“The COE NP Fellowship Program offers me, as a new NP, a rare opportunity to build a foundation for my practice, secure my clinical skills, and to develop peer relationships with medical residents in a mentored setting. The VA Medical Center is a rich environment for learning, and as trainees we have access to excellent clinicians, dedicated consultation with specialists, and leadership seminars. This is a fantastic fellowship and a model for training NP’s to become clinical leaders in Primary Care.”

Susan Barringer, NP Fellow

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Academic Year
2012-2013
The VA COE in Primary Care Education trains future health care professionals in a team-based, patient-centered care teaching model. Through an innovative curriculum of interprofessional clinical care months, interactive leadership seminars, and health policy classes, the COE offers trainees a unique, transformative approach to post-graduate medical education. Trainees learn and care for patients within protected ambulatory care time where they focus on managing a panel of patients, exclusively seen by the COE members. On a daily basis, you will learn, implement, and practice interprofessional collaboration, health policy, leadership, and quality improvement, which are necessary skills to function in today’s health care system, irrespective of specialty choice.

**Mission:**
The mission of the COE is to educate health care professionals with innovative training, producing leaders who can provide outstanding patient-centered health care and master the skills necessary to succeed in today’s healthcare system. The structure of the COE facilitates learning these skills and applying them directly to practice.

**COE Areas of Focus:**
1. Shared Decision Making
2. Sustained Relationships
3. Interprofessional Collaboration
4. Performance Improvement
5. Facilitation and conflict management skills
6. Health policy and leadership

**Examples of COE Curriculum:**
- **TEACH For Success** (VA based training for patient-centered medical homes; focused on patient-centered communication, health education and health coaching skills)
- **Facilitation and Conflict Management Training**
- **Interactive Clinical Case Discussions**
- **Health Policy/Leadership Course**
- **Real time sub-specialty consultations with your own patients**
- **Learner driven journal clubs**
- **Veteran-Specific Issues**
- **Patient Home Visits**
- **Interprofessional Skills training** (using EHPIC—Educating Health Professionals in Interprofessional Collaboration)
- **Sustained Performance Improvement, Patient Safety and Quality Skills**

**Program Highlights:**
- Intensive 8-week immersion blocks (total of 10 months over your residency training—during which no call or inpatient responsibilities)
- Opportunity to get to know and provide continuity of care to your patients
- Patient-Centered Medical Home and team-oriented ambulatory care environment
- Assignment to MD and Nurse Practitioner (NP) faculty preceptors throughout training
- Assignment to a specific support team (Registered Nurse/Health Technician) throughout training

**A Few Words from the Faculty:**
"We are professionals who seek responsibility, accept accountability and are committed to the successful achievement of our trainees."
-Susan Zapatka, APRN

"The philosophy of teamwork and communication skills cannot be overemphasized in today’s health care climate where there is increasing need to rely on effective interdisciplinary teams rather than on the individual provider. This exciting program will pioneer a change in the way we deliver medical and nursing education through integration of a rigorous clinical curriculum with the concepts central to interprofessional development."
-Shawn Cole, MD

"The COE is an innovation in health care delivery and training. The patient gets better care, because the team works together to meet the patient’s needs. Regardless of the professional pathway you choose, a solid grounding in outpatient-based clinical medicine is essential. VACHS is a national leader in primary care."
-Anne Hyson, MD