

New Funding Opportunity in Learning Health System (LHS) Science

There are two funding calls for the 2024 cycle

① LHS Scientist Investigators

Directed toward **early-career clinician- and non-clinician investigators** seeking to become independent and externally funded LHS scientists

- *Dedicate 75% effort for 2 years to didactic & experiential LHS training*
- *Complete an LHS research project*
- *Receive up to 75K in salary support plus benefits; 2K in training costs; mentorship and staff support*

Click [here](#) to learn more

② LHS Clinician Leaders

Directed toward **clinically-oriented faculty and other healthcare professionals** (e.g., operational or QI leaders with any clinically oriented degree)

- *Dedicate 20% effort for 2 years to didactic & experiential LHS training*
- *Complete an LHS quality and/or operational improvement project*
- *Receive 10% salary support; 2K in training costs; mentorship and staff support*

Click [here](#) to learn more

Applications Due: March 31, 2024

Notice of Award: May 1, 2024

Start Date: July 1, 2024

ONLINE APPLICATION: <https://bit.ly/pennportal2024>

QUESTIONS: PORTAL@penmedicine.upenn.edu



March 1, 2024

To: Faculty

From: Scott Halpern, MD, PhD, Meghan Lane-Fall, MD, MS, and Kit Delgado, MD, MS

Re: [Call for Applications for Penn PORTAL Learning Health System Scientist Investigators \(Call 1 of 2\)](#)

Application Deadline: March 31, 2024

The University of Pennsylvania Patient-Oriented Research and Training to Accelerate Learning (Penn PORTAL) – funded by the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) and the Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI) – is designed to accelerate progress toward an integrated Learning Health System (LHS) at Penn and in the wider Philadelphia region. A key part of this mission is training future LHS leaders, and we are now accepting applications for our inaugural cohort of **LHS Scientist Investigators** to begin July 1, 2024.

This funding opportunity is directed toward **early-career clinician- and non-clinician investigators seeking to become independent and externally funded LHS scientists**. Applicants may come from outside institutions, so please consider new and recent recruits to your department. Please also note our companion funding opportunity for LHS Clinician Leaders – i.e., clinically-oriented faculty and other health care professionals who are interested in pursuing training and mentorship in LHS science (see Call 2 of 2).

Selected Scientist Investigators will receive **up to \$75,000/year in salary support plus associated benefits for two years** and be provided with structured training and mentorship – see Program Overview below. In addition, Scientists will receive \$2,000 in training costs for travel or other expenses related to their project. Candidates must devote at least 75% effort to research career development activities associated with this award and are responsible for ensuring an active appointment at Penn effective July 1, 2024.

Selected candidates are expected to **complete an LHS research project** with support from the Palliative and Advanced Illness Research (PAIR) Center and the Penn Medicine Nudge Unit for project management, data management and analysis, and expertise in qualitative methods and LHS design support, as needed and within the PORTAL budget. Applicants are expected to outline their proposed project (1-page) in this application, to be refined in consultation with the Penn PORTAL leadership and mentors.

We will prioritize projects focused on testing interventions among representative patient populations in multiple areas designated as AHRQ/PCORI priorities. Priority areas include health equity, health care disparities, persons with multiple chronic conditions and/or serious life-limiting illnesses, primary care, maternal health and maternal morbidity and mortality, intellectual and developmental disabilities, patient-centered outcomes development, the science of patient and stakeholder engagement, dissemination and implementation approaches and tools, and other patient-oriented-research or comparative effectiveness research methods. We will also consider other projects relevant to LHS science with appropriate rationale.

Selected candidates will have direct support and mentorship from Penn experts in implementation science, human subjects research ethics, clinical trial design and analysis, health care operations, and community engagement. Additionally, we are partnering with the Penn Center for Health Equity Advancement with linkages to ongoing initiatives in the Philadelphia region (e.g., Accelerate Health Equity and the Collaborative Opportunities to Advance Community Health) to ensure our LHS Scientists have the tools necessary to address the needs of the community.

There is a companion funding opportunity for clinically oriented faculty and other healthcare professionals who are not seeking independent research careers (see Call 2 of 2)

Program Overview:

- Formal didactic training in LHS science and leadership development from the Research Education Core
- Recommendations for targeted coursework in research methods, grant writing, and pragmatic clinical trials
- Participation in the LHS Seminar Series and Implementation Science Institute
- LHS Design Studios with mentorship in both research and operations
- Development and completion of a mentored LHS research project
- Access to consultants in equity, community engagement, ethics, research, and data analysis from the Equity and Community Engagement Unit and the Research and Data Analysis Core
- Access to staff support from the PAIR Center and Nudge Unit for conducting LHS research projects

Requirements for Candidates include:

- Post-doctorate trainee or junior faculty with MD, DO, PhD, or other doctoral degree who has completed or will soon complete clinical training and masters-level or above research training in epidemiology, health services research, or a related field
- Ability to dedicate 75% of effort to this program
- Guaranteed full-time appointment from their primary department for 2 years
- Commitment to an academic career as an independent investigator focused on LHS science
- Be a US citizen, non-citizen US national, or be lawfully admitted to the US for permanent residence
- Are not, and have not been, a Principal Investigator on an R01 or R21 award, on a component of a Program Project (P01), Center Grant (P50, P60, or U54), mentored career development grant (K-series), or other equivalent research award
- Have an active appointment at Penn effective July 1, 2024
- Applicants are expected to propose projects to be completed at Penn Medicine

Application Requirements include:

- Personal Statement identifying career goals including plans to pursue future mentored and/or independent research grants (no more than 1 page)
- Research proposal with explicit aims (1 page); detailed analysis plans and power calculations are not expected and will be developed with the PORTAL team, but evidence of feasibility is important
- CV or biosketch (either is fine)
- Two letters of recommendation/support (one letter should be from your Division Chief/Department Chair and include a commitment to maintaining a current faculty position and/or plan for a future faculty position, plus the commitment that 75% effort will be protected for related scholarship)

Online application: <https://bit.ly/pennportal2024>

Application deadline: March 31, 2024

Start date: July 1, 2024

Awards: We will award up to 2 LHS Scientist Investigator awards for this cycle, dependent on meritorious applications in each funding opportunity call.

For further information or questions, please email PORTAL@penmedicine.upenn.edu

Research Education Core Leaders: Drs. Rachel Werner and Jennifer Myers

Research and Data Analysis Core Leaders: Drs. Michael Harhay and Kevin Johnson

Equity and Community Engagement Unit: Dr. Jaya Aysola

Principal Investigators: Drs. Scott Halpern, Meghan Lane-Fall, and Kit Delgado



March 1, 2024

To: Faculty

From: Scott Halpern, MD, PhD, Meghan Lane-Fall, MD, MS and Kit Delgado, MD, MS

Re: **Call for Applications for Penn PORTAL Learning Health System Clinician Leaders (Call 2 of 2)**

Application Deadline: March 31, 2024

The University of Pennsylvania Patient-Oriented Research and Training to Accelerate Learning (Penn PORTAL) – funded by the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) and the Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI) – is designed to accelerate progress toward an integrated Learning Health System (LHS) at Penn and in the wider Philadelphia region. A key part of this mission is training future LHS leaders, and we are now accepting applications for our inaugural cohort of **LHS Clinician Leaders** to begin July 1, 2024.

This funding opportunity is directed toward **clinically-oriented faculty and other healthcare professionals at Penn who are interested in** LHS principles and methods, as well as hands-on training in LHS engagement, leadership, quality, and research management to enhance their clinical and operational responsibilities. Please also note our companion funding opportunity for LHS Scientist Investigators – i.e., early-career clinician and non-clinician investigators seeking more protected time and intensive training to become independently funded LHS scientists (see Call 1 of 2).

LHS Clinician Leaders will leverage and extend their institutional relationships and understanding of health system initiatives, growing operational leadership in LHS science, and optimizing health-system-driven change. Selected candidates will receive **10% effort in salary support** (based on the PCORI cap of \$200K, plus associated fringe) **per year for two years** and be provided with structured training and tailored mentorship – see Program Overview below. In addition, LHS Clinician Leaders will receive \$2,000 in training costs for travel or other expenses. Candidates are expected to devote 20% of their effort to program activities associated with this award, inclusive of the 10% effort provided. It is the responsibility of the candidate and their department to arrange for and document this support in the application.

Selected LHS Clinician Leaders are expected to **complete an LHS quality and/or operational improvement project** with support from the Palliative and Advanced Illness Research (PAIR) Center, the Penn Medicine Nudge Unit, and the Center for Healthcare Improvement and Patient Safety (CHIPS) for project management, data management and analysis, and expertise in qualitative methods and LHS design support, as needed and within the PORTAL budget. Applicants are expected to outline their proposed project (1-page) in this application, to be refined in consultation with the PORTAL leadership and mentors.

We will prioritize projects focused on testing interventions among representative patient populations in multiple areas designated as AHRQ/PCORI priorities. Priority areas include health equity, health care disparities, persons with multiple chronic conditions and/or serious life-limiting illnesses, primary care, maternal health and maternal morbidity and mortality, intellectual and developmental disabilities, patient-centered outcomes development, the science of patient and stakeholder engagement, dissemination and implementation approaches and tools, and other patient-oriented-research or comparative effectiveness research methods. We will also consider other projects relevant to LHS science with appropriate rationale.

Selected candidates will have direct support and mentorship from Penn experts in implementation science, human subjects research ethics, clinical trial design and analysis, health care operations, and community engagement. Additionally, we are partnering with the Penn Center for Health Equity Advancement with linkages to ongoing initiatives in the Philadelphia region (e.g., Accelerate Health Equity and the Collaborative Opportunities to Advance Community Health) to ensure our LHS Clinician Leaders have the tools necessary to address the needs of the community.

Program Overview:

- Formal didactic training in LHS science from the Research Education Core
- Recommendations for targeted coursework in healthcare quality & safety, systems, and leadership; applied clinical informatics for quality improvement and implementation; leadership, engagement, and research management
- Participation in the LHS Seminar Series and Implementation Science Institute
- LHS Design Studios with mentorship in both research and operations
- Intensive support and mentorship for development and completion of an LHS QI project
- Access to consultants in equity, community engagement, ethics, research, and data analysis from the Equity and Community Engagement Unit and the Research and Data Analysis Core
- Access to staff support from the PAIR Center and Nudge Unit for conducting LHS QI projects
- Access to staff support from CHIPS for leading LHS QI projects

Requirements for Candidates include:

- Clinically focused physician faculty at the Instructor level or above; or individuals with other healthcare roles (e.g., RN, CRNP, PA, MSW); preference will be given to those with established hospital, clinic, or health system roles but such a role is not required
- Ability to dedicate 20% full-time professional effort to this program for two years
- Have an active appointment at Penn effective July 1, 2024
- Applicants are expected to propose projects to be completed at Penn Medicine

Application Requirements include:

- Personal Statement identifying clinical and operational goals that will be enhanced by the program (no more than 1 page) and prior experience in quality and safety initiatives or related areas
- Project proposal with a brief description of the existing problem, proposed goals, and potential outcome measure; proposal does not need to include specific intervention(s), however ideas for potential interventions could be suggested and evidence of feasibility is helpful (1 page)
- CV or biosketch (either is fine)
- Two letters of recommendation/support (one letter should be from your Division Chief/Department Chair and document the commitment to 20% effort for the program)

Online application: <https://bit.ly/pennportal2024>

Application deadline: March 31, 2024

Start date: July 1, 2024

Award: We will award 1 LHS Scientist Clinical Leader award this cycle, dependent on meritorious applications in each funding opportunity call.

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