

PEDSnet Scholars Program Description:
A Career Development Program for Faculty Interested in Pediatric Learning Health Systems Science and Research

The PEDSnet Scholars Program is a K12 career development program funded by the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) and the Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI). The program is designed to prepare promising faculty to conduct learning health system (LHS) science and research that will improve the efficiency and quality of healthcare and health outcomes for children and their families. This may include junior faculty or individuals seeking to expand their methodological expertise into learning health system science and research. It builds upon prior efforts of a multidisciplinary faculty with decades of experience in research mentorship and the resources of nationally renowned pediatric academic medical centers that already collaborate in the PEDSnet clinical research network (pedsnet.org). PEDSnet scholars will learn and use new methods that leverage modern clinical data systems and test interventions in pragmatic child/family-centered outcomes research studies, embedded in diverse delivery systems and communities.

See the following article for more information on learning health systems research and its training competencies: *Forrest CB, Chesley FD Jr, Tregear ML, Mistry KB. Health Serv Res. 2017 Aug 4. Development of the Learning Health System Researcher Core Competencies. doi: 10.1111/1475-6773.12751.*

The **Program Goals** are to train the next generation of Pediatric Learning Health Systems researchers and provide value to PEDSnet healthcare organizations by conducting research that is meaningful to patients, clinicians, caregivers, and/or health system leaders. The **Program Aims** are to:

1. **Community:** Create a community of junior faculty who will progress to be leaders in their institutions and the nation in Learning Health System science and research for children;
2. **Research:** Support scholars in the conduct of patient-centered outcomes research in the context of their local Learning Health System;
3. **Curriculum:** Deliver a curriculum that builds core competencies in Learning Health System science; and,
4. **Mentorship:** Provide research, health system, and life course mentorship.

Administrative Details

- Program start date: January 2021
- Minimum of 2-year duration; some scholars may be offered an optional 3rd year
- Scholars must obtain commitment from their institutions for 75% protected time for the duration of the program. For institutional/other funded applicants only, up to 25% of that effort may include operations, QI, informatics, or other administrative responsibilities related to LHS activities

- Funding options:
 1. **AHRQ K12 funding** (3 positions available); Up to \$90,000 in salary support (plus fringe) per scholar per year; a minimum of \$15,000 for training-related expenses;
 - Scholars will use a portion of training-related funds to cover costs for patient and family partners, travel to 2 in-person program meetings each year, and a scientific mentor stipend; or
 2. **Commitment from Institutional or other extramural funding** to cover required salary effort and research expenses (No more than 9 positions available)
- Application cover letter must state applicant's funding intent:
 1. Applying for AHRQ K12 funding only;
 2. Apply for institutional/other funding only; or
 3. Applying for AHRQ K12 funding, and have acquired the commitment of institutional or extramural funding.

Among those seeking AHRQ K12 funding ONLY, funding will be awarded to the highest three scoring and ranked candidates, based on criteria established by the PEDSnet Scholars Program Executive Committee.

Eligibility Criteria

Individuals are eligible to apply if they:

- Are US citizens or non-citizen nationals;
- Have earned a clinical (MD, DO, DDS, DMD, DPT, PharmD) or research (PhD, ScD, DrPH) doctoral degree;
- Can commit 75% effort to the program for the duration of the award; and
- Have a “full-time” faculty appointment at their institution by Jan 2021.
- **For AHRQ K12 funding only**, individuals are **NOT** eligible to apply if they:
 - Have simultaneously submitted or have an application pending peer review for any other Federal career development award, or a research project grant (R01). However, individuals may concurrently submit an application for an AHRQ or NIH Small Grant (R03) or Exploratory/Developmental Grants (R21);
 - Have simultaneously submitted or have an application pending peer review for any non-Federal research grant, contract, or cooperative agreement over \$100,000 direct costs per year;
 - Have been or are currently a PD/PI on any other Federal mentored career development awards;
 - Have been or are currently supported on an institutional K12 grant or KL2 (or similar grant);
 - Have been or are currently a PD/PI on a Federal research grant (such as R01, R29, P01) or subproject leaders on Program Project (P01) and Center Grants (P50); and/or
 - Have been or are currently a PD/PI on peer-reviewed non-Federal research grants, contracts or cooperative agreements over \$100,000 direct costs per year.

Please refer to the AHRQ program announcement (RFA-HS-17-012) for complete eligibility details.

Program Components

- A diverse and experienced pediatric health services and outcomes research faculty including over 50 MDs, MD/PhDs, and PhDs who represent leading experts in the field; faculty are based in PEDSnet institutions;
- Scholars will master a core LHS curriculum that will focus on the AHRQ LHS research competencies and relevant PCORI Methodology Standards;
- Scholars will be exposed to related topics such as child/family-centered outcomes in observational and interventional research, stakeholder engagement, implementation science, applied informatics, leadership, and quality improvement;
- Monthly, mandatory PEDSnet Scholar videoconferences;
- PEDSnet Scholar in-person training workshops/institutional site visits (2 per year);
- On-line Improvement and Implementation Science Resources; and
- A personal mentorship team that includes a research scientist, a health systems leader, and a scientist from another institution within PEDSnet.
- *Please refer to the 2019-20 program syllabus for curriculum.*

Application due date: November 3, 2020. Please refer to the **Application Instructions** document for additional details.