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Advertisement

Call for Applications Dr. Suparna Bagchi Fellowship for Ph.D. in Health Sciences at the Department of Health Sciences

The Department of Health Sciences and the Dr Suparna Bagchi Memorial Trust launched the "Dr Suparna Bagchi Fellowship for Ph.D. in Health Sciences" on 24th July 2024. Given that the third round of PET-2024 results are out, the applications for the above-mentioned Fellowship for a Ph.D. in Health Sciences have been invited.

Objectives of the Dr Suparna Bagchi Fellowship for Ph.D. in Health Sciences: To support students with a Master's Degree - M.Sc. Health Sciences and/ or Master of Public Health (MPH) from the Department of Health Sciences, Savitribai Phule Pune University, to pursue research in public health, leading to a Ph.D. degree in Health Sciences, thereby promoting public health.

Fellowship Grant: The awardee will be given a grant of Rs. ₹ 2.5 lakhs, which may be used by him/her for two years.

Eligibility Norms:

In order to qualify for the fellowship grant, a student-

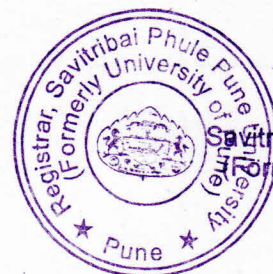
1. Should have completed MSc in Health Sciences/Master of Public Health from the Department of Health Sciences, School of Health Sciences.
2. Should have enrolled for a PhD degree at the Department of Health Sciences (Ph.D. Research Centre), Savitribai Phule Pune University, Pune or have a letter from authorities stating that the student will be granted admission for a Ph.D. degree.
3. Should be able to defend a research study plan that involves collecting primary data from rural/urban settings.
4. Should be able to present an estimate of the support request. This estimate should include a breakdown with justification under specific budget heads (e.g., travel, hiring data collectors, purchasing data collection tools and instruments). However, it will not support the purchase of equipment, chemicals, and consumables.

The fellowship aspirants are requested to send their applications in the prescribed format to the Head of the Department at the Department of Health Sciences, School of Health Sciences, Savitribai Phule Pune University on the email address hod.healthsciences@unipune.ac.in within 15 days from the date of advertisement. The application format can be downloaded from the Savitribai Phule Pune University website. Only the short-listed candidates will be invited for an interview. No TA/DA will be paid for attending the interview.

Head of the Department of Health Sciences

Head
Department of Health Sciences
Savitribai Phule Pune University
Pune-411007

Registrar



Registrar
Savitribai Phule Pune University
(Formerly University of Pune)
Pune - 7.

Photo

**“Application for Dr. Suparna Bagchi Fellowship
Ph.D. in Health Sciences ”**

1. Full Name	
2. Date of Birth	
3. Sex: M/F	
4. Marital Status	
5. Nationality	
6. Category: SC / ST / OBC / General	
7. Address for Correspondence	
8. Mobile Number	
9. Email address	
10. Academic Record	
A. UGC NET/Other Ph.D. qualifying Exam Details*	Examination Name: Discipline: Score: Appearing Year: Details:

B. Qualifying Degree*:					
Examination (Mention Specialization wherever applicable)	Name of College/ Board/ University/ Institute with city and state	Year of Passing	Subjects	% of marks/CGPA	Remarks/ Distinction/ Division
SSC*					
HSC*					
Bachelor's degree*					
Master's Degree*					
Any Other 1*					
Any Other 2*					
C. Details of the Interdisciplinary Research Experience					
Project Title					
Duration					
Place of Work					
Research Area					
Mentor / Guide / PI					
Description of the project					
Contribution to the project (In not more than 5 sentences)					
D. Please attach a list of publications* (in API format)					
E. Please attach the list of achievements (If any)					
F. Working experience (If any)					

G. Whether currently employed	Yes / No
11. Names of Ph.D. Research Supervisor/ Guide	

* Attach copies of documents

Declaration

I hereby declare that I have carefully read and understood the instructions and particulars on this application and that all entries in this form as well as in the attached sheets, are true to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Date:

Place

Signature



DR. SUPARNA BAGCHI Fellowship for Ph.D.

in Health Sciences at
Department of Health Sciences





Dr. Suparna Bagchi MSc, MSPH, DrPH

24 July 1977- 4 June 2022

Dr. Bagchi received her undergraduate degree-Microbiology (1999) and Master of Science-Health Sciences (2001) from the University of Pune; Master of Public Health (2003) and Doctorate of Public Health (2009) from the University of Alabama, Birmingham, USA.

- ▶ Adjunct Faculty Instructor, Georgia State University (2016- 2022)
- ▶ Health Scientist, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Georgia, Atlanta, Georgia (2015 – 2022)
- ▶ Chronic Disease Epidemiology Field Assignee, Texas Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (2014 – 2022)
- ▶ Epidemic Intelligence Service Officer, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Topeka, Kansas (2012-2014)
- ▶ Behavioural Surveillance Team Lead, Georgia, Department of Community Health (2009-2012 and 2009-2011)
- ▶ YRBSS Coordinator and Epidemiologist for Georgia State DHR (February – August 2009)
- ▶ Research Assistant, Centre for Study of Community Health (2005-2009)
- ▶ Graduate Research Assistant, University of Alabama, Birmingham (2001-2009)

Dr. Suparna Bagchi Fellowship for Ph.D. in Health Sciences.

A Joint Initiative of the Department of Health Sciences, School of Health Sciences, Savitribai Phule Pune University, Pune and Dr Suparna Bagchi Memorial Trust, Pune

Objective of the Dr Suparna Bagchi Fellowship for Ph.D. in Health Sciences

To support students with a Master's Degree - M.Sc. Health Sciences and/ or Master of Public Health (MPH) from the Department of Health Sciences, Savitribai Phule Pune University, to pursue research in public health, leading to a Ph.D. degree in Public Health/Health Sciences, thereby promoting public health.

Eligibility Norms:

In order to qualify for the fellowship grant, a student-

- ▶ Should have completed MSc in Health Sciences /MPH from the Department of Health Sciences, School of Health Sciences.
- ▶ Should have enrolled for a PhD degree at the Department of Health Sciences (Ph.D. Research Centre), Savitribai Phule Pune University, Pune or have a letter stating that the student will be granted admission for a Ph.D. degree upon producing "evidence of financial support".
- ▶ Should be able to defend a research study plan that involves collecting primary data from rural/urban settings.
- ▶ Should be able to present an estimate of the support request. This estimate should include a break-up with justification under specific budget heads (travel, hiring data collectors, purchasing data collection tools and instruments, etc.) but will not support purchasing equipment, chemicals and consumables.



Conditions relating to the Utilization and Distribution of Funds

- ▶ If supported, the candidate must utilize the funds over the data collection period (within two years, the period designated in the Agreement to be executed between the student and the Dr Suparna Bagchi Memorial Trust).
- ▶ Funds will be provided in instalments and will depend on work progress. The decision to continue the support will depend on the opinion of an expert committee constituted by the Department of Health Sciences under the School of Health Sciences, Savitribai Phule Pune University.
- ▶ The candidate must provide six-monthly updates on the work progress and expenditure to the Department of Health Sciences within fifteen days from the date of completion of six months.
- ▶ The awardee will be given a maximum of Rs. 2.5 lakhs, which may be used by him/ her over a period of two years.
- ▶ To deserving candidates, a grant of Rs. 2.5 lakhs will be given for two years.

Fellowship Support from Dr Suparna Bagchi Memorial Trust

Dr Suparna Bagchi Memorial Trust initiated an annual fellowship at the Department of Health Sciences, SPPU, for 15 (Fifteen) years from the Effective Date, in the manner stated below:

- ▶ To institute an annual fellowship to support a student with a Master's degree – M.Sc. Health Sciences and/ or Master of Public Health from the Department of Health Sciences, Savitribai Phule Pune University, to pursue a Ph.D. in Health Sciences and promote Public Health.
- ▶ Granting financial support in terms of fellowship to the selected candidate enrolled for Ph.D. at the Department of Health Sciences (Ph.D. Research Centre), Savitribai Phule Pune University, Pune.
- ▶ The fellowship grant is capped at Rs. 2.5 Lakhs, which the selected candidate may use over a period of two years.
- ▶ Every year, a new student will be selected to receive the amount.
- ▶ Trust will nominate its representatives on the expert selection panel.
- ▶ The trust in instalments will provide the fellowship grant to selected Ph.D. students, and the grant's release will depend on the student's work progress.

Support from the Department of Health Sciences, SPPU

Department of Health Sciences of SPPU shall have the following responsibilities:

- ▶ The Head of the Department of Health Sciences shall chair the expert committee and nominate two other representatives to participate in the activities below.
- ▶ Announcing the fellowship/ support by placing the call for application on the department's website and circulating it via the Alumni Association of the Department.
- ▶ Identifying application dates and deadlines.
- ▶ Assistance in creating the application form.
- ▶ Assisting in reviewing the applications, interviewing the candidates, and finalizing the fellowship awardee with due consent of the trustees of Dr Suparna Bagchi Memorial Trust.
- ▶ The Department of Health Sciences will select one awardee per year for the amount of Rs. 2.5 lakhs.
- ▶ Selecting a deserving candidate for the annual fellowship in consultation with

representatives of Dr Suparna Bagchi Memorial Trust.

- ▶ Assist in undertaking a six-monthly evaluation of the candidate's progress and deciding to release further grants.
- ▶ Organize an annual event to announce the award with a small online event, such as an invited talk in the field of public health.
- ▶ The Department of Health Sciences will not be involved in any financial transaction issues which will be conducted between the selected candidate and the Trust.

Selection Committee of Fellowship

Selection Committee for selecting a candidate/ candidates for the award of fellowship shall consist of the following members:

- ▶ Head, Department of Health Sciences of SPPU – Chairperson
- ▶ Two teachers of the Department of Health Sciences nominated by the Head of the Department of Health Sciences
- ▶ Two representatives nominated by the Dr Suparna Bagchi Memorial Trust

MESSAGES OF COLLEAGUES OF LATE DR SUPARNA BAGCHI



Bell Jeneita
MD, CDC Atlanta

Dr. Suparna Bagchi was a public health epidemiologist at the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) upon her passing in 2022. She dedicated her professional career to the pursuit of knowledge that she may increase her skills and impact for the health and well-being of underserved populations. After she earned her doctorate degree in Public Health at the University of Alabama at Birmingham, she became a staff member at the Georgia State Department of Health. In this position, Suparna conducted research to elucidate the trends in chronic disease, violence, and youth-related substance abuse to identify targets for intervention. Shortly thereafter, she joined the CDC's Epidemic Intelligence Service as a fellow and shifted her focus to include the prevention of infectious diseases. As a CDC assignee to the Kansas and Texas State Departments of Health, she became an expert at evaluating public health surveillance systems and identifying the usefulness of these data sources to guide Public Health programs. However, Suparna's most impactful work occurred after she returned to CDC headquarters as an epidemiologist in the Division of Healthcare Quality Promotion. There she supported the agency's response to the Ebola epidemic in Africa's Democratic Republic of the Congo and the COVID-19 pandemic. Importantly, Suparna helped lead the management and growth of the first national surveillance system used to monitor the virus causing COVID-19 among nursing home populations, where the nation's elders commonly reside. She was unable to see this endeavor to completion but her legacy lives on as her colleagues at the CDC continue this work today. Regardless, her accomplishments are an example of excellence. All of Suparna's professional pursuits demonstrate that she persistently pursued opportunities to expand her professional aptitude, not for personal gain but to create opportunities for others to thrive.

I wanted to take a moment to share my experience with the late Dr. Suparna Bagchi. She was my supervisor, mentor, and friend. She had a significant impact on my career as my supervisor and a mentor and on my life as a dear friend.

As a supervisor and mentor, she provided me with wisdom, expertise, and constructive feedback that helped me to grow and develop in ways I never thought possible. She believed in me and my

abilities and provided me guidance which gave me the confidence to pursue my career goals and dreams. She was a great leader and a mentor, someone who sees good and greatness in others even when they cannot see those qualities in themselves. She inspired, guided, and supported others. As a supervisor, we worked together on a few scientific products and she was an exceptional partner and team player. Her collaboration, creativity, and work ethic made me a stronger and more effective scientist. I'm grateful for her guidance, support, and encouragement. She was an invaluable part of my career story.

I feel fortunate to have known her and be my supervisor and mentor. As a friend, she was a constant source of comfort, advice, and laughter. Her kindness, empathy, and generosity inspired me to be a better person. She was not only a friend to me, but a friend and a trusted confidante to my entire family, sharing in the moments of joy, such as during my kids' birthdays, and times of grief and challenges such as when my dad passed away.

As a friend, I am forever grateful for her extraordinary supervision and mentorship and for being a true and trusted friend. I'm grateful for the role she played in my life. I believe there are a lot more people out there who share my story of the great impact Dr. Bagchi made in their lives. I'm considered a good scientist in my chosen field, in part due to the impact of her mentorship. I'm currently providing similar mentorship to others.

Dr. Bagchi's legacy will continue to live on and the gift of mentorship she provided is a gift that will keep living through me and others she mentored.



Ashutosh Wadhwa
BVSc, MVSc, PhD, Global Program Advisor,
CDC, Atlanta

I met Dr. Suparna Bagchi in April 2018 during a conference in Atlanta, and I was astounded by her clarity on Public Health principles and epidemiology. We stayed connected as colleagues and friends, frequently discussing the importance of training for budding Public Health professionals.

Dr. Bagchi, having completed the prestigious Epidemic Intelligence Service Fellowship at the CDC, possessed extensive experience not only in infectious disease epidemiology but also in building sustainable surveillance systems for healthcare acquired infections. In our numerous discussions, both professional and personal, Dr. Bagchi consistently shared the rich experiences she gained in the U.S., from her time as a Ph.D. student to becoming an esteemed Public Health professional. I am delighted that the Department of Public Health is establishing a scholarship in Dr. Bagchi's name. I hope that future students will continue her legacy and contribute significantly to the field of Public Health



Dr. Indranil Roy

MBBS, MD. Public Health Specialist
and Lab Advisor CDC, India

The first time I met Suparna was at the conference venue in Atlanta in 2018 and it felt like I was meeting an old friend after a long time. Later I realized it was her friendly nature and warmth that created an immediate sense of comfort and familiarity. This is also the reason why she was liked by everyone who met or worked with her.

Suparna was an expert in the CDC's post-acute care team of the Division of Healthcare Quality Promotion. Her contributions in epidemiology and infection control are widely acknowledged within and beyond CDC. She was not only well-respected in her field but also admired for her ability to translate complex scientific concepts into actionable strategies that protected countless lives.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, Suparna displayed extraordinary bravery by taking on deputations across the country, playing a crucial role in disease tracking efforts. Her relentless work during the pandemic, often in the face of personal health challenges, underscored her exceptional commitment to her profession and humanity.

Her academic achievements, including her work on infections in hemodialysis patients and nursing home patients, remote infection prevention strategies, the spread of SARS-CoV-2 in the United States, and the effectiveness of COVID-19 vaccines, which have garnered over 500 citations, are a testament to her contribution to science and research.

Suparna's academic prowess and professional excellence were matched only by her compassion and willingness to help others. Her story is one of resilience, courage, and unwavering dedication to making the world a healthier place. Through this academic program she will continue to inspire future generations to pursue excellence and service through science. Suparna was an expert in the CDC's post-acute care team of the Division of Healthcare Quality Promotion. Her contributions in epidemiology and infection control are widely acknowledged within and beyond CDC. She was not only well-respected in her field but also admired for her ability to translate complex scientific concepts into actionable strategies that protected countless lives.

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