Our Mission

We seek to develop physician leaders who will create change while preserving a commitment to service and patients. The program offers university-based post-residency training at four participating universities:

**University of Pennsylvania**  
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About the Program

For more than three decades the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) Clinical Scholars program has led the transformation of health and health care in the United States. Graduates take positions in U.S. health and academic medicine, public health and other leadership roles as physician leaders. Scholars will conduct innovative research and work with communities, organizations, practitioners and policy-makers on issues important to the health and health care of all Americans.

Twenty or more Scholars will be selected. The Foundation is funding 10 or more positions and the U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs (VA) will support another 10 or more positions through VA Medical Centers affiliated with the participating universities. The program provides an unmatched opportunity to pursue two years of master’s degree graduate level of study with generous funding and ample protected time for research and scholarship. The first year RWJF scholar stipend is $67,000 with an increase the second year. The VA stipend in some cases will be higher.

Scholars graduate with skills in health policy, leadership, and health services and community-based participatory research methods.
Program Graduates have gone on to become:

- Leaders of major federal, state and local health entities (including David Satcher, M.D., Ph.D., FAAFP, FACP, FACPM, FAC, director, Satcher Health Leadership Institute, director, Center of Excellence on Health Disparities, Pouissant-Satcher-Cosby Chair in Mental Health Morehouse School of Medicine, and 16th Surgeon General of the United States, Mitchell H. Katz, M.D., Director of Los Angeles County Health Services, Nirav R. Shah, M.D., M.P.H., New York State Commissioner of Health, and Nicole Lurie, M.D., M.S.P.H., Assistant Secretary for Preparedness, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services).

- Foundation and hospital CEOs and presidents (including Gary Gottlieb, M.D., M.B.A., president and CEO, Partners HealthCare, Mark Smith, M.D., M.B.A., president and CEO, California HealthCare Foundation and Robert K. Ross, M.D., president and CEO, California Endowment)

- Leaders in the fields of health services research and health economics (including Marie McCormick, M.D., Sc.D., Sumner and Esther Feldberg Professor of Maternal and Child Health, Harvard School of Public Health, Barbara Vickrey, M.D., M.P.H., vice chair, Academic Affairs, Neurology Department and Professor, Semel Institute for Neuroscience and Human Behavior, University of California at Los Angeles/VA Greater Los Angeles Healthcare System and Robert Dittus, M.D., M.P.H., director, Center for Health Services Research, Albert and Bernard Werthan Professor of Medicine, and professor of medicine at Vanderbilt University.)

The RWJF Clinical Scholars program has a national advisory committee (NAC) that is involved in a wide range of activities including program design, scholar selection, training site selection and training site oversight. Committee members are national leaders in health and health care who have been selected not only because of their prestige but their commitment to the goals of this program and its Scholars.

The RWJF Clinical Scholars national program office (NPO) provides overall direction, technical assistance and development of core curriculum for the Clinical Scholars program. The NPO is located at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in the Department of Social Medicine. The program director is Desmond Runyan, M.D., Dr.P.H.
Scholars are brought together annually for a national meeting to forge lasting relationships while fostering networking, discussing research and seeking to change the health care system. In addition, Scholars are supported to attend professional meetings to present their research and cultivate relationships with colleagues engaged in similar research.

Mentorship
Each Scholar is assigned a NAC mentor by Scholar preference who will discuss career development. The NAC mentor will meet with the Scholar at the program’s annual meeting and will be available throughout the year.

How to Apply
Apply to the RWJF Clinical Scholars program and join the best and the brightest physicians from every corner of the nation for an unmatched opportunity to make an impact on health care in this country. We will select 20 or more Scholars in 2013 for appointments beginning July 1, 2014.

Physicians who meet the eligibility requirements may apply online through the website at http://rwjcfp.unc.edu or contact the national program office at The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill:

Kristin Siebenaler, M.P.A., deputy director
Phone: (919) 843-1351
e-mail: rwjcfp_admin@med.unc.edu

Deadline: February 28, 2013

Alumni Feedback
Risa Lavizzo-Mourey, M.D., M.B.A., president and CEO of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and Clinical Scholars alum, believes that the Clinical Scholars program helped catapult her career by allowing her to do policy work in an academic medical setting.

“As a Clinical Scholar, I was encouraged to ‘analyze’ the health care system in a new and innovative way – one that allowed me to describe health care beyond the clinical realm.”

She also praises the program for providing a “network of mentors and an environment of true collaboration. It was exceptional. For anyone who wants to be a catalyst for change in the health and health care of our country, the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Clinical Scholars program is an excellent opportunity to do so.”
“As a Clinical Scholar, I was able to step back and ask more important policy questions, as opposed to getting stuck in the weeds... This suddenly made my work more policy relevant.”
— Nirav Shah, M.D., M.P.H., commissioner of health, New York State

“Most people in the program would define themselves as change agents, and the environment created by the program really gives you the opportunity to see what that means and understand what it takes.”
— Linda Rosenstock, M.D., M.P.H., dean of the UCLA School of Public Health

“[The] program literally changed my life. "I had the motivation and basic background from my clinical experience but I didn't have the skill set I needed... I was with a cohort of Scholars who were fabulous in developing ideas and refining them, and the faculty prepared us very well to become scientists.”
— Jason Mendoza, M.D., M.P.H., assistant professor of pediatrics at Baylor College of Medicine

“Since the time I was a Scholar, there have always been role models, mentors and colleagues, so you are never on your own.”
— William Applegate, M.D., M.P.H., dean of the Wake Forest University School of Medicine
Examples of Recent Publications by Scholars


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A national program of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation