

VA – UCLA GERIATRIC MEDICINE FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM

Department of Veterans Affairs, Greater Los Angeles Healthcare System; UCLA Department of Medicine, Division of Geriatrics

David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA

DESCRIPTION

The VA-UCLA Geriatric Medicine Fellowship Program is a 12-month clinical experience leading to eligibility for the ABIM/ABFP examination for the Certificate of Added Qualifications in Geriatric Medicine. The Program is ACGME accredited through the Department of Medicine at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA.

The curriculum consists of block rotations and supervised clinical experiences at affiliated campuses, providing the opportunity to study and participate in a broad variety of different models of geriatric health care delivery. In addition, fellows are assigned to a longitudinal clinic and longitudinal nursing home responsibility at one of the campuses. The curriculum also includes a weekly lecture series, as well as didactic and other scholarly activities ongoing at each of the campuses. A large and distinguished faculty provides fellows with excellent mentors and role models.

OBJECTIVES

The program is designed to provide subspecialty training in geriatric medicine for physicians and leads to eligibility for the ABIM/ABFP examination for added qualifications in geriatrics. The VA-UCLA Geriatric Medicine Fellowship Program has a national and international reputation for excellence in geriatric education, research, and clinical care. Through ongoing research in basic science, health services and health policy, the renowned faculty has made important discoveries leading to innovation and successful new strategies to improve the health of older persons. Many graduates have had successful careers in academic, clinical and other leadership roles.

Learning objectives include development of exemplary skills and knowledge in the following:

- Theories and mechanisms of aging; biological changes of aging; pathophysiology of common aging illnesses; clinical pharmacology; psychosocial aspects of aging; geriatric rehabilitation; preoperative assessment and postoperative management; and preventive medicine
- Complete and accurate medical and psychosocial histories and physical examinations in a diverse population of elderly patients
- Diagnoses and treatments of common symptom complexes in the elderly
- End of life care
- Interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary team approaches to practice with other health care professionals
- Geriatric acute hospital care
- Transitional/Sub-acute/Post-acute care
- Nursing home care
- Home care
- Ambulatory outpatient care
- Teaching
- Research
- Administration

CAMPUSES

VA Greater Los Angeles Healthcare Center at West Los Angeles

The West Los Angeles facility is a part of the VA Greater Los Angeles Healthcare Center, which is the largest health care facility of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and provides a combination of primary and tertiary care. With a long-standing tradition as a leading research facility, training programs at the West LA Campus are fully integrated with the UCLA Medical Center.

Fellows have training opportunities in several program settings. There is a 7- bed Geriatric Evaluation and Management (GEM) Unit, which provides comprehensive and interdisciplinary geriatric assessments for patients with geriatric syndromes. Fellows also participate in other clinical settings, including the Neurobehavior program, Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, and the West Los Angeles Nursing Home Care Unit. Fellows also are provided training in Home Care, Primary Care, and Longitudinal nursing home care in these experiences that are often split with the Sepulveda program.

VA Sepulveda Outpatient Clinics and Teaching Nursing Home

This setting provides a broad array of services to veterans who do not require acute hospitalization. The outpatient clinic provides approximately 250,000 outpatient visits each year and provides most medical and surgical care needs.

Geriatric fellows at Sepulveda receive training in direct patient care, consultation, teaching and research. Experience at Sepulveda includes primary care responsibilities on the home care service and in the outpatient geriatric subspecialty clinics. The nursing home provides the opportunity to supervise and teach residents, nurse practitioners and physician assistants, and to collaborate with providers from many other disciplines including Geriatric Pharmacy, Geriatric Psychiatry, Social Work and Rehabilitation.

Under the direction of nationally and internationally recognized investigators, a variety of research opportunities also exist in ongoing health services, clinical and basic science projects.

UCLA Medical Center

The UCLA Medical Center is the University-owned teaching hospital for the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA. The medical center comprises 668 inpatient medical/surgical beds, an emergency department, and ambulatory clinics that accommodate 420,000 patient visits per year (including emergency room visits). The Medical Center offers an extensive array of specialty and ancillary services.

UCLA-based experiences for geriatric fellows include the geriatric medicine consultation service and a community-based, sub-acute nursing home experience. The geriatric consultation service provides medical consultation and care for older patients hospitalized at the Neuropsychiatric Institute and the Center for Health Sciences. Primary learning areas include the evaluation and management of mental illness in the elderly, with emphasis on dementia and depression; delirium; peri-operative care; and the role of the geriatric consultant. The community-based, sub-acute rotation combines nursing home care and outpatient subspecialty clinics. At the nursing home, fellows work with an interdisciplinary team in the care of sub-acute patients. The subspecialty clinics provide additional experience in areas of dermatology, rheumatology, and neurology as well as osteoporosis, urinary incontinence and falls.

STIPENDS

The program includes base salary and employee benefits at the appropriate PGY level. Exact figures are available upon request.

ELIGIBILITY & LICENSURE

Physicians committed to a career in geriatrics, who have completed residency training in internal medicine or family practice, and are board certified or eligible in these specialties are invited to apply.

All fellows are required to have an active California medical license to begin the fellowship program. Failure to secure an active California medical license by July 1 may result in loss of a fellow's position in the program.

ADVANCED PROGRAMS

Advanced fellowship programs that provide subsequent years of research and career training are available to fellows preparing for careers in research and academic geriatric medicine. Additional information about these programs is available from the Fellowship Coordinator.

APPLICATIONS

Contact the fellowship coordinator at the earliest possible date. The VA-UCLA Geriatric Medicine Fellowship is highly competitive and often fills early. Completed applications are reviewed and selected for interview by committee. Personal interviews with faculty from each of the core sites are mandatory.

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