

**American Heart Association-Pharmaceutical Roundtable
Outcomes Research Center
Saint Luke's Mid America Heart Institute**

Overview and Objectives: Saint Luke's Hospital's Mid America Heart Institute (MAHI), in partnership with the University of Missouri – Kansas City (UMKC) and the University of Kansas (KU), has developed an Outcomes Research Center to train the next generation of leaders in the fields of clinical and outcomes research. The major foci of this outcomes research program are patient-centered care and outcomes, quality assessment/improvement, translation of evidence-based care into practice, and economic and decision analyses. Over the past decade, the Mid America Heart Institute team has significantly contributed to many of the current methods for quantifying and analyzing patient-centered health status outcomes, assisted in the development of performance measurement as a means for quality assessment/improvement, applied the methods of cost-effectiveness and decision analysis to novel cardiovascular technologies and led numerous prospective registries to define patient and treatment characteristics associated with clinical outcomes in coronary atherosclerosis, heart failure and vascular disease.

The main objective of the American Heart Association-Pharmaceutical Roundtable (AHA-PRT) funded Outcomes training program at MAHI is to augment the traditional clinical research training with additional, specialized skills in outcomes research and quality improvement.

The key features of the MAHI Outcomes Research Center fellowship program are a well-designed curriculum for clinical and outcomes research training, a wealth of opportunities for mentored and independent research projects, one-on-one mentoring to include the creation of customized training plans aligned with the needs and goals of individual trainees, and a unique, highly collaborative and supportive culture at our institution.

Training curriculum:

MS in clinical research: Fellows who do not have the equivalent of an MS in Clinical Research will have an opportunity, and expectation, to obtain a Masters of Science degree in Clinical Research through a well-established and highly successful K30 program at KU.

Core curriculum in outcomes research: All fellows will participate in weekly seminars of specialized skills in outcomes research. These 1-hour seminars will cover key topics relevant to the outcomes researcher and are taught by a diverse group of multidisciplinary faculty. The course will cycle over a 2-year period so that Fellows have the opportunity to hear each lecture at least once during his/her training. Courses will be highly interactive and permit Fellows to first be introduced to a topic, given examples of that topic, followed by fellow presentations that enhance their experience

by actively working with the concepts being studied. Additionally, seminars that focus on critically important skills in outcomes research, including: grant, manuscript and abstract writing, academic collaboration and etiquette, budget management, job negotiations, etc. will be presented.

Supplemental curriculum: Fellows will be expected to participate in numerous additional educational activities, including: basic and advanced biostatistics seminars, journal clubs, and research in progress weekly meetings (separate conferences for the outcomes research and health economics,) as well as subspecialty conferences in cardiovascular disease research, visiting professor grand rounds, and responsible conduct of research workshops, among others. All fellows will be expected to attend the AHA Quality of Care and Outcomes Research yearly conference.

Mentored and independent research projects:

The key objective of our fellowship program is to provide a rich research experience. MAHI has a plethora of analytical resources available. Fellows will be able to participate in the specific project being supported by the AHA Outcomes Research Program “Developing novel strategies to translate individualized, patient-centered, risk prediction models into the process of routine clinical care in patients undergoing PCI”.

While fellows will be encouraged to participate in the research project, the MAHI program has access to additional, abundant data resources, all of which are continually analyzed by a staff of 9 biostatisticians. These include multi-center registries (PREMIER, TRIUMPH, REACH, EVENT), randomized clinical trial datasets, large administrative databases, access to national registries (ACC-NCDR and AHA NRCPR), and others. Each fellow will be expected to identify and develop a mentored research project within their first 2 months of the program. In our experience, it is common for fellows to complete 2-3 mentored projects in their first year of our program. After completing the first year of fellowship, during which a much more solid foundation in study design and analysis will have been acquired, fellows will be expected to define an independent project. Often this will capitalize on their emerging interests, and may involve prospective data collection, clinical implementation/quality improvement or other intellectually creative projects. For those enrolling in the MS Program, this can serve as their thesis.

Individualized mentorship plan:

The MAHI, UMKC, and KU faculty include many experienced mentors, with expertise across multiple disciplines (cardiovascular disease, internal medicine, nursing, psychology, health economics, ethics and others), and will work with each fellow to better understand their research interests, working style and needs. Each fellow will be paired with a formal mentor that can best support his/her research

interests and learning style. The mentors will work with the fellows to review their educational curriculum, to evaluate additional workshops and training opportunities, and to support their mentored and independent research projects.

Stipend and benefits:

Fellows' salaries start at \$45,000 and are based on the NIH postdoctoral stipend scales. Fellows also receive benefits such as: health, dental, disability, life insurance; as well as paid vacation time, and training-related travel expenses to professional meetings.

For more information contact:

Mikhail Kosiborod, MD, Training Director
c/o Jeanette Wheeler
Mid America Heart Institute
4401 Wornall Road
Kansas City, MO 64111
Phone: 816-932-5475
Fax: 816-932-5613
Email: MAHIResearch@saint-lukes.org
Website for application: <http://www.saintlukeshealthsystem.org>

Other AHA-PRT Outcomes Research Centers

There are three additional AHA-PRT Training Programs

- Duke University
- Stanford University-Kaiser Permanente
- University of California, Los Angeles

For more information on all four AHA-PRT Outcomes Research Centers, please see:
<http://www.americanheart.org/presenter.jhtml?identifier=2373>