

UCLA NATIONAL CLINICIAN SCHOLARS PROGRAM EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

“The Clinical Scholars Program is the best training I know for developing physician leaders interested in quality improvement.”

Mitchell Katz, M.D.

Director, Los Angeles County Department of Health Services

UCLA is committed to solving the most pressing societal challenges of our time—not least among them, addressing disparities and quality of care in an ever-changing healthcare landscape. Inspired by the Robert Wood Johnson Clinical Scholars Program (CSP), which for more than 40 years fostered the development of physician-leaders able to transform health and healthcare, the university proudly launches a new interprofessional UCLA National Clinician Scholars Program in 2016. This post-residency training initiative builds upon the CSP legacy, with early-career physicians and doctorally-prepared nurses participating in an intensive, highly-customized, two-year program that places them in community settings to conduct priority research directly benefiting the health of Southern California residents.

Through the generosity of an anonymous donor who contributed \$5 million to launch the new platform, as well as substantial support from UCLA and local and national organizations, the UCLA National Clinician Scholars Program will train and support 10 scholars in its first year and continue its mission into the next decade. Additional support is being actively sought. The program will be directed by Carol Mangione, M.D., M.S.P.H., the Barbara A. Levey, M.D. and Gerald S. Levey, M.D. Endowed Chair, Professor of Medicine and Health Services at UCLA, and current co-director of the CSP, and Linda Sarna, Ph.D., R.N., F.A.A.N., Dean of the UCLA School of Nursing. Working in partnership with a consortium of other institutions, the program will identify real-time, regional health challenges and recruit participants (scholars) to address these issues with an emphasis on eliminating health disparities in Los Angeles and implementing programs that will reduce wait times, save resources, and improve outcomes. The David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA, the UCLA School of Nursing, and the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health are partnering with the Los Angeles County Departments of Health Services, Public Health, and Mental Health; Kaiser Permanente Southern California; Cedars- Sinai Health System; Charles R. Drew University of Medicine and Science; and the Greater Los Angeles Veterans Health System, among others. Additionally, the U.S. Veterans Affairs Office of Academic Affiliations has invested in the program to create the next generation of leaders and agents of change able to understand and improve the health of veterans and of the nation as a whole. The breadth of public and private partnerships makes the UCLA National Clinician Scholars Program a truly interprofessional endeavor, both within the university and beyond.

The research and projects undertaken through the program will not be limited to academia or laboratories; rather, they will be conducted in the very communities the scholars will serve. In this way, the education will be shared among the scholars and community partners. The projects will make up the core of the two-year training experience. Scholars also will participate

in an innovative curriculum to build a robust set of skills in organizational and social change, applied translation of medical discoveries, research methodology, community engagement, program development and evaluation, team management, communication, and leadership. Mentorship will be provided by the consortium members as well as faculty at UCLA, RAND Corp., and other partner institutions. In addition to local partnerships, the four original CSP sites—UCLA, University of Michigan, University of Pennsylvania, and Yale University—have committed to maintaining a national consortium, the National Clinician Scholars Program (nationalcsp.org), that will allow scholars at each independently run site to learn from one another through an annual national meeting.

UCLA is moving its new platform forward with great optimism, confidence, and pride; the inaugural cohort of scholars (2016-2018)—the best and brightest trainees selected from a national recruitment effort—began training on July 1, 2016. To ensure the continued enhancement and longevity of the program, UCLA seeks visionary philanthropists and partners who share its vision of creating world leaders in health and science and are motivated to invest in a high-impact approach to solving health challenges affecting both the local community and those farther afield.

For more information, please contact:

Cristina Punzalan, M.P.H.
Program Administrator
(310) 794-2268
cpunzalan@mednet.ucla.edu

Laura Pescatore
Director of Development
(310) 825-1288
lpescatore@support.ucla.edu

“The opportunity to work in an environment with a cohort of fellow scholars and faculty pushed me to think bigger than I thought possible.”

Stanley Frencher, M.D.
Director of Urology, Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Hospital