Stanford University’s Clinical Excellence Research Center (CERC) fellowship provides physicians in their early career or postgraduate training (e.g., residency or fellowship academic time) an opportunity to gain knowledge, skills and experience developing health care delivery innovations that lower annual per-capita health spending in addition to improving health.

Each year, CERC recruits trans-disciplinary teams of clinicians and postdoctoral scholars in social and behavioral science, management and industrial/operations engineering to design and test care delivery innovations for health conditions associated with substantial disability and health spending. Past teams have focused on novel care model development for the following conditions and procedures:

- Poor-prognosis cancer
- Chronic kidney disease
- Colorectal cancer screening
- Severe obesity
- Stroke
- Adult care transition for pediatric patients with complex, chronic illness
- Non-emergent surgical care
- Chronic musculoskeletal pain
- Intensive care medicine

Each year’s class of fellows is presented with a new set of health care design targets.

We seek physician fellows from diverse specialties who wish to spend the scholarly portion of their training or early career learning how to safely lower population-wide health spending, which the Institute of Medicine describes as a “national imperative.” Physician fellows are expected to devote 80% of their time exclusively to fellowship activities from August 3, 2015 through June 30, 2016. The program builds in two half-days per week that may be used to meet clinical service obligations. We work with our fellows to ensure that the half-day periods are synchronized across all fellows. Depending on the availability of funding, fellows may have the option to pursue a second year to help implement and evaluate the impact of their innovation via multi-site pilot tests.
CERC’s Health Care Delivery Re-Design Approach

Fellow teams employ a design and prototyping methodology derived from Stanford’s Biodesign Program and the Stanford “d.school.” The method includes:

- Intensive introductory training in design discipline and in the clinical and economic features of the target conditions and service types
- Intensive observation of how care is delivered for these conditions
- Exposure to care in health systems functioning at or near the current efficiency frontier
- Identification of poorly-met patient and clinician needs as well as the societal need to lower per-capita health spending safely
- Exposure to use of cutting edge information and communications technologies to support care innovation
- Preparation of conceptual and detailed designs for care innovations that push beyond today’s efficiency frontier
- Experience interacting with multiple health system leaders in multiple US states
- Support of clinical teams that pilot-test and refine care innovations
- Presentation of abstracts and other public speaking
- Preparation of publishable research manuscripts

Faculty and Mentors and Pilot Test Sites

Stanford’s Clinical Excellence Research Center is directed by Arnold Milstein MD, MPH, Professor of Medicine and national leader in the acceleration of clinical service innovations that improve the societal value of health care. Along with Dr. Milstein, the fellowship is directed by Stanford faculty members Terry Platchek, MD, Clinical Assistant Professor of Pediatrics and Medicine, and Lucy Kalanithi, MD, FACP. Implementation mentorship is directed by Elizabeth Malcolm, MD. Additional faculty and mentors are drawn primarily from Stanford’s schools of Medicine, Engineering and Business and from Harvard Medical School. Distinguished national guest faculty and visiting scholars also participate in the training and ongoing mentorship of fellows. CERC-affiliated US clinical care sites provide test beds for care innovations.

Admissions and Contact Information

Admissions are on a rolling basis; candidates are encouraged to apply as soon as possible since applications received before December 1, 2014, are considered first. For further information, please contact CERC’s Chief Operating Officer, Bob Rebitzer, at rebitzer@stanford.edu. Please include your CV and a cover letter explaining your interest.