The Commonwealth Fund Fellowship in Minority Health Policy at Harvard University

PREPARING TOMORROW’S LEADERS IN HEALTH

2022/2023
ABOUT THE FELLOWSHIP

Based at Harvard Medical School, the Commonwealth Fund Fellowship in Minority Health Policy at Harvard University is a one-year, full-time, academic degree-granting program designed to prepare physicians, particularly physicians from groups underrepresented in medicine, to become leaders who improve the health of disadvantaged and vulnerable populations through transforming healthcare delivery systems and promoting innovation in policies, practices and programs that address health equity and the social determinants of health. Fellows will complete academic work leading to a Master of Public Health degree at the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health or a Master of Public Administration at the Harvard Kennedy School of Government. The program incorporates the critical skills taught in schools of public health, government, business, and dental medicine with supervised practicum, shadowing, mentorship, leadership forums and seminar series conducted by Harvard senior faculty and nationally recognized leaders in healthcare delivery systems and public policy.

Up to five one-year, degree-granting fellowships will be awarded per year. Each fellowship provides: $60,000 one-year stipend, full tuition, health insurance, books, fellowship travel and other program related expenses, including financial assistance for a practicum project.
The Commonwealth Fund Fellowship in Minority Health Policy at Harvard University welcomed its inaugural class in 1996. To date, 150 fellows have been trained, including those funded by the California Endowment Scholars Program and the Oral Health Fellowship Program (funded by The California Endowment, HRSA, the Dental Service of Massachusetts/Delta Dental Plan and Harvard School of Dental Medicine).

26 YEARS OF FELLOWSHIP
1996-2021

- **Alumni in Academia**: 50%
- **Alumni in Private Sector**: 39%
- **Alumni in Public Sector**: 11%

**CLINICAL DISCIPLINES:**
- Internal Medicine
- Pediatrics
- Family Medicine
- OBGYN
- Surgery
- Psychiatry
- Emergency Medicine
- Neuro-Oncology

- 67% have been invited for interviews on TV, radio and newsprint to discuss public health and minority health issues.
- 72% have published their research work in peer-reviewed journals. Between 1997 and 2021, approximately 1646 peer-reviewed articles, book chapters and other forms of publication have been published.
- 100% engaged in policy, research and/or service delivery related to minority health and vulnerable populations.
- 79% have held academic appointments at schools of public health and/or medicine.

**Awards & Honors**: 65%

**Advisory Committee/Boards Assignments**: 94%
THE COMMONWEALTH FUND FELLOWS’ EXPERIENCES AT HARVARD

Leadership & Policy Training

“The Commonwealth Fund Fellowship was a career altering experience. The one-year journey taught me how to be a critical thinker and how to ask the most pertinent questions. I learned about public health issues, leadership skills, and health disparities. I returned to clinical work as a public health practitioner with the goals of bringing about social change to improve women’s health.”

Nawal Nour, MD, MPH – 1999
Chair, Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology; Director, African Women’s Health Center, Brigham and Women’s Hospital; Kate Macy Ladd Professorship, Harvard Medical School

“The Fellowship was an incredible, transformative experience that changed my career trajectory forever. Prior to the fellowship I had little understanding of the inner workings of leadership, minority health, and health policy. After my fellowship training, I felt equipped to create a path focused on leading efforts to address racial/ethnic disparities in health and health care.”

Joseph Betancourt, MD, MPH – 1998
Senior Vice President, Equity and Community Health; Founder, Senior Advisor, and Faculty, The Disparities Solutions Center, Massachusetts General Hospital; Associate Professor of Medicine, Harvard Medical School; Co-Founder, Quality Interactions, Inc.

Networking

“I would not be where I am today without the Fellowship. The Fellowship prepared me to be a physician leader and policymaker. The fellows that I have gotten to know through the fellowship have been my most trusted friends and colleagues.”

Quyen Ngo-Metzger, MD, MPH – 1999
Professor, Department of Health Systems Science, Kaiser Permanente School of Medicine

“I came to Boston with my wife. No family. No familiarity with Boston. I knew what to expect from conversations with prior fellows, but was unsure how the fellowship would work out for me. However, in reflecting back on the year, I now have a large extended family in my cohort of fellows and in the Reede Scholars across the nation. I also now recognize how participating in this fellowship was undoubtedly the best way I could have spent this year.”

Darrell M. Gray, II, MD, MPH – 2014
Chief Health Equity Officer, Anthem, Inc.
Empowerment & Advocacy

“The fellowship taught me more than public health leadership; it showed me how to pursue my passion in life. I am a different, better, stronger, more complete person now because of this life-changing journey. I am ready to change the world!”

Chandak Ghosh, MD, MPH – 2000
Deputy Regional Administrator, Region 2, US Department of Health and Human Services, Health Resources and Services Administration

Mentorship

“The incredible role models that we have access to during the fellowship, from Dr. Reede to the public health and health policy leaders, allow us to see that there is a myriad of ways that we can effect change to help end healthcare disparities in our society.”

Ivette Motola, MD, MPH, FACEP, FAAEM – 2005
Center Assistant Director, and Director, Division of Prehospital & Emergency Training, Gordon Center for Simulation and Innovation in Medical Education; Associate Professor of Emergency Medicine, University of Miami Miller School of Medicine

“Every day I use analytical skills, negotiating skills, research skills or networking skills, to name a few, that were acquired or strengthened by my fellowship experience.”

Octavio N. Martinez, Jr., MD, MPH, MBA, FAPA – 2002
Senior Associate Vice President, Division of Diversity and Community Engagement; Executive Director, Hogg Foundation for Mental Health; Clinical Professor, Steve Hicks School of Social Work; Professor of Psychiatry, Dell Medical School, The University of Texas at Austin

Skill Development

“This program has been transformative. It has helped me develop a framework, a knowledge base, and leadership tool. The mentorship has been extraordinary...The mentorship of our practicum experiences helped us think about future work in a better way. We learned to ask better questions. The program also helped crystallize a better vision for the future of our career.”

Jay Bhatt, DO, MPH, MPA – 2012
Principal and Founder, JDB Strategies; Chief Clinical Product Officer, Medical Home Network; ABC News Medical Contributor

Post-Fellowship Support

“The best thing about the Fellowship has been the people: my co-fellows, the alumni network, Dr. Joan Reede and her staff. It is a privilege to be part of a group of physicians whose common mission is to eliminate disparities, fight inequities and improve access and quality of care for our nation’s most vulnerable populations.”

Alice Hm Chen, MD, MPH – 2001
Chief Medical Officer, Covered California; Professor of Medicine, University of California, San Francisco

“Every day I use analytical skills, negotiating skills, research skills or networking skills, to name a few, that were acquired or strengthened by my fellowship experience.”

Durado Brooks, MD, MPH – 1999
Deputy Chief Medical Officer, Screening Business Unit, Exact Sciences
FELLOWSHIP YEAR HIGHLIGHTS

In particular, fellows report that the fellowship’s unique combination of coursework with site visits, leadership forums, and shadowing activities has proven to be an effective and unique way to bring together academic training with real world experience. The fellowship provides them “excellent opportunities” to network with national health leaders and exposes them to the most fundamental issues in health policy facing this country in the twenty-first century.

Seminar Series on Leadership in Minority Health Policy and Minority Health

The seminar sessions explore the public policy issues impacting the health status of minority and disadvantaged populations.

Leadership Forums and Special Sessions

Leadership Forums and Special Sessions are designed for fellows to interact with nationally recognized physician leaders from the public, private and academic sectors.

Examples of Fellows’ Practicum Projects

Access to Quality Cancer Care: Creating an Agenda for Action
LaQuandra Nesbitt, MD, MPH – 2007
Director, DC Department of Health, Washington DC

Health Care Utilization and Cost among Homeless Medicaid Recipients
Monica Bharel, MD, MPH – 2012
Former Commissioner, Massachusetts Department of Public Health

Reducing Readmissions in the Indian Health Service
Anne Newland, MD, FACP, MPH – 2013
Chief Executive Officer, North Country HealthCare, Flagstaff, AZ

Role of Managed Care Organization in Long-Term Services and Support for Children with Disability in New Hampshire: Policy and Practice Implication of the State Innovation Model
Asare B. Christian, MD, MPH – 2014
Physiatrist and Outpatient Medical Director, Good Shepherd Rehabilitation Network, Allentown, PA; Faculty Clinical Associate, Perelman School of Medicine, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA

Addressing the Role of FQHCs in Caring for Victims of Human Trafficking: Recommendations for Moving Forward
Kimberly S.G. Chang, MD, MPH - 2015
Family Physician and Human Trafficking and Healthcare Policy Fellow, Asian Health Services (AHS), Oakland, California; Vice Speaker of the House, Executive Board, National Association of Community Health Centers; Co-founder, HEAL Trafficking

Incompetent to Stand Trial: Strategies for Jail Release and Community Re-Entry
Morgan M. Medlock, MD, MDiv, MPH - 2018
Chief Medical Officer and Director of Crisis and Emergency Services, DC Department of Behavioral Health; Adjunct Assistant Professor of Psychiatry, Howard University Hospital, Washington, DC
ANNUAL MEETING,
REUNION OF ALUMNI,
AND CURRENT FELLOWS

Site Visits
The site visits enable fellows to obtain the first-hand experiences of problem-solving and policy-making processes in public health management and afford them an opportunity to network directly with key administrators from federal, state, local agencies and organizations (e.g. NIH, HRSA, FDA, OMH, CMS, PCORI in Washington, DC; Massachusetts Department of Public Health, Institute for Health System Innovation and Policy at Boston University).

Shadowing
The shadowing experience provides fellows a unique opportunity to interact more directly with nationally recognized public health and policy leaders and exposes fellows to the central issues and challenges encountered by public health leaders.

Career Development
Examples of topics covered under career-development include: Self-awareness; Cultivating a network and mentoring; Increasing visibility; Expanding career options; Documenting.

The annual meeting is held in the spring of each year for current and alumni fellows. The former fellows are expected to assess the relevance of the Fellowship program in terms of their professional experiences of the post-fellowship years, and the current fellows present their practicum projects at the meeting. This annual gathering also provides the opportunity for both current and former fellows to share professional and academic experiences. An alumni annual symposium is held in conjunction with the annual meeting.
HOW TO APPLY

Deadlines
Application Due: December 1, 2021
Notification of 2022-2023 Fellows: March 1, 2022

All inquiries and requests for application materials to both the Fellowship and the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health/Harvard Kennedy School should be addressed to:

Joan Y. Reede, MD, MPH, MS, MBA
Director, The Commonwealth Fund Fellowship in Minority Health Policy at Harvard University, Minority Faculty Development Program Harvard Medical School
164 Longwood Avenue, 2nd floor
Boston, MA 02115-5818
Tel: 617-432-2922
Fax: 617-432-3834
E-mail: mfdp_cff@hms.harvard.edu

For more information, please visit: https://cff.hms.harvard.edu/how-apply
Application materials and instructions are available electronically.

Review Criteria & Selection

Applications will be reviewed for:

- Academic and training qualifications
- Commitment to a multicultural perspective in program planning, program implementation, and policy analysis
- Experience in projects devoted to increasing quality care and access and improving the capacity of the health care system to address health needs of minority, disadvantaged and vulnerable populations
- Evidence of leadership potential

The Fellowship Advisory Committee, comprised of distinguished faculty, health leaders, administrators, and the program director, will review applications, interview candidates, and select the fellows.

Applicants must complete applications to both the Commonwealth Fund Fellowship in Minority Health Policy at Harvard University and the Master of Public Health Program of the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, including application for financial aid at the Chan School.

For those applicants who already have an MPH degree, applications to both the Commonwealth Fund Fellowship in Minority Health Policy at Harvard University and the Master of Public Administration Program of the Harvard Kennedy School (HKS) are required, including application for financial aid at HKS.

Acceptance to both graduate school and the Fellowship is necessary for program participation. Applicants not accepted to the Fellowship will still be eligible for admission to the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health or the Harvard Kennedy School.

Eligibility

- Physicians who have completed residency and who are either BE/BC. Additional experience beyond residency, such as chief residency, is preferred.
- Experience or interest in addressing and improving the health needs of minority, disadvantaged and vulnerable populations as well as in advancing system change in ways that improve the health for all populations, but with particular emphasis on vulnerable populations.
- Strong evidence of leadership experience or potential, especially as related to community efforts, quality improvement, transformation of health care delivery systems, and/or health policy.
- Intention to pursue a career in policy, public service, and/or academia.
- U.S. citizenship or U.S. permanent residency.
Commonwealth Fund Fellowship in Minority Health Policy at Harvard University

FELLOWS 2021-2022

Tawakalitu Omosalewa (Salewa) Oseni, MD
Tawakalitu Omosalewa (Salewa) Oseni, MD is an assistant professor in surgery at Massachusetts General Hospital, Boston, MA. While in medical school, Dr. Oseni received the Linnane Scholarship, a need-based prize for students who exhibit academic excellence and HMS community leadership. She aims to remain clinically active and fashion a career reducing disparities in reproductive health and perinatal outcomes. She served as co-chair of the Diversity and Inclusion Committee in the Ob-Gyn Department at Brigham and Women’s Hospital. Dr. Oseni is currently a lead investigator on an IRB-approved funded study assessing the impact of web-based residency selection. Additionally, she is examining the COVID-19 pandemic’s impact on timing of conception in a fertile and infertile patient population in another IRB-approved funded study. Dr. Oseni received her medical degree from Harvard Medical School in 2006.

Sarah-Bianca G. Dolisca, MD
Sarah-Bianca G. Dolisca, MD was most recently chief resident in Obstetrics and Gynecology at Brigham and Women’s Hospital and Massachusetts General Hospital, Boston, MA. While in medical school, Dr. Dolisca received the Linnane Scholarship, a need-based prize for students who exhibit academic excellence and HMS community leadership. She aims to remain clinically active and fashion a career reducing disparities in reproductive health and perinatal outcomes. She served as co-chair of the Diversity and Inclusion Committee in the Ob-Gyn Department at Brigham and Women’s Hospital. Dr. Dolisca is currently a lead investigator on an IRB-approved funded study assessing the impact of web-based residency selection. Additionally, she is examining the COVID-19 pandemic’s impact on timing of conception in a fertile and infertile patient population in another IRB-approved funded study. Dr. Dolisca received her medical degree from Harvard Medical School in 2017.

Joshua Budhu, MD
Joshua Budhu, MD is a Clinical Fellow in Neuro-Oncology at Massachusetts General Hospital, the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, and Brigham and Women’s Hospital, Boston, MA. Prior to fellowship, he served as Chief Resident in Neurology at MGH/BWH/HMS, the largest neurology residency in the country. Throughout his education and work experiences, he has demonstrated a commitment to improving health equity. Dr. Budhu aspires to affect change at the policy level through advocacy and awareness and to improve diversity in clinical trials. He serves on several national committees including the Society for Neuro-Oncology’s Women and Diversity Clinical Trials Working Group and the Diversity and Mentorship division of the American Academy of Neurology’s Neuro-Oncology section. He co-authored op-eds for the Washington Post and Brookings Institution, denouncing the pseudoscientific concept “excited delirium”, which misappropriates medical terminology and is used to justify police brutality. He also writes articles for a wide audience about his experience as a physician in training and other health-related matters. Dr. Budhu received his medical degree from Morehouse School of Medicine in 2016.

Sarah-Bianca G. Dolisca, MD
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Joshua Budhu, MD
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Kevin M. Simon, MD,

Kevin M. Simon, MD, is completing dual fellowships in Child & Adolescent Psychiatry and Addiction Medicine at Boston Children’s Hospital/Harvard Medical School. He is interested in the intersections of mental health, health services research, health policy/legislation, and leadership. He has published in notable journals, including Psychiatric Services, Health Affairs, and The New England Journal of Medicine. Dr. Simon is a recipient of the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry - Physician Scientist (K12) Career Development Award, funded by NIDA. In 2020 – 2021, he was selected as a REACH (Recognizing and Eliminating disparities in Addiction through Culturally informed Healthcare) scholar through Yale School of Medicine funded by SAMHSA. Dr. Simon received his medical degree from Southern Illinois University School of Medicine, Springfield, IL in 2015, and completed his residency in adult psychiatry at Morehouse School of Medicine in 2018.

Nicole Stern, MD

Nicole Stern, MD was most recently an urgent care physician at Sansum Clinic, Inc. in Santa Barbara, CA. An enrolled member of the Mescalero Apache Tribe of New Mexico, Dr. Stern is the first member of her tribe to become a physician. She aspires to create a national clearinghouse or center of excellence and work within an academic institution which would allow for greater collaborations between medical institutions, national organizations and private foundations to achieve health equity for American Indians and Alaska Natives in this country. Dr. Stern was elected a Fellow of the American College of Physicians (ACP). She has extensive experience with the Association of American Indian Physicians (AAIP), having served as President-Elect, President, Immediate Past President, and Director-At-Large of the Board of Directors. As the liaison from AAIP to the Association of American Medical Colleges, Dr. Stern continues to work closely with the AAMC to collaborate on strategic plans and initiatives that emphasize the importance of including American Indians and Alaska Natives within the national conversation around workforce development and medical school diversity. Dr. Stern received her medical degree from the University of Arizona College of Medicine, Tucson in 1998. She completed her internal medicine residency at the University of Arizona College of Medicine, Tucson in 2001, and a fellowship in Primary Care Sports Medicine at the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center in Oklahoma City in 2003.

Tracy Yang, MD, MPhil

Tracy Yang, MD, MPhil was most recently a resident physician at New York Presbyterian Morgan Stanley Children’s Hospital in New York, NY. During medical school, Dr. Yang conducted research with the goal of developing a family-level cardiovascular risk-reduction intervention among low-income African American parents and their adolescent children. She aspires to work as a practicing physician in an underserved urban hospital context while also running a non-profit or community-based organization that focuses on the social aspects of providing care. She is a member of Alpha Omega Alpha Honor Medical Society, and is the recipient of a Harry S. Truman Scholarship as well as a Rhodes Scholarship. Dr. Yang received a Master of Philosophy in Medical Anthropology from Oxford University in 2013, and her medical degree from Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine in 2018.
Wayne Stephens, DDS, MBA

Wayne Stephens, DDS, MBA has spent his career working to improve the lives of children. He cares deeply about health care equity, and to that end, he established the first pediatric dental specialty practice at a South Florida Federally Qualified Health Center. Most recently, he served as Jessie Trice Community Health System’s Director of Pediatric Dental Health and Wellness where he developed policies and strategies for improving oral health for children served in clinical settings and in school based health programs. Dr. Stephens advocates for addressing the challenges of systemic inequities through an intersectional lens. In this regard, he serves on the boards of Florida Health Justice Project and the Foundation for New Education Initiatives, non-profit organizations employing innovative approaches to structural problems.

Dr. Stephens is board certified in Pediatric Dentistry and he obtained his specialty training at Nicklaus Children’s Hospital. He graduated from Columbia University in 2010 after completing a dual degree program with the College of Dental Medicine and the Graduate School of Business. He is a recipient of the National Dental Association President’s Award for Leadership as well as Columbia University College of Dental Medicine’s Dean’s Award in Leadership. He is a former President of the American Student Dental Association. In 2017, the American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry chose him for their Samuel D. Harris Fellowship in Oral Health Care Policy.

“Consider the fellowship if you are interested in policy and healthcare delivery systems dealing with vulnerable groups. This is a window of opportunity.”
FELLOWSHIP ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Myron Allukian, DDS, MPH
Corresponding Member, Department of Oral Health Policy and Epidemiology, Harvard School of Dental Medicine; Vice President American Fluoridation Institute; Former Dental Director, Boston Public Health Commission

Joseph Betancourt, MD, MPH
Senior Vice President, Equity and Community Health; Founder, Senior Advisor, and Faculty, The Disparities Solutions Center, Massachusetts General Hospital; Associate Professor of Medicine, Harvard Medical School; Co-Founder, Quality Interactions, Inc.

Monica Bharel, MD, MPH
Former Massachusetts Commissioner of Public Health

Judy Bigby, MD
Former Secretary, Executive Office of Health and Human Services, Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Sara Bleich, PhD
Professor of Public Health Policy, Department of Health Policy and Management, Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health; Carol K. Pforzheimer Professor at the Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study

Robert Blendon, ScD
Richard L. Menschel Professor of Public Health and Professor of Health Policy, Emeritus Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health

O’Neil A. Britton, MD
Senior Vice President Operations, Associate Chief Operations Officer, Mass General Brigham; Instructor in Medicine, Harvard Medical School

Alice Hm Chen, MD, MPH
Chief Medical Officer, Covered California; Professor of Medicine, University of California, San Francisco

Kevin Churchwell, MD
President and CEO, Boston Children’s Hospital; Robert and Dana Smith Associate Professor of Anesthesia, Harvard Medical School

Chester Douglass, DMD, PhD, MPH
Professor Emeritus, Oral Health Policy and Epidemiology, Harvard School of Dental Medicine

William V. Giannobile, DMSc, DDS
Dean, Professor of Oral Medicine, Infection, and Immunity, Harvard School of Dental Medicine

Donald A. Goldmann, MD
Chief Scientific Officer, Emeritus, and Senior Fellow, Institute for Healthcare Improvement; Professor of Pediatrics, Harvard Medical School; Professor of Epidemiology, Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health

Joseph P. Gone, PhD
Professor of Anthropology, Harvard University; Professor of Global Health and Social Medicine, Harvard Medical School; Faculty Director, Harvard University Native American Program

Dora Hughes, MD, MPH
Senior Advisor, Center for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services; Associate Research Professor, Department of Health Policy and Management, Milken Institute School of Public Health, The George Washington University

Lisa I. Iezzoni, MD, MSc
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Thomas H. Lee, MD, MSc
Professor of Medicine, Harvard Medical School; Professor, Department of Health Policy and Management, Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health; Chief Medical Officer, Press Ganey

Nicole Lurie, MD, MSPH
Director, CEPI-US (Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations); Former Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response; Senior Lecturer, Harvard Medical School

Barbara McNeil, MD, PhD
Ridley Watts Professor and Chair, Department of Health Care Policy; Professor of Radiology, Harvard Medical School; Professor of Radiology and Preventing Radiologist, Brigham and Women’s Hospital

Joshua Metlay, MD, PhD
Chief, Division of General Internal Medicine and Peter L. Gross Chair in Medicine, Massachusetts General Hospital; Professor of Medicine, Harvard Medical School

Joseph Newhouse, PhD
John D. MacArthur Professor of Health Policy and Management, Harvard University; Director of the Division of Health Policy Research and Education, and Director of the Interfaculty Initiative on Health Policy, Harvard Medical School, Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, Harvard Kennedy School, Faculty of Arts and Sciences

Deborah Prothrow-Stith, MD
Dean and Professor of Medicine, Charles R. Drew University of Medicine and Science

David Williams, PhD
Florence Sprague Norman and Laura Smart Norman Professor of Public Health and Chair, Department of Social and Behavioral Sciences, Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health; Professor of African and African American Studies and of Sociology, Harvard University

Jonathan Woodson, MD
Director, Institute for Health System Innovation & Policy; Larz Anderson Professor in Management and Professor of the Practice, Questrom School of Business; Professor of Surgery, School of Medicine; Professor of Health Law, Policy, and Management, School of Public Health, Boston University
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