

Harvard-wide Pediatric Health Services Research Fellowship Applicant Information Session

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Outline

- **What is health services research?**
- **Fellowship training and requirements**
- **After the fellowship**
- **Boston Children's Health Equity Fellowship**
- **Funding Options**
- **How to apply**

What is Health Services Research (HSR)?

- *“Health services research is a multidisciplinary field of inquiry, both basic and applied, that examines access to, and the use, costs, quality, delivery, organization, financing, and outcomes of health care services to produce new knowledge about the structure, processes, and effects of health services for individuals and populations.”*
– National Academy of Sciences
- Examples of recent Harvard-wide Pediatric HSR Fellows’ research projects:
 - Impact of state influenza vaccine mandate on child’s probability of receiving influenza vaccine (longitudinal cohort, health insurance claims data)
 - Predictors of vaccination among inconsistent vaccinators (cross-sectional, survey data)
 - Association of high deductible health insurance plans and financial burden among patients with Cystic Fibrosis (cross-sectional study, survey data)
 - Prevalence of food insecurity among childhood cancer survivors (data collection embedded in an RCT)
 - Impact of a medically-tailored meal program on cardiometabolic outcomes among childhood cancer survivors with food insecurity (pilot and feasibility study)
 - Prevalence of vision screening pathway (i.e., screening, referral, and established care) by race/ethnicity, income level and language (cross-sectional study, national survey)



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Fellowship at a Glance

- **Started in 1994**
- **3 sites:**
 - Boston Children's Hospital
 - Mass General Hospital for Children
 - Department of Population Medicine (Harvard Medical School and Harvard Pilgrim Health Care Institute)
- **Leadership Faculty:**
 - Katie Walsh, MD, MS (Director)
 - Laura Garabedian, PhD, MPH (Associate Director)
 - Davene Wright, PhD (DPM site director)
 - Karen Kuhlthau, PhD (MGH site director)
 - Don Goldmann, MD (Senior advisor)
 - Chris Landrigan, MD MPH (BCH Gen Peds)
 - Valerie Ward, MD, MPH (BCH Health Equity Fellowship Co-Director)

- **~60 Core Fellowship Faculty across Harvard**
- **160+ Fellowship Alumni**
- **~25 members of Fellowship Advisory Board**
- **4-5 Parent Advisors**
- **~12 fellows each year**



Fellowship Experience

- Goal: provide outstanding, comprehensive training across the spectrum of pediatric health services research methods that both advances understanding of equitable health and healthcare systems, and tests and evaluates implementation of novel approaches that demonstrably improve child health
- Structure of the two year program:
 - MPH or similar degree at Harvard Chan School of Public Health
 - Weekly Thursday morning seminar (from Sept-June)
 - Individualized mentorship (mentorship teams of fellowship leadership and faculty, and clinical mentors)
 - Social activities (welcome party, holiday party, partner/family get-together, PAS party, graduation party)
- Fellows:
 - Mix of MDs (generalists and multiple pediatric subspecialties) and PhDs (e.g., nutrition, nursing, health services research)
- Environment:
 - Collegial and supportive, with research and career mentorship
 - Peer support
 - Collaborations across Harvard



Fellowship Seminar Curriculum

- The seminars largely fit into the following buckets:
 - Cutting-edge HSR methods
 - Implementation science methods
 - Health equity research methods
 - Learning health system competencies
 - Career development training
 - Responsible conduct of research
 - Works-in-progress (WIPS)



Expectations of Fellows

- **At least 80% protected time to participate in the fellowship**
- Attend weekly Thursday morning seminars (in person)
- Present works-in-progress 3x per academic year at seminar
- Complete coursework for MPH degree or similar degree from the School of Public Health (if applicable)
- Complete at least 2 research projects
- Meet regularly with mentors
- Establish research relationships with Ped HSR Fellowship faculty members
- Complete individual development plan in October and March each year (and discuss with mentors and Associate Director)
- Attend Ped HSR/GIM fellow-led winter retreat in January (focus on health equity and vulnerable populations)



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After the Fellowship

- We aim to train the next generation of pediatric health services researchers:
 - Almost all of our fellows go into academic research positions (with ~80% protected time for research)
 - Most submit career development award proposals during/shortly after fellowship
 - Many go on to independent, funded research careers (NIH/PCORI/foundations)
- Many fellows also hold leadership roles at their institutions (research and clinical)
- Access to broad alumni network (~160 fellows)
 - More than 85% are appointed at academic medical centers across the U.S.
 - ~60 hold academic and clinical leadership positions
 - 4 have been elected to National Academy of Medicine



Pediatric HSR Fellowship Alumni Reflections

“Some of my closest friends and colleagues to this day are those who were fellows with me. ... I [have] thought about the fellowship almost every morning, my [work] parking space sits almost on the site of where the fellowship was housed. Coming into work there each day, struggling to get projects off the ground, commiserating with the other fellows and ... seeking out help from faculty – all of these things were foundations of my career.”

Christopher Landrigan, MD, MPH (Chief, Division of General Pediatrics, Boston Children’s Hospital; and the William Berenberg Professor of Pediatrics, Harvard Medical School)

“The fellowship has really shaped my career trajectory. I met many faculty that were shaping how medicine was embracing the quality and safety journey we’ve been on. I’ve also worked alongside of fellows who have become lifelong friends and some of us even joined in a national network together, and so [our] close association continues to this day.”

Rajendu Srivastava, MD, MPH (Senior Medical Executive Director, Healthcare Delivery Institute at Intermountain Healthcare; and Professor of Pediatrics, University of Utah)



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Health Equity Fellowship

- Co-led by Dr. Kathleen Walsh and Dr. Valerie Ward
- For Boston Children's Hospital Faculty only
- Sponsored by the Boston Children's Office of Health Equity and Inclusion
- Supports one fellow a year with a research interest in health equity for:
 - Masters Degree from the School of Public Health
 - Participation in all aspects of the Harvard-wide Health Services Research Fellowship
 - Additional mentoring and research support from the Boston Children's Office of Health Equity and Inclusion



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Funding Options

1) AHRQ Funding*+

- a) Currently have 3 AHRQ spots for 2025-2026
- b) Up to \$14K in annual MPH tuition
- c) Up to \$3,500 in travel and training expenses
- d) Up to \$2,500 in childcare expenses
- e) Stipend from AHRQ to the fellow's division is around \$56/\$68K per year

2) Health Equity Fellowship Funding*

- a) Must be a BCH faculty member
- b) Up to \$60K in MPH tuition over two years
- c) Up to \$2,000 in training related expenses

3) Fellows' Department or Division Funding

- a) Fellow is fully funded by their primary department

**Remaining tuition costs are to be paid by the fellow's primary department.*

+AHRQ fellow's primary department is charged a small annual program fee of \$3K for administrative items not covered by AHRQ.



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Who Should Apply for the fellowship?

The fellowship provides a strong foundation for a career in research

HSR Fellowship

- Outstanding generalists and subspecialists in pediatrics, postdoctoral clinicians and scientists in related fields (must hold a Ph.D., M.D., D.D.S., Sc.D., Dr.P.H., D.Pharm., or equivalent doctoral degree to apply)
- Must hold a position at one of the research sites at the time of fellowship
 - Applicants external to one of the three partner institutes need to identify a division for their support and academic appointment
- In order to receive federal funding for this fellowship, applicants must be U.S. citizen or permanent resident
- Women and minority candidates are encouraged to apply

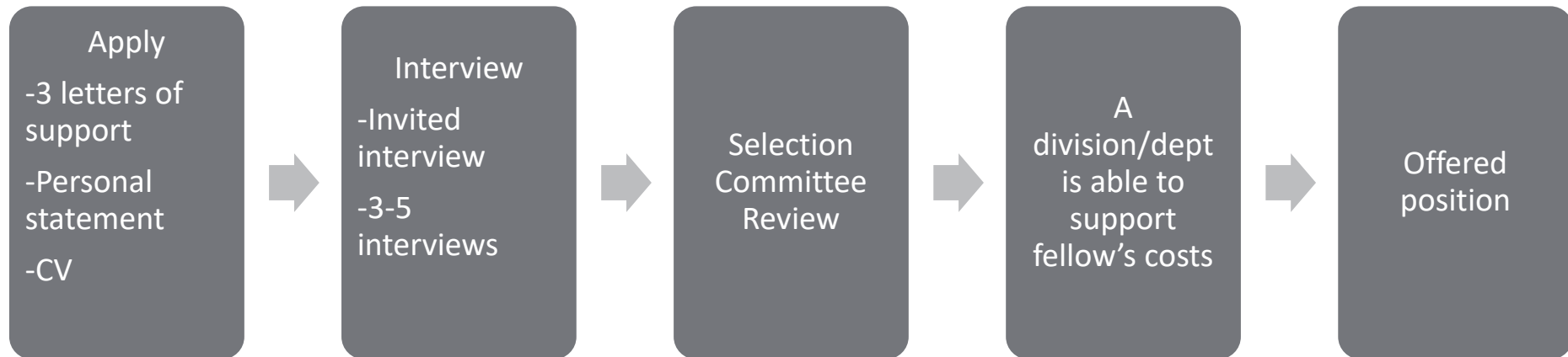
Health Equity Fellowship

- Boston Children's junior faculty seeking a career in health equity research



Application Process

Applications due 9/6/24 for July 2025 start



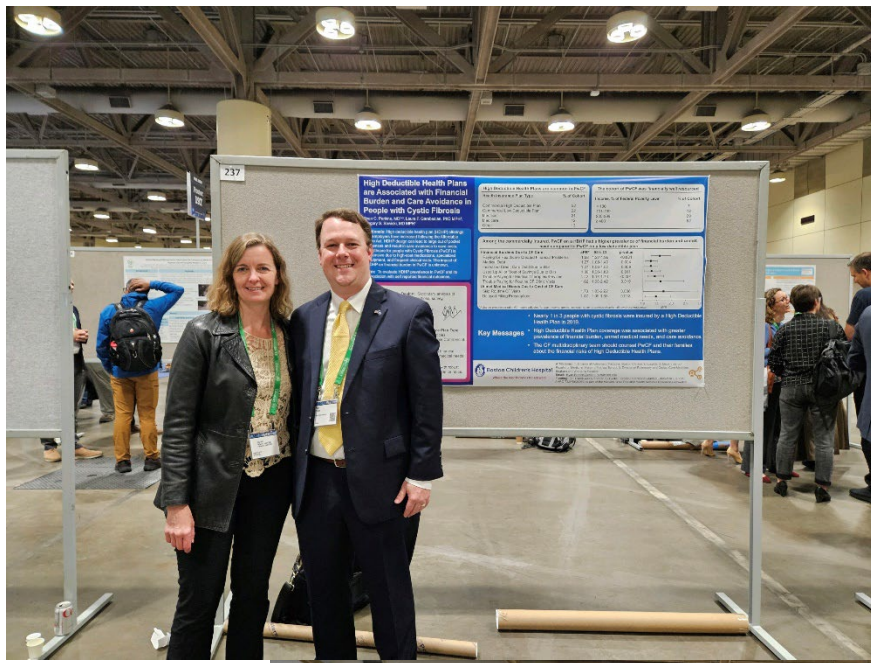
<https://dme.childrenshospital.org/graduate-medical-education/trainings-programs/harvard-wide-pediatric-health-services-research-fellowship/prospective-candidates/>



Notes on application process

BCH, MGH or DPM applicants	No position at BCH, MGH, DP by 7/2025	Health Equity Fellow
<p>Letters from Dept/Division chief/chair: (1) protected time; (2) cover tuition costs not covered by T32 and admin fee</p>	<p>The fellowship does not employ fellows. The applicant needs an institutional program site that fits their interests. Use online resources to identify possible division/dept</p>	<p>Must be a Boston Children’s faculty member to apply.</p> <p>Letter from Dept/division chief/chair required addressing protected time</p>
<p>Applicants without a PhD or MPH or similar degree are required to pursue an MPH as part of the program</p>		

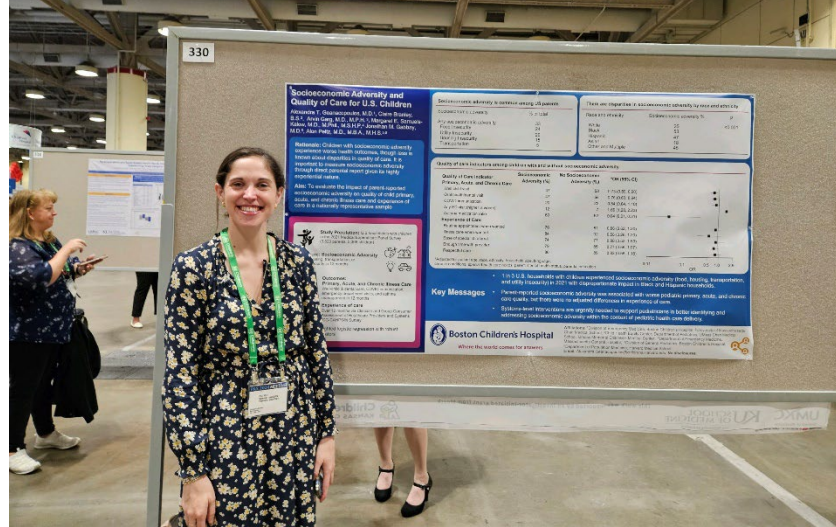




HSR Fellowship Website
[childrenshospital.org/pedresearch](https://dme.childrenshospital.org/pedresearch)

Application link:

<https://dme.childrenshospital.org/graduate-medical-education/trainings-programs/harvard-wide-pediatric-health-services-research-fellowship/prospective-candidates/>



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