

Applicant Requirements

- Completion of an ACGME accredited postgraduate medical residency
- The desire to pursue a medical career with a focus on quality improvement, health services research or medical administration
- The ability to appreciate and leverage the benefits of coordination of clinical medicine, research and administration
- The desire to help lead the VA into the 21st century as a change agent
- The capacity for interactive skills necessary to create change in institutions
- Board certification or eligibility and an active, unrestricted license to practice in the US

Application Process

For information about the application process, contact the Senior Scholar at one of the following sites:

David Aron, MD, MS
Case Western Reserve University
Ph: 216.368.0741
Email: dca2@po.cwru.edu

Robert S. Dittus, MD, MPH
Vanderbilt University
Ph: 615.936.1029
Email: robert.dittus@mcmail.vanderbilt.edu

Catarina Kiefe, PhD, MD
University of Alabama at Birmingham
Ph: 205.934.3773
Email: Ckiefe@uab.edu

Seth Landefeld, MD
University of California, San Francisco
Ph: 415.750.6625
Email: sethl@medicine.ucsf.edu

Gary Rosenthal, MD
University of Iowa
Ph: 319.356.4241
Email: gary-rosenthal@uiowa.edu

William B. Weeks, MD, MBA
Dartmouth Medical School
Ph: 603.650.6513
Email: william.weeks@med.va.gov

For general program information about VA's Special Fellowship Programs, contact:
Eliza Wolff, DrPH, VA Headquarters, 810 Vermont Ave. NW, Washington, DC 20420.
Ph: 202.273.8384 or lila.wolff@hq.med.va.gov

For general information about this program, in the Center for the Evaluative Clinical Sciences at Dartmouth, contact:
Creigh Moffatt, RN, JD, Health Care Improvement Leadership Development, CECS, Dartmouth Medical School, HB 7251, Strassenburgh Hall, Dartmouth College, Hanover, NH 03755-3863.
Ph: 603.650.6513 or creigh.moffatt@dartmouth.edu



Department of
Veterans Affairs

National

Quality
Scholars

Fellowship
Program

Offered in collaboration with the
Center for the Evaluative Clinical Sciences at
Dartmouth Medical School, Hanover, NH

Program Vision

Clinicians today care for patients in increasingly complex organizations, yet very few physicians possess the knowledge, skills and methods needed to design, introduce, execute and evaluate sustainable improvement successfully in those settings.

A new program is needed to develop the physician scholars who will lead these efforts.

With its focus on quality care for a defined population of patients, its national health system delivery network, and its extensive experience in medical education and training, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) presents an optimal setting within which to seed the scholarly development of the improvement discipline.

We are proud to initiate the VANational Quality Scholars Fellowship Program.

Kenneth W. Kizer, MD, MPH
Under Secretary for Health
Department of Veterans Affairs

“Through an innovative collaborative arrangement with Dartmouth Medical School’s Center for the Evaluative Clinical Sciences, we have designed a unique model for teaching and learning about the improvement of health care. This program will advance the academic discipline of health care quality improvement. Join us in this exciting endeavor.”

David P. Stevens, MD
Chief Academic Affiliations Officer
Department of Veterans Affairs

“This unique program offers Quality Scholars an opportunity to participate in the redesign of health care in an integrated service delivery system. Through scholarly investigation, the fellows will advance the science and practice of the clinical improvement discipline and help define the future of health care.”

Paul B. Batalden, MD
Professor and Director
Health Care Improvement Leadership Development
Center for the Evaluative Clinical Sciences
Dartmouth Medical School



CASE WESTERN RESERVE UNIVERSITY

Redesign of pre-admission surgical care for TURP improved surgical outcomes, improved patient satisfaction, and reduced costs of care by 30%.

“The group of future health care leaders which will be developed in this program will transport knowledge of the discipline of clinical improvement to academic, public sector, and private sector settings across the nation. This program demonstrates the commitment of VA to ongoing improvement and innovation in the provision of health care.”

Donald M. Berwick, MD, MPP
President and Chief Executive Officer
Institute for Healthcare Improvement

UAB THE UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA AT BIRMINGHAM

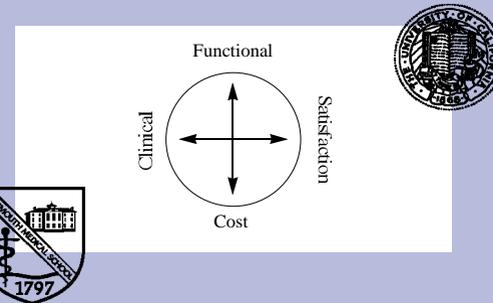


THE UNIVERSITY OF IOWA

Quality Scholars will blend clinical, academic, and administrative learning opportunities to design and implement clinical improvement projects.

“Linking the scholarly development of the continual improvement and innovation of health care with the professional development and education of physicians is fundamental to improving health care. VA will promote the leadership of scholarly health care improvement work by educating providers able to effect change and disperse improvement knowledge.”

George D. Lundberg, MD
Editor
Journal of the American Medical Association



Program Aim

The VANational Quality Scholars Fellowship Program will produce the next generation of recognized scholars and leaders in Quality Improvement in Health Care. Their expertise will be evidenced by the following:

- Innovation and continual improvement of health care
- The local application of this knowledge and these methods for the improvement of veterans' health care
- Excellence in teaching and learning about the improvement of health care
- Research and the development of new knowledge for the ongoing improvement of the quality and value of health care services

Program Features

- **Innovative Curriculum in Quality Improvement** coordinated by the Center for the Evaluative Clinical Sciences at Dartmouth Medical School. The curriculum covers research and clinical training in quality improvement, health care measurement and systems theory.
- **An Academically Based Program** with close collaboration between each site and its academic affiliate. This will provide fellows with a sound foundation for research in the discipline of quality improvement through education in biostatistics, health care finance, grant writing and study design.
- **Clinical Quality Improvement Projects** under the supervision and tutelage of a mentor
- **Research Project** under the supervision of a mentor
- **Clinical Training** tailored to the individual (approximately 20% of the program)
- **Local and Distance Learning** via classroom and video teleconferencing, journal clubs and national conferences