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The Institute of Primary Health Care of the University of Bern (BIHAM) is dedicated to train and foster the next generation of primary care physicians and to carry out research in primary health care, epidemiology, and public health. The BIHAM offers a lively, interdisciplinary environment with excellent methodological support and access to a large network of practicing primary care physicians.

We are looking for a

PhD Student in Epidemiology (100%)

to join the research team of the Institute of Primary Health Care of the University of Bern (BIHAM; www.biham.unibe.ch) and work on the research project “Personalized preventive care and life expectancy among older multimorbid adults” under the guidance of Dr. Cinzia Del Giovane PhD (Head of Statistics and Research Methodology at the BIHAM) and Prof. Arnaud Chiolero MD PhD (Adjunct Prof at the BIHAM and Head of the new Population Health Laboratory, Uni Fribourg, Switzerland). Multimorbidity is associated with increased mortality, shortened life expectancy (LE), decreased quality of life, and increased healthcare utilization. Evidence on benefits and harms of screening for cancers or treatment for the prevention of cardiovascular (CVD) is scarce in multimorbid older adults; in case of short LE, these patients may not have the time to benefit. Using a prospective cohort of 822 patients, this research project aims to assess preventive care for cancer and CVD among older patients with multimorbidities, to identify questionable use according to observed LE, and to develop a new LE estimator. Results from this research will help prevent low-value care and personalize preventive care among older patients. The project is funded for 3 years by a Swiss National Science Fund (SNSF) (PI: Prof Chiolero).

Duties and responsibilities

- Synthesize and analyses data from large dataset
- Write research protocols and manuscripts for peer-reviewed journals
- Assist your supervisors in various scientific and administrative activities

Qualifications and skills

- Highly motivated student with a strong interest for epidemiology and public health
- Holding a master degree in epidemiology, life science, medicine or any degree considered as equivalent
- Highly comfortable with statistical analyses (use of Stata or R is a plus)
- High level of English proficiency

The post is available from February 2020, with negotiable starting date, and offered for 3 years. The PhD stipend is according to SNSF standards (current scale: www.snf.ch/SiteCollectionDocuments/allg_doktorierende_e.pdf).

The BIHAM offers an international and interdisciplinary environment, closely related to the Institute of Social and Preventive Medicine (ISPM; www.ispm.unibe.ch) and Clinical Trial Unit (www.ctu.unibe.ch) in Bern, and the new #PopHealthLab in Fribourg. PhD students have access to the courses proposed by the Swiss School of Public Health+ (SSPH+; www.sspplus.ch). It encourages independence and flexible working models. For further information on the position, contact Dr. Cinzia Del Giovane, cinzia.delgiovane@biham.unibe.ch. Please send your application including a letter of motivation and curriculum vitae to Human Resources administration: hr@biham.unibe.ch. Applications are considered until November 30, 2019.