

PEDSnet Scholars Program Description: A Learning Health System Embedded Scientist Training and Research (LHS E-STaR) Center (P30)

The PEDSnet Scholars Program is an Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) and the Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI) funded [Learning Health System Embedded Scientist Training and Research \(LHS E-STaR\) Center \(P30\)](#) designed to support the professional development of promising scientists to conduct learning health system (LHS) science and research that accelerates 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.

Please refer to 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 scientists 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: July 1, 2024
- 2.25 years duration
- Scholars must obtain commitment from their institutions for 50% protected time for the duration of the program.
- Funding options:
 1. **AHRQ PCORI P30 funding** (depending on needs of scholars appointed, up to 6 positions available; up to 4 of 6 scholars may receive data scientist effort described below)
 1. Up to \$73,500 in salary support (total costs based on up to 120k base salary) per scholar per year (a minimum of .25 effort must be covered with grant funds; up to 50% of available funds may be used for research costs instead of effort);
 2. \$10,000 for research costs (including funds to cover costs for patient and family partners);
 3. \$10,000 for conference/travel expenses and a mentor allowance; and

4. .25 effort for a PEDSnet Data Coordinating Center data scientist (for approved projects leveraging multi-institutional PEDSnet data).
2. **Commitment from Institutional or other extramural funding** to cover required salary effort and research and travel expenses (as described above) (up to 8 positions available)
3. Application cover letter (template) must state applicant's funding intent:
 1. Applying for AHRQ PCORI P30 funding only;
 2. Applying with secured institutional/other funding only; or
 3. Applying under both funding options: for AHRQ PCORI P30 funding, and have acquired the commitment of institutional or extramural funding.

Eligibility Criteria

Individuals are eligible to apply if they:

- Have earned a clinical (MD, DO, DDS, DMD, DPT, PharmD) or research (PhD, ScD, DrPH) doctoral degree;
- Can commit 50% effort to the program for the duration of the award, 2.25 years; and
- Have a “full-time” faculty appointment at their institution by Jul 2024. Instructor or scientist roles are eligible.

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 become proficient in 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;
- Scholars will conduct a learning health system (LHS) science project that is meaningful to and impactful for patients, families, clinicians, and/or health systems. Select Scholars will be supported by a Center data scientist who will conduct analyses using the PEDSnet EHR database. Other Scholars will collect primary data in their local institutions or use PEDSnet data with support offered by their institutional informatics teams;
- Twice a month, mandatory PEDSnet Scholar virtual learning sessions;
- PEDSnet Scholar in-person training workshop/meeting (annual);
- Self-guided, online learning modules;
- 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 *PEDSnet Scholars Program Curriculum Content* document and the *2022-24 Program Syllabus* for curriculum topics areas.

Application due date: May 2, 2024. Please refer to the **Application Instructions** document for additional details.