



OVERVIEW

The VA Quality Scholars Fellowship offers nurses the unique opportunity to improve veteran healthcare quality through innovation, teaching, and research. An important goal of this interdisciplinary fellowship is to develop nurses and nurse practitioners who will be able to advance the scientific basis of healthcare improvement. This advanced program combines a broad curriculum with an individualized approach to meet the needs of each healthcare professional's interests. Three positions per year are available at each site for nurses who have been accepted into a DNP or PhD program or have completed their doctoral degree.



FELLOWS WILL

- Design and lead interprofessional efforts for quality improvement.
- Teach health professionals about healthcare improvement and quality.
- Design and conduct research or improvement projects and publish results in peer-reviewed literature (see VAQS.org for publication listing).
- Develop new knowledge for the ongoing improvement of the quality and value of healthcare services.

PROGRAM LEADERSHIP

Director

Aanand Naik, MD
Aanand.Naik@va.gov
Houston Center for Training in Healthcare Quality

Co-Director

Kyler Godwin, PhD
Kyler.Godwin@va.gov
Houston Center for Training in Healthcare Quality

Associate Director

Mary Dolansky, PhD, RN, FAAN
Mary.dolansky@case.edu
Cleveland Site Leader

VA Quality Scholars Fellowship

Pre- & Post-Doctoral Fellowship for Nurses

*Advancing the Scholarship of
Healthcare Improvement*

CURRICULUM COMPONENTS

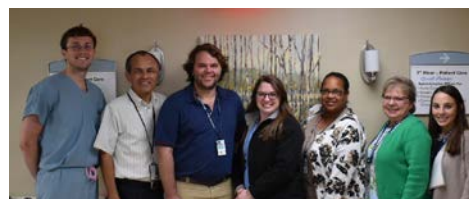
- Interactive video conferences
- Participation in national meetings
- Fellow improvement projects
- Clinical & education activities
- Course work and site-specific offerings (degree tuition covered at some sites)

HOW TO APPLY

Pre and post-doctoral nurses and nurse practitioners who wish to improve healthcare quality through teaching, research, and administration are encouraged to apply. Applicants must be US citizens and hold valid, unrestricted licenses to practice. Contact site leaders for more information about how to apply to specific sites.

ALUMNI

Graduates of VAQS continue their work in advancing the scholarship of healthcare improvement in such professional positions as Quality Management Officers, Medical Directors, and leaders in VA, public health organizations and medical centers across the nation.



About the Program

The VAQS program was established in 1998 to train physicians in improving healthcare quality and value. VA assets such as a national health system, extensive academic affiliations, and administrative structure allowed for the creation of a collaborative network aimed to improve healthcare quality for veterans. In 2009, the nursing component was added to VAQS. Mentoring is a critical component of this two-year program which links individualized training at each of eight sites with cross-site learning experiences convened by faculty of the Houston Center for Training in Healthcare Quality.

"The VAQS program offers an advanced curriculum covering a wide range of content including theory, models, methods, teamwork and leadership for improvement. Yet each fellow individualizes the program to meet their professional needs. I was able to accomplish my planned professional goals, but I was surprised to find myself in the best interprofessional training program in the country. This program is a national model for developing clinical leaders who can create value in health systems today and in the future."
Suzie Miltner, RNC-OB, PhD, NEA-BC
2012

SITE LEADERS

Atlanta, GA- VAMC

Anne Tomolo, MD, MPH
Anne.Tomolo2@va.gov
Carolyn K. Clevenger, RN, DNP,
GNP-BC, AGPCNP-BC, FAANP
Carolyn.clevenger@emory.edu

Birmingham, AL- VAMC

Carlos Estrada, MD, MS
cestrada@uab.edu
Patricia Patrician, PhD, RN, FAAN
ppatrici@uab.edu

Cleveland, OH- VAMC

David Aron, MD, MS
david.aron@va.gov
Mary A. Dolansky, PhD, RN, FAAN
mary.dolansky@case.edu

Greater Los Angeles, CA- VAMC

David Ganz, MD, PhD
David.ganz@va.gov
Shelly de Peralta, DNP, ACNP-BC
Shelly.deperalta@va.gov

Iowa City, IA- VAMC

Hilary Mosher, MD, MFA
Hilary-mosher@uiowa.edu
Jill Scott-Cawiezell, PhD, RN, FAAN
Jill-Cawiezell@uiowa.edu

Nashville, TN- VAMC

Robert Dittus, MD, MPH
robert.dittus@vanderbilt.edu
Ruth Kleinpell, PhD, RN, FAAN
Ruth.kleinpell@vanderbilt.edu

San Francisco, CA- VAMC

Sei Lee, MD, MS
Sei.Lee@ucsf.edu
Margaret Wallhagen, PhD, GNP-BC,
AGSF, FGSA, FAAN
meg.wallhagen@nursing.ucsf.edu

White River Junction, VT- VAMC

Brian P. Lucas, MD, MS
Brian.p.lucas@dartmouth.edu
Brant J. Oliver, PhD, MS, MPH,
FNP-BC, PMHNP-BC
Brant.j.oliver@dartmouth.edu

www.VAQS.org