

## Research Placement/Scholarly Project Opportunities for Doctoral Interns

Many SFVAMC staff and colleagues at UCSF are involved in a variety of research studies and projects funded by the National Institutes of Health, Department of Defense, and VA Research and Development (Human Services, Clinical, and Rehabilitation). Also critical to our department are ongoing activities aimed at quality improvement that foster program development, implementation, and outcome evaluation. We feel these research opportunities or scholarly program evaluation are important skills for interns to learn and also provide an invaluable opportunity to formally and informally collaborate with SFVAMC and UCSF colleagues. This collaboration will in turn result in an informed decision regarding numerous post-internship employment opportunities (e.g., clinical or research postdoctoral fellowships, staff or faculty positions).

In our program, SFVAMC interns partner with an RP/SP mentor of their choosing and complete a research placement / scholarly project of their choosing during the year. This mentor will collaborate and supervise the progress of the research or scholarly project over the course of the internship year. The mentor can be a PI on a project on which you are working or interested in or a supervisor in the clinic in which you will do a rotation. Selection of a mentor is based upon your previous experience in an area, scholarly/research interests, training needs, and availability of mentors in the training program. Interns may have responsibilities that could include, but are not limited to, quality improvement of a clinic by systematically evaluating existing services or implementing and evaluating new services that will enhance care, research design, data collection, coding and analysis, and manuscript or presentation preparation.

Interns may protect up to five hours per week for the RP/SP program. Examples of projects which interns have become involved with in prior years are, but not limited to, the following items:

- Collect and analyze data for an ongoing research project with clinical intervention focus
- Publication of manuscripts using data from the mentor's program of research or collaborate on secondary analyses of data from the intern
- Systematically evaluate a clinical intervention (e.g., efficacy of a group psychotherapy)
- Productively engage in or complete a program development or improvement project for a specific clinic
- Engage in a Quality Improvement project for SFVAMC Mental Health Service
- Participate in ongoing research studies or formulate a new mini-project with faculty
- Pursue internal and external funding opportunities for pilot projects
- Implement findings from existing research to improve current clinical activities or clinic functioning
- Conduct a needs assessment, plan, and implement a project that will benefit veterans across the Medical Center
- Presentations at national and international conferences

**What is the ideal outcome for the RP/SP Program?** The intern will have networked with SFVA and UCSF clinicians and researchers and made a well informed decision about the next step in their career – postdoctoral fellowship (clinical or research), faculty positions, staff psychologist position, or other opportunities within the SFVAHCS, UCSF, or other sites.

Please contact Dr. Brian Borsari, the RP/SP Program Coordinator, for further information (brian.borsari@va.gov).