

**DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS**  
**Palo Alto WRIISC Special Fellowship Program for Physicians with Research**  
**Interests in Mental Health and Neuroscience (VAPA-WRIISC-SFP)**

The Office of Academic Affiliations, Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), is now accepting applications for a two-year special Fellowship training program for physicians in Mental Health Research and Treatment. The fellowship can begin between July 1<sup>st</sup> and October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2012. The Fellowship site is part of the VA Palo Alto War Related Illness and Injury Study Center (WRIISC) and is affiliated with Stanford University. This interdisciplinary program aims to train physicians, with residency training from a broad range of specialties, including but not restricted to psychiatry, internal medicine, neurology, and radiology, to become outstanding clinical researchers in high priority areas of brain and mental health. Individualized, mentored research and clinical training is combined with a state-of-the-art curriculum that emphasizes research methods, statistics, epidemiology, neuroscience, mental health systems, quality improvement methods, education, and service delivery. The VAPA-WRIISC-SFP site is linked to the two other WRIISC fellowship sites (Washington, DC, East Orange, NJ) as well as the VA Mental Illness Research, Education, and Clinical Center (MIRECC) fellowship program (Palo Alto, San Francisco) for didactic, academic, and research efforts. Fellows devote 75% of their time to research and education activities and 25% to clinical training. This fellowship integrates research, education and clinical care while focusing on major areas of study that may include such issues as Posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD), traumatic brain injury (TBI), chronic pain, and cognitive impairment. There is also opportunity to explore projects in geropsychology and dementia with WRIISC, MIRECC, and Stanford faculty. In collaboration with their mentors, Fellows will develop and conduct a research project, publish and present findings, participate in grant writing, and utilize the latest technologies for research, educational activities, and clinical service delivery.

A. To be eligible to apply for the WRIISC Fellowship Program, an M.D. or D.O. applicant must be able to provide evidence of:

1. U.S. citizenship or immigration status (current, unexpired visa and ECFMG [Education Commission for Foreign Medical Graduates] certificate that is valid indefinitely; or evidence of naturalization or permanent U.S. immigrant status) (Applicants on a J-1 visa must have current ECFMG sponsorship as well.)
2. All state medical licenses verified in all states where claimed by applicant
3. Unrestricted and current state medical license (any state)
4. Board eligible or board certified
5. Completion of education and training (medical school diploma, ACGME [Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education] accredited residency training)
6. Other relevant certification (ECFMG or other certifications)

B. To apply for the WRIISC Fellowship Program, applicants must submit: a) a letter confirming they can fulfill the eligibility requirements; b) a personal statement describing their interest in the Fellowship; c) 3 letters of recommendation; and d) a current curriculum vitae. These materials can be submitted directly to the Fellowship Program MD Director at the following site: Palo Alto VA/Stanford, CA – Wes Ashford, MD, PhD @ wes.ashford@va.gov.

C. If the applicant is identified as the candidate of choice at this site, they will be required to produce all documents listed in above section A and the following additional documents:

1. Transcripts from all educational institutions

2. VA Form 10-2850d, "Application for Health Professions Trainees."

For more information, please contact Stacy Moeder, MPH, MBA at the WRIISC Palo Alto Fellowship site, (650) 493-5000, "1", "1" then x63316 or [stacy.moeder@va.gov](mailto:stacy.moeder@va.gov).