Application Process

Applicants will be evaluated on their professional training and development to date, professional statement, demonstrated productivity and recommendations. Final selection of fellows will be based on a personal interview.

Application Requirements

Professional statement. Applicants should submit a brief statement (not to exceed one single-spaced page) of their research activities and career goals and objectives, how they can contribute to the objectives of the training program, and how the program can contribute to the applicant's professional development.

Demonstrated productivity. Applicants should provide details on education, professional activities and relevant achievements. In addiction, applicants are asked to supply two examples of their work.

Recommendations. Three individuals who know the applicant's work should write letters describing the applicant's competence, an estimate of how the applicant's performance ranks in relation to that of their peers, and the likelihood of the applicant making a contribution to the field of Health Services Research.

Interview. After an initial screening phase, top candidates will be interviewed.

Program Director

Ruth C. Cronkite, Ph.D., Research Health Science Specialist, Center for Health Care Evaluation, Veterans Affairs Palo Alto Health Care System, Consulting Associate Professor, Stanford University

Core VA Preceptors

Ruth Cronkite, Ph.D.
Susan Frayne, M.D., Ph.D.
Alan Garber, M.D., Ph.D.
Elizabeth Gifford, Ph.D.
Mary Goldstein, M.D.
Keith Humphreys, Ph.D.
John McKellar, Ph.D.
Rudolf Moos, Ph.D.
Douglas Owens, M.D., M.Sc.
Ciaran Phibbs, Ph.D.
Craig Rosen, Ph.D.
Jeanne Schaefer, Ph.D., R.N.
Mark Smith, Ph.D.
Quyen Tiet, Ph.D.
Christine Timko, Ph.D.
Jodie Trafton, Ph.D.
Todd Wagner, Ph.D.
Ken Weingardt, Ph.D.
Wei Yu, Ph.D.

For further information, please write to:

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HSR&D Center of Excellence
VA Palo Alto Health Care System
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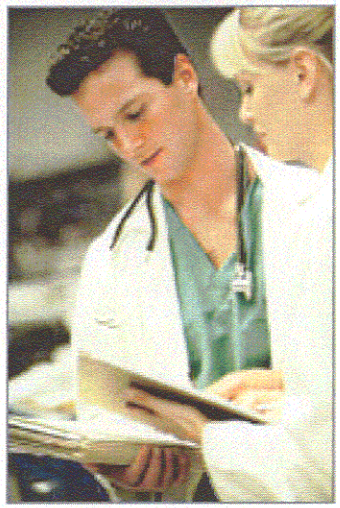
Center for Health Care Evaluation

Postdoctoral Fellowship in Health Services Research



Center for Health Care Evaluation
Veterans Affairs Palo Alto Health Care System and Stanford University

The Center for Health Care Evaluation, HSR&D Center of Excellence, of Veterans Affairs Palo Alto Health Care System, along with Stanford University is offering postdoctoral training opportunities for qualified candidates beginning in October 2006.

The program is funded by the Department of Veterans Affairs Office of Academic Affairs (OAA) and Health Services Research and Development Service. It provides competitive stipends starting at $40,000 for Ph.D. level postdoctoral trainees. Appointments will typically be renewable for a second year, contingent upon funding.

In addition to participation in seminars and formal coursework at Stanford University, UC San Francisco, or UC Berkeley, a major component of the program is to conduct health services research of relevance to the VA in collaboration with a member of the program faculty. Fellows completing the program will be well prepared to become leading investigators in one of the most challenging fields of modern health care.

Training Program

Postdoctoral trainees are offered an opportunity to combine formal training in health services research with research in such areas as organization and delivery of services; diagnostic assessment, screening and clinical decision-making; psychiatric and substance abuse disorders and their treatment; geriatric disorders and interventions; and health care evaluation methodology.

Fellows will:

- Acquire skills in state-of-the-art methodological tools of health services research;
- Gain insight into major current issues in health policy research;
- Develop expertise in conducting collaborative and interdisciplinary health services research;
- Acquire further training in such areas as quantitative research methods (biostatistics and epidemiology), health economics, health research and policy, and medical decision-making through seminars and formal coursework.

Research Opportunities

Research foci include:

Organization and delivery of services, such as hospital service areas and patients' choice of health care facilities, telephone monitoring system for health conditions, outcome studies of patients treated for depression or substance use disorders, health care staff and the quality and outcome of care; decision support systems for implementing clinical guidelines.

Diagnostic assessment, screening, and clinical decision-making, such as decision aids and technology assessment, coronary artery disease and its risk factors, screening for psychiatric conditions (depression, PTSD), selection into alcoholism treatment;

Psychiatric and substance use disorders and their treatment, such as substance use patients and programs and process and outcome of treatment, organizational factors and program effectiveness, psychiatric and substance use disorder programs as health care systems, medical concomitants of psychiatric and substance use disorders, psychosocial factors and the course of depression and substance use disorders, meta-analysis of substance use disorder treatment outcome studies, self-help groups or organizations and informal helping processes;

Geriatric disorders and interventions, such as organization of inpatient geriatric care, organization and outcome of group residential facilities, risk factors for prolonged hospitalization, treatment and outcome of group residential facilities, risk factors for prolonged hospitalization, treatment and outcome of late-life depression and substance use disorder, interventions for caregivers of older patients;

Health care evaluation methodology, such as measures of program characteristics, methods for assessing patient preferences, assessing life context and coping, facilitating the use of VA databases, methods to aid decision analysis, casemix adjustment models and indices of program performance, methodological issues in cost-effectiveness analysis.

Eligibility

Applicants must be U.S. citizens who have completed a Ph.D. in a field other than medicine. The VA is an equal opportunity employer.