



STATEMENT ON CLINICAL AND TRANSLATIONAL RESEARCH TRAINING FOR THE PSDP

Introduction: There is a critical need for pediatric clinician scientists prepared to participate and eventually lead the emerging programs in clinical and translational research for children's health care. The PSDP strongly supports candidates who wish to acquire rigorous training in these scientific disciplines with experienced mentors to prepare for an academic career.

Disciplines: The disciplines of health care delivery, health economics, clinical trials in pharamaco-therapy and other treatments, public health, epidemiology and purposeful behavioral change. The research disciplines requiring either direct patient contact or development and analysis of patient databases include:

- Anthropology
- Bioethics
- Child health policy research
- Clinical epidemiology
- Clinical trials – both pharmacologic and non-pharmacologic
- Health economics research
- Health outcomes research
- Health services research
- Implementation science
- Integrative biology/physiology
- Quality and performance improvement
- Psychology, behavior and/or communications

Outcome: The fellow is expected to develop methodological skills in clinical epidemiology, biostatistics, study design and execution (GCP), care process modeling, communication, health education and patient safety and harm reduction, economics and database structure and management. These skills are often acquired through enrollment in an advanced degree in public health, clinical science or health policy, etc.

Research Project: The research project should incorporate both content and methodological components. The aim is for the trainee to become fully competent at the methodological approaches to answering clinical research questions, at the same time as asking robust and important questions in children's health.

The fellow's research project can use existing robust data sets (e.g. large health services databases) or develop limited new data. Although we encourage developing skills in data acquisition and management, only in exceptional cases is it appropriate to design and implement a project that requires extensive new data that can not be compiled and analyzed during the fellowship.

Setting: The setting for the proposed training includes research mentors and groups associated with schools or centers for public health or public policy, clinical and translational research programs, or other established centers devoted to rigorous research and knowledge expansion. In keeping with the PSDP tenets, clinical responsibility is limited to that appropriate for clinical trials. In general no clinical service is allowed; however, exposure to patients needed for recruitment to the studies being performed is to be encouraged. Therefore, limited clinical time will be permitted if the applicant clearly justifies the need.

Mentor: The mentor for a PSDP fellow is a scientist with recognized expertise in the types of studies defined above. A history of serving as principal investigator for competitive, independent grants from the NIH, AHRQ, CIHR (in Canada), EPA, CDC, Veterans Administration, or other federal or national non-governmental agencies is required.

Additional information and clarification are available through the program office.