

The JHF Jonas Salk Medical Ethics Fellowship

A program of The Jewish Healthcare Foundation

Co-sponsored by the University of Pittsburgh Center for Bioethics and Health Law

Introduction

The JHF Jonas Salk Medical Ethics Fellowship is a program of the Jewish Healthcare Foundation, co-sponsored by the University of Pittsburgh Center for Bioethics and Health Law. 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 and religious leaders. 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.

Through the ethics vision, 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
- Provide participants with an ethical and religious perspective on relevant topics

Curriculum

Each of the sessions features interactions with local leaders and pioneers in their field of study or practice. Important issues relating to policy, ethics, and community health are highlighted in each session. Leadership skills such as teamwork, community engagements, and network building are embedded in the curriculum throughout the course of the Fellowship. Fellows are expected to review prepared material prior to each session, to participate actively with each speaker, to attend each session, and to participate in the final team project.

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.
- Founded in 1987 as the Center for Medical Ethics, and given an expanded mission and renamed in 1998, the **University of Pittsburgh Center for Bioethics and Health Law** in Pittsburgh, PA, is committed to bringing together scholars and researchers from a variety of disciplines to cooperate in addressing issues in bioethics and law from both theoretical and clinical perspectives. The Center is founded on the premise that the questions posed by contemporary healthcare dilemmas are not the province of any single discipline but require the collaborative integration of insights garnered from history, law, medicine, philosophy, and the social sciences. The Center is not a policy-making or advisory body. Rather, it is committed to in-depth analysis of the complex legal and ethical issues surrounding the health care process.

If you have any questions or would like to receive further information, please contact Laura Mahood at 412-586-6718 or via email at lmahood@prhi.org