



The University of Vermont
LARNER COLLEGE OF MEDICINE

Office of Primary Care and Area Health Education Centers (AHEC)

Introductory Meeting AHEC Scholars Summer Projects

January 19, 2022

12:00 PM

Agenda

- AHEC Scholars goals
 - Introductions of faculty/staff
- Format of Summer Projects
 - Education and Mentoring
 - Research and Quality Improvement
- Deliverables at end of summer
- How to apply
- Questions

National AHEC Scholars Program

Voluntary program for health professions students interested in supplementing their education by gaining additional knowledge and experience in rural and/or underserved settings

- Longitudinal with interdisciplinary curricula
- Duration
 - at least two years, with each year including 40 hours of eligible didactic education and 40 hours of eligible experiential or clinical training, for a total of 160-hours of eligible activities
- VT AHEC offers a “flexible pathways” approach to meet the AHEC Scholars requirements. Only those students completing all requirements will be designated as “Vermont AHEC Scholars”.

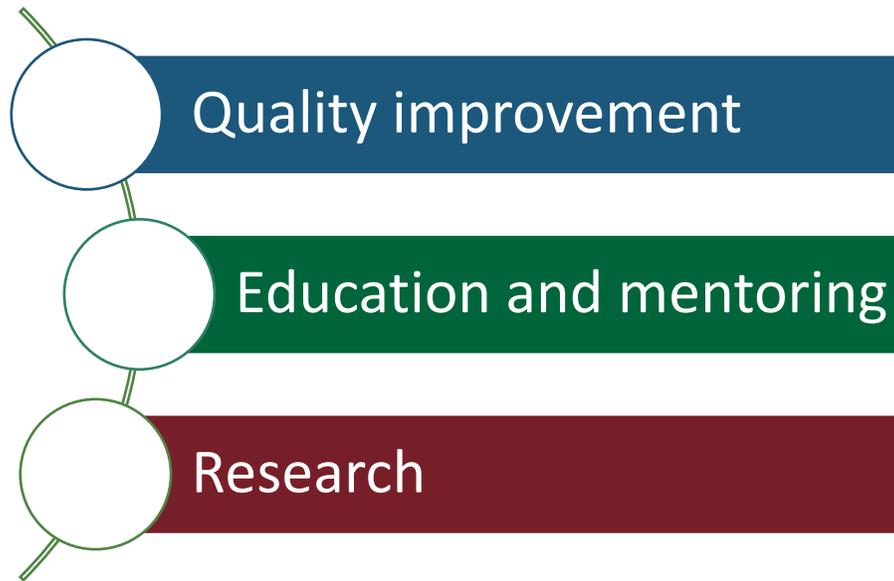
Purpose of the National AHEC Scholars Program

- To provide opportunities for health professions students to:
 - increase leadership skills
 - gain competencies in inter-professional education and team-based practice
 - understand and address health disparities and the social determinants of health particularly in rural and underserved/disadvantaged populations
 - understand the role of practice transformation in addressing significant health and public health issues

AHEC Scholars Core Topic Areas

1. Interprofessional Education
2. Behavioral Health Integration
3. Social Determinants of Health
4. Cultural Competency
5. Medical Practice Transformation
6. Current and Emerging Health Issues
 - i.e., substance use disorders, oral health as part of overall health

Larner AHEC Scholar Summer Project Goals



Summer project format

Summer project format

- Education and Mentoring
 - Didactics
 - Governor's Institute
 - Medquest 2.0
- Research or QI project
 - Research methods and QI didactics via web-based asynchronous discussion group and online tutorials
 - Students work in teams of 2-5
 - The faculty and staff develop several topic areas each year, but there is flexibility for the team to shape the direction of the project.
 - The individual projects may include literature reviews, development or pilot testing of surveys or patient assessment instruments, primary data collection, provider or patient interviews, data analysis, writing up results, and editing
- The typical time commitment is 100 hours for which the students receive a stipend of \$1500

Project faculty and staff

NVAHEC

Education & Mentoring – Nicole Lapointe (NVAHEC)

SVAHEC

MedQuest 2.0—Jennifer Scott (SVAHEC)

Rutland QI project—Susan White (SVAHEC)

Larner Office of Primary Care

Panel Management – Charles MacLean & Mark Pasanen

Electronic Medical Records – Rachel McEntee, Patricia King, Alicia Jacobs, and others

Gardening – Michael Latreille

Oral Health Integration – Kathy Mariani

Eating disorders— Kathy Mariani

Staff – Elizabeth Cote, Jennifer Savage



Northern Vermont AHEC



- Governor's Institute on Health and Medicine

Southern Vermont AHEC



- MedQuest 2.0
- Health Equity at the Rutland Community Health Centers

1. Gardening Project

- Access to healthy food is one of the most important social determinants of health
- Dr. Latreille has been working with UVM Medical Center Nutrition Services and the Vermont Community Garden Network to teach gardening and nutrition to a cohort of patients with chronic disease, taking advantage of the rooftop garden at UVMMC.
- This project has been active since 2020
- Specific questions or goals for 2022
 - Will teaching and demonstrating gardening have a positive impact on patient health outcomes?

2. Electronic Medical Record Projects

- There are myriad ways to document in the medical record
- Everyone is working to make documentation as efficient, accurate, and understandable as it can be, but there is still considerable variability
- Open Notes promotes transparency and communication
- Specific questions or goals for 2022
 - What are patient perspectives on access to their medical documentation, and to the patient portal more broadly?
 - What are the considerations, advantages, or disadvantages of various approaches to medical documentation?
 - Other projects TBD

3. Population Management of Chronic Disease Project

- The Office of Primary Care has expertise in quality improvement and chronic disease
- Past projects have included: Hypertension Management, Antibiotic Stewardship, Opioid Prescribing in Primary Care and Post-operative Pain Management...
- The 2022 focus is on Diabetes and Hypertension
 - Changing guidelines
- Specific questions or goals for 2022
 - How does population health reporting improve care for patients with chronic disease?

4. Oral Health and Medical/Dental Integration Project

- Oral health is an important part of overall health, yet education of health professionals occurs in separate schools and the practice of medicine and dentistry are not well integrated.
- Specific questions or goals for 2022
 - How can LCOM core curriculum and/or AHEC extracurricular activities be enhanced to be innovative and responsive to medical/dental oral health integration?

5. Eating Disorders Project

- The Vermont Department of Mental Health has identified that eating disorders treatment is under-resourced in Vermont
- Evolving community coalition in Vermont focused on improving the care of people with eating disorders

- Specific questions or goals for 2022
 - This project will survey stakeholders including therapists, dietitians, psychiatrists and primary care providers in the community and create a reference tool that can be shared across the state.
 - The project has the opportunity to review data to better measure the number of patients with this diagnosis across the state in order to inform stakeholders.

6. Ethical Dilemmas in Medicine: Medical Repatriation

- “Medical deportation” is a practice involving the transfer of undocumented patients in need of continued medical care to their country of origin
- We would like to develop the knowledge base in this topic area
- Specific questions or goals for 2022
 - What exactly is medical repatriation? Are there pros and cons?
 - How is medical repatriation implemented the United States? In Vermont?
 - What is the undocumented worker landscape in Vermont?
 - What impact does medical repatriation have on the state’s public health, workforce, and economic goals?
 - What are knowledge levels and attitudes in Vermont toward medical repatriation?

Deliverables at end of summer – 5 min

- Complete the didactic modules
- Reflection regarding how the project related to the AHEC Scholar Priorities – 1-2 pages
- Work product specific to your project including a one-page summary (e.g. curriculum design, literature review, survey design, survey results, data analysis, etc.

How to apply

- Complete the application at:
<https://redcap.med.uvm.edu/surveys/?s=KR7XM8ML4P4E4EYL>
- An AHEC Representative will be in touch with you with further information and details related to your specific application
 - Some projects may require criminal background check
 - Please be prepared to attach your CV or resume to your application
- This is a competitive process, decisions will be based on the best match for each program
- Individuals may participate in more than one project
- Application deadline February 16th

Questions

- If you have questions about this program or its application, please contact ahec@uvm.edu