

Innovators-in-Residence Program

How Can Innovation Bridge the Gap Between Research and Practice for the Underserved?

The spread of information from researchers to health care providers to patients is helping many Americans live healthier, longer lives than at any point in history. Yet all too often, important new research is not reaching the people who could benefit from it most: minority, low-income and otherwise vulnerable individuals whose health and health care tend to be worse than the general population.

Could Your Work Make a Difference?

AcademyHealth seeks creative problem solvers with experience developing and deploying innovative ideas that break down barriers and engage diverse audiences for projects that improve the translation and dissemination of research findings for safety net providers and patients. Through the Innovators-in-Residence Program, individuals will spend one to three months at AcademyHealth's offices in Washington, D.C., serving as internal consultants while completing projects that reinvent the ways we move research findings forward into policy and practice. By supporting the development of novel approaches to research translation and dissemination, we seek to improve the lives of the nation's most vulnerable citizens.

This is an excellent opportunity to collaborate with AcademyHealth staff and other leaders in health services research (HSR) to further the use of evidence-based research for the benefit of traditionally underserved populations. We especially welcome applicants who bring relevant expertise from fields outside of health care, such as marketing, information technology and the social sciences.

Translation and Dissemination at AcademyHealth

The translation and dissemination of HSR for policy and practice is an integral part of AcademyHealth's mission and a top priority of our members. As such, efforts to synthesize relevant research, convene diverse perspectives, and disseminate actionable findings span the organization's programs and services. AcademyHealth reinforced the importance of this work with the creation of the Translation and Dissemination Institute, a new initiative that helps get evidence into the hands of decision makers when they need it, in a form they can use, and in a way that is relevant to inform policy and practice choices. As one of the Institute's central activities, the Innovators-in-Residence Program helps promote new and innovative approaches to moving knowledge into action by evaluating and applying approaches from related fields.

Expectations for the Innovator-in-Residence

The Innovator's responsibilities will be determined in collaboration with AcademyHealth staff prior to the start of the residency, and will reflect the Innovator's expertise, interests, and length of stay. Potential opportunities include:

- Completion of a pilot project testing an innovative approach to translating or disseminating HSR findings to safety net delivery systems;
- Completion of some other type of project relevant to the translation, dissemination, and uptake of HSR findings by safety net delivery systems;

- Production and presentation of a final report on the residency in either traditional (issue brief/academic publication), interactive, or other format to be determined by resident and AcademyHealth;
- Provision of input to the agendas of, and attendance at, AcademyHealth's major events (the Annual Research Meeting, the National Health Policy Conference, the Health Policy Orientation) as appropriate and desired;
- Participation in proposal development, manuscript development, and the production of other key external documents;
- Chairing/leading AcademyHealth committees or special groups on topics that align with the Innovator's expertise;
- Contributing to AcademyHealth's blog;
- Participating in a webinar for AcademyHealth student chapters; and
- Conducting a seminar for AcademyHealth staff and invited external participants.

Financial Support

The program will support the Innovator with a stipend calculated using a base 75 percent of the maximum annual salary allowed under National Institutes of Health and Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality grants and pro-rated for the Innovator's actual time in residence. The Institute will also provide office space, telephone and computer support, and airfare for one roundtrip flight to and from the Innovator's home city.

Innovator Selection

Those interested in applying for the Innovators-in-Residence Program should send the following to jobs@academyhealth.org:

- Current curriculum vitae;
- Short biographical paragraph;
- Letter describing your interest in AcademyHealth, expertise in research translation and dissemination, and proposed project as an Innovator-in-Residence.

Applications will be accepted on a rolling basis and reviewed by AcademyHealth's President and CEO, key senior staff, select members of the AcademyHealth Board of Directors, and program collaborators at Kaiser Permanente. Selection will be made by the President and CEO based on the recommendation of the individuals listed above, and a letter of notification will be sent to all applicants. Residencies will begin in 2014.