RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP IN OPTIMIZING ADDICTION PHARMACOTHERAPY

We are seeking candidates for a Post-Doctoral Research Fellowship focused on optimizing addiction pharmacology. The fellowship is based at two research centers within VA Pittsburgh Healthcare System (VAPHS) -- the VA Center for Healthcare Evaluation, Research, and Promotion (CHERP) and the Mental Illness Research Education and Clinical Center (MIRECC) -- and is offered in partnership with the University of Pittsburgh's Center for Pharmaceutical Policy and Prescribing.

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

FELLOWS WILL:

- **Conduct VA health services research** designed to optimize pharmacotherapy and reduce medication risks for inpatients and outpatients in primary care and addiction treatment. Research will focus on how VA healthcare providers and systems can improve Veteran outcomes and reduce readmissions and emergency room visits through optimization of medications, with emphasis on treatment for Veterans with substance-use disorders, including improving the delivery of addiction medications and reducing addiction-related risks from the prescribing of medications.
- **Study advanced modeling and causal inference approaches** using large administrative healthcare databases, including the VA Corporate Data Warehouse, and apply findings to inform and improve Veteran health and healthcare for patients with chronic health conditions and addictive disorders.
- **Collaborate on established projects** with an emphasis on data analysis and manuscript writing and leverage available datasets from VA- and NIH-funded studies to lead secondary analyses and first-author peer-reviewed publications.
- **Be mentored** in developing independent analytic projects, including the option to tailor training toward development of a Career Development Award application (e.g., NIH K, VA CDA). Develop a body of work that supports your professional goals.
- **Support VA's clinical mission** by providing clinical care or leading a clinical quality improvement project for 25% of the time.

ELIGIBILITY AND DEADLINES

This is a federal government position; U.S. citizenship is required. Flexible start date, ideally July 2027. Prior to starting the fellowship, applicants must have a clinical degree (PharmD, DNP, MD) with relevant research experience or have earned a doctorate in a nonclinical discipline such as health services research, health social psychology, public health, social work or health policy.

VA PITTSBURGH HEALTHCARE SYSTEM

TRAINING LOCATIONS

Fellows will onboard into the Research Service at VAPHS within CHERP, a VA Health Systems Center of Innovation. Within CHERP, fellows are part of a supportive interdisciplinary fellowship cohort. Fellows are funded through the VA Advanced Fellowship in Addiction Treatment, a two-year fellowship with the option for a third year.

MENTORSHIP

Mentorship will be provided by Timothy Anderson, MD, MAS, Tae Woo Park, MD, MSc and Jenny Lo-Ciganic, PhD, MS, MSPharm. Additional mentorship and collaborations are available with other VA and University of Pittsburgh faculty to maximize alignment with fellow interests and professional goals.

HOW TO APPLY

Email Tae Woo Park, MD, MSc at parkt4@upmc.edu; taewoo.park@va.gov and include:

1. **Curriculum Vitae**
2. **Cover letter,** including a.) Goals for fellowship; b.) Goals for post-fellowship research career; and c.) How applicant's research interests and experience are relevant to the above topics.
3. **Writing sample:** PDF of published academic manuscript or another academic writing sample.

VA

U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

Veterans Health Administration

VA Pittsburgh Healthcare System

ABOUT VA PITTSBURGH

VA Pittsburgh Healthcare System is an integrated healthcare system with two main campuses and six community-based outpatient clinics. It proudly serves Veterans in the tri-state area of Pennsylvania, Ohio and West Virginia.

Our University Drive campus is an acute care facility with 146 operating beds in medicine, surgery, neurology and critical care; 78 secure, private psychiatric beds; and a range of outpatient services.

Our H.J. Heinz III campus is home to a Community Living Center with 262 beds, a Veterans Recovery Center with 65 beds and 31 psychiatric residential rehabilitation treatment beds, and an ambulatory care center that offers outpatient dental, primary care, pharmacy and rehabilitation services.

ABOUT THE CITY

Pittsburgh is a major metropolitan city located in southwestern Pennsylvania ranked by U.S. News & World Report as one of the Best Places to Live in the U.S. It is known for its storied professional sports teams, its arts and culture scene, its universities and world-class attractions and amenities.

- PNC Park
- Acrisure Stadium
- Pittsburgh Zoo and Aquarium
- Duquesne Incline
- Carnegie Museum of Art and History
- Andy Warhol Museum
- National Aviary
- Strip District