submitted to Office of Undergraduate Programs.
- Receive IRB and HIPPA certification, if you don’t already have it.
- And more...

P2: Summer or Fall 2017 Paid Internship Opportunity

This position is a paid internship for the Summer or Fall 2017 semester available to USC undergraduate students only. Students will be paid in the form of research stipends, which are regarded as merit-based financial aid. The standard stipend for an academic semester is \$1,500, assuming an average of eight to ten hours of student research per week. The standard summer stipend is \$3,000, assuming an average of at least twenty hours of student research per week for at least eight weeks. This funding is not provided for students registered in directed research courses. Student stipends will be disbursed by the Office of Undergraduate Programs.

Interested students will need to fill out an application and submit a resume and personal statement outlining their research interests, past experiences (this can include any past research experience or relevant classes taken), academic aspirations, and how this experience will benefit future career goals.

Students interested in a:

- Summer Internship must be committed to working 20 hours per week for at least eight weeks anytime between June 1st and August 31st 2017. Only one student will be selected for this position. Student does not have to be registered in the summer semester to qualify.
- Fall internship must be committed to working 8-10 hours per week during the Fall 2017 semester. One to two students will be selected for this position.

Applications will be reviewed by a selection committee who will select students based on their application and personal statement. A select number of students will be invited to an interview with the project leader, project manager and data collection manager to learn more about each candidate's academic and career goals, for the purpose of selecting a student intern that will be well suited for the project and will benefit academically from the experience.

Materials to be submitted by student applicant:

- 1) Internship Application (see below)
- 2) Personal Statement (1-2 pages) addressing your:
 - a. interest in interning with this project and what you hope to gain out of this internship
 - b. research interests
 - c. relevant past experiences (such as past research experience or relevant courses taken)
 - d. academic aspirations, and how this experience will benefit future career goals
- 3) Resume/CV
- 4) Copy of unofficial transcripts (Cumulative GPA must be clearly visible)

Application Deadline and Submission:

Applications will be accepted on a rolling basis until positions are filled. Please email Yaneth Rodriguez at ylr@usc.edu the complete application packet with subject line: "P2: Paid Internship Opportunity Application":

- **Summer internship** - Only one student will be selected for this position. Student does not have to be registered in the summer semester to qualify.
- **Fall internship** - One to two students will be selected for this position.

Contact Person: Yaneth Rodriguez (Data Collection Manager) ylr@usc.edu or 323-442-8210.

Project Manager: Rosa Barahona, barahona@usc.edu or 323-442-8208

Faculty Liaison: Dr. Lourdes Baezconde-Garbanati, baezcond@hsc.usc.edu

This paid internship is made possible through funding by the USC Undergraduate Research Associates Program.

P2: Summer or Fall 2017 Paid Internship Opportunity

Applicant Information	
Student Name	
USC ID Number	
Date of Birth	
Mailing Address	
E-Mail Address	
Home Phone #	
Cell Phone #	
Year in School	
Major/Minor	
Expected Graduation Date	
GPA	
Are you interested in a Summer or Fall internship?	Summer 2017 _____ Fall 2017 _____
Do you speak Spanish?	Yes ___ No ___ If YES, how fluent are you in Spanish on a scale of 1-5 (with 5 being highest level of fluency)? Read and Write Spanish: _____ Conversational Spanish: _____ Scientific writing in Spanish: _____
Do you speak Korean?	Yes ___ No ___ If YES, how fluent are you in Korean on a scale of 1-5 (with 5 being highest level of fluency)? Read and Write Korean: _____ Conversational Korean: _____ Scientific writing in Korean: _____
Do you speak any other languages? Please specify: _____	Yes ___ No ___ If YES, how fluent are you on a scale of 1-5 (with 5 being highest level of fluency)? Read and Write: _____ Conversational: _____ Scientific writing: _____
Do you have reliable mode of transportation?	Yes ___ No ___
Are you open for traveling if your schedule permits?	Yes ___ No ___
Please list one to three courses you have taken in health promotion, health communications, health disparities, psychology, biology, statistics, research methods, or any courses you think are relevant:	

Please direct any questions to Yaneth Rodriguez (Community Data Collection Manager) at ylr@usc.edu or 323-442-8210.