

# VA Advanced Fellowship Program in Multiple Sclerosis

## History and Purpose

The purpose of VA's Advanced Fellowship Program in Multiple Sclerosis is to develop physician leaders with the vision, knowledge, and commitment to health care, research, and education related to multiple sclerosis. VA medical centers treat at least 28,000 Veterans each year with this chronic inflammatory disease of the brain and spinal cord. More than 11,000 Veterans receive disability compensation for this disease, making this an important neurological condition affecting Veterans. To address this important condition, VA designated MS Centers of Excellence in 2002, and the first special fellows began in July, 2003.

The VA Advanced Fellowship Program in Multiple Sclerosis is offered at the VA MS Centers of Excellence (MSCoE), East and West. MSCoE - East is located at the VA Maryland Health Care System, Baltimore and the Washington DC VA Medical Center. MSCoE - West is located at the Puget Sound Health Care System, Seattle and the VA Portland Health Care System, Portland, OR. This ensures that participants in the Advanced Fellowship program will be mentored by superb faculty and have the highest quality clinical, research, and educational experiences possible for this field of inquiry.

## Program Overview

The Advanced Fellowship Program in Multiple Sclerosis provides two years (with the possibility of extension to a third year) of post-residency research, education, and clinical learning opportunities to eligible physicians. Fellows spend approximately 75 percent of their time in research and education and 25 percent in clinical care at participating VA sites. Mentors of national stature provide guidance to fellows in rich learning environments. Graduates are expected to be role models in leading, developing, conducting, and evaluating innovative research, education, and clinical care in the fields related to MS.

## Fellowship Requirements

Eligible physicians must have graduated from an Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME) or American Osteopathic Association (AOA) Council on Osteopathic Postgraduate Training (COPT)-accredited residency; be board certified or board eligible in a discipline such as neurology, internal medicine, physical medicine and rehabilitation, or spinal cord medicine; and have an active, unrestricted U.S. medical license. They must desire to be healthcare leaders in MS related fields in the 21st century. International medical graduates must also have a current visa to participate in the program and an Educational Commission for Foreign Medical Graduates (ECFMG) certificate that is valid indefinitely. The participant cannot be simultaneously enrolled in an ACGME or AOA COPT-accredited program while participating in the VA Advanced Fellowship.

Stipend for participants will be based on the years of previously completed accredited residency training (PGY-level) and on index rates approved at the affiliated university and the respective MS Centers of Excellence.

## Further Information/Application

Interested physicians should contact the site of their choice from the list below and visit the VA [MS Centers of Excellence](#) website for more information.

## MS Fellowship Director Address List

### MS Centers of Excellence - East

#### Baltimore, MD

Acting Director: [Mitchell Wallin, MD, MPH](#)

Education & Training Coordinator: [Angela Young, MBA](#)

VA Maryland Healthcare System

10 N. Greene St, NEU 127

Baltimore, MD 21201

Telephone: 410-605-7133

Fax: 410-605-7906

*Research Focus:* Clinical trials of disease modifying agents, symptomatic therapies and rehabilitation, laboratory research on neuroimmunology and neuroprotection. Please contact site for more details.

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#### Washington, DC

Associate Director: [Mitchell Wallin, MD, MPH](#)

Washington DC VA Medical Center

50 Irving St, NW, NEU 127

Washington, DC 20422

Telephone: 202-745-8148

Fax: 202-745-8231

*Research Focus:* Please contact site for more details

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### MS Centers of Excellence - West

#### Seattle, WA

Director: [Jodie K Haselkorn, MD, MPH, MRM](#)

Associate Director of Education & Training: [Marsha Tarver, PhD, MA](#)

Administrative Specialist: [Lani Pitofsky](#)

VA Puget Sound Health Care System

1660 S. Columbian Way, S-117-MSCoE

Seattle, WA 98108

Telephone: 206-277-6079

Fax: 206-277-4827

*Research Focus:* MS wellness, rehabilitation and symptomatic therapies and progressive MS. Please contact site for more details.

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#### Portland, OR

Co-Director: [Dennis Bourdette, MD](#)

Associate Director: [Michelle Cameron, MD, PT, MCR](#)

Education & Training Coordinator: [Jaimie Henry, MPA](#)

VA Portland Health Care System

3710 SW US Veterans Hospital Rd, P3MSCOE

Portland, OR 97239

Telephone: 503-273-5191

Fax: 503-721-1422

*Research Focus:* MS wellness, rehabilitation and symptomatic therapies and progressive MS. Please contact site for more details.