

Postdoctoral Fellowship in Health Services Research



CENTER FOR HEALTH CARE EVALUATION
VETERANS AFFAIRS PALO ALTO HEALTH CARE SYSTEM
AND STANFORD UNIVERSITY



Training Program

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. Applicants should submit a brief statement (not to exceed one single-spaced page) 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, Consulting Professor, Stanford University

Contact Information:

Ruth Cronkite, PhD
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
Fax: (650) 617-2736
Email: Ruth.Cronkite@va.gov

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

Organization and delivery of services, such as: hospital service areas and patients' choice of health care facilities, telephone monitoring system for health conditions, outcome studies of patients treated for psychiatric or substance use disorders, health care practices and the quality and outcome of care, decision support systems for implementing clinical guidelines.

Diagnostic assessment, screening, and clinical decision-making, such as: decision aids and technology assessment, coronary artery disease and its risk factors, screening for psychiatric conditions (depression, PTSD), selection into substance use treatment.

Psychiatric and substance use disorders and their treatment, such as: psychiatric and substance use disorder patients and programs and process and outcome of treatment, organizational factors, continuity of care practices, and program effectiveness, psychiatric and substance use disorder programs as health care systems, medical concomitants of psychiatric and substance use disorders, psychosocial factors and the course of psychiatric and substance use disorders, meta-analysis of substance use disorder 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, treatment and outcome of group residential facilities, risk factors for prolonged hospitalization, treatment and outcome of late-life depression and substance use disorder, interventions for caregivers of older patients;

Health care evaluation methodology, such as: measures of program characteristics, methods for assessing patient preferences, facilitating the use of VA databases, methods to aid decision analysis, casemix adjustment models, indices of program performance, methodological issues in cost-effectiveness analysis, clinical informatics.

Eligibility

Applicants must be U.S. citizens who have completed a Ph.D. in a field relevant to health services research. The VA is an equal opportunity employer.