

Georgetown University, Institute for Reproductive Health
Intern for Efficacy Study of Dynamic Optimal Timing (Dot™)

Background:

The Georgetown University Institute for Reproductive Health (IRH) is dedicated to improving the sexual and reproductive health of women, men, and youth through a research-to-practice agenda. Our emphasis is on increasing access to and use of family planning, increasing fertility awareness through life-stage appropriate interventions, expanding access to fertility awareness-based family planning (FP) methods in an informed choice context, and developing scalable interventions to transform gender norms and catalyze the diffusion of social norms that support FP. Cross-cutting themes in the Institute's work include the diffusion of social norms that support sexual and reproductive health, scale up of innovations, and incorporating gender perspectives in reproductive health. In partnership with a wide range of international and local organizations, IRH conducts research, builds capacity, and provides technical assistance to public and private-sector organizations in lower and middle-income countries and the U.S. The Institute is supported by grants from federal agencies and foundations.

Project Overview: Currently, IRH is initiating a study of the effectiveness of a fertility awareness method of FP available via a mobile phone app. The app, Dot™, or Dynamic Optimal Timing, is now available for iPhones and will be available for Android phones in July 2016. The study will commence shortly thereafter and will focus on how well the method identifies the fertile days of a woman's menstrual cycle and how women who use the app actually understand and use the information/guidance the app provides. The study participants will engage in the study primarily through the app. This interaction utilizes a number of innovative approaches to data collection and participant communication. Participants will also be followed up with via a call center that will both enroll participants and capture data at designated times in the study. IRH seeks an intern with experience in literature searches and reviews, management of literature databases, preparation of documents for publication, and strong writing skills.

Roles & Responsibilities:

The intern will join the Dot study at an exciting time as we finalize the research protocol, initiate the study, and begin communicating with the broader academic and mobile health community about the study. The intern will be an integral part of the project team. His/her work will assist in searching for, reviewing, and cataloging/extracting information from published articles and unpublished documents of relevance to the Dot study, and in preparing articles for publication in peer reviewed journals. The intern will have the following responsibilities:

- **Annotated Bibliography and Literature Review**
Identify peer reviewed journals, websites, and other sources that publish and/or discuss issues relating to fertility apps, contraceptive efficacy, research via mobile phone, and other areas related to the Dot research. Extract and compile an annotated bibliography of identified publications (and other sources) and identify areas for investigation and analysis.

- **Knowledge Management and Communications Project Support**

Support knowledge and resource management for the Dot study team. Create and update the project's reference library in EndNote. Meet with the study team to review literature search findings and areas of potential interest. Work with IRH's communication team to support blog posts and social media updates.

- **Report, Journal Article, and Abstract Writing**

Assist in writing and editing project reports, journal articles, and conference abstracts Prepare presentations to share/disseminate research findings and project results.

Necessary Skills

The research intern will possess the following skills and experience:

- Excellent writing skills
- Prior experience conducting literature searches and reviews, managing a literature database, and/or preparation of documents for publication
- Strong administrative and organizational skills
- Strong Microsoft Office Suite (including PowerPoint) and other software skills
- Willingness to work on-site at IRH's headquarters in Dupont Circle 30 to 40 hours per week beginning no later than July 5, 2016 for a minimum of 8 weeks. (Internship may continue through 2016.)

Qualifications

- Candidate should be a current student or recent graduate of a master's degree program in one of the following: public health, health communications, behavioral science, health promotion, or other related field.
- Previous public health, research, and/or non-profit experience. Preference will be given to applicants with experience in family planning.

This is a paid internship. Selected qualified candidate will receive an hourly wage commensurate with experience.