PORTAL
Program On Regulation, Therapeutics, And Law

Division of Pharmacoepidemiology and Pharmacoeconomics
Harvard Medical School and Brigham & Women’s Hospital
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JOB LISTING:
RESEARCH ASSISTANCE NEEDED

PORTAL (the Program On Regulation, Therapeutics And Law) and its parent organization, the Division of Pharmacoepidemiology and Pharmacoeconomics of Harvard Medical School and Brigham & Women’s Hospital, bring together concerned researchers, analysts, and trainees from the fields of medicine, law, epidemiology, and health policy to critically evaluate emerging issues on the regulation, use, and reimbursement of therapeutics.

We are interested in how laws and regulations influence the development, utilization, and affordability of therapeutics, as well as the ethical questions that current and proposed policies raise for patients, physicians, policymakers, and payors. We seek to clarify which policies, practices, and laws best promote the effective, safe, affordable, and equitable use of therapeutics. We aim for our work to be both timely and actionable, providing rigorous data and careful empirical analysis to inform ongoing debate and policymaking in this arena.

Goals of this research include its publication in major medical, legal, and health policy journals; dissemination through the lay media and international, national, regional, and local professional meetings; and interaction with key decision-makers in the public and private sectors to ensure translation into actionable health care policy. PORTAL also conducts regular meetings, seminars, and conferences to discuss ongoing research, emerging areas of interest and potential scholarship, and current issues in related fields.

Another major focus of PORTAL is support of young scholars in law, policy, medicine, and public health, and mentorship of trainees interested in pursuing careers in law, policy, or public health research. We deeply value supporting our research assistants in their journeys to medical, law, or other graduate schools, as we believe development of researchers in this area will promote broader study of these topics in the future.

PORTAL Research Assistant Role
Working under the direction of the post-doctoral research fellows, division chief, and faculty of the Division of Pharmacoepidemiology and Pharmacoeconomics, the PORTAL research assistant is responsible for the data collection, analysis, writing/editing, and presentation of studies relating to how laws and regulations influence medical innovation, approval and use, and delivery of health care.

PORTAL research assistants investigate, write, edit, and publish in major peer-reviewed journals, while attending scientific conferences and meeting experts from medicine, law, and public health/health policy.

- The RA position gives new college graduates unparalleled exposure to the intersection between medicine, law, and health policy, and it offers significant work experience and responsibility, interactions with world experts, and built-in support for graduate school applications.
PORTAL also provides support for graduate school admissions through faculty advisors and alumni mentoring. The specific work at PORTAL and the reputation of the program also help to create a stronger application. For candidates considering post-graduate studies, such as medical school, the program is a great way to enhance your skills and knowledge, to interact with healthcare leaders, and to improve your chances of gaining admission into a top graduate program. Our many talented alumni have had successful careers in medicine, public health, and business.

Qualifications
The research assistant position at PORTAL is ideal for someone with a pre-medical or pre-law background with additional interest in business, public health, and/or health policy. Strong critical thinking and writing skills are highly valued.

Requirements for successful candidates:

- Demonstrated academic excellence
- Deep scientific background; research and/or data science experience is encouraged
- Exceptionally strong writing, editing, and synthesizing skills
- Strong critical thinking and analytic skills
- Ability to be adaptable and flexible
- High energy and ability to keep multiple projects moving simultaneously
- Ability to work independently and to collaborate frequently within small teams
- Reliability; commitment to schedules and deadlines
- One or two-year commitment to the position (Note: this position is for alumni and graduating seniors, class of 2020)

How to Apply
This is a highly sought-after position – if you are interested, please email resume, unofficial transcript, and cover letter in a PDF to ftessema@bwh.harvard.edu (Frazer Tessema, Yale College, B.A. 2017)