

VA Quality Scholars Fellowship Program

Post-Residency Fellowship for Physicians

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

Examples of work in this area include a study of the influence of contextual features on nurses' delivery of evidence-based pressure ulcer preventive care in the acute care setting and 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-led improvement projects
- Clinical and education activities
- Mentoring
- Course work

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

- Completed ACGME-accredited residency or fellowship training
- Board-eligible or board-certified
- Active, unrestricted U.S. license to practice
- U.S. Citizenship

FINANCIAL & OTHER SUPPORT

- Salary based on UCLA PGY rates at VA Greater Los Angeles
- 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
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