



## Summary

UCSD's Department of Family Medicine and Public Health (FMPH) has openings for 3-4 undergraduate public health students interested in assisting with a large NIH-funded RO1 public health project. Please note that these positions are unpaid.

Summary of requirements:

- Must be able to commit 5-10 hours per week for the next Academic year (entirely remote). Approximate start and end dates: October 2020 - June 2021, with enrollment occurring on a per quarter basis. Note that this is a 5-year project. As such, students interested in taking part over multiple years are particularly encouraged to apply. Engagement over a longer time period increases the likelihood of inclusion in publications and opportunities for leading scientific publications outside of the primary aims of the work.
- Must be enrolled at UCSD for the 2020-2021 academic year. Ideally seeking candidates who are interested in enrolling in FMPH 199, with Dr. Hekler as primary mentor.
- All majors are welcome to apply.
- Prior experience with behavioral interventions or clinical trials is a plus, but it is not a requirement. Above all, we are looking for students who are collaborative, curious, and motivated to contribute to public health research.

## Position Description

This posting is for an undergraduate research volunteer who is interested in enrolling in FMPH 199. Dr. Eric Hekler and colleagues are conducting research to develop more potent digital health, physical activity interventions.

The purpose of this NIH-funded RO1 project is to evaluate if an intervention that uses methods from control systems engineering to adjust support to each person's changing needs will promote increased physical activity compared to another intervention that does not use these methods.

The role will primarily involve the following tasks:

1. Support intervention design and refinement
2. Contribute to IRB design and protocol development
3. Conduct pilot study surveys and interviews
4. Refine measurement tools based on participant feedback
5. Conduct pilot study analysis.

A good candidate will bring strengths in at least one of the following areas, with interest in learning about one or more of the other areas:

1. **IRB Writing & Design.** Adapting the lengthy/wordy IRB document into a format that is more easily understood.
2. **Behavioral Intervention Design.** Refine measurement instruments to fit those who are being measured, finding the right tool for the right job
3. **Clinical Trials.** Conduct research through online surveys and interviews
4. **Statistics.** Experience running comparisons and descriptives using R, SPSS, SAS, or STATA



## How to Apply

To apply:

- Please send an email to Michael Higgins [mdhiggins@eng.ucsd.edu](mailto:mdhiggins@eng.ucsd.edu) (Project Manager for this effort) with the subject line “**FMPH 199 - Control Systems Opportunity**”.
- Include in the body of your email a brief introduction of who you are (including your current major and academic year as of Fall 2020), what made you interested in this position, the kinds of experience you would hope to gain from this position, and also the amount of time you would be interested in committing to the project (e.g., 1 quarter, 1 academic year, 1 full year, 2+ years, etc)
- Include your resume as a PDF attachment. Other resources may be included such as personal websites or LinkedIn profiles, but these are not required.

**Priority deadline for submissions is October 13, 2020.** Submissions received after this date will be reviewed on a rolling basis until positions are filled.