Institute for the Study of Integrative Healthcare

UTICA UNIVERSITY

Faculty Fellowship Call for Submissions

The Institute for the Study of Integrative Healthcare invites proposals for faculty research and creative professional accomplishment that are related to integrative health/healthcare and meet the criteria below. Faculty are encouraged to create cross-disciplinary research teams, be innovative, and submit proposals for creative professional accomplishment that yields outcomes related to the understanding of integrative health/healthcare. For our purposes, "integrative health" is defined as "…a state of well-being in body, mind, and spirit that reflects aspects of the individual, community, and population. It is affected by: (1) individual biological factors and behaviors, social values, and public policy, (2) the physical, social, and economic environments, and (3) an integrative healthcare system that involves active participation of the individual and the healthcare team in applying a broad spectrum of preventive and therapeutic approaches. Integrative healthcare encourages individuals, social groups, and communities to develop ways of living that promote meaning, resilience, and wellbeing across the life course."

Witt, C. M., Chiaramonte, D., Berman, S., Chesney, M. A., Kaplan, G. A., Stange, K. C., Woolf, S. H., & Berman, B. M. (2017). Defining health in a comprehensive context: A new definition of integrative health. American Journal of Preventive Medicine, 53(1), 134-137. http://doi:10.1016/j.amepre.2016.11.029

Awards

A typical full-time faculty award is expected to be in the form of a 6-credit course release in order to free up time for fellows to commit to the research. A stipend equal to course-release hours at the faculty employment level is also an option, with cooperation from departments. Part-time faculty are eligible for a stipend to be awarded at the end of the fellowship award year upon submission of a report demonstrating satisfactory progress/completion of the funded research as determined by Institute leadership.

Departmental Obligations

If awarded a fellowship, Faculty Fellows will serve a joint appointment with their home department (primarily) and with the Institute (secondarily) as Faculty Fellows for the duration of their fellowship period. **Those who are granted resources from the Institute will be required to provide research updates when solicited by the Director of the Institute and present at an Institute-sponsored educational event.** Faculty Fellows will be subject to the approval of the Provost/SVPAA in consultation with the Dean for the School that is the home of the applicant's primary department and, if approved, will discuss course release or stipend via access to Institute resources.

Let it be noted that funding from the Institute will be separate and apart from funding given by the Faculty Resources Committee (FRC). Faculty may apply to the FRC to support work conducted as a Faculty Fellow (e.g., apply for a small grant to support work being completed during a Fellowship year).

Application process

Submit application via online form by Wednesday, February 10, 2027 AT 12:00 NOON for a 2027-28 award.

Applications for Institute funding are competitive in nature and are blindly reviewed by a committee of non-faculty established for the sole purpose of evaluating proposals. Priority is given to collaborative proposals, but proposals from single principal investigators are also welcome. Funding decisions are based on the strength of the proposal and the degree to which the proposal meets the Institute mission and objectives. Applications are judged using the criteria in the rubric below**.** We recognize many projects may not meet the criteria perfectly and encourage related projects to be submitted for consideration.

Application materials include:

- Proposal for scholarly activity that addresses all criteria in the rubric that is well supported with discussion and citation to peer-reviewed or other appropriate literature
- Letter of support from their School Dean for each faculty member
- Letter of commitment on business letterhead from collaborative healthcare, social service providers, and/or government agencies
- Copy of IRB letter indicating approval or exemption of proposed study

Proposal Review Criteria Rubric

Review Criteria	Meets Requirements Optimally (3 points)*	Meets Minimal Requirements (2 points)	Does not meet or Partially meets Requirements (0-1 point)
Relevance to Integrative Healthcare	Proposed project/scholarly activity is highly relevant to integrative health and the relevance is clearly articulated in the candidate's proposal.	Proposed project/scholarly activity is relevant to integrative health and the relevance is articulated in the candidate's proposal.	Proposed project/scholarly activity is not relevant or is minimally relevant to integrative health and/or the relevance is not articulated in the candidate's proposal.
Work Plan	Proposal includes a clear work plan that articulates steps to be taken and benchmarks to hit to achieve the goals of the proposal, including evidence that is well-justified and well-grounded in relevant literature and/or experience.	Proposal includes a work plan that articulates steps to be taken and benchmarks to hit to achieve the goals of the proposal.	Proposal lacks a work plan that articulates steps to be taken and benchmarks to hit to achieve the goals of the proposal.
Epistemological Innovation	Project or research design includes perspectives from at least 2 different disciplines across at least 2 Schools and includes a community connection external to Utica University. Project or research problem/question is embedded in a meaningful social context and is clearly articulated in the candidate's proposal. Roles and contributions of researchers are clearly delineated.	Project or research design includes perspectives from at least 2 different academic disciplines and includes a community connection external to Utica University. Project or research problem/question is embedded in a meaningful social context and is articulated in the candidate's proposal. Roles and contributions of researchers are delineated.	Project or research design includes different academic perspectives and includes a community connection external to Utica University. Project or research problem/question is embedded in a social context and is articulated in the candidate's proposal. Roles and contributions of researchers are vague or missing.
Pedagogical Innovation	Proposal includes a clear plan to integrate elements of the project/study (e.g., process, analysis, outcomes) into one or more classes at either the undergraduate or graduate level and articulates a strong plan to sustain the integration.	Proposal includes a plan to integrate elements of the project/study (e.g., process, analysis, outcomes) into class(es) at either the undergraduate or graduate level and articulates a plan to sustain the integration.	Proposal lacks a plan to integrate elements of the project/study (e.g., process, analysis, outcomes) into class(es) at either the undergraduate or graduate level and/or lacks a plan to sustain the integration.
Student Experience/ Research	Student experience related to the study/project is highly relevant and innovative; shows substantive experiential opportunity/research for students, and is clearly articulated in the candidate's proposal. Faculty member articulates a strong plan to assess student learning relative to the proposed experience to measure impact.	Student experience related to the study/project is relevant and innovative; shows potential for experiential opportunity/research for students, and is articulated in the candidate's proposal. Faculty member articulates a plan to assess student learning relative to the proposed experience to measure impact.	Student experience related to the study/project is moderately relevant and innovative and shows moderate potential for experiential opportunity/research for students, or the proposal lacks articulation of the student experience. Proposal lacks a plan to assess student learning relative to the proposed experience to measure impact.
Technological Innovation	Proposal includes a clear plan to utilize advancing and new technology to engage collaborative research and share findings. Some examples could include virtual or hybrid meetings, workshops, panel discussions, and presentations and/or electronically published or disseminated manuscripts or publications, use of social media for research or dissemination of findings, use of complex computer programs or automated data analytics in research.	Proposal includes a plan to utilize existing technology minimally to engage collaborative research and share findings.	Proposal lacks a plan to utilize any technology to engage collaborative research and share findings.

*NOTE: Each portion is justified and well supported with discussion and citation to peer-reviewed or other appropriate literature

Previous Fellowship Award Recipients

Class of 2026-2027 Faculty Fellows

Luke Perry Ph.D., Distinguished Professor of Political Science
“Understanding Robert Kennedy’s Impact on Health & Human Services and Local Communities”

Colleen Sunderlin, Ph.D., Professor of Occupational Therapy
Jackie Warmuth, Med, Adjunct Professor of Health Studies
“The effectiveness of polarity treatment on stress, anxiety, and depression among college students”

Unnati Shah, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Computer Science (deferred to 27-28)
Angel Rivera, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Computer Science (deferred to 27-28)
Walaa Sayed Mohammad, PT, DPT, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Physical Therapy
“Beyond Clearance: An Integrative, Real-Time, Bias-Aware AI Framework to Differentiate Return-to-Sport and Return-to-Performance in ACL Rehabilitation”

Class of 2025-2026 Faculty Fellows

Jing-Mao Ho, Assistant Professor of Sociology and Data Science
"Social Determinants, Epigenetic Clocks, and Mental Health."

Cicily Talerico, Assistant Professor of Occupational Therapy
Trista Richardson, Professor of Practice in Occupational Therapy
Jae Sung Park, Assistant Professor of Physical Education, Exercise & Wellness Studies
“Empowering College Students to Engage in Health and Wellness to Improve Wellbeing and Quality of Life.”

Walaa Sayed Mohammad, Associate Professor of Physical Therapy
"Assessing the Integration of Holistic Healthcare Resources on University Websites."

Class of 2022-2023 Faculty Fellows

Lucia Corriette, DPT
Maryam Hashemian, M.D., Ph.D. (Biology)
"Cross-Cultural Study of Herbal Remedy Use."

Cynthia Love-Williams, RN, DNS
"Effectiveness and Cost-Effectiveness of Acupuncture for Chronic Neck Pain: A Pilot Randomized Controlled Trial."

Nicole Scienza, Ph.D. (Psychology-Child Life)
Laurah Klepinger, Ph.D. (Anthropology)
"Children, Families, and Integrative Healthcare Practices."