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.

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.

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

For more information, please visit the VA Quality Scholars website at www.vaqs.org or contact:
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- Deborah Delevan, MEd, Administrative Coordinator Deborah.Delevan@va.gov

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