THE MONGAN COMMONWEALTH FUND FELLOWSHIP IN MINORITY HEALTH POLICY

2014/2015
PURPOSE

The Mongan Commonwealth Fund Fellowship in Minority Health Policy (formerly The Commonwealth Fund/Harvard University Fellowship in Minority Health Policy, est. 1996) is designed to prepare physicians for leadership roles in transforming health care delivery systems and promoting health policies and practices that improve access to high performance health care for racial and ethnic minorities, economically disadvantaged groups, and other vulnerable populations. It is expected that the Fellowship will support the development of a cadre of physician leaders in health policy and practice who are well-trained academically and professionally in health policy, public health, health management, minority health and clinical medicine, as well as actively committed to creating high-performance health systems for vulnerable populations and to pursuing careers in public service.
BACKGROUND

Disparities in health care access and quality of care have been well documented. While differences in income, insurance status, or medical need play important roles, racial and ethnic disparities persist even after accounting for these factors. Minority Americans are more likely to report poor health status and experience higher mortality rates for many conditions, including heart disease and cancer. Access to health care is often impeded because many individuals are uninsured or underinsured, rely on public coverage, or live in communities with limited access to providers. If major national health issues are to be fully and equitably addressed, the perspectives and concerns of all racial and ethnic groups must be considered.

Addressing disparities in health and health care and achieving high-performance health systems for vulnerable populations require prepared physician leaders’ participation in policy decisions. This level of participation requires a knowledge of government, management, and public health as well as clinical medicine. These leaders must also be culturally competent if they are to ensure that the health needs of minority, disadvantaged and vulnerable populations are met.

While physician education and training establish a firm foundation on which to build effective leadership in health, the Fellowship is unique in its dedication to training physicians for leadership roles in health policy and in transformation of health care delivery systems.

Since 1996, The Commonwealth Fund has supported a fellowship program based at Harvard University which has successfully developed physician leaders who address the health needs of vulnerable populations. The Commonwealth Fund recently renamed the Fellowship as The Mongan Commonwealth Fund Fellowship in Minority Health Policy in honor of Dr. James J. Mongan, an innovative leader in health care delivery system transformation with a strong commitment to improving health care for vulnerable populations.

LaQuandra S. Nesbitt, M.D., M.P.H., Fellow ’07
Health Director, Louisville Metro Department of Public Health & Wellness, Louisville, KY

The fellowship allowed me to widen the lens I used to identify problems. Gaining an understanding of the impact of larger social and environmental policies has proved to be invaluable. Now I’m better able to propose comprehensive solutions that may improve health. I use these skills daily to address the community health needs of the residents I serve.
It is a privilege to be part of a group of physicians whose common mission is to eliminate disparities, fight inequities and improve access and quality of care for our nation’s most vulnerable. Much of my work—whether teaching about policy and advocacy, developing delivery system innovations for the safety net, or serving on the boards of community based organizations—has its genesis in my Fellowship training.

Alice Huan Mei Chen, M.D., M.P.H., Fellow ‘01
Chief Integration Officer, Director of the Center for Innovation in Access and Quality, and Director of the eReferral Program at San Francisco General Hospital Associate Professor of Medicine, University of California San Francisco

To accomplish the goal of preparing future leaders in healthcare delivery system, the fellowship will:

• Provide strong academic training and course work, including an MPH or MPA, for highly qualified physicians.

• Enhance the leadership ability of physicians, offering them substantive knowledge in health policy and management, while creating a network of physician-leaders capable of advancing successfully among the public, nonprofit, and academic sectors.

• Provide each fellow with mentoring by Harvard senior faculty as well as access to national leaders in health policy and health care delivery.

• Bring together the faculty and resources of HMS, HSPH, and HKS to provide an enhanced core curriculum addressing transformation of health care delivery systems, health policy and practice, health provision and managed care, and health quality improvement, particularly as they relate to minority health issues.

• Utilize resources at HMS, including the Office for Diversity Inclusion and Community Partnership (DCP) and Minority Faculty Development Program (MFDP), to enhance the networking, career development, and career advancement of fellows.

• Link to program activities co-sponsored with the HSPH Division of Policy Translation and Leadership Development.

PROGRAM

Based at Harvard Medical School, under the auspices of the Minority Faculty Development Program, the Mongan Commonwealth Fund Fellowship in Minority Health Policy is a one-year, full-time, academic degree-granting program designed to create physician-leaders who will pursue careers in health policy, public service, and academia. Fellows will complete academic work leading to a Master of Public Health (MPH) degree at the Harvard School of Public Health (HSPH), or a Master of Public Administration (MPA) degree at the Harvard Kennedy School (HKS) for those already possessing an MPH. The fellowship is designed to incorporate the critical skills taught in schools of public health, government, business, and medicine with leadership forums and seminar series conducted by Harvard senior faculty and nationally recognized leaders in health care delivery systems and public policy; supervised practicums and shadowing opportunities; site visits; conferences; and travel. An optional second year of practicum experience to supplement the fellows’ academic and leadership development training at Harvard with practical experience is also available.

Up to five, one-year fellowships will be awarded per year. Each fellowship provides: $60,000 one-year stipend, full tuition, health insurance, books, travel, and related program expenses, including financial assistance for a practicum project.
ADMINISTRATION

Direction and administration of the program is provided by the Minority Faculty Development Program at Harvard Medical School. MFDP was established in 1990 to serve as an umbrella organization for minority recruitment, development, and retention initiatives undertaken at HMS and affiliated hospitals. Joan Y. Reede, M.D., M.P.H., M.S., M.B.A., Dean for Diversity and Community Partnership; Director, MFDP; and Program Director of the Mongan Commonwealth Fund Fellowship in Minority Health Policy, provides overall supervision and direction of program development, implementation, and evaluation.

Faculty from the Harvard Medical School, Harvard School of Public Health, Harvard Kennedy School, Graduate School of Education, Harvard Business School, Harvard School of Dental Medicine, and Graduate School of Arts and Sciences are involved in program development and implementation.

ELIGIBILITY

• Physicians who have completed residency, either BE/BC in the U.S. Additional experience beyond residency, such as chief residency, is preferred.
• Experience or interest in addressing and improving the health needs of vulnerable populations as well as in advancing system change in ways that improve the health for all populations, but with particular emphasis on vulnerable populations.
• Strong evidence of leadership experience or potential, especially as related to community efforts, quality improvement, transformation of health care delivery systems, and/or health policy.
• Intention to pursue a career in policy, health care delivery management, public service, and/or academia.
• U.S. citizenship.

APPLICATION REVIEW AND SELECTION

Applications will be reviewed for academic and training qualifications by the Harvard Coordinating Committee, which is composed of distinguished faculty, administrators, and the program director, together with The Commonwealth Fund. The Committee will also interview candidates and select the fellows.

HOW TO APPLY

Candidates for the MPH degree must apply for entrance into Harvard School of Public Health (HSPH), including application for financial aid; candidates for the MPA degree must apply for entrance to Harvard Kennedy School (HKS), including application for financial aid when applying to the Fellowship.

Acceptance to the Fellowship is contingent on acceptance to HSPH or HKS. However, candidates not accepted to the Fellowship are still eligible for admission to HSPH or HKS.

Inquiries about the fellowship program and requests for application materials should be addressed to:

JOAN Y. REEDE, M.D., M.P.H., M.S., M.B.A.
Director, The Mongan Commonwealth Fund Fellowship in Minority Health Policy
Minority Faculty Development Program
Harvard Medical School
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Boston, MA 02115-5810
Tel: (617) 432-2922
Email: mfdp_mcff@hms.harvard.edu
Web: http://www.mfdp.med.harvard.edu/fellows_faculty/mcff/index.html.

DEADLINES

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>December 16, 2013</td>
<td>Deadline for applications</td>
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<tr>
<td>February 18, 2014</td>
<td>Selection of 2014-15 Fellows</td>
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<td>March 17, 2014</td>
<td>Notification of 2014-15 Fellows</td>
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Please note: The deadline for the HSPH application is December 15, 2013.
established a patient navigation program to promote and connect preventive health services to underserved African Americans. As a result, uninsured, unemployed, and other disadvantaged groups in the St. Louis community are now receiving colorectal cancer screening and primary care. He envisions expanding the program and influencing care delivery at the national level. A native of Baltimore, MD, he received his medical degree from Howard University, Washington, DC and completed his residency in Internal Medicine at Duke University Medical Center, Durham NC.

Dr. Vikram Kambampati is a Staff Psychiatrist in the Federal Bureau of Prisons, Federal Medical Center Devens, Ayer, MA. Wanting to serve disadvantaged populations, he signed up for National Health Service Corps soon after entering medical school. He was awarded the New York Academy of Medicine’s David E. Rogers Fellowship to participate in a health delivery research and demonstration project, evaluating how low-income African American veterans experience a mobile medical unit. During residency, he was awarded the American Psychiatric Association/Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (APA/SAMHSA) Minority Fellowship. Dr. Kambampati has presented on a collaborative care model to meet the mental health needs of jails and prisons lacking psychiatrists, and one of his goals includes his desire to plan and implement health delivery programs in prisons. In January 2013, he was commissioned as an officer in the United States Army Reserves. Dr. Kambampati completed his medical degree at the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine in 2005. He completed his residency in adult psychiatry at Case Western Reserve University/University Hospitals Case Medical Center, Cleveland, OH.
Dr. Monique Nugent was most recently Chief Resident in Internal Medicine at Loma Linda University Medical Center in Loma Linda, CA. Dr. Nugent possesses a strong desire to make logistical and administrative changes to hospital-based patient flow and has demonstrated her ability to do so. She is also committed to working on behalf of uninsured or underinsured patients and to improve outcomes for them. She is looking forward to a career in public health and policy where she can be part of the dynamic conversation that will create positive changes in healthcare. Dr. Nugent completed an NIH post-baccalaureate research fellowship in the Mood and Anxiety program in 2004. She received her medical degree from Loma Linda University in 2008.

Maria Portela Martinez, M.D.
Family Medicine Resident
Duke University Medical Center
Durham, NC

While pursuing a Ponce School of Medicine Health Policy Sub Internship in 2010, Dr. Portela Martinez drafted a document assessing the health and education Sectors for the Obama’s Taskforce on PR’s Economic Development. She worked on the documentary “En Sus Zapatos: Challenges of the Primary Care Physician,” which aimed to raise awareness of the barriers faced by the Hispanic population when accessing health services. From 2012-2013, she was health policy chair for the National Hispanic Medical Association Council of Residents. Dr. Portela Martinez completed her medical degree at Ponce School of Medicine in 2010. She is interested in increasing access and quality health care services to communities most in need and for the Latino immigrant population.
The Mongan Commonwealth Fund Fellowship in Minority Health Policy

LISA I. IEZZONI, M.D., MSc., Professor of Medicine, Harvard Medical School; Director, Mongan Institute for Health Policy, Massachusetts General Hospital.

ASHISH JHA, M.D., M.P.H., Professor of Health Policy and Management, Department of Health Policy and Management, Harvard School of Public Health; Associate Professor of Medicine, Harvard Medical School; Associate Physician, Boston's Brigham and Women's Hospital and VA Boston Healthcare System.

THOMAS H. LEE, M.D., MSc., Professor of Medicine, Harvard Medical School; Network President, Partners Healthcare System; Physician, Brigham and Women's Hospital; Associate Editor, New England Journal of Medicine.

BARBARA J. MCNEIL, M.D., Ph.D., Ridley Watts Professor, Health Care Policy, Head, Department of Health Care Policy, Harvard Medical School; Professor, Radiology, Harvard Medical School and Brigham and Women's Hospital.

JOSEPH P. NEWHOUSE, Ph.D., John D. MacArthur Professor of Health Policy and Management at Harvard University, Director of the Division of Health Policy Research and Education, chair of the Committee on Higher Degrees in Health Policy, and Director of the Interfaculty Initiative in Health Policy.

JEFFREY D. SELBERG, M.H.A., Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer, Institute for Healthcare Improvement (IHI).

DAVID R. WILLIAMS, Ph.D., M.P.H., Florence Sprague Norman & Laura Smart Norman Professor of Public Health; Professor of African and African American Studies and of Sociology; Director, Lung Cancer Disparities Center, Co-Leader, Cancer Risk Reduction and Disparities Program, Dana Farber/Harvard Cancer Center, Harvard University.

PETER ZIMMERMAN, M.P.P., Lecturer in Public Policy, Senior Associate Dean for Strategic Program Development, Faculty Chair of the Senior Executive Fellows Program, Executive Education, Harvard Kennedy School.

James J. Mongan, M.D. was a visionary leader who maintained a strong commitment throughout his career to improving health care for vulnerable populations. Dr. Mongan was a member of The Commonwealth Fund’s board of directors and chairman of its Commission on a High Performance Health System, and he was a professor of health care policy and social medicine at Harvard Medical School. He served as president and CEO of Partners HealthCare from 2003-2009, and as president of Massachusetts General Hospital from 1996-2002. He also served 15 years as executive director of Truman Medical Center, a major safety net hospital system in Kansas City, MO, and served as the dean of the University of Missouri-Kansas City School of Medicine.