

## **Postdoctoral Distance-Mediated Clinical Research Fellowship**

### **Overview**

Our distance-mediated clinical research fellowship is a newly-developed 3 year program designed for registered nurses with a PhD who wish to advance their knowledge and skills in clinical research that advances nursing science and clinical outcomes.

This is a distance-mediated program; thus, Fellows will have a full-time role in an academic or clinical setting (labeled “primary work institution”) and will receive active mentorship to advance/build a clinical research program focused on chronic or acute illness or population health.

During the fellowship, Fellows will increase their methodological expertise and research competencies and be exposed to hospital-based resources (including experienced nurse scientists; innovation specialists; hospital-based clinical, billing and administrative databases and registries; biostatisticians and statistical programmers; and multi-disciplinary collaborators) that will expand their knowledge, interdisciplinary linkages, understanding of research strategies that can be implemented with and without extramural funding, and ability to successfully disseminate research.

### **The program aims are for Fellows to:**

- Pursue independence in clinical research and training goals at an early stage of a research career,
- Receive active mentoring by hospital-based nurse scientists to assure new knowledge about hospital-based research resources and collaborative opportunities,
- Understand their roles as key contributors in clinically-based, patient-centered translatable nursing science, and
- Understand how hospital-based clinical research, led by nursing personnel, holds value for the institution, nursing department and nursing personnel (for Fellows who have a nurse scientist role in a hospital setting).

Unlike other postdoctoral fellowship programs, the Cleveland Clinic clinical research fellowship program is learner-centric with role-specific curriculum tailored to meet each fellow’s unique skill set and research development needs.

Fellows will be partnered with expert nurse scientists to enrich the immersive experience and support continued learning and development throughout the two year program.

## **Performance Requirements**

Fellows will be expected to:

1. Prepare for and participate in scheduled learning activities/experiences throughout the fellowship,
2. Successfully complete approved research-related rotations (5 rotations for a 3-year fellowship—occur at each of the 4 on-site program experiences) that are tailored to meet the fellow's individual needs and skills, along with their desire for new learning opportunities.
  - Examples of experiences are:
    - Budgeting expectations for funded studies
    - Mixed-methods research experience
    - Qualitative research experience
    - Comparative effectiveness research experience
    - Patient-centered research experience
    - Corporate-sponsored research experience
    - Organization-sponsored experience
    - Quality-research experience
    - Multi-center research experience
    - Research database experience
    - Hospital-based clinical and administrative database experience
  - Completion entails providing a short presentation on the rotation theme and actively participating in a discussion at a 60 minute Professional Grand Rounds session that will be attended by 6 PhD nurse scientists,
3. Develop and initiate a clinical research study that is based on a formal proposal (~ 7 single-spaced pages without references, tables or figures) early during year 1 of the fellowship. The research project must be feasible to be completed within 18 months. The proposal should include a summary of the pertinent literature, specific aims, research questions/hypotheses, clearly described methods, including sample size determination and data analysis plan, feasibility, human subjects' protection, references, proposed timeline, and proposed budget, as needed,
4. Present project report to the Nursing Institute Research Council, in a Nursing Institute Grand Rounds presentation or at the Annual Nursing Research Symposium, which is held in the spring of each year; before the end of year 3 of the fellowship,
5. Disseminate the clinical research study by (a) developing and submitting a research abstract to a national scientific meeting and (b) developing and submitting a manuscript of scholarly work to a high-impact peer-reviewed journal, before the end of year 3 of the fellowship,

6. Develop a second research project that will be submitted for research grant funding, before the end of year 2 of the fellowship,
7. Participate in bi-monthly 1-hour telephone calls x 6 months with their primary mentor, then monthly for the rest of the 3 year program that may include long distance participation in Professional Grand Rounds, which are led by nurse scientists and occur monthly for ~ 10 months/year. Distance-mediated learning will be via Skype or teleconference, and set up by Cleveland Clinic at mutually determined times.
8. Be present on-site at Cleveland Clinic for 4-5 immersive sessions over a 3 year period. The first and last sessions will be a full week (5 business days) in length; the other 3 sessions will be 4.5 days/each.

Other training will be based on Fellow goals and opportunities available during the in-house sessions at the Cleveland Clinic. Training program experiences may include attending clinical research seminars, attending interdisciplinary sessions with leaders in their field of research, and understanding grant support opportunities.

**Each participants will:**

- Enhance their ability to develop, conduct, disseminate and translate clinical research based on a theoretical model or organizational change
- Create impact post research project completion by considering media/marketing strategies and internal and external dissemination options.
- Develop strategies to create high impact relationships that may shape future research
- Discover research strengths
- Build an action plan to achieve research funding.

**The fellowship focuses on:**

- Mentoring the next generation of researchers
- Research production
- Research dissemination
- Influence via global collaborations and interdisciplinary relationship building
- Learning the value of innovation in research

**Benefits**

- Fellows will be granted Visiting Researcher status at Cleveland Clinic for the entire 3 year fellow program. Visiting researcher status includes receiving a contractor (temporary) badge.
- Fellows will have access to data, based on research needs, under the guidance of the nurse scientist mentor assigned and project oversight by the Cleveland Clinic Institutional Review Board.
- Via a legal agreement for use of limited data sets, research data may leave Cleveland Clinic for analysis at the Fellow's work site, as desired; however, Fellows will have access to Cleveland Clinic biostatisticians and a statistical programmer for data analysis.
- Fellows will have access to many Cleveland Clinic resources that are commonly used in research.
- Depending on the Fellow's research project design and methodology, trained research nurses, a biostatistician and a statistical programmer will be available for Cleveland Clinic subject recruitment, enrollment, and data collection and data analysis, respectively.
- Fellows will have access to the Cleveland Clinic REDCap database and also SPSS (currently using v24).
- During and after completion of the fellowship program, Fellows will be listed on our website.

**Personal and Professional Attributes of a Successful Fellow**

- Demonstrates compassion, integrity and ethical practices in personal/professional interactions and research activities at Cleveland Clinic and primary work institution,
- Assumes responsibility (ownership) for own learning and actively contributes to the learning of others,
- Shows curiosity in learning, openness to embracing change, and willingness to share knowledge and collaborate with others,
- Uses effective written and oral communication in research meetings and personal interactions,
- Meets professional obligations based on program goals regarding research activities and requirements, in a reliable and timely manner,
- Follows all Cleveland Clinic Health System and Nursing Institute policies of a Visiting Researcher and distance-mediated fellow,
- Physically reports to Cleveland Clinic main campus to fulfill on-site Fellowship program requirements during the 3-year period,
- Prepares discussion topics in advance of teleconference meetings with the primary mentor/program director, and
- Gains familiarity with the culture and resources of a healthcare organization that values nurse-led clinical research.

## **Applicant Requirements**

- Applicants who are individuals applying on their own behalf and not as an employee of another academic or healthcare organization will be U.S. citizens and permanent residents.
- Applicants who are employees of an academic or healthcare center do not need to be U.S. citizens and permanent residents
- All applicants will be paired with experienced nurse scientists who have an active program of research of interest to the Fellow.

## **How to Apply**

Please prepare a personal statement that addresses how your abilities and interests would contribute to advancing the foundation of nursing science, how the distance-mediated clinical research fellowship aligns with your career goals and finally, an overview of your program of research.

We will request additional materials (e.g., letters of reference, other supporting documents) after initial contact. Send your curriculum vitae and personal statement to:

Nancy M. Albert, PhD, at [albertn@ccf.org](mailto:albertn@ccf.org)

or Nancy M. Albert, PhD, Clinical Research Fellowship Program Director  
Cleveland Clinic, 9500 Euclid Avenue J3-4, Cleveland, OH 44195

We will review applications as they are received until the position is filled.

- The fellowship will begin at a mutually agreeable time.