

Early Career Public Health Scholars in Maternal-Fetal Medicine and Reproductive Infectious Disease

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Executive Summary

The CDC Foundation, in partnership with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the Society for Maternal Fetal Medicine (SMFM), and Infectious Disease Society for Obstetrics and Gynecology (IDSOG), has established the Early Career Public Health (ECPH) Scholar Program. This Program provides an opportunity for early career maternal-fetal medicine (MFM) and reproductive infectious disease (RID) fellows with previous training in clinical women's health care, to gain public health experience. ECPH Scholars will work directly with CDC clinicians, epidemiologists, and other employees to develop and lead public health projects, resulting in a publication and/or presentation at a national conference. A benefit of this unique opportunity is that fellows are already engaged in a clinical fellowship program with a research requirement and are receiving mentorship at their home institutions. For CDC, this is an opportunity to engage directly with clinicians in training to inform public health analysis, programs and interventions.

Background

In 2023, CDC Foundation was awarded funds from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to develop the ECPH Scholar Program for MFM and ID fellows with previous training in clinical women's health care. In May 2024, the White House announced the Women's Health Research Initiative, which raised national awareness for

training in maternal and child health research and public health activities, aligning perfectly with the goals of the ECPH Scholar Program. This U.S. government strategy has bolstered support for this type of training opportunity at CDC. The Agency has endorsed this activity and will report results as a portion of the White House Women's Health Research Initiative. CDC and CDC Foundation have the necessary expertise based on their prior experience with the Gilstrap OBGYN Fellowship to create this new initiative. CDC Foundation has solicited expertise and engagement from CDC, SMFM and IDSOG who are supportive of the endeavor and wish to collaborate to fill a critical gap. SMFM and IDSOG have identified champions for the pilot phase of this training opportunity from several key experts in academic institutions with existing fellowship programs. CDC Foundation has worked with CDC, SMFM and IDSOG to gather information to generate a clear understanding of current MFM/RID fellowship offerings and to support the development of this program, which is complementary to the Gilstrap OBGYN Fellowship.

General Information

1. The ECPH Scholar Program is intended to be a 12-month program. This program requires completion of 1,400 hours. ECPH Scholars will have flexibility to adjust their schedules based on MFM/RID fellowship program requirements as well as project requirements to complete the required hours within a 12-month period. Scholars will complete a project plan and begin the CDC clearance process prior to the start of their program.
2. ECPH scholars will remain employed and fully financially supported by their home institution for the entirety of their 12-month appointment. Scholars are not employees of the CDC or CDC Foundation and will be designated as guest researchers.
3. Each ECPH scholar will be assigned a mentorship team consisting of a CDC primary mentor, CDC secondary mentor, advisor from the home institution, and CDC Foundation Program Officer. Scholars will be responsible for development of the project and project plan in collaboration with this team; others may be involved at the discretion of the primary mentor and advisor.
4. ECPH Scholars will be required to meet curriculum requirements of the Program.
5. ECPH Scholars will work remotely from their home institution but will be expected to travel to CDC in Atlanta, Georgia for up to a 1-week orientation in month 1 of the start of the program year (during the last year of the MFM/RID

fellowship). The scholars are also expected to travel to a minimum of one conference to present their findings. Funding for travel to orientation and one conference will be supplied by the CDC Foundation, at the discretion of the CDC primary mentor, with agreement from the CDC Foundation program officer and the home institution advisor.

6. The Program does not provide any relocation expenses.

Program Requirements

Eligibility Requirements

To be eligible for the ECPH Scholar Program, applicants must:

1. Be matched as a first-year fellow to a maternal-fetal medicine/reproductive infectious disease fellowship program,
2. Have commitment from home institution and advisor to participate as outlined in roles and responsibilities. (Note: home institution must be willing to enter into a Memorandum of Agreement with CDC Foundation to ensure Program expectations are being met by the Fellow), and
3. Commit to the hourly work requirements of the Program.

Required Activities

1. ECPH Scholars will work with their Mentorship Team to outline their project.
2. Projects must utilize CDC data systems, including but not limited to [SET-NET](#) or [MAT-LINK](#).
3. All assignments involve the performance or management of tasks related to:
 - a. Population Health/Maternal & Fetal Health,
 - b. Communication,
 - c. Public Health Science, Epidemiology, and Surveillance, and
 - d. Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility (DEIA).
4. ECPH Scholars will be required to create a project workplan and receive written approval from their Mentorship Team within 4 months of their acceptance into the program. Scholars who fail to complete this will be released from the program.
5. ECPH Scholars will be required to participate in trainings and activities that advance program goals and competencies as well as their individual work plan.

Application and Interviews

Application

This application will remain open until Friday, November 15, 2024.

Please be prepared to complete the application form linked below, and to include:

- CV/Resume,
- Cover Letter (Maximum 2 pages),
- Writing Sample, and
- Assurance that your home institution is supportive of your application. Please reach out to your advisor prior to submitting your application. We will contact your advisor during the selection process.

Candidate Selection Process

Candidates will be contacted to schedule one (1) virtual screening interview.

Candidates who progress to the next round of interviews will attend a virtual Meet and Greet with potential members of the mentorship team. Up to one (1) additional round of interviews may be held, based on the discretion of CDC Foundation. Candidates will be selected based on recommendations from the home institution, interest and experience in public health, and fit of their proposed project with CDC priorities.

CDC Foundation will reach out to academic advisors from home institutions for candidate finalists to ensure the home institution is willing to enter an MOA with CDC Foundation. At this time, we will also request a letter of recommendation.

For those interested in applying to the program, please follow the link below to complete the application:

<https://app.smartsheet.com/b/form/684e4382ea0b4226b026e1f645caa558>