



DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

Interprofessional Fellowship in Patient Safety Philadelphia VA Medical Center Beginning July 2009

Purpose

The purpose of the **Interprofessional Fellowship in Patient Safety and Clinical Simulation** is to develop leaders with the vision, knowledge, and skills to lead patient safety and human simulation initiatives in individual health care facilities and who will assume regional and national roles in patient safety and clinical simulation training. Additionally, it is anticipated that program graduates will develop specific research skills during the fellowship that will subsequently enable them to design, test, and refine simulation approaches to improve or assess individual and team skills in varied clinical settings and make valuable contributions to the developing body of knowledge in this area.

This fellowship is based at the Philadelphia VAMC (PVAMC) and is a collaboration with VA National Center for Patient Safety, the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine, the University of Pennsylvania's Penn Medicine Clinical Simulation Center, and the University of Pennsylvania School of Nursing. During the 1-year full-time fellowship program, the fellow is expected to complete one significant patient safety project under the supervision of an established expert in patient safety. Fellows' curriculum will include participation in patient safety activities at PVAMC and support for limited coursework at Penn's Center for Clinical Epidemiology or other educational venues. Fellows are encouraged but not required to seek VA employment after completion of the fellowship.

Eligibility

Applicants must meet the following program requirements: US citizenship and completion of all requirements needed to be fully a credentialed independent practitioner in their field at a VA facility.

- Physicians must be either board-eligible or certified in a recognized medical specialty; physician-fellows will have 25% time for clinical activities.
- Clinical fields that recognize independent practitioners possessing degree levels below that of Master's Degree (e.g. Registered Nurse or Registered Dietitian) must have completed a Master's Degree (or all requirements for the degree) to be eligible. Nurses, social workers, and health care administrators must possess at least a master's degree. Applicants in academic fields that do not involve clinical certification or licensure but that can be applicable to health systems (e.g. anthropology, sociology, computer science/medical informatics, engineering, etc.) must have received a Ph.D. in their field, or demonstrate that all requirements for such a degree have been completed.

Funding

Stipend rates are determined by VA Office of Academic Affiliations, depending on the discipline and previous education of the trainee. For physicians, the stipend rate will be based on years of previously completed ACGME accredited residency training and equivalent experiences as determined by OAA and index rates approved at the affiliated university and the respective VA facility.

Application and Start Dates

The deadline for application is April 15, 2009 for fellowships beginning July 1, 2009.

Application Process. Applicants will be required to submit an application that includes a personal statement, of no more than two pages which will include a statement of personal goals for the fellowship and will summarize long term and short term career goals. Applicants will also be required to submit a curriculum vitae and two letters of recommendation from health care professionals who are aware of the applicant's interests, abilities, and goals. Qualified applicants will be invited for interview.

Selection and Selection Criteria. A selection committee will review, score, and rank applicants based on the following criteria: quality of credentials and experience, commitment to remain in the VA system, a match between personal goals and planned program activities, and strengths of recommendations. The committee will come to consensus based on applicant ranking and discussions by the group provided a quorum is present. Consideration will be given to selecting fellows in diverse professions in order to maintain a balance in the program and to help to foster interprofessional collaboration and teamwork in the fields of patient safety and simulation.

**Completed applications should be forwarded to:
Office of the Associate Chief of Staff for Education
MS 11E**

**Philadelphia VA Medical Center
University and Woodland Aves
Philadelphia, PA 19104**

Attn: Ms. Christine Jones

For additional information:

- Check VA's web page at <http://www.va.gov/oaal/>
- Contact Dr. Gregg Lipschik at: lipschik@mail.med.upenn.edu (215) 823-4460