VA National Quality Scholars Fellowship Program
Post-Residency/ Pre and Post-Doctoral Fellowship Positions
Advancing the Scholarship of Improving Health Care

Purpose
To develop the next generation of leaders in the research, teaching, and administration of health care quality improvement. An important goal of the program is to develop individuals who will be able to advance the scientific basis of health care improvement.

VA Quality Scholars (VAQS) will be able to:
- Design and lead 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 and value of health care services.
- Apply quality improvement and health services and outcomes research methods.
- Learn successful approaches for grant writing and funding.

Curriculum Components
- Weekly interactive video conferences
- Participation in national practicum opportunities
- Fellow improvement projects
- Clinical and education activities
- National conference
- Course work (MPH or equivalent degree tuition covered at some sites)

Requirements
Physicians: Applicants must have completed ACGME-accredited residency or fellowship training, be board-eligible or board-certified, and have an active, unrestricted U.S. license to practice. International medical graduates must also fulfill visa and ECFMG requirements.

Nurses: Accepted into a DNP or PhD program at one of the five affiliated schools of nursing or completed DNP or PhD; active, unrestricted license to practice; and U. S. citizenship.

Contact Information
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Participating Institutions
Atlanta VAMC, Emory Univ. SOM and Morehouse SOM
Birmingham VAMC, University of Alabama at Birmingham
Iowa City VAMC, University of Iowa
San Francisco VAMC, University of California, San Francisco
Greater Los Angeles VAMC, Univ. of CA, Los Angeles
Cleveland VAMC, Case Western Reserve University
Nashville VAMC, Vanderbilt University
White River Junction VAMC, Dartmouth
Fellows’ Prior Publications (partial list)

- Pierluissi E, Fischer M, Campbell A, Landefeld S. Discussion of Medical Errors in Morbidity and Mortality Conferences. JAMA 2003; 290:2838-42.

Fellow Improvement Project Topics

- “An Electronic Medical Record Intervention Increased Nursing Home Advance Directive Orders and Documentation”
- “Survey of Emergency Drug Kit (EDK) Use in Hospice Organizations”
- “Use of Novel Information Tools for Improving the Management of Chronic Diseases”
- “Preventive Services for Women: How is the Veterans Administration Doing?”
- “Lack of an Association Between Diabetes and an Increased Risk of In-Hospital Death Among Patients with Pneumonia”
- “Dispersion of Care and Cardiovascular Outcomes: Does More Matter?”
- “Clinical Inertia: A Common Barrier to Changing Provider Prescribing Behavior”
- “Improving Diabetic Hyperglycemia Using Integrated Disease Management”
- “Effectiveness of Assertive Community Treatment for Homeless Mental Illness”

Alumni

Graduates of the program have continued their outstanding work in advancing the scholarship of health care improvement in the following professional positions:

- VA HSR&D Career Development Awards
- Quality Management Officers in VA Networks
- White House Fellow
- Director of Quality Improvement for the Army
- Senior leaders in public health organizations
- Medical Directors (Nursing Home, Palliative Care Units, Hospital Medicine, Emergency Medicine, Outpatient Clinics)
- Faculty and fellowship positions at academic medical centers across the nation

http://www.vaqs.org/