

VA Palo Alto Health Services Research Internship Program

About the VA Palo Alto Health Care System & Center for Innovation to Implementation

The VA Palo Alto Health Care System is a VA medical facility with substantial infrastructure in health services, clinical, and rehabilitation research. Stanford University is the Palo Alto VA's primary academic affiliate. The Center for Innovation to Implementation (Ci2i) is at the hub of health services research at the VA Palo Alto and nationally. Ci2i's mission is to foster high-value health care for Veterans around the following three priority areas for health services research and development and VA leadership: mental health care, medical and surgical specialty care, and high-value care beyond the VA. Ci2i is co-located with VA's Health Economics Resource Center (HERC), the National Center for Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (NC-PTSD), and the Program Evaluation Resource Center (PERC). The internship program is supported and led by Ci2i, HERC, NC-PTSD, and PERC staff and researchers. Additionally, students will have opportunities to participate in research-based trainings offered by Stanford's Lane Library.

Additional information about the Ci2i center can be found at:

<http://www.ci2i.research.va.gov/>

Information about the VA Palo Alto and affiliated research programs can be found at:

<https://www.paloalto.va.gov>

<https://www.va.gov/palo-alto-health-care/research/>

Internship Program

The VA Palo Alto Health Services Research Internship provides Bay Area community college students from historically excluded groups* with in-depth health services research experiences at a federal-level research center. The virtual program is an 8-week, part-time, paid internship. Students will receive direct exposure to health services research by being paired with a mentor, working with research teams, attending professional development panels and workshops, and engaging in subject matter expert presentations. Interns will present on their project at the end of the program.

Professional Development

Student will participate in professional development panels on topics such as navigating professional identities and building a CV.

Subject Matter Expert Discussions

Students will engage and learn about health services research through discussions and presentations by leaders in the field.

Mentorship

Interns will be paired with a mentor for weekly check-ins, attend study team and national meetings, and will be expected to contribute to the mentor's active project. Information about the mentors can be found on pages 4-5.

Stipend

The program will provide a stipend of \$2,500 to each intern. **Note: In accordance with standard federal processes, payment will take up to 4 to 6 weeks after the end of the program.**

Eligibility

- Enrolled in a community college in the Bay Area (**students who are enrolled or graduated from a 4-year university are ineligible**).
- Minimum 3.0 GPA on a 4.0 scale.
- Completed at least one eligible course that provides an introduction to allied health sciences (psychology, sociology, anthropology, public health), research methods, and/or statistics by the start of the internship.
- Be a member of a historically excluded group.*
- Can commit to 15 hours/week during normal business hours for the duration of the program.
- Have access to their own computer with internet access in order to participate for the duration of the program.
- In order to receive federal funding, interns must have a social security number.

*The term **historically excluded group or HEG** refers to any group of people that has been historically excluded from full rights, privileges and opportunities in a society or organization. This term is fluid dependent on time and location. As part of this program, historically excluded groups refer (but are not limited) to racial/ethnic minorities, LGBT+ people, those with disabilities, first generation college students, generationally poor (see final page for a list of definitions).

Program Dates

Monday, June 19 through Friday, August 11, 2023

Application Requirements

– Responses to 3 essay prompts:

1. Describe your academic and career goals *and* what has inspired you to pursue your goals? (e.g., community involvement, volunteer experience, personal/life experience) (250-word max)
2. Please tell us why you are interested in this internship and/or how this internship would be helpful to you (250-word max).
3. Describe any unique, personally important, and/or challenging factors in your background that have influenced your goals or your academic achievement (250-word max).

In the application, you will be asked to answer essay questions before submitting your responses. You are encouraged to draft your responses on MS Word/Google Docs/etc. before pasting your answers into the application.

– Unofficial Transcript

– Resume or CV

- **1 Letter of Recommendation:** One letter from someone who knows you well and can speak to your strengths as a candidate. For example, an instructor or advisor in allied health sciences (psychology, sociology, anthropology), research methods and/or statistics OR a supervisor or mentor. Please have the writers send letters to Diana Villasenor at Diana.Villasenor@va.gov.

Application Submission: <http://bit.ly/3jssKEv> (recommended browser: Google Chrome)

Deadline for applications: March 27, 2023 *or* on the date in which 60 applications have been received, whichever comes first. Letters of recommendation must be received by 3/27/2023.

For more information, please contact Carla Garcia at carla.garcia2@va.gov

Mentors' Bios

Robert Gallo is a medical informatics research fellow in the Stanford Department of Health Policy and the VA Palo Alto Health Care System's Center for Innovation to Implementation. He is a native of California's Central Valley area, and he attended undergraduate and medical school at Washington University in St. Louis. He works as a hospitalist, taking care of patients that are admitted to the hospital. His research focuses on inpatient health services delivery, particularly for diabetes and cardiovascular diseases. He recently completed a project examining the accuracy of diagnostic codes for inpatient hypoglycemia. Currently he is working on quantifying the number of NIH grants to different internal medicine specialties, which could be a good opportunity to spin off sub-projects for an intern.

Andrea Jamison is a clinical psychologist and the Director of the Tech into Care (TIC) program at the National Center for PTSD. TIC provides information, trainings, and implementation support for integrating mental health digital resources into care. TIC focuses on the suite of mobile apps and online programs developed and maintained by the National Center for PTSD. Resources to support the use of these products include handouts, videos, presentations, and a podcast, "PTSD Bytes." Current projects include revising a self-guided online tool to help implement mental health technology at local VA facilities, developing lectures, podcast episodes, and blogs, and working with clinicians in the community to reach Veterans not in VA care. Previously, Dr. Jamison managed VA clinical research studies on topics such as a service dog training intervention for PTSD and sleep. She earned her Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology from Long Island University in Brooklyn, New York and completed her internship at James J. Peters VAMC in the Bronx, New York, which is where her VA career started.

Liam Rose is an economist at the Health Economics Resource Center. He is a native of California and has a PhD in economics from UC Santa Cruz. His work focuses on access to care in both the VA and the US health care system. He focuses on using observational data for causal inference, with a particular focus on policy changes that affect patient outcomes. In one recent project, he worked on how expanded access to private care for Veterans affected health care utilization.

Ray Van Cleve is a Post-Doctoral Fellow at the Palo Alto VA and Stanford University. Ray is part of the Big Data Science Training Enhancement Program and focuses on applying his knowledge of big data and data science to address policies on social determinants of health, specifically Long COVID. Ray is currently working on a project with the VA Office of Health Innovation and Learning to understand the full public health burden created by Long COVID. Prior to this fellowship Ray served as a statistician at the West Haven VA. Ray received a PhD in Health Services Research from the University of Pittsburgh and a Master of Science in Information Systems from Robert Morris University. Ray is originally from Pittsburgh Pennsylvania and loves all things Pittsburgh.

Michelle R. Madore is a clinical neuropsychologist at VA Palo Alto HCS and Clinical Assistant Professor (Affiliated) at Stanford University School of Medicine's Department in Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences. She received her Ph.D. in clinical psychology from the University of Cincinnati, where she received specialized training in neuropsychology. Dr. Madore completed her pre-doctoral internship at the VA Palo Alto Health Care System (VAPAHCS). She has completed postdoctoral training focused on clinical neuropsychology and neurorehabilitation research at VA Martinez, San Francisco VA Medical Center and VAPAHCS. Her research interests include: environmental and biological influences on brain function, mood regulation, and cognition; neurostimulation (e.g., rTMS); multicultural neuropsychology, clinical neuropsychology.

Shannon McCaslin-Rodrigo is a clinical psychologist and investigator at the National Center for PTSD, Dissemination and Training Division, VA Palo Alto HCS and Clinical Professor (Affiliated) at Stanford University. She received her Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology from the University of South Dakota in 2003 and completed her postdoctoral fellowship with a focus on stress and trauma at UCSF and the San Francisco VA Medical Center. Her research and clinical interests include examination of factors associated with Posttraumatic Stress Disorder that impact psychosocial functioning (for example, insomnia), military acculturation and psychosocial functioning, and individual variability in the experience and impact of traumatic stress (for example, cross-cultural aspects). Dr. McCaslin-Rodrigo also led the development of and continues to manage the VA Community Provider Toolkit (<https://www.mentalhealth.va.gov/communityproviders>) and collaborates with NCPTSD teams focused on the development, dissemination, and evaluation of digital tools such as mobile applications.

Definitions of categories for Historically Excluded Groups (HEG)

Racial and ethnic groups: Blacks or African Americans, Hispanics or Latinos, American Indians or Alaska Natives, Native Hawaiians and other Pacific Islanders

Individuals with disabilities: those with a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities

LGBTQIA+: individuals who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, pansexual, transgender, genderqueer, queer, intersexed, agender, asexual

First generation college students: have/had no parents or legal guardians who completed a bachelor's degree

Generationally poor: Individuals from disadvantaged backgrounds, defined as those who meet two or more of the following criteria:

- Were or currently unhoused
- Were or currently are in the foster care system
- Were eligible for the Federal Free and Reduced Lunch Program for two or more years
- Have/had no parents or legal guardians who completed a bachelor's degree
- Were or currently are eligible for Federal Pell grants
- Received support from the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC) as a parent or child