

Program Description for the non-standard Academic General Internal Medicine Fellowship  
at the Louis A. Johnson Veterans Administration Medical Center

A. Program Demographics

1. Name of Host Institution: West Virginia University School of Medicine
2. Program Specialty: Academic General Internal Medicine
3. Program Address: RCB Health Sciences Center; 1 Medical Center Drive; Box 9168; Morgantown, WV 26506 (Physical location is the same)
4. Program Phone Number: (304) 293-2245
5. Program Fax Number: (304) 293-3651
6. Program E-Mail: [relmo@hsc.wvu.edu](mailto:relmo@hsc.wvu.edu)
7. Program Director: Nathan Lerfald, MD
8. Alternate Program Contact: Rebecca Elmo, Program Manager

B. Introduction

1. The Academic General Internal Medicine Fellowship Program has been in existence since July 2010. There is one person currently in the program.
2. The duration of the Academic General Internal Medicine Fellowship Program is one year.
3. The pre-requisite for the Academic General Internal Medicine Fellow is the successful completion of a three year categorical Internal Medicine Residency Program – or a combined Internal Medicine Residency Program, (i.e. Medicine/Pediatrics, etc.).

The process for the selection of the Academic General Internal Medicine Fellow begins in the late summer/early fall of the previous year. We solicit applications from all residents/fellows in good standing at West Virginia University. All interested applicants must have completed (or will complete prior to the beginning of the fellowship) at least a 3-year categorical Internal Medicine residency program, and must present the committee with a cover letter, updated CV, and a minimum of 2 letters of recommendation. The committee reviews all applicants for the position and offers interviews to those who are most qualified. All applicants are interviewed by two members of the search committee. Then the committee ranks the applicants based on leadership and teaching abilities, organizational qualities and suitability and interest in the position.

4. The goals & objectives of the Academic General Internal Medicine Fellowship are to provide appropriately selected and qualified physicians in training with an introductory leadership role in Academic General Internal Medicine. The objective of this position is to enhance the development of administrative and teaching skills in Internal Medicine and provide an avenue for mastering clinical skills and scientific investigation in a large and diverse patient population. All of these elements are essential training for anyone interested in going into Academic General Internal Medicine. In addition, the Fellow will serve as the VA Chief Resident and play an integral role in the development of

rotating housestaff by providing mentorship, structure and oversight of the clinical rotations at our off-campus VA Medical Center.

To enhance Administrative Skills –

The Academic General Internal Medicine Fellow will:

- a. Conduct orientation of new Department of Medicine residents at the beginning of each month. Coordinate tour of facility and completion of paper work for incoming residents.
- b. Develop a yearly schedule (month by month) for each resident in the department. Assume compliance with RRC guidelines. Notify appropriate individuals when changes are made throughout the year
- c. Schedule residents from UHC (or other programs) working on rotations at the VA. Educate them as they begin the rotation on their responsibilities and advise them of the standards for the Department of Medicine.
- d. Develop the monthly call schedule.
- e. Coordinate the Medicine Sub-internship Rotations for MS IV's in collaboration with the Office of Student Affairs, School of Medicine. Meet with rotating MS IV students and discuss expectations.
- f. Coordinate the Physician's Assistant (PA's) student rotations (3-4 PA's per month), creating their schedules and outlining expectations.
- g. Will serve an integral role on various departmental committees. He/she will be a member of the House Staff Committee at WVU. He/she will serve on the following committees: Education, P&T (Promotion and Tenure) and R&D (Research and Development) at the VA.
- h. Will serve on a number of hospital committees as assigned by the Chief of Staff.
- i. Will handle day to day minor house staff disciplinary matters and will play a major role in the surveillance of house staff performance. Problems requiring more attention will be brought to the attention of the Program Director or delegate.

To enhance Teaching Skills –

The Academic General Internal Medicine Fellow will:

- a. Schedule Clinical Pathologic Conferences and coordinate participation of Radiology and Pathology Departments.
- b. Schedule Residents' Noon Conference. The Academic General Internal Medicine Fellow must assume a major teaching role for this conference. Attend all noon conferences.
- c. Conduct a monthly Morbidity and Mortality Conference. Collect conference forms for tracking attendance.
- d. Monitor house staff/VA faculty attendance at required departmental conferences. Assure distribution and collection of evaluation and attendance forms, facilitate CME for above.
- e. Assume an integral role in the instruction of residents, medical students, and PA students in the outpatient clinics and on the wards.

- f. Communicate with attendings. Maintain supervision of patient volume and assure appropriate diversity of clinical experiences for the rotating residents and medical students, and PA students.

To enhance Clinical Service Skills –

The Academic General Internal Medicine Fellow will:

- a. Have clinical duties (i.e., wards, consults and clinics) which will comprise, at a minimum 50% of the Academic General Internal Medicine Fellow's time.
- b. Be given the option to provide clinical service in subspecialty clinics under the direction of the appropriate attending which is available and encouraged to provide a broad range of educational experience.
- c. Be given the option to work in the Emergency Department at the VAMC should the fellow have an interest in exploring Emergency Medicine.

To enhance Research Skills –

The Academic General Internal Medicine Fellow will:

- a. Be encouraged to participate in a research program with a faculty mentor.
- b. Be encouraged to initiate research projects supported by available new investigator programs thru WVU and the VAMC.
- c. Be made aware of ongoing research programs available under the direction of VAMC clinical faculty.

The opportunity of growth for the Academic General Internal Medicine Fellow in the role of administrator, teacher, clinician and researcher are greater than those afforded during the initial three years of residency, or in any subsequent sub-specialty fellowship. This position enables selected and qualified physicians in training to gain experience and insight into the forum of Academic General Internal Medicine and provides an enhanced foundation for their development into a clinician-educator.

5. Program Certifications: N/A

## **C. Resources**

### **1) Teaching Staff:**

- Dr. Maria Kolar, MD – Associate Dean, Veterans Affairs, WVU
- Promoda Devabhaktuni, MD - Chief, Primary Care and Consultative Medicine, LAJ VA Med Ctr
- Dr. Dionisio Rubi, MD - Internal Medicine, LAJ VA Med Ctr
- Dr. Kenneth Ramdat, MD - Internal Medicine, LAJ VA Med Ctr
- Dr. Naveed Haque, MD - Rheumatology/medicine, LAJ VA Med Ctr
- Dr. Craig Ausmus, MD - Family med, Inpatient medicine wards, LAJ VA Med Ctr

- 2) **Facilities:** All patient encounters by the Academic General Internal Medicine Fellow at the Louis A. Johnson VA Medical Center are supervised by board-certified Internal Medicine Physicians. This is the only facility where the fellows will practice during their year-long program. The Internal Medicine supervising faculty review presentations after the fellow has had a chance to evaluate the patient. The supervising faculty also talks to and examines the patient. The fellow forms an initial hypothesis based on history and physical exam, and laboratory & radiologic data. This is discussed with the faculty and a patient care plan is made. The faculty are cognizant of fatigue in the fellow and are able to monitor this, and help them should the need present itself.

## **D. Educational Program – Basic Curriculum**

### ***Clinical and Research Components***

#### Clinical Service

Clinical duties (i.e., wards, consults and clinics) will comprise, at a minimum, 50% of the Academic Internal Medicine Fellow's time. The option to provide clinical service in subspecialty clinics under the direction of the appropriate attending is available and encouraged to provide a broad range of educational experience. In addition, the Academic General Internal Medicine Fellow is given the opportunity to work in the Emergency Department at the VAMC should he/she have an interest exploring Emergency Medicine.

#### Research

The Academic Internal Medicine Fellow is encouraged to participate in a research program with a faculty mentor. The opportunity to initiate research projects is supported by available new investigator programs thru WVU and the VAMC. Ongoing research programs are available under the direction of VAMC clinical faculty.

### ***Participants Supervisory and Patient Care Responsibilities***

As noted above, the fellow supervises residents, medical students and PA Students. The Academic General Internal Medicine Fellow is involved in teaching on team rounds and also at the educational conferences. As noted above, all inpatient and outpatient encounters are also supervised by Internal Medicine faculty. The fellow is responsible for providing patient-centered care in all settings. The fellow is expected to work effectively with other health care team members.

### ***Procedural Requirement***

There are no specific procedural requirements. The Academic General Internal Medicine Fellow will continue to perfect the procedural skills that they began during their Internal Medicine Residency and/or any subsequent fellowships.

### ***Didactic Components***

- 1) Monthly journal club
- 2) Monthly Mortality & Morbidity Conference
- 3) Weekly Medicine Grand Rounds
- 4) Weekly noon conferences

### ***Describe the progression in responsibilities of PGY level***

Non-Applicable – one year program only.

### **E. Evaluation**

Faculty will provide formative feedback to the Academic General Internal Medicine Fellow, face to face, and in writing, on clinical and administrative performance, including documentation, on an on-going basis throughout the year.

On a semi-annual basis, preceptors will provide formal summative feedback by completing web-based electronic evaluation forms via E\*Value (our electronic evaluation system) assigned by the Internal Medicine Residency office at West Virginia University. The evaluation is competency-based, fully assessing core competency performance, and providing space for written comments. The evaluation will be shared with the Fellow, is available for on-line review at their convenience, and is sent to the Internal Medicine residency office for internal review. The evaluation will be part of the Fellow's file and will be incorporated into the performance review for directed feedback.

In addition, the Fellow will be asked to complete a semiannual evaluation commenting on the faculty, facilities, and clinical experience. These evaluations will be sent to the residency office for review and the attending faculty physicians will receive this evaluation as well, compiled in conjunction with other physicians in training at the VA, to ensure anonymity. The Education Committee of the Internal Medicine Residency Program will review results annually.