

## **NCI Cancer Prevention Fellowship Program (CPFP) Pre-Application Webinar: Cancer Prevention Fellowship Program NCI Division of Cancer Prevention (DCP)**

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# Disclaimer

*The opinions expressed by the authors/speakers are their own and this material should not be interpreted as representing the official viewpoint of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, the National Institutes of Health, or the National Cancer Institute.*

# Agenda

- Speaker Introductions
- History of the Cancer Prevention Fellowship Program
- The Cancer Prevention Fellowship Program
  - Overview
  - Uniqueness
  - Benefits
  - Community
- The Application Process
- Tips from a Successful Applicant and Fellow Perspective on the CPFP
- Q&A Session

# CPFP History and Overall Goals

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**Jessica Faupel-Badger, Ph.D., M.P.H.**

# NIH and NCI

- NCI is one of the 27 Institutes and Centers of the National Institutes of Health
- Extramural – Grants and funding
- Intramural – Research conducted within NCI research groups in Maryland (Bethesda, Rockville, and Frederick)



# NCI Division of Cancer Prevention



The Division of Cancer Prevention furthers the mission of the National Cancer Institute by leading, supporting, and promoting rigorous, innovative research and training to prevent cancer and its consequences to improve the health of all people.

## Scientific Scope

- Cancer Early Detection Biomarker Development and Screening
- Intervention Development for Cancer Prevention
- Precision Cancer Prevention
- Symptom Science and Management
- Workforce Training

# History of the CPFP

- Post-doctoral NCI Fellowship with almost 40-year history
  - started in 1987, precursor 1985
- **Train leaders in the field of cancer prevention**



# Hallmarks of the CPFP

- Multidisciplinary
- Applying background and expertise to addressing cancer prevention problems (no prior cancer prevention background needed)
- All fellows have or receive training in public health and epidemiological methods – Cancer is a public health problem
- Independent, mentored-research in cancer prevention

# CPFP Program Components

- **Master of Public Health degree (typically year 1)**
- Mentored research (years 2-4)
- Formal Curriculum in Cancer Prevention
- Fellows' Research Meetings
- Cancer Prevention and Control Colloquia
- Grant writing
- Professional development training (e.g., leadership, oral presentations)

# CPFP Alumni

- 10-15 Fellows selected annually through competitive process
- Now over 400 alumni who are leaders in academia, government, industry, and non-profit sectors

# Formal Evaluation of CPFP Program - 2013

- Qualitative Interviews and Surveys of Alumni
- Key findings:
  - Value of the MPH
  - Autonomy
  - Remaining in field of cancer prevention
  - Career satisfaction and leadership opportunities

# Value of the MPH

- *“Profound. Profound effect. I think that’s one of the most important things not only during the fellowship, but in my life...one of the nicest features of the fellowship program.”*
- *“...[the MPH] definitely gave me a different view of how research could be done...”*

# MPH – Alumni Perspectives

## Provided:

- Different view of research
- Foundation in public health
- Filled gaps in knowledge
- Common language
- Credibility
- Opportunity for career transition

# MPH = Central Locus



# Quotes on Autonomy

- *“Since I was a Cancer Prevention Fellow, I think I was given more flexibility to kind of craft my own research with my mentor versus ones he hired and was paying out of his own pocket...I think that really was helpful especially for moving up and kind of creating more people to be an independent thinker.”*
- *“...if I didn’t have that opportunity to develop my own independent research, I wouldn’t be doing what I’m doing...”*



# Career Outcomes and Remaining in Cancer Prevention

Career Sector	% CFPF Alumni (n=119) from 1987-2011
University/Research Institute	57.1
Government	27.2
Other	15.7

Population Group	Cancer Prevention Work Odds Ratio (95% CI)	Cancer Prevention Research Odds Ratio (95% CI)
Fellowship Applicants (n=85)	1.00 (referent)	1.00 (referent)
Fellowship Alumni (n=119)	4.99 (1.91–13.0)	4.26 (1.38–13.2)

# CPFP Evaluation from 1987-2013

CBE—Life Sciences Education  
Vol. 14, 1–8, Spring 2015

## Article

### Alumni Perspectives on Career Preparation during a Postdoctoral Training Program: A Qualitative Study

Jessica M. Faupel-Badger<sup>\*</sup>, Kimberley Raue,<sup>†</sup> David E. Nelson,<sup>\*</sup> and Sophia Tsakraklides<sup>†</sup>

Journal of Cancer Education (2019) 34:526–534  
<https://doi.org/10.1007/s13187-018-1335-7>

### Leadership Roles and Activities Among Alumni Receiving Postdoctoral Fellowship Training in Cancer Prevention

David E. Nelson<sup>1</sup> • Jessica M. Faupel-Badger<sup>2</sup> • Grant Izmirlian<sup>3</sup>



#### RESEARCH ARTICLE

### Career Satisfaction and Perceived Salary Competitiveness among Individuals Who Completed Postdoctoral Research Training in Cancer Prevention

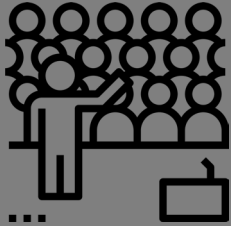
Jessica M. Faupel-Badger<sup>1\*</sup>, David E. Nelson<sup>2</sup>, Grant Izmirlian<sup>2</sup>



#### RESEARCH ARTICLE

### Independent Association of Postdoctoral Training with Subsequent Careers in Cancer Prevention

Jessica M. Faupel-Badger<sup>1\*</sup>, David E. Nelson<sup>2</sup>, Grant Izmirlian<sup>3</sup>, Katherine H. Ross<sup>2</sup>, Kimberley Raue<sup>4</sup>, Sophia Tsakraklides<sup>4</sup>, Atsushi Miyaoka<sup>4</sup>, Maura Spiegelman<sup>4</sup>



# CPFP: Program Structure

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**Lymarie Maldonado-Báez, Ph.D., M.S.**







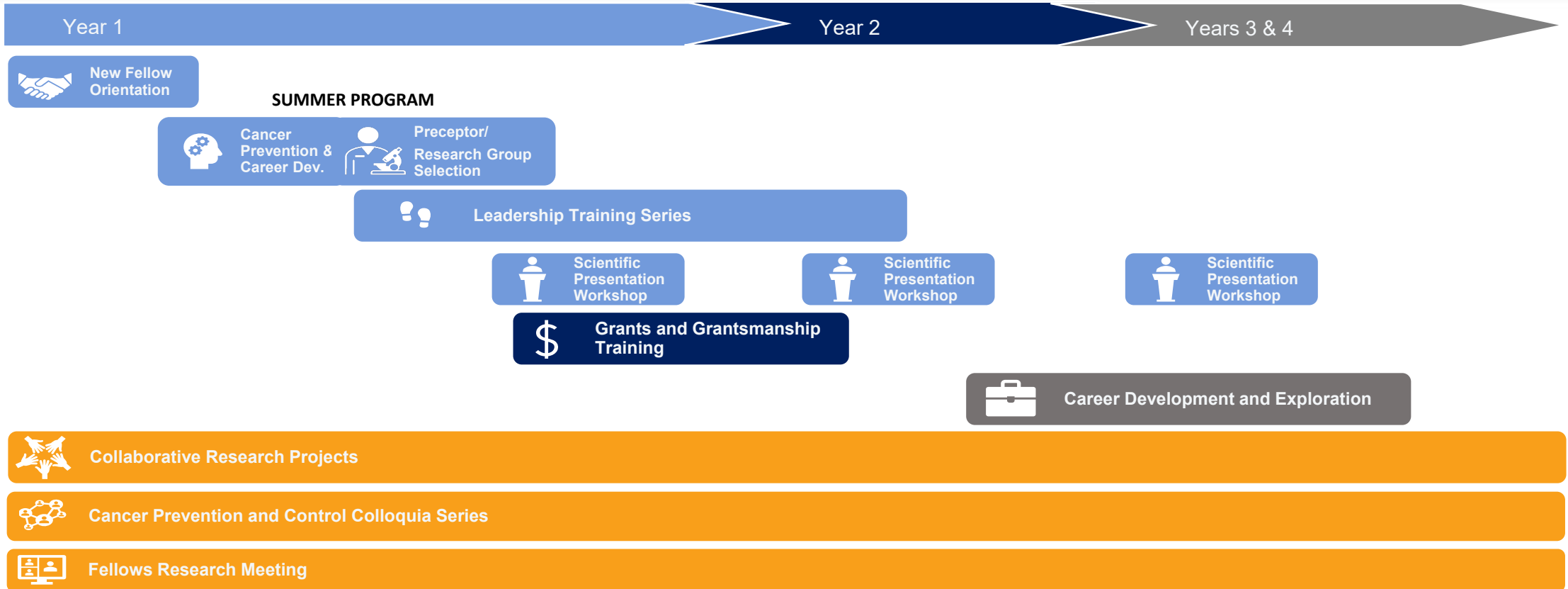






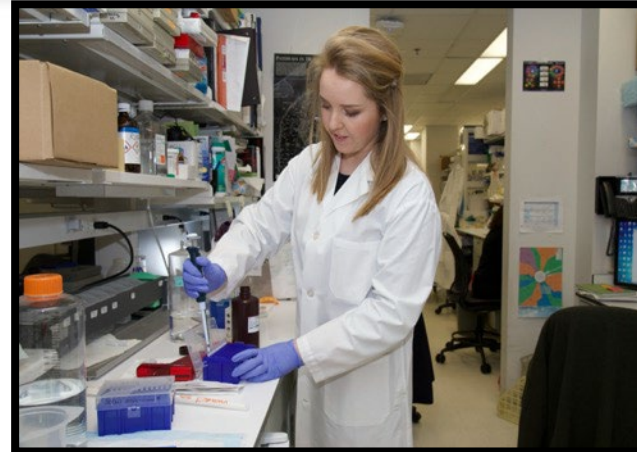


# CPFP: Core Curriculum Timeline



# CPFP: Mentored-Independent Research

- Fellows choose mentor(s) across NCI (or at the US Food & Drug Administration)
- Funding is not mentor-, project-, or division-specific
- Fellows have flexibility in selection and involvement in research & other activities



# CPFP: Research Opportunities

**NIH** **NATIONAL CANCER INSTITUTE**  
Cancer Prevention Fellowship Program

**NIH** **NATIONAL CANCER INSTITUTE**  
Division of Cancer Control & Population Sciences

**NIH** **NATIONAL CANCER INSTITUTE**  
Division of Cancer Epidemiology & Genetics

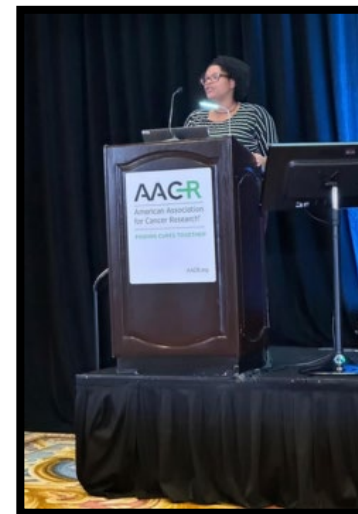
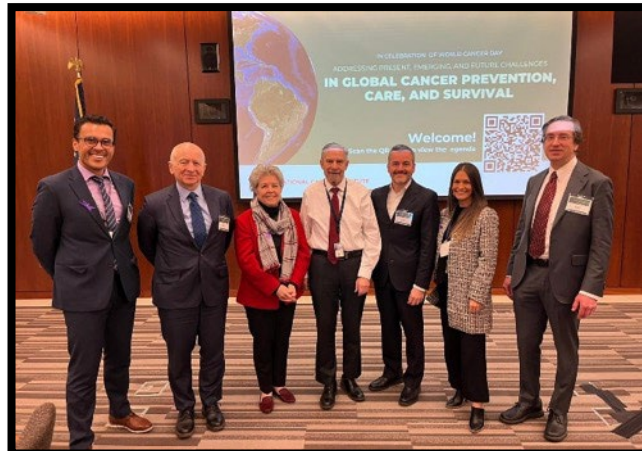
**NIH** **NATIONAL CANCER INSTITUTE**  
Division of Cancer Prevention

**NIH** **NATIONAL CANCER INSTITUTE**  
Center for Cancer Research

**NIH** **NATIONAL CANCER INSTITUTE**  
Center for Global Health

**NIH** **NATIONAL CANCER INSTITUTE**  
Cancer Prevention & Interception Clinic

# CPFP: Leadership Opportunities





# CPFP: Community





# **CPFP: Eligibility and Application Requirements**

# CPFP: Eligibility Requirements

- **Doctoral degree**
  - Ph.D., Sc.D., M.D., Pharm.D., D.M.D. or other doctoral degree in a relevant discipline
- **Less than five years of relevant postdoctoral research experience at the time of fellowship entry**
  - Examples:
    - Newly graduated Ph.D. or Sc.D. with no postdoctoral experience
    - Ph.D. with 3 years of postdoctoral experience
- **United States citizenship or permanent residency** at the time you apply



# CPFP Application: Requested Documents

1. Personal Statement of Research Goals
2. *Curriculum Vitae*
3. Letters of Recommendation (four)
4. Letter of Assurance
5. Proof of Degree
6. Academic Transcripts

# CPFP Application: Personal Statement of Research Goals

- Understand the mission of the program
- Connect your goals to program goals
  - Tell us why you would like to join the CPFP!
  - Describe research interests and goals
  - How your goals relate to cancer prevention and control?
  - Short- and long-term career goals
  - Explain how the CPFP will help you achieve those goals
    - Impact of completing an MPH on the achievement of professional/scientific goals
- Start early!
- Ask someone to review the personal statement
- Format: two typed, single-spaced pages and use 12-point font and 1-inch margins

# CPFP Application: Letters of Recommendation

- Select someone who knows you
- Should tell/show a story
- Request your letter at least a month in advance
- Four letters in total
- Provide information to the referee:
  - *Curriculum Vitae*
  - Personal statement
  - Information about the program
  - Discuss your training and career goals
- Send a respectful reminder to your referees


# CPFP: *Curriculum Vitae*

- Education
- Research & Work Experience
  - *Please list current and past employment.*
  - Brief description of duties and accomplishments
    - What and how
    - Impact/Results
- Few key words that describe your research interests
- Presentations, Publications & Awards
- Mentorship, Outreach, Teaching, and Leadership experiences

# CPFP Application: Meet the Deadlines!


- Reach out to mentors, colleagues, CPFP leadership, etc.!
- Revise all documents before submitting them.
- Review all information provided to you by the program.
- Follow communication best practices and be professional at all times.
- Respond to emails promptly.
- Start early!

# CPFP: Application System

 **NATIONAL CANCER INSTITUTE**  
Train at NCI

[Log In](#) [Register](#)

[Home](#) [Find a Training Program](#) [NCI Training Programs](#) [Contact Us](#)



## Train at NCI

The National Cancer Institute (NCI) is the federal government's principal agency for cancer research and training.

Interested in joining our mission? Train at NCI provides prospective applicants an overview of a variety of NCI training programs that will appeal to researchers at different stages of their careers.

## Why Train at NCI?

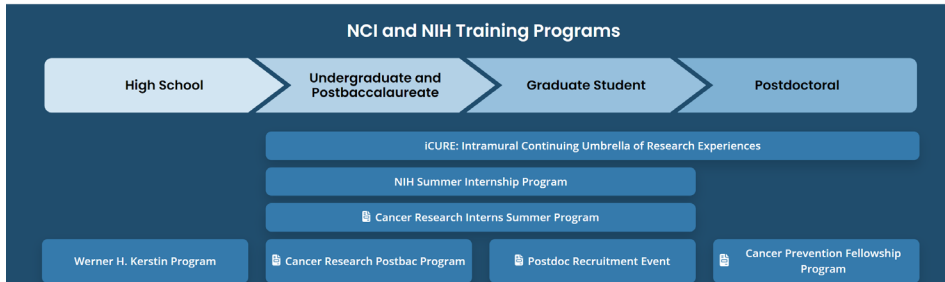
NCI conducts research across the cancer care continuum to advance scientific knowledge and help people live longer, healthier lives. At our Bethesda, Shady Grove, and Frederick campuses, you will find leading experts in basic, clinical, translational, or genomic and population-based research. In addition to working side-by-side with world-class scientists, you will find extensive professional career and development opportunities, fellow-led groups that build a sense of community, and access to additional training, courses, and workshops to facilitate your project and career goals.


## Train at NCI Portal

Submit and manage your application(s) in the portal.

Login or register for an account to begin.

[Log In](#)



 **NATIONAL CANCER INSTITUTE**  
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## Cancer Prevention Fellowship Program

[Apply Now to CPFP](#)

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[Eligibility](#)

[Guidelines](#)

[Selection](#)

[FAQs](#)

[Contact CPFP](#)

## Apply

To be eligible to participate in CPFP, you must meet the following eligibility criteria:

- Must have a Ph.D., M.D., or other doctoral degree in a related discipline (e.g., basic science, epidemiology, health services research, medicine, behavioral science, nursing, social science, nutrition, health education/health promotion, law, dentistry, statistics, geography, exercise science, or engineering) or expect to complete all degree requirements by the start of the CPFP
- Must have less than 5 years of relevant postdoctoral experience at the time of appointment
- Must either
  - be a citizen or permanent resident of the United States at the time you apply (The I-551 stamp in a passport is acceptable; "Employment Authorization" documents are not acceptable.);
  - or must apply through the Fundación Inciensa (FUNIN)-NCI Partnership, which additionally requires that you demonstrate English language proficiency and be a citizen of the Costa Rica.

In order to be approved for logical and physical access to NIH facilities and systems, candidates must be able to pass a [federal background check](#).

Please confirm that you meet the above requirements before proceeding. Fields marked with an asterisk (\*) are required.

☒ I meet all the above eligibility requirements.\*

[Begin a new CPFP Application](#)

# CPFP: Application System

[Home](#) ▶ [Portal Overview](#) ▶ [Applications](#)

**Editing Application: CPFP 2024, Active User**

## Basic Information

- ## Basic Information

- ## Demographics

- Education

- Documents


- Research Interests

- ## References

-  Additional Questions

- [Preview and Submit](#)

Exit Without Saving

 The deadline for this application is 11:59 PM EDT on August 1, 2024, which is 168 day(s) away.

Please fill out the form below. Fields marked with an asterisk (\*) are required.

## Name

### Prefix

You may type in a prefix or select an option from the dropdown menu.

Select an option or type...

First Name\*

Active

Middle Name

Last Name\*

User

### Suffix

Select an option...

Preferred Name

Enter a preferred name, if it is different from your legal name above.

## Pronouns\*

You may type in your pronouns or select an option from the dropdown menu.

Select an option or type...

# CPFP Application: Timeline of Activities

ACTIVITY

May - August

Completion  
of CPFP  
application

Candidates complete CPFP application.

**Applications are due on August 1st.**

October

CPFP  
Interview

CPFP selects/invites candidates for interview **(by early October)**.

November

Candidate  
Selection

CPFP notifies candidates final decisions on selection into the CPFP **(by early November)**

December

M.P.H.  
Application

Selected candidates without formal public health training apply to M.P.H. programs nationwide.  
**December 1st** is the application deadline for most schools.

June

CPFP  
Fellowship  
Begins

The CPFP academic year starts in June of the following year.

**All incoming fellows start the first week in June.**



# Tips from a Successful Applicant and Fellow Perspective on the CPFP



**Jennifer Zink, Ph.D.**



# Application Tips

Highlight the **unique** aspects of the Cancer Prevention Fellowship Program in your personal statement

- MPH
- Multidisciplinary cohort
- Select your own preceptor and research activities



# Application Tips

Detail your research and career goals in your personal statement

- It is OK if you change your mind later, the CPFP is a place of exploration!
- Helps us evaluate whether we have the resources to support your goals





# Application Tips

Consider informational interviews with current fellows

- Contact information available on CFP website
- We can tell you about components of the fellowship program, research opportunities at NCI, career goals, etc.





# Application Tips

## General reminders:

- Have someone proofread your personal statement for clarity, typos, etc.; they do not have to be a scientist
- Think carefully about your letter of recommendation writers





## Interview Tips

- Consider saying something non-research related during your introduction
- Take some time beforehand to think about non-dissertation science
- Read about the program and review committee members ahead of time
- Come prepared with questions!





# Fellow Perspective on Review Committee

Does the applicant demonstrate promise for being an active member of the fellow community?

- Leadership
- Service
- Mentoring
- Other non-research experiences





# My Experience in the CPFP

## Fellowship Trainings/Professional Development

- Speaking about Science Communication Training
- Leadership Training Series
- Grants and Grantsmanship Workshop
- NIH-Wide Scientists Teaching about Science Course







# My Experience in the CPFP

## Independent Research Experiences

- Secondary analysis of national datasets
- Systematic and scoping reviews
- Small internal research awards for primary data collection and secondary data analysis





# My Experience in the CPFP

## Leadership and Service Opportunities

- Fellows Advisory Board
  - Alumni Relations Committee
- Fellows Editorial Board
- Peer mentoring
  - CPFP
  - Division of Cancer Control and Population Sciences



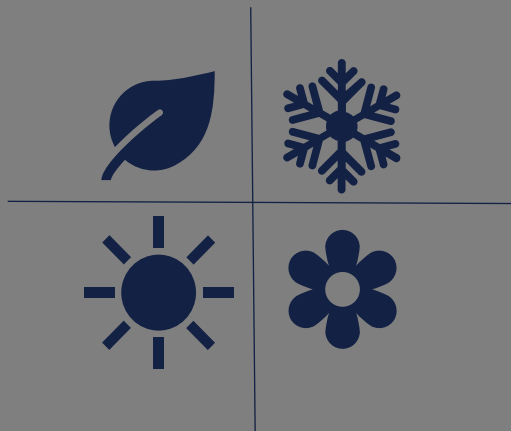
# My Experience Living in the DC Area



Relocation comes with expected challenges:

- Logistics of moving
- Lack of familiarity with the area
- Little-to-no sense of community or social network at first
- The CPFP and your cohort can and will provide support and a sense of community





# My Experience Living in the DC Area

## Suburban and urban

- Car optional, depending on where you live
- Public transportation; NIH main campus and NCI Shady Grove campus accessible by metro and/or bus

## Weather

- Four seasons; relatively mild winters, humid summers

## Entertainment

- Monuments, museums, restaurants, coffee shops, rock creek park







Division of Cancer Prevention

**Thank You!**