

UAB Health Services Research (HSR) Training Program 2024 AHRQ T32 Fellowship Application Instructions

I. OVERVIEW

The UAB Health Services Research (HSR) Training Program is a mentored research training program in health services & outcomes research (Directors: *Mike Mugavero, MD, MHSc and Emily Levitan, ScD*). **Until 5:00 PM CST, December 1, 2023**, the program will be accepting applications for open predoctoral and postdoctoral positions with a start date of July 2024. Appointments will last 1 year (with the potential for 1 additional year for postdoctoral fellows and 2 additional years for predoctoral fellows). These are full-time mentored research training fellowships supported by the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) through the Institutional (T32) National Research Training Awards (NRSA) program.

The program's research and training base includes mentors and trainees across UAB Schools including Medicine, Public Health, Health Professions, Nursing, Dentistry, Business, and College of Arts and Sciences.

Program Alignment: We seek candidates interested in conducting AHRQ-mission aligned research with AHRQ priority populations who aspire to become change agents who advance healthcare outcomes and equity.

The AHRQ mission is to make health care:

- Safer
- Higher quality
- More accessible
- More equitable
- More affordable

AHRQ priority populations include:

- Racial and ethnic minority groups
- Low-income groups
- Women
- Children
- Individuals with special needs
- Rural areas, including frontier areas
- Inner-city areas

The training program prepares interdisciplinary investigators to pursue careers in health services and outcomes research. Skills development will include exposure to relevant epidemiological, statistical, experimental, mixed methods, and quasi- experimental methodologies, health equity research methods, and academic survivor skills such as developing an NIH-style Biosketch and elevator pitch, all with an emphasis on the practical application of health services research methodology.

Benefits of the Program:

Protected Time for Mentored Research Training (Stipend). An annual NRSA stipend will be provided for full-time immersive mentored research training. Predoctoral and postdoctoral stipend levels are updated annually. For FY23 levels, please visit <https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-OD-23-076.html>. Mentored research training is the backbone of this training program and fundamental to successful career development in health services research. Trainees will be expected to propose a team of at least two experienced mentors, one of which must be a Participating Faculty Mentor for this training program (see website for current list). Predoctoral applicants: For candidates whose current doctoral program mentors are not listed, please contact the Program Directors to identify appropriate health services research mentors to add to the mentorship team.

Tuition Support for Didactic Training. Predoctoral trainees will receive tuition support (up to \$9,513 annually) for their doctoral degree programs. Trainees are encouraged to enroll in courses to address specific training goals tailored to their background, experience, career objectives and interests. Postdoctoral trainees will receive tuition support (up to \$8,978 per year) for degree and non-degree training for relevant programs and certificates. Trainees are encouraged to enroll in courses to address specific training goals tailored to their background, experience, career objectives and interests. Clinical postdoctoral trainees without an existing Master of Science in public health (MSPH) or comparable degree may obtain a master's degree or certificate through one of the recommended programs/tracks. Trainees with a research-intensive terminal degree or an

existing MSPH or comparable degree will be encouraged to consider courses and certificate programs to supplement existing skills and learn new methodologies.

Recommended didactic training programs for postdoctoral trainees. The UAB School of Public Health offers MSPH programs in Outcomes Research and Epidemiology. These are research-focused degree programs that include methods training and conclude with a thesis project. The UAB School of Health Professions offers Master of Science in Health Informatics and Master of Science in Healthcare Quality and Safety, as well as a graduate certificate in Healthcare Quality and Safety and Mixed Methods Research, among other topics. Other didactic training programs may be approved in consultation with the T32 program leadership and the mentoring team.

Training Related Expenses. Health insurance, \$1,500 travel support, and additional funds for training related expenses are provided annually.

II. ELIGIBILITY

Predoctoral - Eligible applicants will be enrolled in a clinical or research doctorate program, including PhD, ScD, DrPH, MD, DO, DC, ND, DDS, DMD, DNS or equivalent doctoral degree at UAB. Applicants in clinical doctoral programs are only eligible for support when doctoral studies are part of a formal combined research degree program, such as the MD/PhD. The program may not be used to support studies leading to the MD, DDS, or other clinical, health-professional degrees.

Postdoctoral - Eligible applicants will have earned a clinical or research doctorate, including PhD, ScD, DrPH, MD, DO, DC, ND, DDS, DMD, DNS or equivalent doctoral degree. Applicants who do not currently have a UAB appointment are encouraged to apply. For clinicians, the program may be coordinated with a current residency program or clinical fellowship and will allow for some minimum time allocated to clinical activities that are conducted outside the 40 hours per week required for full-time research training.

All candidates must demonstrate a commitment to mentored research training and career development in health services research. All candidates must be U.S. citizens, non-citizen nationals, or have permanent residency status.

III. IMPORTANT DATES:

October 2, 2023 – Request for applications released.

December 1, 2023, 5:00 PM CST – Applications due.

Mid-December, 2023 – Invitations to Interview (selected candidates).

Mid-January, 2024 – Selected candidates interview with members of the review committee.

Early February, 2024 – Candidates notified of application outcome.

July 1, 2024 – Fellowship start date.

IV. APPLICATION PROCESS

Submission of Materials

Interested applicants will complete the online survey, including **a single PDF upload containing:** (1) **Statement of Interest**, (2) **Curriculum Vitae**, (3) **Letters of Recommendation**. The application survey can be found on

the COERE website: <https://www.uab.edu/medicine/coere/education/t32-fellowship-in-outcomes-and-effectiveness-research-and-health-services-research>

(1) **Statement of Interest.** Please include a statement of interest (2 page maximum *not* including references, Arial 11 font, 0.5" margins) addressing the following:

A) Discuss your interest in training in outcomes and effectiveness research at this time in your career development and summarize any relevant background and previous training. Describe the specific research focus or project(s) that you wish to pursue during your fellowship.

B) Briefly discuss your goals for research training and career development, including coursework or degree attainment.

C) Describe your mentoring plan with your primary mentor. If you have identified co-mentors, please discuss how they will work with you to attain your research and career development goals. You do not have to have co-mentor(s) pre-identified to apply; however, please review the list of our Participating Faculty Mentors (**See COERE website for list**) and propose one or more co-mentor(s) that you would like the opportunity to work with.

(2) **Curriculum Vitae.** Please provide a current CV including your current position, educational background, funding, publication record, and past/current research experience. Please ensure your GPA and any relevant test scores (i.e.: GRE Scores, V, Q, Adv, and/or MCAT or PCAT Scores) are clearly included.

(3) **Letters of recommendation.** Please provide 2 letters of recommendation. One should be from your primary mentor and should describe their plan for your training and development. The other should be from faculty you have worked with directly on research or research training-related activities or who have supervised you in your graduate training. Faculty providing letters of recommendation should be collected by the applicant and included in the application packet.

Letters of recommendation should be addressed to:

Michael J. Mugavero, MD, MHSc
Jeanne M. Marrazzo, MD, MPH Endowed Professor in Innovation and Advancement through Mentorship
Professor of Medicine, Division of Infectious Diseases
Director, UAB Center for Outcomes and Effectiveness Research and Education
Multi PD/PI, UAB Health Services Research (HSR) Training Program
UAB Heersink School of Medicine

Emily B. Levitan, ScD
Professor and Vice Chair, Department of Epidemiology
Co-Director, UAB Center for Outcomes and Effectiveness Research and Education
Multi PD/PI, UAB Health Services Research (HSR) Training Program
UAB School of Public Health

Interviews

Selected applicants will be invited to interview in January 2024.

V. CONTACTS

For questions about the application process or the training program, please contact Geri Davis, Program Coordinator, at geridavis@uabmc.edu. For postdoctoral specific questions please contact Dr. Michael Mugavero (mmugavero@uabmc.edu) and for predoctoral specific questions please contact Dr. Emily Levitan (emilylevitan@uabmc.edu).