

OAA Bulletin

August 30, 2023



OAA Bulletin Topic: VA Health and Aging Policy Fellows Selected for 2023-2024

The Office of Academic Affiliations is pleased to announce that two VA employees have been selected for the distinguished Health and Aging Policy Fellows Program for 2023-2024. Over the next year, Elizabeth Fine Smilovich, MD, Geriatric Attending Physician at the Louis Stokes Cleveland VA Medical Center and Quratulain (Annie) Syed, MD, Advanced Fellow in Geriatrics at the Birmingham-Atlanta VA Geriatrics Research Education and Clinical Center (GRECC) will proudly represent the VA as 2 of 13 participants in this prestigious program designed to effect policy change that improves the lives of older Americans.

The Health and Aging Policy Fellowship is a highly respected program funded by the Atlantic Philanthropies in collaboration with the Research Foundation for Mental Hygiene. The Atlantic Philanthropies generously offered to create a unique opportunity for VA scholars to join the program at no cost to the VA beginning in 2013. This prestigious fellowship allows professionals in health and aging to receive a wide variety of educational resources through the generosity of these external organizations to develop the experiences and skills necessary to contribute to health policies that affect older Americans positively. Benefits of participation in this program include formal education sessions addressing health and aging policy; a nationally recognized mentor to assist the fellow's policy and career development and participation in an ongoing community of peers and mentors to advance knowledge and practice to improve the Veterans and the nation's health. Congratulations to Drs. Smilovich and Syed!

OAA Advanced Fellowships Spotlights in FY22 Annual Report

OAA is pleased to share the [FY22 Advanced Fellowships Annual Report](#) reflecting the incredible work which has occurred within our programs at sites, Coordinating Centers and across the nation in partnership with national program offices to make a profound difference for our participating fellows, VA and the Veterans for whom we care. Advanced Fellowships improve health care for VA and the nation through advanced training of emerging interprofessional health care leaders. The Advanced Fellowship portfolio aligns with high priority areas for the care of our nation's Veterans in the areas of health care improvement, advanced clinical practice, research, quality improvement, policy and administration.

STRONG Veterans Act Graduate Medical Education Expansion Request for Proposal

OAA is pleased to announce the STRONG Veterans Act [Graduate Medical Education \(GME\) Expansion](#) Request for Proposal (RFP) for Fiscal Year 2024 / Academic Year 2024-2025. The RFP targets facilities that wish to increase GME allocations in covered mental health disciplines (psychiatry, including subspecialties and addiction medicine). This initiative also includes an OAA-driven supplemental GME expansion in primary care (family medicine, internal medicine, geriatrics) and other critically needed specialties. The full RFP application is due to OAA by **September 8**. Please direct questions to the [OAA Help Desk](#) (Medical & Dental General Inquires dropdown).

DEO Completion of Verification Report

The Verification Report for HPTs, including GME, Graduate Dental Education (GDE), Nursing and Associated Health Education (AHE) is now open for DEOs to verify the number of HPTs for the Academic Year 2023-2024. The verification database portals can be found at the [OAA Support Center](#). The deadline for facilities to enter data and prioritize requests for additional positions is **September 8**. During the verification process, the AHE and Nursing Field Filled Positions (DEO Use Only) and AHE National Program Directors' Reassignment of Unfilled Positions databases will be closed. Upon completion of the verification process, these databases will re-open.

VA's Academic Mission in the News and Trainee Spotlight

OAA is pleased to share recent news stories highlighting VA's academic mission and our HPTs. Please consider submitting your HPTs to be featured in an upcoming OAA Bulletin or VA national stories. Please complete the [Trainee Spotlight Story Questionnaire](#) to submit a nomination. Share your successes, news and story ideas with OAA's Public Affairs Team at OAAComms@va.gov.

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