Pharmacotherapy Outcomes Research Fellowship

The Pharmacotherapy Outcomes Research Center (PORC) based at the University of Utah College of Pharmacy provides a 2-year post-doctoral fellowship in Outcomes Research and Pharmacoeconomics. The fellowship program is designed to:

- Educate the fellow on outcomes research principles and applications, and their use in evaluating health care products and services;
- Provide experience in designing research studies which examine economic, clinical and humanistic outcomes; and
- Provide training and experience necessary for the fellow to practice outcomes research in a pharmaceutical company, academic institution, managed care organization or healthcare facility.

The fellow will gain these skills through direct participation in all areas of PORC research projects. These activities include research question and hypothesis generation, research proposal development, data collection and management, development of data and statistical analysis plans, data analysis, project management, and generation of reports, presentations, and manuscripts. In the beginning of the program, the fellow will work under the direct supervision of faculty and second year fellows. As the fellow progresses through the program, he or she will be expected to demonstrate independence in developing and completing research related activities. It is expected that through project involvement, the fellow will present at least one abstract at a national meeting, such as AMCP, ASHP or ISPOR, and submit at least two manuscripts for journal publication from work completed during fellowship.

The fellowship is a 2-year program that begins in July 2013, and it is based at the University of Utah in Salt Lake City.

Eligible candidates must have a doctorate in pharmacy or an advanced degree in economics, health policy, pharmacy, medicine, or related area. Experience in outcomes research, health economics, or related field of research is preferred. Candidates must also have excellent written and oral communication skills.
Application information:

To apply for the Pharmacotherapy Outcomes Research Fellowship, please send a letter of intent, resume/cv, three letters of reference, and a copy of the transcript from your relevant doctorate or graduate degree to:

The University of Utah
Pharmacotherapy Outcomes Research Program
c/o Kiramey Gilleese
421 Wakara Way, Room 208
Salt Lake City, UT 84108
kiramey.gilleese@pharm.utah.edu

Applications can be submitted by mail or by e-mail.

The application deadline is January 13, 2013. All application documents, including letters of reference and transcripts, must be received by that date to be considered for the position.

Once all of the applications have been collected and reviewed, successful applicants will be contacted for a telephone interview. After the telephone interview, successful interviewees will be contacted for an in-person formal interview.

For Further Information Contact:

Joseph Biskupiak, PhD, MBA
Research Associate Professor
Pharmacotherapy Outcomes Research Center
University of Utah College of Pharmacy
421 Wakara Way, Suite 208
Salt Lake City, UT 84108
joseph.biskupiak@pharm.utah.edu
Current and Recent Fellows

- **Vijay Joish, B.Pharm., Ph.D.** - Dr. Joish received his Ph.D. in Pharmaceutical Economics, Outcomes Research and Policy from the University of Arizona, and a M.S. in Pharmacy Administration from Idaho State University. He also received a B.S. in Pharmaceutical Sciences from the University of Bombay. He completed his Fellowship in June, 2004 and joined PORC as a Research Assistant Professor. He currently works as a Deputy Director of Health Economics and Outcome Research for Sanofi-Aventis.

- **Qayyim Said, Ph.D.** - Dr. Said received his Ph.D. in health economics from the University of Utah. He completed his fellowship in September 2004 and joined as a Research Scholar with the Primary Care Research Center, Adjunct Assistant Professor in the Department of Economics, and Research Assistant Professor at the University of Utah. He currently works for the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences, Division of Pharmaceutical Evaluation and Policy.

- **Joanne LaFleur, Pharm.D., M.S.P.H.** - Dr. LaFleur received her PharmD degree from the University of Utah College of Pharmacy and completed her Fellowship and M.S.P.H. in 2005. She is currently an Assistant Professor and researcher in the University of Utah College of Pharmacy Department of Pharmacotherapy and in the Salt Lake City Veterans Health Administration GRECC (Geriatric Research Education and Clinical Center).

- **Mei-Jen Ho, Pharm.D., M.S.P.H.** - Dr. Ho is a graduate of Rutgers University College of Pharmacy and completed her Fellowship, and an M.S.P.H. in 2005. She is currently on faculty at the University of Buffalo School of Pharmacy.

- **Sameer R. Ghate, B.S., M.S.P.H.** - Sameer Ghate received a B.S. degree from the University of Pune in India. He then completed an M.S. in Public Health (Health Services and Outcomes Research) at the University of Louisville. He completed the first year of his Fellowship with TAP Pharmaceuticals and completed his second year at PORC in June, 2007. He joined the PORC as a Research Associate in July, 2007. He is currently a Research Assistant Professor for the University of Utah College of Pharmacy.

- **Mark Roper, Pharm.D., M.B.A.** - Dr. Roper received his Pharm.D. from Shenandoah University in 2006 and joined PORC as a Fellow during the summer of 2006.

- **Jaewhan Kim, Ph.D.** - Dr. Kim received his Ph.D. in health economics from the University of Utah. He joined PORC as a first year fellow during the summer of 2007. Dr. Kim is now an Assistant Professor at the Division of Public Health, Department of Family & Preventive Medicine, University of Utah.

- **Richard Nelson, Ph.D.** - Dr. Nelson received his B.S mathematics and economics at Westminster College followed by an M.A. and PhD in economics from the University of Virginia. He joined PORC as a first year fellow during the summer of 2007. Dr. Nelson is now a Research Assistant Professor at the Division of Clinical Epidemiology, Department of Internal Medicine, University of Utah.
- **Junhua Yu, Ph.D** - Dr. Yu received her Ph.D. in Economics from the University of Alabama. She also has an M.S. in Applied Statistics. Dr. Yu joined PORC as a first year fellow during the summer of 2008. Dr. Yu is an Assistant Professor at Department of Social, Behavioral & Administrative Sciences, Touro University College of Pharmacy - California.

- **Ming Yan, MS** - Ming Yan received his MS in Pharmaceutical Socioeconomics from the University of Iowa in 2003. He also has a Bachelor’s in Economics from Huazhong University of Science and Technology, China. Ming joined PORC in the summer of 2009 and has completed his fellowship.

- **Swetha Raparla, MS** - Swetha Raparla received her Master of Science degree in Pharmacy Administration from University of the Sciences in Philadelphia (USP). She has a Bachelor of Science (Honors) Degree in Pharmacy from Birla Institute of Technology and Science, India. Swetha joined PORC in summer 2009 and completed her fellowship in 2011. She is currently a Research Analyst at HealthCore.

- **Jason Young, MD, MBA** - Dr. Young received his Doctor of Medicine at the University of Utah in 2010 and his Master of Business Administration from the University of Notre Dame in 2004. Previous research included a Pfizer Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship. He joined PORC in the summer of 2010. He is now working at PORC as a Research Associate and has completed his fellowship.

- **Brandon Bellows, PharmD** - Dr. Bellows completed his fellowship in July 2012. He received a PharmD from the University of Utah in 2010. He worked as a Summer Research Intern at PORC in 2009. Prior to PORC he worked as a Pharmacy Intern at Salt Lake Regional Medical Center. He is currently working as a Research Associate for PORC.

- **Karina Raimundo, BS** - Karina Pupio is completing the second year of her fellowship at Novartis. Ms. Pupio completed her B.S Pharmacy degree from the University of Pindamonhangaba in Brazil in 2006. She is also a graduate of the University of Utah MS Pharmacotherapy program.

- **Junji Lin, PharmD** - Dr. Lin joined PORC in 2011 as an analytical fellow. Dr. Lin has a PhD in Biology from Fudan University in Shanghai. She became a Post-Doctoral Research Fellow in the Department of Neurosurgery at the University of Utah in 2006. In 2008, Junji joined the Department of Neurobiology and Anatomy. She is currently working towards an MS Degree in Bio-Statistics.

- **Arati Dahal, PhD** - Dr. Dahal is a second year fellow at PORC. She received her PhD in Economics from the University of Georgia. While at the University of Georgia, she worked at the Carl Vinson Institute of Government and was involved in county-level studies that examined various health and socio-economic aspects of Georgia.

- **Beilei Cai, PhD** - Dr. Cai is a second year fellow at PORC. She received her PhD in Economics from the University of Oregon. Beilei served as an independent instructor for Public Economics and a lab instructor for Econometrics in the University of Oregon.

- **Tina Willson, PhD** - Currently a first year fellow.

- **Minkyoung Yoo, PhD** - Currently a first year fellow.
**Fellowship Descriptions**

The Pharmacotherapy Outcomes Research Fellowship provides practical research experience in designing and conducting outcomes research studies that examine the clinical, economic and humanistic outcomes associated with medical care. In addition to the overall outcomes research training, the Fellowship offers the opportunity for specialization in the following areas; Data Analytics, Veterans Affairs, and Oncology.

**Data Analytics**

The Fellowship in Data Analytics is a joint program between Novartis Pharmaceuticals and the Pharmacotherapy Outcomes Research Center at The University of Utah College of Pharmacy. This is a two-year fellowship with both years at PORC under the direction of Joseph Biskupiak, PhD, MBA, Research Associate Professor and Michael Goodman, MS, PhD, Assistant Professor at PORC and Kristijan Kahler, PhD, RPh at Novartis. The focus of this fellowship is to gain insight into the underlying data structure of electronic medical record (EMR) and insurance claims databases. By understanding the strengths and weaknesses of these databases, the Fellow will be able to insure that the appropriate database will be used when conducting health and economics outcome studies. The Fellow will provide analytical support to the Health Economics & Outcomes Research group at Novartis conducting studies in various therapeutic areas.

**Veterans Affairs**

The specialization in Veterans Affairs is a component of the two-year fellowship at PORC under the direction of Joanne LaFleur, PharmD, MSPH, Assistant Professor. In addition to her faculty position within the University of Utah College of Pharmacy, Dr. LaFleur has a joint appointment as a researcher in the Salt Lake City Veterans Affairs Informatics, Decision Enhancement and Surveillance (IDEAS) center. The focus of this fellowship is to develop research skills in the areas of pharmacoepidemiology, health economics, and biomedical informatics in the Veterans Health Affairs (VHA) system, both locally and nationally, with an emphasis on designing strategies for improving the delivery of health care to veterans.

**Oncology**

The Fellowship in Oncology is primarily intended for those individuals that have or will complete a postgraduate year two (PGY2) residency in Oncology and Hematology at the Huntsman Cancer Institute (HCI) and the University of Utah. However, consideration will be given to those with PGY2 Oncology training from other institutions. This is a one-year fellowship under the direction of Diana Brixner, PhD, RPh, Professor and David Stenehjem, PharmD, Research Assistant Professor and Clinical Hematology/Oncology Pharmacist at HCI. PORC has various collaborations internally
and externally with other researchers and research groups in the area of oncology. Internally, Dr. Brixner is also the Director of Outcomes for the Program in Personalized Health Care, University of Utah Health Sciences that conducts research, clinical and educational initiatives that support the tailoring of medical treatments to the individual characteristics of each patient. Externally, the Program in Personalized Health Care has a cooperative agreement with the department Public Health Decision Modeling, Health Technology Assessment and Health Economics of the Oncotyrol-Center for Personalized Cancer Medicine, Innsbruck, Austria. The goal of the cooperation is to conduct joint research projects and publications as well as an exchange program for scientists and students. Ongoing projects are focused on chronic myeloid leukemia and breast cancer. PORC also conducts oncology outcomes research studies with pharmaceutical and medical device manufacturers. The Fellow will be involved in all aspects of oncology outcomes research within PORC.