

# VA Quality Scholars Fellowship Program

## Pre- and Post-Doctoral Fellowship for Nurses

### PURPOSE

To develop the next generation of leaders in the research, teaching, and administration of health care quality improvement. An important goal of this interdisciplinary fellowship is to develop nurses and physicians who will be able to advance the scientific basis of health care improvement.

By the end of this two-year fellowship, Scholars will be able to:

- Design and lead interdisciplinary efforts for quality improvement.
- Teach health professionals about health care improvement and quality.
- Design and conduct research or improvement projects and publish results in peer-reviewed literature.
- Develop new knowledge for the ongoing improvement of the quality of health care services.
- Apply clinical, quality improvement and health services and outcomes research methods.
- Learn successful approaches for grant writing and funding.

### PROGRAM

The VAQS Fellowship Program was established in 1999 for physicians by the Veterans Health Administration. The nursing component was added in 2009. Mentoring is a critical component of this two-year program which links individualized training at each VA Medical Center to state-of-the-art curriculum developed by The Dartmouth Institute.

### RESEARCH OPPORTUNITIES

#### **VA PACT Demonstration Laboratory**

Led by Lisa V. Rubenstein, MD, MSPH;

#### **VAQS GLA Director and Senior Scholar**

Veterans Assessment and Improvement Laboratory (VAIL) is one of five national PACT Demo Labs with the purpose of using QI methods within a research/clinical partnership to develop and spread PACT innovations. VAIL has supported VISN QI priority-setting for 30 proposed projects, resulting in 8 high-priority QI innovations.

#### **VA Women's Health Research Consortium/PBRN**

Led by Elizabeth Yano, PhD, MSPH; GLA COE Director

This network currently hosts two QI projects funded by the VA Office of Women's Health. One supports improved quality for women in distant primary care sites and the other evaluates the current capabilities of VA emergency department care for women.

#### **Patient Safety: Pressure Ulcer Prevention and Fall Prevention**

Led by Lynn Soban, PhD, RN; VAQS GLA Senior Scholar  
and David Ganz, MD, PhD; VAQS GLA Assoc Director

The first project studies the influence of contextual features on nurses' delivery of evidence-based pressure ulcer preventive care. The second supports the development of a toolkit and resource guide to help clinicians and managers in their efforts to prevent falls in acute care hospitals

### CURRICULUM COMPONENTS

- Interactive video conferences (25/year)
- National meetings (3/year)
- Fellow-lead improvement projects
- Clinical and education activities
- Mentoring
- Course work

### ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

- Acceptance into a DNP or PhD program or completion of DNP or PhD in Nursing, Public Health, or related fields
- Active RN license
- U. S. citizenship

### FINANCIAL & OTHER SUPPORT

- Pre-Doc Fellows: \$40,532
- Post-Doc Fellows: \$57,731
- Health insurance benefits

VA GREATER LOS ANGELES  
HEALTHCARE SYSTEM



A Division of VA Desert Pacific  
Healthcare Network

For more information, please visit [www.vaqs.org](http://www.vaqs.org)  
or contact:

Lynn Soban, PhD, RN  
Senior Nurse Scholar  
Lynn.Soban@va.gov

Deborah Delevan, MEd  
Administrative Coordinator  
Deborah.Delevan@va.gov

VA HSR&D Center of Excellence

VA Greater Los Angeles Healthcare System  
16111 Plummer Street (152)  
Sepulveda, CA 91343

June 2012