



HEROIC
HEALTH EQUITY AND RURAL
OUTREACH INNOVATION CENTER
CHARLESTON VA HSR&D COIN

Program Overview

The Charleston Health Services Research Fellowship aims to develop the next generation of scientists who will pioneer advancements in Veteran care through innovative research and make equitable health services more accessible for Veterans from rural and minority populations.

This 2-year post-doctoral training program accepts clinician and non-clinician scientists for a rigorous fellowship centered around expanding care for targeted veteran populations.

Fellows in the program will develop independent research projects, collaborate in interprofessional teams, develop a research portfolio within health services, receive specialized training, and take on leadership roles with support from an experienced team of mentors. The close partnership between the Ralph H. Johnson VA Medical Center and its university affiliate, the Medical University of South Carolina, means that members have access to a wealth of resources within both the VA and the state's premier hospital.

HSR&D

VA Health Services Research & Development Service

Fellowship Objectives

Mission: To recruit and train future health services researchers and innovators specially equipped for operations-partnered research and evaluation to improve access to and equity in health and healthcare for all Veterans.

Objectives:

1. Provide a supportive training environment through programmatic support, intensive mentoring, individualized learning plans, additional degrees, and targeted coursework based on learner-specified goals
2. Immerse fellows in a thoughtfully-designed, theoretically-grounded local curriculum through didactic and experiential learning opportunities focused on health equity, social determinants of health, vulnerable Veteran populations, rural health, and access to healthcare
3. Collaborate with local and regional VA operational leaders to embed fellows within clinical teams to conduct research and program evaluations



World Report perennially ranking MUSC Health the top hospital in the state and placing it among the nation's best in multiple specialty areas. MUSC Health features a 700+ bed quaternary care facility in its downtown Charleston campus in addition to over 100 outreach locations throughout South Carolina. MUSC trains more than 3,000 students and 700 residents each year across its six component colleges, ranks in the top quartile of domestic educational institutions in the number of NIH research training and education grants, stands as a top 40 Academic Medical Center, boasts an NIH-funded Clinical and Translational Research Center, and features an NCI-certified Cancer Center. The MUSC College of

Who Can Apply

PhD-level scientists in biostatistics, epidemiology, health policy, informatics, economics, and behavioral or social sciences are strongly encouraged to apply, as are postdoctoral physicians, pharmacists, clinical and counseling psychologists, nurses, and other associated clinicians.

How to Apply

Those interested should contact Fellowship Coordinator Layla Saleeby at Hunter.Saleeby@va.gov.

For More Information

HEROIC Website

Training Sites and Affiliated Programs

The Ralph H. Johnson VA Medical Center (RHJ-VAMC):

The RHJ-VAMC, located in Charleston, SC, serves coastal South Carolina and Georgia by providing acute medical, surgical, and psychiatric inpatient care as well as outpatient primary and mental health care to 'Low-Country' Veterans. The facility consistently ranks as one of the top VAMCs in the region in terms of combined VA and NIH research funding, and we offer a robust training environment—hosting students, residents, and fellows in all clinical and research disciplines. The Charleston VA also features additional fellowships in quality improvement (VAQS) and patient safety as well as mental illness research (MIRECC).

The Medical University of South Carolina (MUSC):

MUSC is South Carolina's premier hospital, located in Charleston. The University is dedicated to the pursuit of changing what's possible in health care, with U.S. News &

Graduate Studies sponsors a Master of Science in Clinical Research, and the Department of Public Health Sciences sponsors PhD and MS degrees in Epidemiology, Biostatistics, and Biomedical Data Science as well as MPH degrees in Epidemiology, Biostatistics, and Health Behavior & Health Promotion.

The Charleston Health Equity and Rural Outreach Innovation Center (HEROIC):

HEROIC is a VA Health Services Research and Development (HSR&D)-funded research center dedicated to advancing the implementation of evidence-based interventions designed to improve access and promote equity in vulnerable and/or rural Veteran populations. HEROIC is home to a multi-disciplinary team of dozens of health services researchers working in various fields including medicine, nursing, psychology, pharmacy, anthropology, biostatistics, data science, epidemiology, and public health. HEROIC provides the infrastructure, administrative support, and leadership for the Charleston HSR Fellowship.

Program Leadership

Director, Kelly J. Hunt, PhD

- Senior VA Research Scientist
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Co-Director, R. Neal Axon, MD, MSCR

- Director, HEROIC
- Senior Scholar, VA Quality Scholars Program
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