

# Have You Considered a VA Advanced Fellowship in Women's Health?

The population of women Veterans is growing rapidly, generating increasing demands for health care. Since 2000, the number of female Veterans using VA health care has more than doubled with a growth rate outpacing that of the male Veteran population. VA understands the needs of women Veterans and is committed to serving their health care needs now and in the future. The Advanced Fellowship in Women's Health (AFWH) provides two years of post-residency or post-doctoral research, education, and clinical learning opportunities in women's health to eligible physicians and associated health professionals. Fellows spend approximately 75 percent of their time in research and education and 25 percent in clinical care. Faculty mentorship and individualized learning plans are provided at all site locations.



"In the first year of my fellowship, I loved attending the VA Women's Health Mini-Residency! I met so many VA Women's Health

superstars from around the country and learned the clinical skills to start my fellowship off on the right track."

Melissa Dattalo, MD, MPH

Wm. S. Middleton Memorial Hospital  
Madison, WI.

Tilstra et.al described the career paths of AFWH fellows:

- ◆ 76% of female graduates practice clinical women's health and spend up to 66% of their time devoted to women's health issues.
- ◆ 88% received grant funding
- ◆ 79% published in peer review journals
- ◆ 64% developed or evaluated curricula
- ◆ 51% received awards for teaching or research
- ◆ 49% held major leadership positions including associate dean, associate department chair, division chief, section chief, associate chief medical officer, and clinical medical director.

Tilstra, S A, Kraemer, K L, Rubio, D M, McNeil, M A. *Evaluation of VA Women's Health Fellowships: Developing Leaders in Academic Women's Health*. Journal of General Internal Medicine. 2013; 28(7):901-907.

## A Unique Opportunity to Serve Women Veterans

### Purpose of the Women's Health Fellowship

VA strives to be a national leader in the provision of health care for women, thereby raising the standard of care for all women. Created in 1994, the goal of the VA Advanced Fellowship in Women's Health (AFWH) is to train physicians and associated health professionals in clinical care, scholarship, practice, education and system improvements related to the advancement of health care for women and women Veterans.

"The training I received during the WH fellowship was directly responsible for my success in grant writing, manuscript development and the care of women in the VA." - Nasia Safdar, MD, PhD, Associate Chief of Staff for Research, Wm. S. Middleton Memorial Veterans Hospital and Associate Professor, Dept. of Medicine, Div. of Infectious Disease, University of Wisconsin (UW) School of Medicine.



"The fellowship set my career on the right path. I highly recommend the fellowship to anyone who has a passion for Women's Health, and who desires to make a difference through research, education, AND clinical care." - Carla L. Spagnoletti, MD, MS, Assistant Professor of Medicine, Div. of General Internal Medicine, University of Pittsburgh.

# AFWH Fellowship Locations



**Boston, MA**  
VA Boston Healthcare System  
Jamaica Plains, MA



**Madison, WI**  
Wm. S. Middleton Memorial  
Veterans Hospital  
Madison, WI



**Milwaukee, WI**  
C. J. Zablocki VA Medical Center  
Milwaukee, WI



**Pittsburgh, PA**  
VA Pittsburgh Healthcare System  
Pittsburgh, PA



**San Diego, CA**  
VA San Diego Healthcare System  
San Diego, CA



**San Francisco, CA**  
San Francisco VA Medical Center  
San Francisco, CA



**Los Angeles, CA**  
VA Greater Los Angeles  
Health Care System  
Sepulveda, CA



**West Haven, CT**  
VA Connecticut Healthcare System  
West Haven, CT

## Fellowship Requirements

Eligible physicians must have graduated from an Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME) accredited residency; be board certified or board eligible in internal medicine (or one of its subspecialties), family medicine, gynecology, psychiatry, or surgery; and have an active, unrestricted US medical license.

Eligible associated health professionals must be a US citizen; demonstrate interest in pursuing a VA career with women's health as a significant focus; be qualified in a health profession relevant to the health of women Veterans (nurses, psychologists, and others); and not be simultaneously enrolled in an accredited clinical training program.



"I was provided the mentorship and supported research time needed to develop an independent

research project and progress as a clinician scientist."

- Jeniel Nett, MD, PhD, Assistant Professor, Dept. of Medicine, Div. of Infectious Disease, UW School of Medicine



"It has been extremely valuable to have access to some of VA leaders in women's health care, integrated care for depression, implementation

science and race/gender disparities in care outcomes and utilization."

- Teri D. Davis, PhD, faculty at Pepperdine and California State University; adjunct researcher at UCLA and VA-Greater Los Angeles



"I enjoyed the mix of activities in which I participated as a fellow and caring for women Veterans. They

have served our country, and it feels good to give back to them."

- Anna K. Donovan, MD, MS, Assistant Professor of Medicine, Division of General Internal Medicine, University of Pittsburgh

## For more Information

Visit: <https://afwh.wisc.edu>

Email: [AFWH National Coordinating Center](mailto:afwh@wisc.edu)

Phone: 1-608-280-7000 and ask for Anne Stahr



**WOMEN VETERANS  
HEALTH CARE**