



**Clinical and Population Health Research Doctoral Program (CPHR)  
Concentration in Health Disparities Research  
University of Massachusetts Medical School –Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences**

***What is CHEIR?***

The Center for Health Equity Intervention Research (CHEIR) is a collaboration between UMass Boston and UMass Medical School. CHEIR is funded by the NIH-NIMHD -National Center on Minority Health and Health Disparities P60 MD006912 and has a number of cores (Research, Community Engagement, Education), conducts several research projects, and sponsors numerous specialized training and education activities such as Grand Rounds, special seminars, and mentoring activities for students, junior faculty, and senior investigators. CHEIR's mission is to accelerate the development of scientifically sound, disparity-reducing interventions based on four unifying themes: 1) developing intervention tools that are tailored by deep cultural structure as well as linguistic and literacy characteristics; 2) focusing on strategies that leverage the full spectrum of helpers available to patients and that do not require direct physician intervention; 3) engaging vulnerable populations and the settings that serve them by working at multiple levels such as patient, clinic, and community; and 4) bringing innovation by infusing education and bi-directional academic-community learning through all activities.

***What is CPHR?***

The Clinical & Population Health Research (CPHR) doctoral program is one of the few in the country that was specifically designed to address the new challenges in biomedical research. These include speeding the translation of knowledge from the explosion in basic sciences to patient care interventions, and assuring that new evidence-based medicine reaches the populations that can benefit from it. The CPHR program promotes an interdisciplinary approach to conducting research and provides a strong focus on addressing the needs of vulnerable populations. Currently the program has more than 70 affiliated faculty representing 31 departments and centers at UMMS. Our students will graduate with the advanced skills and knowledge in biostatistics, epidemiology, and the genetic, behavioral, social, and health service predictors of individual health status needed to be successful clinical researchers. The program currently has 30 PhD and MD/PhD students, and admits a 4-6 students yearly.

***What is the Concentration in Health Disparities Research?***

The doctoral concentration in Health Disparities in CPHR will require:

- Research assistantship with UMMS faculty who engage in health disparities/health equity research starting in the first semester
- Required core courses in the CPHR curriculum, including epidemiology, biostatics, ethics, and scientific writing/proposal development
- Theory, substantive electives and methods electives carefully selected with mentor to meet student health disparities/health equity research goals
- Participation in CHEIR Grand Rounds, invited speaker events, seminars and meetings.
- Completion of a doctoral thesis focused on research relevant to health disparities/health equity

***How do I apply ?***

For more information see: <http://www.umassmed.edu/cphr/index.aspx> or contact: [cphr@umassmed.edu](mailto:cphr@umassmed.edu).