



THE
COMMONWEALTH
FUND

THE COMMONWEALTH FUND
HARVARD UNIVERSITY
FELLOWSHIP IN MINORITY
HEALTH POLICY

2008 • 2009

PURPOSE

The Commonwealth Fund/Harvard University Fellowship in Minority Health Policy (CFHUF) is designed to prepare physicians, particularly minority physicians, for leadership roles in formulating and implementing public health policy and practice on a national, state, and/or local level. Under the auspices of the Minority Faculty Development Program (MFDP) at Harvard Medical School (HMS), five one-year fellowships will be awarded per year. Fellows will complete academic work leading to a Master of Public Health (MPH) degree at the Harvard School of Public Health (HSPH), and, through additional program activities, gain exposure to, and understanding of, major health issues facing minority, disadvantaged, and underserved populations. CFHUF also offers a Master of Public Administration (MPA) degree at Harvard's John F. Kennedy School of Government (KSG) to physicians already possessing an MPH. It is expected that CFHUF will support the development of a cadre of leaders in minority health, well-trained academically and professionally in public health, health policy, health management, and clinical medicine, as well as actively committed to careers in public service.

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BACKGROUND

Health care delivery in the United States is undergoing rapid change with implications for physicians, patients, and institutions. The impact of these changes on historically underserved minority populations is largely unknown. Minority Americans are more likely to report poor health status and experience higher mortality rates for many conditions, including heart disease and cancer. Access to health care is often impeded because many individuals are uninsured, rely on public coverage, or live in communities with limited availability of providers. If major national health issues are to be fully and equitably addressed, the perspectives and concerns of all racial and ethnic groups must be considered.

Highly trained physicians, especially minority physicians, can contribute significantly by participating in policy decisions to influence the health care of minority and disadvantaged populations. This level of participation requires a knowledge of government, management, and public health as well as clinical medicine. Policy leaders in minority health must understand the issues and be culturally competent to ensure that minority health needs are met.

While physician education and training establish a firm foundation on which to build effective health leadership, CFHUF is unique in its dedication to training physicians for leadership roles in health policy.

PROGRAM

The Commonwealth Fund/Harvard University Fellowship in Minority Health Policy is a one-year, full-time, academic degree-granting program designed to create physician-leaders, particularly minority physician-leaders, who will pursue careers in health policy, public health practice, and academia. It is designed to incorporate the critical skills taught in schools of public health, government, business, and medicine with leadership forums and seminar series conducted by Harvard senior faculty and nationally recognized leaders in minority health and public policy; supervised practicums and shadowing opportunities; site visits, conferences, and travel.

Each fellowship provides: \$50,000 stipend, full tuition, health insurance, books, travel, and related program expenses, including financial assistance for a practicum project.

CFHUF is designed to prepare physician-leaders who will, over time, improve the capacity of the health care system to address health needs of minority and disadvantaged populations. To accomplish this, the program will:

- Provide strong academic training, including an MPH or MPA, for highly qualified physicians.
- Enhance the leadership ability of physicians, offering them substantive knowledge in health policy and management, while creating a network of physician-leaders capable of advancing successfully among the public, nonprofit, and academic sectors.

- Provide each fellow with mentoring by Harvard senior faculty and administrators as well as access to national leaders in health policy and public health practice.
- Bring together the faculty and resources of HMS, HSPH, and KSG to provide an enhanced curriculum addressing issues of public health, policy, and practice, particularly as related to minority health issues.
- Utilize resources at HMS, including the Office for Diversity and Community Partnership (DCP) and MFDP, to enhance the networking, career development, and career advancement of fellows.

ADMINISTRATION

Direction and administration of the program is provided by the Minority Faculty Development Program (MFDP) at Harvard Medical School (HMS). MFDP was established in 1990 to serve as an umbrella organization for minority recruitment, development, and retention initiatives undertaken at HMS and affiliated hospitals. Joan Y. Reede, M.D., M.P.H., M.S., Dean for Diversity and Community Partnership; Director, MFDP; and Program Director of the Commonwealth Fund Harvard University Fellowship in Minority Health Policy, provides overall supervision and direction of program development, implementation, and evaluation.

Faculty from the Harvard Medical School, Harvard School of Public Health, John F. Kennedy School of Government, Graduate School of Education, Harvard Business School, Harvard School of Dental Medicine, and Graduate School of Arts and Sciences are involved in program development and implementation.

ELIGIBILITY

- Physicians who have completed residency, either BE/BC. Additional experience beyond residency, such as chief residency, is preferred.
- Experience or interest in addressing and improving the health needs of minority populations.
- Strong evidence of leadership experience or potential, especially as related to community efforts or health policy.
- Intention to pursue a career in public health practice, policy, or academia.
- U.S. citizenship.

REVIEW CRITERIA AND SELECTION

Applications will be reviewed for academic and training qualifications; commitment to a multicultural perspective in program planning, program implementation, and policy analysis; experience in projects devoted to improving the capacity of the health care system to address health needs of minority and disadvantaged populations; and evidence of leadership potential.

The Harvard Coordinating Committee, composed of distinguished faculty, administrators, and the program director, will review applications, interview candidates, and select the fellows.

HOW TO APPLY

Candidates for the MPH degree must apply for entrance into HSPH, including application for financial aid at HSPH, when applying to CFHUF.

Candidates for the MPA degree must apply for entrance to KSG, including application for financial aid at KSG, when applying to CFHUF.

Acceptance to CFHUF is contingent on acceptance to HSPH or KSG. However, candidates not accepted to CFHUF are still eligible for admission to the schools.

Inquiries about CFHUF and requests for application materials should be addressed to:

JOAN Y. REEDE, M.D., M.P.H., M.S.

Director, CFHUF

Minority Faculty Development Program
Harvard Medical School

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Tel: (617) 432-2922

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Website: www.mfdp.med.harvard.edu/fellows_faculty/cfhuf/index.htm

DEADLINES

January 2, 2008 Deadline for applications

March 17, 2008 Selection of 2008-09 CFHUF Fellows

April 15, 2008 Notification of 2008-09 CFHUF Fellows

Please note: The deadline for the HSPH application is December 15, 2007.

THE COMMONWEALTH FUND

The Commonwealth Fund is a private foundation established in 1918 by Anna M. Harkness with the mandate to enhance the common good. It supports efforts that help people live healthy and productive lives and assists specific groups with serious and neglected problems. It supports independent research on health and social issues and makes grants to improve health care practice and policy. Its support of CFHUF demonstrates its longstanding interest in minority health issues and leadership development.

2007-2008 COMMONWEALTH FUND/ HARVARD UNIVERSITY FELLOWS IN MINORITY HEALTH POLICY

CONNIE GISTAND, M.D.

Hospitalist

West Jefferson Medical Center

Marrero, LA

Dr. Gistand is currently a hospitalist at West Jefferson Medical Center in Marrero, LA and an Assistant Professor of Medicine, Section of General Internal Medicine at Tulane University Health Sciences Center, School of Medicine. This native of Louisiana, who lives in New Orleans, has long been involved with community-based projects from voter registration drives to outreach programs for the homeless. Since Hurricane Katrina, her efforts have focused on addressing Louisiana's health care crisis and rebuilding efforts. Dr. Gistand currently serves as a member of the Advisory Board for Reach 2010, the National Black Women's Health Project. At the state level, she has participated in discussions of health care and policy for Louisiana Medicaid programs, and she was appointed to the Louisiana Governor's Health Care Reform Panel. Dr. Gistand received her medical degree from the University of Iowa in 1996 and completed her residency in Internal Medicine at the Ochsner Foundation Hospital, New Orleans in 2001.

KEILA LOPEZ, M.D.

*Chief Pediatric Resident
University of Chicago Children's Hospital
Chicago, IL*

Dr. Lopez was most recently Pediatric Chief Resident at the University of Chicago Comer Children's Hospital. As a 1999 Dean's Summer Research Fellowship recipient, she studied the discrepancy in health care for women in public compared with private hospitals in different Brazilian urban centers. As a 2002 Josiah Macy Jr. Foundation Substance Abuse Fellow, she worked at the University of Pennsylvania with health care professionals who specialized in treating HIV patients with substance abuse. Her work with the National Hispanic Medical Association resulted in her receiving an NIH travel award. She has co-authored articles for *The Journal of Interventional Cardiology* and *Preventive Medicine* and has presented at poster sessions at the American Heart Association Scientific Sessions and the Banff International Conference on Adolescent Substance Abuse. Dr. Lopez received her medical degree from Rush Medical College, Chicago, IL in 2003 and completed her pediatric residency at the University of Chicago in 2006. She will begin a pediatric cardiology fellowship at Baylor Texas Children's Hospital in 2008.

AUDRA ROBERTSON, M.D.

*Chief Resident, Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology
Brigham and Women's Hospital
Boston, MA*

Dr. Robertson most recently completed her chief year of residency in the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology at Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston. Her interests include establishment of equitable access to care, particularly concerning assisted reproductive technology (ART), where she seeks to improve access to care for all women, despite the high cost of these treatments, and evaluation of disparities in gynecologic surgery. Before attending medical school, Dr. Robertson worked as a chemist in the petrochemical and energy industry, and during medical school was a teaching associate at the University of Texas Health Science Center.

Dr. Robertson has been recognized for her leadership ability by being named President of the Medical Class of 2003 and serving as Chair of the Massachusetts General Hospital Organization for Minority Residents and Fellows during residency. In 2005, she received the Harvard University School of Medicine Resident Teaching Award. Dr. Robertson received her medical degree from the University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio in 2003 and completed her residency in Obstetrics and Gynecology at Brigham and Women's Hospital, Boston in 2007.

JUDITH STEINBERG, M.D.

*Medical Director
Neponset Health Center
Dorchester, MA*

Dr. Steinberg is an Assistant Clinical Professor of Medicine at Boston University School of Medicine and an attending physician in the Division of Infectious Diseases at Boston Medical Center. She is also the Medical Director of Neponset Health Center in Boston. After completing a clinical fellowship in medicine, Division of Infectious Diseases at Beth Israel Hospital, Brigham and Women's Hospital, Dana Farber Cancer Institute, Dr. Steinberg joined the faculty at Boston University School of Medicine where she focused on HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases. She later served as the HIV Program Director at East Boston Neighborhood Health Center, Boston, and in 2000 became the Medical Director of Neponset Health Center, Boston. Her major research interests lie in community-based health care delivery models for patients with chronic diseases. Dr. Steinberg received her medical degree from the University of Texas at Dallas Southwestern Medical School in 1982 and completed her residency in Internal Medicine at Beth Israel Hospital, Boston, MA in 1985.

MALLORY WILLIAMS, M.D.

*Fellow in Surgical Critical Care
Brigham and Women's Hospital
Boston, MA*

Dr. Williams is currently a fellow in Surgical Critical Care at Brigham and Women's Hospital, in Boston, MA. Dr. Williams has authored 13 peer-reviewed manuscripts. His awards include the Wayne State University/Detroit Medical Center Surgery Resident of the Year (2004) and Teacher of the Year (2006) in recognition of his commitment to an academic approach and an excellent pedagogy. His passion is in the education and mentorship of future diverse clinician-investigators, and the development of health policy that positively impacts minority populations. He is a proud cum laude graduate of Morehouse College in Atlanta, GA in 1993, where he served as a Presidential Scholar, NIH MARC Scholar, and Ford Foundation Scholar. Dr. Williams received his medical degree from the University of Maryland School of Medicine, Baltimore, MD in 1999. He completed his general surgery residency as the Chief Administrative Surgery Resident at Wayne State University/Detroit Medical Center in 2006. He also served as a NIH Research Fellow from 2003 to 2005.

HARVARD COORDINATING COMMITTEE

Members coordinate CFHUF within the Harvard University community, contributing to program development, practicum supervision; professional mentoring, and annual selection of fellows.

MYRON ALLUKIAN, JR., D.D.S., M.P.H., Associate Clinical Professor, Oral Health Policy and Epidemiology, Harvard School of Dental Medicine; Oral Health Consultant, Massachusetts League of Community Health Centers and Lutheran Medical Center

ROBERT BLENDON, M.B.A., M.P.H., Sc.D., M.A., Professor, Health Policy and Political Analysis, Harvard School of Public Health and John F. Kennedy School of Government

DAVID BLUMENTHAL, M.D., M.P.P., Samuel O. Thier Professor of Medicine, Professor of Health Care Policy, Harvard Medical School; Director, Institute for Health Policy, Massachusetts General Hospital/Partners HealthCare System

TOM DELBANCO, M.D., Richard and Florence Koplow-James Tullis Professor of General Medicine and Primary Care, Harvard Medical School; Division of General Medicine and Primary Care Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center

CHESTER DOUGLASS, D.M.D., Ph.D., Professor, Chair, Oral Health Policy and Epidemiology, Harvard School of Dental Medicine

ARNOLD M. EPSTEIN, M.D., M.A., John H. Foster Professor, Chair, Department of Health Policy and Management, Harvard School of Public Health; Professor, Medicine and Health Care Policy, Harvard Medical School

HOWARD K. KOH, M.D., M.P.H., Director, Division of Public Health Practice, Associate Dean for Public Health Practice, Harvey V. Fineberg Professor of the Practice of Public Health, Harvard School of Public Health

JOSEPH MCCARTHY, Ed.D., Senior Associate Dean, Director, Degree Programs, John F. Kennedy School of Government

BARBARA J. McNEIL, M.D., Ph.D., Ridley Watts Professor, Health Care Policy, Head, Department of Health Care Policy, Harvard Medical School; Professor, Radiology, Harvard Medical School and Brigham and Women's Hospital

JOSEPH P. NEWHOUSE, Ph.D., John D. MacArthur Professor of Health Policy and Management, Director, Interfaculty Initiative in Health Policy, faculties of Harvard Medical School, Harvard School of Public Health, John F. Kennedy School of Government, and Harvard Faculty of Arts and Sciences

DEBORAH PROTHROW-STITH, M.D., Associate Dean, Faculty Development, Professor, Public Health Practice, Department of Health Policy and Management, Harvard School of Public Health

PETER ZIMMERMAN, M.P.P., Lecturer in Public Policy, Senior Associate Dean for Strategic Program Development, Dean's Offices, John F. Kennedy School of Government



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