



# VA Quality Scholars Fellowship

## Pre- and Post-Doctoral Fellowship for Nurses VA Greater Los Angeles Healthcare System

### PROGRAM BACKGROUND

The VA National Quality Scholars (VAQS) Fellowship Program was created in 1999. Originally established for physicians, the program grew in 2009 with the addition of pre-and post-doctoral fellowships for nurses.

### MISSION

The purpose of the VAQS Fellowship program is to develop leaders in the research, teaching, and administration of health care quality improvement (QI). Mentoring is a critical component of this two-year program which links individualized training at each VA Medical Center to state-of-the-art curriculum. Nurses and physicians receive training and individualized mentoring with the goal of demonstrating competence in:

- Designing and leading interdisciplinary efforts for quality improvement.
- Teaching health professionals about health care improvement and quality.
- Conducting research and/or improvement projects.
- Developing new knowledge for the ongoing improvement of the quality of health care services.
- Applying clinical, quality improvement and health services and outcomes research methods.
- Learning successful approaches for grant writing and funding.

### CURRICULUM COMPONENTS

- 25 interactive video conferences
- National program meetings
- Fellow-led improvement projects
- Clinical and education activities
- Mentoring
- Course work

### ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

- Acceptance into a DNP or PhD program OR completion of DNP or PhD in Nursing, Public Health, or related field
- Active RN license
- U. S. citizenship

### FINANCIAL & OTHER SUPPORT

- Pre-Doc Fellow: \$40,532/yr
- Post-Doc Fellow: \$57,731/yr
- Health insurance benefits

### RESEARCH OPPORTUNITIES at VA Greater Los Angeles Healthcare System

#### **VA Patient-Aligned Care Team (PACT) Demonstration Laboratory (Demo Lab)**

*Lisa V. Rubenstein, MD, MSPH; VAQS VA Greater Los Angeles Healthcare System (GLA) Director and Senior Scholar*

Veterans Assessment and Improvement Laboratory (VAIL) is one of five national PACT Demo Labs with the purpose of using QI methods within a research/clinical partnership to develop and spread PACT innovations.

#### **VA Women's Health Research Consortium/Practice-Based Research Network**

*Elizabeth Yano, PhD, MSPH; Director of the Center for the Study of Healthcare Innovation, Implementation, and Policy (CSHIIP)*

This PBRN hosts two QI projects funded by the VA Office of Women's Health: Improved quality for women in distant primary care sites AND evaluation of current capabilities of VA emergency department care for women.

#### **Patient Safety: Pressure Ulcer Prevention and Fall Prevention**

*Lynn Soban, PhD, RN; VAQS GLA Senior Scholar and David Ganz, MD, PhD; VAQS GLA Associate Director*

Studies the influence of contextual features on nurses' delivery of evidence-based pressure ulcer preventive care and supports the development of a toolkit and resource guide to help clinicians and managers in their efforts to prevent falls in acute care hospitals.



**CSHIIP**  
Center for the Study  
of Healthcare Innovation,  
Implementation & Policy

For more information, please visit the **VA Quality Scholars** website at [www.vaqs.org](http://www.vaqs.org) or contact:

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