



DREXEL UNIVERSITY

Center for

**Weight, Eating and
Lifestyle Science**

College of Arts and Sciences

Job Opportunities at the WELL Center

The Center for Weight, Eating and Lifestyle Science (**WELL Center**; drexel.edu/wellcenter) at Drexel University is currently recruiting one full-time research coordinator in obesity research and one full-time research coordinator in eating disorders research. *For all positions, applications will be reviewed as received until the position is filled.* Specific information, and links to apply, are provided below for each position. Also below is information about the WELL Center, Drexel University and Philadelphia.

Research Coordinator – Obesity Research

The WELL Center at Drexel University (drexel.edu/wellcenter) is recruiting a full-time Research Coordinator under the mentorship of Erica LaFata, PhD. The start date is ideally immediate but flexible, and the position duration will be one year (e.g., October 2022 thru September 2023).

The Research Coordinator will oversee one-to-two NIH-funded or pilot clinical trials. Responsibilities include overall coordination of all study elements; implementing an advertisement/recruitment plan; refining and implementing the assessment protocol; scheduling and conducting participant screening and clinical assessments; managing data and databases; and maintaining contact and approvals with NIH and Drexel's IRB.

Dr. LaFata's research lab is staffed by faculty, graduate students, and undergraduate students, providing an environment rich in intellectual stimulation and mentorship. The position represents an excellent opportunity to gain experience in clinical research related to obesity, food reinforcement, and food addiction, and to also receive training in both research and clinical tasks. This position provides excellent preparation for individuals who wish to pursue graduate study in clinical psychology or a related area. Opportunities also will be available, as desired, for grant application preparation, research diagnostic assessment training, additional data analysis, and preparation of poster presentations and/or manuscripts related to the projects.

Dr. LaFata's research examines how the modern food environment contributes to problematic eating behaviors and obesity. Specifically, she assesses whether ultra-processed foods may be capable of triggering addictive biological and behavioral responses and adapts evidence-based interventions for substance-use disorders to help individuals decrease ultra-processed food intake.

The Research Coordinator will be primarily working on Dr. LaFata's NIH-funded clinical trial, Project Response, which examines whether fat, refined carbohydrates (e.g., white flour, sugar), or the combination of both is most related to biological and behavioral indicators of addiction. Methodology involves physiological sampling (e.g., serial blood draws, salivation), laboratory eating paradigms, and ecological momentary assessment (EMA).

Read more about Dr. LaFata's research here: <https://drexel.edu/coas/faculty-research/faculty-directory/psychology/Erica-Lafata/>

To apply:

1. Use [this link](#) to complete the official application (*the listing includes details for Dr. Srivastava's position but is the correct link to apply for Dr. LaFata's position as well*)
2. Upload supplemental application materials [here](#).

Research Coordinator – Eating Disorders Research

The WELL Center at Drexel University (drexel.edu/wellcenter) is recruiting a full-time Research Coordinator under the mentorship of Paakhi Srivastava, PhD. The start date is ideally immediate but flexible, and the position duration will be one year (e.g., October 2022 thru September 2023).

The coordinator will oversee one NIH-funded R34 clinical trial designed to examine efficacies of technology-based augmentations for improving treatment adherence and skills utilization in a self-help CBT program for binge eating. Responsibilities include overall coordination of all study elements; implementing an advertisement/recruitment plan; refining and implementing the assessment protocol; scheduling and conducting participant screening and clinical assessments; managing data and databases; maintaining contact and approvals with NIH and IRB.

Dr. Srivastava's research lab is staffed by faculty, graduate students, and undergraduate students, providing an environment rich in intellectual stimulation and mentorship. The position represents an excellent opportunity to gain experience in eating disorders clinical research and to be trained in both research and clinical tasks. This position provides excellent preparation for individuals who wish to pursue graduate study in clinical psychology or a related area. Opportunities also will be available, as desired, for grant application preparation, research diagnostic assessment training, additional data analysis, and preparation of poster presentations and/or manuscripts related to the projects. Research coordinator will also have the opportunity to be exposed to treatment provision.

The Project Summary- Self-help cognitive behavior therapies (CBTs) for binge eating are maximally effective when paired with periodic contact with expert clinicians. Clinicians likely improve outcomes because they are trained to utilize specific behavior change techniques for facilitating treatment adherence and skills utilization during self-help CBT program. Given the limited availability of expert clinicians, it is critical to understand how to enhance outcomes from self-help CBTs without clinician involvement. Technological innovations such as Advanced Digital Data Sharing with Coaches and Just-in-time adaptive interventions (JITAs) can potentially emulate some of the behavior change techniques used by expert clinicians and improve treatment targets. The proposed project will use a full factorial design, in which 76 individuals with transdiagnostic binge eating will be assigned to one of 4 treatment conditions, i.e., representing each permutation of two intervention factors (Advanced Digital Data Sharing with Coaches, and JITAs) hypothesized to improve treatment adherence and skills utilization being included or

excluded from a base self-help CBT program (delivered via a website and companion smartphone application) without clinician involvement.

Read more about Dr. Srivastava's research here: <https://drexel.edu/coas/faculty-research/faculty-directory/psychology/paakhi-srivastava/>

Use [this](#) link to apply for the position. You may also apply, provide your CV, cover letter, and supplemental information [here](#).

General Information

The **WELL Center** is an interdisciplinary clinical research center, which develops, tests and disseminates new behavioral and technological solutions to the problems of obesity, poor diet, sedentary behavior, and disordered eating. Currently, the Center houses 55 faculty, staff, fellows and students, and 17 grant-funded projects valued at \$22M. Faculty at the WELL Center (all of whom have been successful at attracting federal and foundation funding, and generating high-impact scientific scholarship) take a team science approach to research, and thus, advise each other, co-write grant proposals and manuscripts, and serve as co-investigators on each other's projects. The WELL Center has a superior research infrastructure and an overall excellent scientific environment. Incoming faculty are well-positioned for success, in terms of scholarship, scientific impact and extramural funding.

Drexel is a world-class comprehensive research university committed to use-inspired research with real-world applications, and the University's research activities result in more than \$131 million in annual expenditures for sponsored projects. Drexel was founded in 1891 and is one of the nation's largest private universities. Drexel is also ranked in the top 8% of U.S. colleges and universities in a list compiled by *The Wall Street Journal* and *Times Higher Education*. and was recently named the most innovative mid-sized research university in the country

Drexel's hometown of **Philadelphia** is one of the nation's first and largest cities, and the birthplace of the nation. The city regularly wins awards (e.g., City of the Year, Best Restaurant City, Best Place to Visit, Most Walkable City, Coolest City, First World Heritage City, Best Shopping City), and offers a plethora of opportunities to learn, play, work, and engage in the arts, history, and culture.

Drexel University is an Equal Opportunity, Affirmative Action Employer. The University actively encourages applications and nominations of women, minorities and persons with disabilities and applications from candidates with diverse cultural backgrounds.