

**CALL FOR
APPLICATIONS**



American Academy of
Orthopaedic Surgeons
Washington Health
Policy Fellowship
2009



Purpose

The American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons (AAOS) Washington Health Policy Fellowship Program is designed to encourage participation of orthopaedic senior residents in the federal health policy arena in Washington, DC.

The program seeks to foster the development of a new generation of advocates who are interested in policy-relevant topics of long-range importance and who are willing to become key members of a volunteer network built around such topics. This program offers orthopaedic residents the opportunity to gain a greater understanding of the health policy process and to contribute to the development of new policies and programs.

Through interaction with senior AAOS management, work on various staff projects, and participation in the development and implementation of a cohesive healthcare policy strategy, Health Policy Fellows develop a strong foundation toward becoming leaders in a challenging and exciting health care environment.

The Washington Health Policy Fellowship Program is seeking individuals who:

- ❑ Have the desire to learn about the political process and to contribute to policymaking through intensive involvement.
- ❑ Are willing to demonstrate a long-term commitment to these goals by participating in AAOS activities over the course of their careers.
- ❑ Bring a fresh and innovative approach to problem solving and a willingness to tackle perplexing healthcare issues.

- ❑ Communicate with other residents/fellows about the importance of involvement in the health policy process.

Program Description

The program will fund up to two Fellowship positions per year and provide them the opportunity to work in the legislative and regulatory arena for a multi-week period during a 12-month period.

It is important that an applicant and his/her program chair/director understand that participation in the Fellowship, while flexible, requires a considerable time commitment. A Fellow could opt to spend a finite block of time in Washington, DC or visit intermittently throughout the year as time permits. The AAOS Washington Office will work with the selected applicants to design a flexible program that meets his/her needs, interests and schedule. Additional time in Washington, DC will be coordinated with the Washington Health Policy Fellow and be at the discretion of the residency/fellowship program director(s).

Health Policy Fellows will be expected to help develop legislative proposals, participate in meetings with both legislative and executive branch staff members, and participate in the Academy's volunteer structure as needed. Health Policy Fellows will take part in all areas of the policy process as a member of the AAOS Washington Office.

During this program, in addition to attending appropriate AAOS functions and participating in the federal legislative or regulatory process, the resident must complete a presentation or publishable paper

on some aspect of the health policy issues covered during his/her Fellowship program.

Mentors

Integral to the program is a commitment by the Academy that those selected to participate will work closely with a senior Academy volunteer orthopaedic surgeon who can provide technical expertise related to the health policy Fellow's daily activities, assist in accessing the Academy's resources, and help identify other collaborative opportunities within the Academy.

The program encourages co-authorship of papers and articles with Academy volunteers as appropriate.

Expectations

Fellows are expected to:

- ❑ Attend the AAOS Research Lobby Day and the National Orthopaedic Leadership Conference (NOLC) held in Washington, D.C. in 2009 and 2010, and the 2010 AAOS annual meeting.
- ❑ Attend various AAOS Council and Committee meetings held in Washington, DC.
- ❑ Develop a topic for a presentation or publishable paper at the beginning of the Fellowship and continue to work on the project throughout the Fellowship. The project should be completed by the NOLC in 2010.
- ❑ Remain in close communication with the designated Director of the Fellowship program.

- ❑ Failure to complete any of these expected items, or to remain in good standing with your home program, may result in loss of participation in the Fellowship program.

Eligibility

- The Fellowship will commence from April 2009-April 2010.
- Senior orthopaedic residents with an interest or experience in socio-economic affairs, government relations, and the policymaking process are encouraged to apply. Residents should be PGY3, PGY4, or PGY5 to start the program. PGY5s should have a letter of recommendation from their fellowship director, as well as their residency program director.
- Must be a U.S. Citizen

Housing/Travel Stipend

Health Policy Fellows will be reimbursed for their housing and travel expenses within certain specified limits.

Application Process

An application package must include the following documents:

- ① **A packet from the applicant containing:**
 - ✓ **Cover letter** that includes your complete contact information throughout the application period;
 - ✓ Current **curriculum vitae**;

- ✓ **Brief essays** on the following topics:

(1) The reasons why you want to be an AAOS Washington Health Policy Fellow, including a discussion of your major strengths and qualifications for the program. (250-300 words)

AND

(2a) What do you believe are the most difficult challenge(s) facing the healthcare delivery system today and what solutions should policymakers explore and why. (250-300 words)

OR

(2b) Discuss whether you believe there is a need for healthcare reform and if so, what reforms would you implement and why. (250-300 words)

② ***A letter of recommendation from the applicant's program chair/director*** containing an evaluation of the applicant's qualifications and an endorsement of applicant's participation in this program. Applicants in PGY5 should have a letter from their fellowship director in addition to one from their residency program chair/director.

③ ***A letter of recommendation from an additional faculty member***

Final decisions will be announced prior to February 28, 2009.

Application Deadline

*In order to be considered for acceptance into the program, all applications must be received no later than **December 31, 2008.***

Applications and inquiries about the program should be directed to:

AAOS Washington Health Policy Fellowship
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The AAOS Washington Health Policy Fellowship Director is Bruce D. Browner, MD, MS

E-Mail: browner@nso.uchc.edu

Selection Process

Applications are reviewed by a panel of orthopaedic surgeons that serve on the AAOS Council on Advocacy.

Finalists will be interviewed by the panel, via telephone.