

Cal-SEARCH Program

CALIFORNIA'S STUDENT/RESIDENT EXPERIENCES AND ROTATIONS IN COMMUNITY HEALTH

CAL-SEARCH – Get Involved!

Cal-SEARCH provides health professions students and residents with clinical experiences linked to preceptors, mentors and community projects. The program is designed to enhance the recruitment and retention of needed healthcare professionals within rural, urban, and inner city underserved culturally competent community clinics and health centers (CCHCs) to build and reinforce ties within these communities.

Cal-SEARCH is a national program (currently in 27 states) funded by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), through the National Health Service Corps (NHSC).

CAL-SEARCH SUCCESS IN CALIFORNIA

In 2010, Cal-SEARCH completed the first program year in California. This effort was made possible through a partnership between the Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development (OSHDP), California Primary Care Association (CPCA) and the California Statewide Area Health Education Center (AHEC).

Twenty-six students and residents were connected with medical teams at seventeen clinical sites across California. Each student was linked to a preceptor or mentor who facilitated their clinical experience and oversaw their community project. Program participants included medical students, nurse practitioners, physician assistants and others studying family medicine, internal medicine and dentistry.

The Cal-SEARCH program will continue to place students and residents in clinical training for four to eight weeks (minimum of eighty hours) during the rotation period.

To apply online, visit the Cal-SEARCH Web site at:
www.oshpd.ca.gov/HWDD/Cal-SEARCH/

PARTNERING WITH COMMUNITY CLINICS AND HEALTH CENTERS

CCHCs interested in hosting students and residents can find detailed information and complete an application online. Learn more about hosting students and residents by visiting the Cal-SEARCH Web site at:
www.oshpd.ca.gov/HWDD/Cal-SEARCH/

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Get Involved! *continued*

WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

Eligible applicants include students and residents enrolled in one of the following programs:

- Physicians specializing in Internal Medicine, Family Practice, Pediatrics or Obstetrics and Gynecology
- Dental Hygiene
- Dentistry
- Nurse Practitioner
- Physician Assistant
- Certified Nurse-Midwives
- Clinical Psychologists
- Clinical Social Workers
- Marriage and Family Therapists
- Psychiatric Nurse Specialist
- Psychiatry

Get started with Cal-SEARCH!

- 1) Submit an online application plus supporting documents
- 2) Submit a biography or resume (including education and volunteer experience)
- 3) Obtain two letters of recommendation from advisors and instructors
- 4) Complete the Student Enrollment form or Resident Confirmation form

Director's Message David M. Carlisle, M.D., Ph.D., Director



Working as part of a health delivery team early in your career can open new opportunities and take you in directions you may not have considered before! California's Student/Resident Experiences and Rotations in Community Health Program (Cal-SEARCH) is a great way for students to find clinical experience and discover new career opportunities. But the continued success of this unique program depends on you. I encourage students to take advantage of this opportunity to learn more about the program and then complete an application to participate.

The Cal-SEARCH program is successful because of mentors, preceptors and administrators who made the decision to "get involved" and open their doors to hardworking students and residents eager to learn. The impact on student development arising from Cal-SEARCH experiences will not only be made during the weeks of clinical rotation, but also into the future as the program expands and develops.

Become part of a great program – get involved!

Partners

Get to Know OSHPD

The Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development (OSHPD) is one of 13 departments within the California Health and Human Services Agency. OSHPD promotes healthcare accessibility through leadership in analyzing California's healthcare infrastructure including a diverse and competent workforce, healthcare outcomes, the safety of buildings used in providing healthcare, and facilitating development of sustained capacity for communities to address local healthcare issues. To find out more about OSHPD, visit: www.oshpd.ca.gov

Get to Know AHEC

The California Area Health Education Center Program (AHEC), a thirty-eight year old organization of partnerships, brings together community and academic interests to improve access to healthcare and decrease health disparities for all Californians. AHEC develops, with its partners, a population-based approach to health professions education with a special emphasis on community-based training. There is an AHEC center near you providing training for health professions students!

To find out more about AHEC, visit: www.cal-ahec.org

Get to Know CPCA

The California Primary Care Association (CPCA) represents more than 800 not-for-profit community clinics and health centers which provide comprehensive, quality healthcare services, particularly for low-income, uninsured and underserved Californians. CPCA is designated by the Federal Bureau of Primary Health Care as the state primary care association and receives federal program support to develop and enhance services for member clinics. Health professions students can find training opportunities at community clinics and health centers.

To find out more about CPCA, visit: www.cPCA.org



Community Projects

One of the unique aspects of Cal-SEARCH is its community projects. The purpose of the community projects is to engage students and residents within the community by addressing a local population or community health need identified during the 4-8 week clinical rotation. Students and residents collaborate with their preceptors, mentors or clinic staff to identify this community need then develop a plan for implementation and sustainability of the project. Community projects produce useful educational materials and products that can be used to improve health services in the clinics.

Cal-SEARCH community projects include the following:

- Cardiovascular Patient Education Curriculum
- Dental Caries Prevention
- Heightening Awareness of Pertussis in the Community
- Hookah Smoking Among Adolescents and Young Adults
- How to Prevent Diabetes in Your Children
- Rapid HIV Testing
- Teen Clinic Surveys
- The True Face of Homelessness

Following the community project experience, students and residents submit a written summary about what they have accomplished. This summary includes photos, fliers, brochures, surveys and background materials. The clinics themselves can continue the community project efforts, expanding and improving them over time!

To see community project examples, please visit the Cal-SEARCH Web site at:

<http://www.oshpd.ca.gov/HWDD/Cal-SEARCH/index.html>

CENTER DIRECTOR

Thomas Siegmeth



Thomas Siegmeth, MPH, CHES is Director of Wellness and HIV Services at the AltaMed Medical & Dental Group in Bell, California. He oversees health education efforts which serve vulnerable populations and under and uninsured families and individuals in the East Los Angeles and South Gate region. He has developed curriculum for training culturally competent providers to work in health clinics and holds certifications in several health education topics.

Acting as the site coordinator for AltaMed Medical Group's Bell Medical Clinic, Thomas assisted the Cal-SEARCH program in placing four dental students and residents at the Bell Medical Clinic. The students and residents were recruited through a partnership with Western University of Health Sciences.

“Cal-SEARCH is an incredible experience for students – a game changer. The students enjoy working with their mentor and are soon very familiar with the daily schedules and procedures involved in patient care. I believe that exposure to this program will distinguish them from their peers once they graduate and beyond.” – Thomas Siegmeth

Thomas became involved with Cal-SEARCH through his role as Center Director for the East Los Angeles Area Health Education Center (AHEC). Regional efforts include developing and maintaining strategic partnerships with local academic institutions and community-based organizations, such as the UCLA School of Public Health and the USC/Keck School of Medicine. AltaMed and the regional AHEC centers recognize the benefits of Cal-SEARCH to encourage local residents to pursue careers in healthcare and make an impact in the community.

PRECEPTOR/MENTOR

Ivonne Leonel de Cervantes



Ivonne Leonel de Cervantes is a cultural and linguistic specialist, who has worked as an interpreter, trainer, and training supervisor at AltaMed Health Services in East Los Angeles. Currently, she brings together regional improvements in access to healthcare through community-based education with the California Area Health Education Center Program (AHEC). She is involved with Cal-SEARCH as a mentor to students and residents at AltaMed Medical Group's Bell clinic. She helps students and residents get into the program, research community projects, and meet all the program requirements.

“Students in 2nd and 3rd year need hands-on experience - and we all need guidance on diversity issues in medicine. Cal-SEARCH provides this opportunity. I enjoy helping students begin on-site training and guiding them along the way.” – Ivonne Leonel de Cervantes

Over the years, she has seen an increase in the use of language services for non-English speaking patients which requires an increased sensitivity to cultural issues surrounding medical treatment. She hopes to share the importance of effective communication with Cal-SEARCH students and residents.

“I really try to help students get as much interaction as possible with patients of different ethnicities - and be open to differences in cultural practices, sexual orientation, and religious beliefs. Exposure to these areas is very important for students early in their medical careers.” – Ivonne Leonel de Cervantes

Participating in Cal-SEARCH leads to a greater understanding of the importance of communication between patient and healthcare provider. Become the best you can be – get involved with Cal-SEARCH!

Elmer Hilo and Soo Jin Chang



Dentistry students Elmer Hilo and Soo Jin Chang participated in Cal-SEARCH clinical training for six weeks at the AltaMed Bell Clinic. They worked with mentors, preceptors, and professionals as part of a healthcare team. During that time, they performed basic dental procedures such as assisting and consulting with patients, cleanings, and learning with their hands.



“The clinical training helped me learn through exposure, rather than reading about it in books all day. We had patients of all ages – some with one tooth and some needing denture care. Through Cal-SEARCH, the medical terminology comes to life and you engage yourself in the well-being of the patients.” – Elmer Hilo

Elmer Hilo currently attends Western University of Health Sciences College of Dental Medicine. He wants to continue to help his community by building his expertise in the dental field. At an

early age, he participated in free dental screenings alongside his father, a practicing dentist. He saw firsthand that dentistry combines technical knowledge with detail-oriented hand skills, which can make positive changes in the lives of others.

“Dentistry combines artistry and attention to fine detail. I also like the intimate relationships with patients. In this field I can teach, perform research, or have a patient-care practice.” – Elmer Hilo

Soo Jin Chang enrolled in the certificate program at the University of California, Los Angeles School of Dentistry, after attending the University of the Pacific in Stockton. She is currently continuing her studies at Western University of Health Sciences College of Dental Medicine. She has discovered an area of healthcare that is both challenging and appealing as a career.

For Soo Jin, the favorite part of the clinical training was talking with patients, answering questions, and educating them on dental practices for the home.

“Many of the patients get basic care, but still have cavities. They are not fully aware of what they (and their families) can do at home, when not in the dentist’s chair. I enjoy offering basic information to patients, giving them a better understanding of dental care and prevention. And if you educate the parents, they can educate the kids.” – Soo Jin Chang

Looking back, Soo Jin feels her clinical experience with Cal-SEARCH provided the next step in her education – interacting with patients and professionals directly.

As part of the Cal-SEARCH community project, Soo Jin worked with Elmer Hilo to complete a community project on Caries (cavity) Prevention. The project began with the recognition that non-English speaking patients may lack an understanding of oral health and maintenance. Brochures and presentations were developed and translated into Spanish and used at the clinic during patient visits. With assistance and support from the professional staff and the Cal-SEARCH mentors and preceptors, the students were able to create culturally-relevant educational messages and take action against the effects of cavities in adults and children.

Cal-SEARCH community projects address a local population and/or critical health need identified during the clinical experience rotation. To learn more about student and resident community projects, please visit the Cal-SEARCH Web site at: <http://www.oshpd.ca.gov/HWDD/Cal-SEARCH/index.html>

NHSC Ambassador

Ann Shultz



Ann Shultz is a clinical coordinator with the USC Primary Care Physician Assistant Program. She also serves as a National Health Service Corp (NHSC) Ambassador. She works closely with students to guide them through clinical training and post-graduation employment. She is proud of the program successes and sees a bright future ahead for student and residents in the Cal-SEARCH.

“Working with dedicated professional staff at the clinical site heightens their sense of the need out in the community. Many of these students will continue to work in underserved areas after graduation.” – Ann Shultz

The national SEARCH program has been successful in other states. In California, the program is expanding in its ability to match clinical sites and mentors with health professional students and residents.

“I encourage all eligible students to apply for programs that offer well-rounded primary care clinical experiences, such as the National Health Service Corp or the Cal-SEARCH program. Each clinical site is different and serves different communities – but if you have the opportunity to work in an underserved area, do it - you will not regret it.” – Ann Shultz

For more information on the University of Southern California Primary Care Physician Assistant Program, please visit: <http://www.usc.edu/schools/medicine/pa>

Information on the National Health Service Corp (NHSC) program is available at: <http://nhsc.hrsa.gov/>

Scholarship and Loan Repayment Programs

Students in health professions can benefit from state and federal loan repayment programs. These programs offer loan repayment in exchange for a commitment to work in a federally-recognized medically underserved area.

The **National Health Service Corps (NHSC) Loan Repayment Program** begins with an initial award of up to \$60,000 for two years of service. You may receive up to \$170,000 in loan repayment for completing a five-year service commitment and, with continued service, may be able to pay off all eligible student loans.

To find out more about NHSC opportunities, visit: www.nhsc.hrsa.gov

The **California State Loan Repayment Program** has approximately \$4 million to award in 2011 for loan repayment of outstanding government and commercial loans for expenses incurred during undergraduate or graduate education! Up to \$100,000 in funding is available for primary healthcare providers who commit to a three-year service obligation at a public or private non-profit facility that is located in a Health Professional Shortage Area. The application cycle will be open continuously until funds are expended. Contracts will be awarded on a first-come, first-served basis.

To find out more about state loan repayment opportunities, visit: www.oshpd.ca.gov/HWDD/SLRP.html

The **Health Professions Education Foundation (HPEF) provides scholarships and loan repayments** to aspiring and practicing health professionals who agree to practice in a medically underserved area. Scholarships are offered to health professional students attending a California accredited college or university. Loan repayment programs are offered to graduates pursuing a health professional career to assist in the repayment of educational debt.

To find out more about HPEF scholarships and loan repayment program, visit: www.oshpd.ca.gov/HPEF/index.html

HEALTH CAREERS TRAINING PROGRAM ONLINE RESOURCES

The online resources page of the Health Careers Training Program (HCTP) offers comprehensive information for students and educators, or individuals within California's healthcare industry and workforce development communities.

Areas of information include:

- Calendar of events highlighting upcoming health workforce related career fairs, job trainings, conferences, and other opportunities for learning and networking
- Healthcare Pathways student newsletter which spotlight health education programs, careers, and students pursuing health professional careers
- Internship, volunteer, and job placement resources
- Health licensing or certification information
- California and national professional organizations and associations
- Scholarship listing of approximately 100 scholarships
- Mini-grant program funding to improve and support educational programs, staff development, and hands-on experiences with health professionals in real and simulated healthcare settings



The HCTP Resources page also allows visitors to join our contact distribution list and receive free monthly communications and announcements! Sign up today at: www.oshpd.ca.gov/HWDD/HCTP.html

HEALTH PROFESSIONS EDUCATION PROGRAM SEARCH TOOL

Want to learn what health professions education programs exist in your county? Looking for a training program in a particular medical or allied health career? Only need a listing of certification programs? No problem! The Health Professions Education Program Search Tool allows users to identify schools that offer health education and training programs in California! The most recent data from the California Postsecondary Education Commission (CPEC) is used to ensure accuracy.

With more than 200 health professions education and training programs to choose from, this easy-to-use tool is vital to locating training programs at California universities, community colleges and private schools. You can also search a particular geographic area or limit your search to the type of degree offered.

Visit OSHPD's Health Professions Education Program Search Tool at: www.oshpd.ca.gov/HealthEducationProgram/



What Students and Residents are saying about Cal-SEARCH...

“Just having exposure to the underserved helped me to imagine what my role might be like as a Nurse Practitioner in a community clinic. It was a great experience.”

– Lea Rosemurgy, 1st Year Nurse Practitioner Student

“It solidified my decision to go into primary care.”

– Adelaida Alfier, 3rd Year Resident

“I was welcomed by a wonderful group of doctors, nurse practitioners, and physician assistants who were all amazing and taught me very valuable lessons.”

– Libbey Michelini, 2nd Year Physician Assistant Student

“The Cal-SEARCH experience reinforced my interest in both primary care and working in underserved areas.”

– Poojah Shah, 3rd Year Medical Student



CONNECTING CALIFORNIA'S COMMUNITY CLINICS AND HEALTH CENTERS WITH HEALTH PROFESSIONS STUDENTS AND RESIDENTS



Visit the Cal-SEARCH website to get the latest information about the program at:
www.oshpd.ca.gov/HWDD/Cal-SEARCH



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