

## 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.** Applicant should submit a brief statement 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 addition, 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.

## Core VA Preceptors

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

## For further information, please write to:

Jan Beyer, Administrative Officer Center for Health Care Evaluation HSR&D Center of Excellence VA Palo Alto Health Care System Menlo Park Division (152) 795 Willow Road Menlo Park, CA 94025 (650) 617-2746 Fax: (650) 617-2736.

## Postdoctoral Fellowships in Health Services Research



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

## Training Program

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 2004.

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 of \$37,000 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.

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, demand for health care, automated voice message systems for monitoring diabetics, outcome studies of patients treated for depression or alcohol abuse, health care staff and the quality and outcome of care;

Diagnostic assessment, screening, and clinical decision-making, such as decision aids and technology assessment, coronary artery disease and its risk factors, screening for HIV infection, selection into alcoholism treatment;

Psychiatric and substance abuse disorders and their treatment, such as substance abuse patients and programs and process and outcome of treatment, organizational factors and program effectiveness, psychiatric and substance abuse programs as health care systems, medical concomitants of psychiatric and substance abuse disorders, psychosocial factors and the course of depression and alcohol abuse, meta-analysis of substance abuse 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 late-life depression and substance abuse, 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, case-mix 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.