



CMCVAMC Summer Scholars Program



Improvement in Outpatient Antibiotic Prescribing through Targeted Education

Background: Antibiotic stewardship is program to measure and improve how prescribers and hospital systems use antibiotics. A major goal of antibiotic stewardship is improving patient safety by optimizing antibiotic prescribing, reducing antibiotic resistance, and avoiding side effects from unneeded antibiotics. It is estimated that at least 30% of all antibiotic prescriptions in the outpatient setting are unnecessary. Two of the most common conditions for which unneeded antibiotics are prescribed are acute bronchitis and asymptomatic bacteriuria.

Project description: The Corporal Michael J. Crescenz VA Medical Center (CMCVAMC) in Philadelphia has an active antibiotics stewardship program (ASP). The ASP is pursuing a quality improvement project to optimize outpatient antibiotics prescribing. This project includes the implementation of an outpatient antibiotic ordering menu, dissemination of antibiotic report cards to ordering providers, and development of educational materials for staff and patients.

We plan to recruit two college students who are interested in medicine or public health to complete the development, presentation, and dissemination of educational materials on antibiotic overprescribing in the outpatient setting. These materials will target both prescribers and patients. One student will focus on acute bronchitis and the other student will focus on asymptomatic bacteriuria. The students will also have a chance to participate in rounds with the ID consult team at the CMVAMC, attend ID division weekly conferences at Penn, and present their work to a team of front-line providers. Finally, we hope to develop long term mentorship relationships with the Scholars to help foster and further their career goals.

Stipend: \$3000/student for the 6 week project

Early February 2022 - Solicit applications (will include personal statement and letter(s) of recommendation)

Late February 2022 - Select Summer Scholars

March 2022-June 2022: Onboarding of Summer Scholars

Late June- Early August 2022: Summer Scholars program

Mentorship Team:

Jeffrey Doyon, MD PhD

Co-director of Antimicrobial Stewardship, CMCVAMC

Infectious Diseases Section Chief, CMCVAMC

Assistant Professor of Clinical Medicine, University of Pennsylvania

Jonathan Burns, PharmD

Antimicrobial Stewardship Pharmacist, CMCVAMC

Co-director of Antimicrobial Stewardship, CMCVAMC

Valerianna Amorosa, MD

Attending Physician, CMCVAMC

Professor of Clinical Medicine, University of Pennsylvania