



Community Health Fellowship Program (CHFP)

Department of Family and Community Medicine
Community Health Section

UT Southwestern
Medical Center

Community Health Fellowship Program

Program Overview

The Community Health Fellowship Program (CHFP) introduces preclinical medical students to community-based participatory research (CBPR), and emphasizes the importance of collaboration as a means for addressing community health problems in underserved communities.

Goals and Objectives

The focus of the experience is to develop relationships between the UT Southwestern (UTSW) Medical Center Community, and community-based health and social service delivery organizations in the Dallas - Fort Worth Metroplex. The partnerships are designed to assist community-based organizations in identifying the needs of those they serve, investigating how well the needs are being met, evaluating additional resource needs, and providing information that can be used to obtain and coordinate additional resources. All work is done in a way that benefits the participating organization, while teaching medical students the value of collaboration to achieve optimal health outcomes among underserved communities.

The CHFP annually offers a small group of exceptional medical students an opportunity to:

- 1) Address the health care needs of underserved patients in a community-based setting,
- 2) Gain applied research knowledge through participating in a didactic research training curriculum combined with developing and implementing a community health agency-based research project.

This fellowship is offered for nine weeks during the summer, and provides a stipend. However, there are supplemental sessions required to refine community projects and equip students with basic HIPAA research and human subjects training prior to the summer program. A limited amount of additional funding is also available for presenting research findings at national or regional professional meetings and conferences.

Program Curriculum

The nine week program blends interactive lectures to provide participating students with the necessary knowledge to successfully conduct community-based research. Among the topics included in this facet of the program are the following:

- Behavioral Medicine
- Bioethics
- Biostatistics
- Cultural competency in CBPR
- Data Analysis & Interpretation
- Health Disparities
- Health Literacy
- Homelessness
- Race and Medicine
- Study Designs
- Original Research Presentations

Students participating in the program complete a CBPR project under the guidance of a community mentor and a faculty mentor from UTSW. There are several deliverables, related to this research project, that each student is responsible for developing:

- Draft of a manuscript/executive summary
- An abstract detailing the research and findings
- An oral presentation
- A poster presentation submitted to local, national or international medical conferences

Ongoing guidance and support will be provided throughout the fellowship to ensure students are able to successfully meet the above deliverables.

For more information, please contact:

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