The University of Oregon is pleased to announce five new tenure-track faculty openings in the multi-disciplinary Health Promotion & Obesity Prevention (HPOP) Initiative. This recently announced faculty cluster builds upon our long-standing strengths in prevention science and biological systems and responds to the epidemic health crisis of obesity that affects one third of adults and children in the United States.

Linking prevention, genetics, and human physiology

The study of health promotion and obesity prevention is by nature a multi-disciplinary field of research. The HPOP cluster links existing research strengths in prevention, genetics and human physiology and builds upon UO strengths in the development and implementation of interventions to reduce problem behavior in youth and families. The UO is home to more than 20 interdisciplinary research centers and institutes and has a long-standing tradition of leveraging and integrating existing and new areas of research expertise and is poised to respond to growing rates of obesity in the United States.

Building on a foundation of basic research and intervention

To develop effective programs that improve health requires an understanding of basic science, including genetic liability for health problems, organ and systems physiology, intervention science and effective community implementation. The HPOP cluster is guided by a translational research framework in which basic research in genetic liability and biological risk will lead to tools and strategies for understanding the etiology and underlying biological, social and behavioral mechanisms associated with health problems. Basic scientific discovery will in turn lead to the development of effective interventions and outreach programs that enhance our ability to reach underserved communities. New faculty will increase multi-disciplinary collaboration across units at UO and expand our capacity to respond to national calls for proposals on obesity prevention.

Supported with an endowment, the Health Promotion and Obesity Prevention Initiative is part of the University of Oregon's Cluster of Excellence Faculty Hiring campaign, which is bringing some of the brightest minds to Oregon. For more information, please visit: http://uocoe.me/coe-cluster.

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