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. Applicants should include a Curriculum Vitae.

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 Medical Informatics.

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

Program Director

Douglas Owens, M.D., M.Sc., VA HSR&D Research Associate, Center for Health Care Evaluation, VA Palo Alto Health Care System, Associate Professor of Medicine, Associate Professor of Health Research and Policy, Stanford University.

Program Co-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

For further information, please write to:

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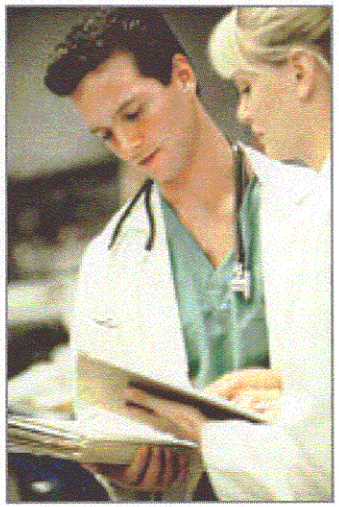
Center for Health Care Evaluation

Postdoctoral Fellowship in Medical Informatics



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 and the Stanford University Medical Information Sciences (MIS) Program are offering postdoctoral training opportunities for qualified candidates beginning in July 2006.

The program is funded by the VA Office of Academic Affairs (OSS), Health Services Research and Development (HSR&D) Service, and Office of the Chief Information Officer (OCIO). M.D.s' stipends will be based on completed ACGME accredited residency and on VA and Stanford University approved index rates. Stipends for Ph.D.s will start at $40,000. Appointments will typically be for one year with the possibility of renewal for a second year contingent upon funding.

In addition to participation in seminars and formal coursework at Stanford University, a major component of the program is to conduct original research 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 Medical Informatics with research applying Medical Informatics to areas of relevance to the VA health care system such as decision support systems technologies.

Fellows will:

- Acquire skills in state-of-the-art Medical Informatics;
- Gain insight into major current issues in Medical Informatics that are relevant to VA clinical, educational, and research programs;
- Develop expertise in conducting collaborative and interdisciplinary Medical Informatics research;
- Acquire further training in such areas as medical decision-making, information technologies, communications tasks of medical practice, and information systems through seminars and formal coursework.

Research Opportunities

The VA maintains some of the most comprehensive and administrative data systems in the U.S. and is at the forefront of efforts to develop a computer-based patient record. Research opportunities at the VA and Stanford MIS program are extensive and include the following foci:

Medical Decision-Making, Decision Support Systems and Knowledge Acquisition. Among ongoing projects are: (1) the use of formal analytic approaches to aid in the development of screening and treatment strategies, (2) methods for improving health care while limiting its cost, (3) the design of decision support systems for a range of medical conditions such as hypertension, chronic pain, diabetes, and substance use disorders, (4) the synthesis of database and artificial intelligence techniques into expert systems.

Information Processing. Ongoing projects focus on methods by which information can be retrieved and utilized more selectively and effectively via processes that: (1) facilitate access to and use of the most relevant information for a given need, (2) enhance the electronic exchange, organization and presentation of information in clinical, research and educational settings, (3) extend electronic library-based information services, (4) enhance medical image processing.

Enhanced User Interface Projects and Related Research. Ongoing research includes: (1) speech input and pen-based interface systems, (2) mapping natural language text to standard medical terminologies, (3) extending, improving and adapting new computer tools.

Quality of Care and Program Evaluation. Among ongoing projects are: (1) studies of quality of life and preferences for alternative states of health to be used in guiding treatment decisions, (2) developing a prototype for manipulation and transfer of medical record data for evaluation of treatment programs and preventative medicine.

Eligibility

Applicants must have completed an M.D. and residency training or have completed a Ph.D. in computer sciences, medical informatics, decision sciences, economics, or related fields. Applicants with strong quantitative and computer science backgrounds will be given priority. The VA is an equal opportunity employer. Women and minority candidates are encouraged to apply.