Fellowship in Primary Care Research

Quality, Safety and Comparative Effectiveness Research Training in Primary Care

“The Quality, Safety and Comparative Effectiveness Research Training in Primary Care (QSERT-PC) Program is a postdoctoral training program for promising researchers who have completed a doctoral-level degree but are not yet ready for faculty appointment.”

Erik Fernandez y Garcia, M.D., M.P.H. Associate Professor of Clinical Pediatrics, UC Davis Fellow 2006-2008

Training grants for promising researchers

The QSCERT-PC Fellowship is funded by the US Health and Services Administration and administered by the UC Davis Center for Healthcare Policy and Research (CHPR), in partnership with the Departments of Internal Medicine, Pediatrics and Family and Community Medicine.

UC Davis is committed to providing a diverse and inclusive environment that values all university employees. We aim to establish a rich, vibrant, campus that promotes a genuine sense of belonging for the UC Davis community. We continually seek to improve our demographic diversity that is free from all forms of discrimination, harassment, exploitation and intimidation.

In addition to the core curriculum and career development components, scholars receive research mentorship and training in one of five different tracks. Each track has its own requirements and is tailored to the scholar’s prior experience, training (i.e. M.D. vs. Ph.D.) and individual learning needs. There is also an option for Masters in Health Informatics or Masters of Advanced Study in Clinical Research degrees.

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For more information, visit: ucdmc.ucdavis.edu/chpr/fellowship/QSCERT-PC.html

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An invaluable experience
"The QSCERT program provided invaluable access to clinicians with “feet on the ground” in the areas I research. The many collaborations that were fostered across the health system provided such a fuller picture of the challenges facing healthcare delivery and creative approaches to address them.”
Lindsey Woodworth, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor, Department of Economics, University of South Carolina

Program eligibility
By the time of program entry, eligible applicants should have completed:
- An accredited residency program in family medicine, internal medicine, or pediatrics; or
- A Ph.D. or similar doctoral degree in nursing, public health or health services, or other relevant social or qualitative science; or
- A master’s degree with two years of clinical experience as a certified nurse practitioner or physician assistant

Scholars will be selected based on a competitive application process in which academic qualifications, career goals, and the quality of the training environment will be important considerations for funding. The program is limited each year to a few select applicants. Scholars will be selected based on a competitive application process in which academic qualifications, career goals, and the quality of the training environment will be important considerations for funding. The program is limited each year to a few select applicants. Trainees can start at any time of year, mutually approved by the Fellow and the Program co-Directors.

The UC Davis advantage
By choosing a fellowship at UC Davis, scholars will gain access to all of the academic resources of a top-20 public university, including programs in food and nutrition, economic policy, biostatistics, telehealth, and biotechnology. They will also have the incredible opportunity to teach and learn in a collaborative multidisciplinary environment while being mentored by renowned UC Davis faculty. Program mentors include experienced investigators, educators, clinicians and journal editors. Lastly, the UC Davis connection will strengthen the scholar's CV for academic positions at top-tier institutions and make them eligible for loan forgiveness (requires separate application to NIH).

The advantage of proximity
The Sacramento location of both UC Davis Health and the Center for Healthcare Policy and Research allows for collaborations with State agencies, opportunities to interact with policy makers, and access to public health organizations.

Perform impactful research that improves primary care services nationwide
Preparing exceptional researchers
The mission of the Quality, Safety, and Comparative Effectiveness Research Training in Primary Care (QSCERT-PC) program is to prepare scholars for careers as outstanding primary care researchers. This program trains students to become researchers who focus on quality and safety in primary care, and on the comparative effectiveness of primary care and system-level interventions. Eligible students include family physicians, general internists, general pediatricians, nurse practitioners, physician assistants, Ph.D. prepared nurses and Ph.D. prepared social and quantitative scientists. QSCERT-PC trainees acquire the skills and experience they need to make important contributions to primary care research, addressing issues of quality, cost, and population health. Clinical, statistical, and social sciences training in a vibrant interprofessional, multidisciplinary environment prepares students to serve as role models and advocates in improving care for culturally diverse, underserved populations. Program graduates are leaders in academic medicine and public health.

Five tracks to individualize education
- Comparative Effectiveness Research equips students to compare the effectiveness of interventions in primary care.
- Quality and Safety Research focuses on comparing the quality, safety, accessibility and cultural competency of primary care services.
- Women’s Health Research concentrates on research to advance the unique field of women’s health.
- Inter-professional Research explores preventative health, mental health, primary care, social services, and the role of nurses in improving primary care services.
- Health Economics Research centers on understanding, applying and critiquing the tools of health economics.

Each year, QSCERT-PC places one general academic pediatrics position into the National Resident Matching Program (NRMP) to demonstrate commitment to a fair and transparent selection process.