



National Clinician  
Scholars Program

# Advancing Health and Health Care Through Scholarship and Action

VA



U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs  
Veterans Health Administration  
Office of Academic Affiliations



[www.nationalcsp.org](http://www.nationalcsp.org)



## Interprofessional

The program fosters team-based collaborations among physician and nurse Scholars, who have received training in diverse clinical disciplines, to address our most pressing health problems.

---



## Scholarship in Action

Scholars conduct high-quality research, supported by faculty mentorship, creating actionable evidence that can be used to inform and improve health and healthcare delivery.

---

## Leadership

Training the next generation of health care leaders, the program equips Scholars to understand interpersonal and organizational dynamics to constructively create change.



## Stakeholder Engagement

Scholars work with local, state, and national leaders and policy makers to collaboratively assess community and policy health priorities and identify opportunities to partner on positive health changes, from community-partnered research to practice innovation to health system redesign.



The National Clinician Scholars Program (NCSP) and the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Office of Academic Affiliations have partnered to offer a two-year interprofessional fellowship to physicians and postdoctoral nurses. The program provides health services and policy research training, as well as leadership and communication skills training, to create the next generation of change agents.

The goal of the program is to equip our Scholars to effectively partner with community leaders and policy makers to cultivate health equity, eliminate health disparities, invent and evaluate new models of care delivery, and innovate and implement programs to achieve higher-quality health and health care at lower costs. Program alumni are leaders and collaborators embedded in communities, health care systems, academic medical centers, government, foundations, and think tanks in the US and around the world.

There are six sites, along with their affiliated VA Medical Centers, offering this unique training opportunity: Duke University; University of California, Los Angeles; University of California, San Francisco; University of Michigan; University of Pennsylvania; and Yale University.



## Curriculum

Scholars participate in a robust, interprofessional core curriculum that is tailored to their specific training needs. Scholars acquire and hone a diverse set of skills in organizational and social change, applied translation research methodology, community engagement, program development and evaluation, team management, communication, implementation science, innovation, and policy analysis. The curriculum also emphasizes principles and methods of social and behavioral science applied to health services, intervention design, measuring quality of care, health policy, assessment of community engagement, survey design, qualitative and quantitative data, biostatistics, and scientific writing. Scholars also have an opportunity to matriculate in a master's degree program.

## Leadership

Nurse and physician Scholars learn concepts of leadership and teamwork and have the opportunity to apply them in the context of community-partnered efforts, government, and complex health and research organizations. The curriculum draws on models and methods from elite leadership training in health care, business, and public administration. Off-site internships with health systems leaders and policymakers at the federal, state, and local level are also available. Many Scholar projects are embedded in real-world organizations, allowing Scholars to learn from leaders of governmental agencies, VA Medical Centers, private health systems, and community-based organizations.

## Partners

A consortium of community and academic partners comes together to offer this important training program, including VA Medical Centers in each city, as well as local public health institutions, grassroots community organizations, and everything in-between. Our consortium not only contributes guidance and resources to the program, but also works directly with Scholars on identifying projects and partners for their work. Program oversight is provided by a National Program Board, consisting of the deans from each site's schools of medicine and nursing, local partners, and national leaders who both advise and advance the program while supporting the careers and aspirations of the Scholars.

## Scholarship

Developing skills and expertise to conduct creative, high-quality health services and policy research, including both quantitative and qualitative work, is a central component of this two-year training program. Through mentored research, Scholars work closely with partners tackling our most pressing health and healthcare challenges, leading work at the community, state, national, and, in some cases, global level. Scholars are trained to conduct timely research that addresses real-world, highly relevant problems, providing actionable information that can influence positive change. Throughout the training experience, mentorship is provided for Scholars by teams that include program faculty, other university faculty, and engaged partners from health systems, government, and community organizations.



**The NCSP aims to transform health care by preparing nurse and physician leaders together to meet the growing demand for accessible, accountable, high quality care.**



National Clinician  
Scholars Program

## Apply

Physicians and doctoral trained nurses are eligible to apply. Prior relevant research experience is preferred, but not required. A commitment to teamwork, collaborative learning, and conducting high-quality research to improve patient health and health care is a must!

To learn more about the program and the application process, please visit:

[nationalcsp.org](http://nationalcsp.org)

## Contact Us

**Ivelys Figueroa, EdD**  
Central Administrative Director  
215.746.3840  
[admin@nationalcsp.org](mailto:admin@nationalcsp.org)



**Jessica Almy Pagán**  
Program Coordinator  
919.668.4996  
[ncsp@duke.edu](mailto:ncsp@duke.edu)



**Jennifer Serpas**  
Administrative Director  
310.794.2268  
[ClinicianScholars@mednet.ucla.edu](mailto:ClinicianScholars@mednet.ucla.edu)



**Kristin Bradford**  
Program Manager  
415.514.1543  
[ncsp@ucsf.edu](mailto:ncsp@ucsf.edu)



**Brenette Logan**  
**Brittany Weatherwax**  
Program Coordinators  
734.647.4844  
[nationalcsp@umich.edu](mailto:nationalcsp@umich.edu)



**Kathleen Cooper**  
Program Coordinator  
**Sarah Gormley**  
Associate Director  
215.573.2740  
[ncsp@pennmedicine.upenn.edu](mailto:ncsp@pennmedicine.upenn.edu)



**Chelsea Gubbins**  
Program Coordinator  
203.785.4148  
[chelsea.gubbins@yale.edu](mailto:chelsea.gubbins@yale.edu)



Stay connected @NationalCSP