

The JHF Jonas Salk Fellowship

A program of The Jewish Healthcare Foundation and Health Careers Futures

Introduction

The JHF Jonas Salk Fellowship is a program of the Jewish Healthcare Foundation and Health Careers Futures. It supports the JHF mission to improve health and quality of life of the residents of the Pittsburgh region. The Fellowship is designed to introduce talented and highly motivated graduate students in the health sciences to respected professionals in the medical field. The Fellowship will connect students to community centers of excellence, exposing participants to the broader aspects of healthcare and supplementing and enhancing current internships, practicum, and experiential learning requirements. Fellows will be required to meet once a month for eight sessions with speakers. Through these opportunities, Fellows will meet and learn first-hand from researchers and practitioners who are at the cutting edge of medical practice and discovery. There are no fees or stipends associated with this Fellowship.

Jonas Salk, M.D.

Upon receiving his M.D. in 1953, Jonas Salk began his studies in immunization against Influenza, attempting to develop a vaccine against this disease. Dr. Salk's attention was caught by the study of Poliomyelitis, which led to the development of the now-famous Salk vaccine against Polio.

Dr. Salk, founder of the University of Pittsburgh's Research Laboratory, was among those leading the assault on Polio. In 1954 Dr. Salk and his Pittsburgh associates began the human testing of the first truly effective antipolio vaccine. Within several years, Polio outbreaks were fast becoming a thing of the past. "It is always with excitement that I wake up in the morning wondering what my intuition will toss up at me, like gifts from the sea. I work with it and rely on it. It's my partner," said Dr. Salk who believed his purpose in life was to heal.

In recognition of Dr. Salk's enormous achievements in the medical field and his connection to Judaism and the University of Pittsburgh, the Jewish Healthcare Foundation and the Jewish University Center have chosen to name this Fellowship in his memory.

The goals for the Fellowship are to:

- Engage participants in an interdisciplinary team approach to practicing healthcare

- Expose emerging healthcare professionals to local centers of excellence and entrepreneurship
- Create access and experiences aimed at connection, retention, and network development among health sciences graduate students and industry leaders
- Explore methods of innovation targeted towards systems thinking in the delivery of health services
- Understand the barriers to revitalizing the healthcare system to establish a culture of quality and value and how to overcome them.

2011-2012 Curriculum

This year, The Jonas Salk Fellowship focuses on breaking down the self-reinforcing processes that lead to failures in our healthcare system. At the center of the Fellowship is a recent Health Affairs issue that contemplates the lack of progress in advancing quality and value in health care since the release of the Institute of Medicine's groundbreaking report "Crossing the Quality Chasm" ten years ago. Many key inhibitors of quality and value will be examined in depth during the Fellowship: perverse payment systems, lack of consumer engagement, entrenched interests, and a dearth of inspirational and aspirational leadership.

Fellowship Partners

- The **Jewish Healthcare Foundation** carries on the tradition of its predecessor, Montefiore Hospital -- founded in 1908 by the Jewish community of Western Pennsylvania -- with a creative voice that focuses on advancing, integrating and financing healthcare needs. Because Jewish values extend far beyond charity, the Foundation fosters the provision of healthcare services, healthcare education and healthcare research.
- **Health Careers Futures** aligns regional supply and demand of healthcare workers. It collaborates with all stakeholders to attract, support and retain healthcare workers and contribute to long-term regional economic development of southwestern Pennsylvania.

If you have any questions or would like to receive further information, please contact Michelle Anderson at 412-594-2581 or via email at anderson@jhf.org.