

# UPMC Mercy Street Medicine Fellowship Curriculum

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## Mission:

Street Medicine is the delivery of medical services directly to the unsheltered homeless. These are individuals who, for a variety of reasons, dwell in alleys, under bridges, along riverbanks, in homeless camps, abandoned buildings and cars or other settings outside the shelter system. The principles of inclusion health can be vividly experienced with this highly alienated and under-served population. As such, street medicine is a powerful window into a larger perceptual framework that may be applied to other excluded groups. The professionalism and morality of this effort are apparent, but increasingly it is recognized that such populations are extreme outliers in high health care utilization and costs.

The value of working deeply with medical trainees who are dedicated to social justice principles is also clear. Street medicine has attracted exceptional medical students and residents to Pittsburgh Mercy's Operation Safety Net since 1992 and many have gone on to create their own street medicine programs. There is a demand among learners for further training opportunities and a need to develop those who are leaders in this new field. To date there is no post-graduate Street Medicine Fellowship in existence. A partnership between UPMC Mercy and Pittsburgh Mercy's Operation Safety Net is a natural foundation on which to build the first such fellowship.

## UPMC Mercy Department of Medicine:

General Internal Medicine is home to over 60 faculty, mid-level providers and staff that serve many key functions at UPMC Mercy.

- We care for over 2,300 inpatients and 8,000 outpatients each year. Our faculty are actively engaged in quality improvement initiatives in all settings.
- We are a key contributor to the teaching of medical students and internal medicine residents.

The UPMC Mercy Street Medicine Fellowship is established as a part of UPMC Mercy Hospital's Department of Internal Medicine. Dr. Anthony Pinevich is the Program Director of that

department. Dr. James Withers is a faculty member of the Department of Medicine and will serve as the Fellowship Director.

Most clinical activities will take place within Pittsburgh Mercy's Operation Safety Net. Dr. Withers is also the founder and medical director of that program. They are primarily focused on the medical and social services care of the street homeless but have had medical students and other health science students formally participate in their program since 1993. The collaboration between UPMC Mercy Hospital's Department of Internal Medicine and Pittsburgh Mercy's Operation Safety Net will be the core partnership for the Street Medicine Fellowship.

In addition to Dr. Withers, the Fellow will work with several Pittsburgh Mercy and OSN staff. Foremost will be Danielle Schnauber-Jones NP who serves as the coordinator of all OSN operations. Dr. Todd Wahrenberger, the Medical Director of the Pittsburgh Mercy health system will provide final administrative oversight of OSN activities and work with the Fellow once a week on the streets as well as such sites as the Respite Center, the Pittsburgh Mercy Health Center and in organizational meetings. Operation Safety Net is embedded in the Mercy Behavioral Campus of Pittsburgh Mercy and interacts with employees including social workers, outreach workers, nurses and housing specialists. The Fellow will interact and collaborate with many of them throughout the course of the Fellowship. The Fellow will comply with all the standards and protocols of the Pittsburgh Mercy health system during the Fellowship.

### **Goals and Educational Purpose:**

Trainees must provide compassionate, individualized care for the unsheltered homeless population. The special needs of unique population are best addressed through dedicated training under the direction of experienced Street Medicine faculty. During this fellowship, residents are introduced to multidisciplinary care for homeless patients and their needs.

### **Fellowship Goals:**

- Competency in medical care on the streets
- Absorption and practice of the principles of reality-based care (Inclusion Health and trans-disciplinary practice)
- Ability to contribute to the development of the street medicine model and/or create similar programs to meet the needs of excluded populations .

### **Training Components:**

- Approximately 20% of the Fellow's time will be dedicated to research in the field of street medicine.
- Fellows will dedicate 80% of their effort to clinical care throughout their training, derived from both inpatient and outpatient clinical experiences including:
  - **“Street rounds”**  
Operation Safety Net staffed teams consisting of an outreach expert, social worker and a licensed medical clinician will accompany the Fellow directly into known homeless sites to assess the well-being of those living there. Following established procedures, the team will address the medical and social issues

affecting the health of those they encounter. In many cases, this will only mean the team will assess, counsel and refer the patient appropriately. In other circumstances, the clinician may need to begin initial treatment such as an antihypertensive or wound care. All treatment plans are recorded electronically in the database, reviewed by the medical director and care management team with the formulation of a follow-up plan. At least one of the four-hour sessions will be at the UPMC funded/Pittsburgh Mercy staffed Medical Respite Unit. The Fellow will participate in Pittsburgh Mercy's Winter Shelter clinic during the winter months. Street rounds will comprise twelve hours of the Fellow's time each week.

- **Established clinical sites**

1. Clinics

The Fellow will participate in two to three half-day clinics per week. The primary location will be the Second Avenue Commons UPMC Clinic. Typically one half day will be with Dr. Withers and residents, one with NP Danielle Schnauber-Jones or alone with the clinic support staff. These clinics will comprise approximately 12 hours of the Fellow's time each week.

2. Hospital Consults and the UPMC Mercy Medical Respite Center

A core purpose of the Street Medicine Fellowship is to integrate the care of the unsheltered homeless seamlessly into the hospital care model. Two key areas to address continuity of care and the effective use of resources are the street medicine consult service (in practice at Mercy Hospital since 1992) and the more recent Medical Respite Center located at 903 Watson Street near the hospital. The consult service has been the template for other such services across the country where cost savings have been demonstrated. The Medical Respite model is a well-established one in which homeless persons are discharged to a medically supervised facility for a period of recovery from their acute illnesses. The street medicine consult service and the Medical Respite Center will comprise 4 hours of the Fellow's time each week.

3. Continuity panel of unsheltered homeless patients

The nature of street medicine practice makes a true continuity experience challenging. However, the Fellow and OSN staff will identify a core panel of patients to follow both on the streets and into housing. Due to the support of the Pittsburgh Mercy system, Operation Safety Net has been able to house many hundreds of the unsheltered homeless in appropriate housing opportunities. These present an opportunity for the Fellow to explore more deeply the longitudinal recovery of patients who have transitioned off the streets. In cases where housing fails, the follow up and continuity of support will inform the Fellow of the value of the street medicine "medical home" model of committed care. Some of this time will be dedicated to the more general activity and philosophy of patient navigation through the complexities of the overall Pittsburgh health and

social systems. These activities will comprise approximately 4 hours of the Fellow's time per week.

### **Literature review, didactic and formal reflection sessions, research.**

To fully optimize the UPMC Mercy Street Medicine Fellowship experience, the Fellow will participate in an ongoing review of the existing literature relevant to the new field of street medicine.

The Fellow and Director will identify opportunities for didactic sessions relevant to street medicine and the Fellow's attendance will be recorded. Within 3 months, the Fellow will identify their own research project subject to approval by the Street Medicine Fellowship Director and the Department of Medicine at UPMC Mercy. The results will be presented at the end of the Fellowship at a venue such as the International Street Medicine Symposium, National Healthcare for the Homeless Conference, Grand Rounds or publication in a peer reviewed journal. To date, all Fellows have successfully published and presented at a national/internal conference.

Another critical aspect of the Fellowship is a formal process of experiential reflection. The Fellow will maintain a journal throughout the year and will meet with the Director and core staff weekly for a 1-2 hour session to explore and process the experiences of the Fellowship. Rotating 4th year medical students will participate in these sessions, allowing the Fellow to provide mentoring as well.

Literature review, didactic session, research and reflective sessions will comprise approximately 8 hours per week of the Fellow's schedule.

- **Global Street Medicine comparative analysis**

The Street Medicine Institute ([www.streetmedicine.org](http://www.streetmedicine.org)) is the global organization that serves to assist communities to develop their own street medicine programs, to define and improve the practice of street medicine and to foster the values of the street medicine model. As such, the Street Medicine Institute hosts an annual International Street Medicine Symposium Institute and now has a network of over 200 communities practicing street medicine on six continents. Dr. Withers is also the founder of this organization and sits on their board.

The UPMC Mercy Street Medicine Fellow will identify at least **two** other cities to visit during the Fellowship. The Fellow will then conduct a comparative analysis on those street medicine programs for presentation to the Fellowship Director. This exercise will further develop the Fellow's insight and leadership as a street medicine expert. It is also expected that the Fellow will attend the annual International Street Medicine Symposium either during the Fellowship or the year thereafter – ideally to present their findings.

## **Competency Objectives**

The following provide an overview of the knowledge, skills, and behaviors promoted in this training.

- I. Patient Care

- II. Medical Knowledge
- III. Interpersonal and Communication Skills
- IV. Professionalism
- V. Practice-Based Learning and Improvement
- VI. Systems-Based Practice

**Schedule**

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
8:00 AM to 12:00 PM	Staff and city-wide coordination meetings	Research	Street rounds and/or Medical Respite	Consultations and follow-up	Street rounds
1:00 PM to 5 PM	Afternoon street rounds	Psych and addiction rounds	Teaching rounds with residents/students	2 <sup>nd</sup> Ave clinic	Admin

**Evaluation Methods:**

Each month, attendings complete online competency-based evaluations of each fellow in addition to formative face-to-face feedback. The evaluation is shared with the fellow, is available for on-line review by the fellow at his/her convenience and is sent to the department of medicine for internal review. The evaluation is part of the Fellow’s file and is incorporated into semiannual performance reviews. Fellows also complete a service evaluation of the rotation faculty monthly. Fellows will also be evaluated on their progress with their research project, their teaching of students/residents and ability to work with patients and staff.

**Other Fellowship Opportunity examples:**

- Street Medicine publications
- Teaching, Public speaking, media relations
- Fund raising and administration
- Quality Assurance
- Policies and Procedures
- Medication management
- Replication
- Advocacy and political policy development

**Benefits:**

- Competitive salary
- Health, dental, life, disability and malpractice insurance
- Time and support for research projects and professional travel

- Tuition support for certificate courses taken as part of the fellowship program
- One month vacation and one week conference time with stipend
- Computer and administrative support
- Fellows will be appointed at the level of clinical instructor in the department of medicine.

**Application process:**

- Qualifications: Applications who have completed residency training or are currently in their second or third year in internal medicine, family medicine, or emergency medicine residency program are eligible to apply.
- **Please submit the following items:**
  - A current curriculum vitae
  - Personal statement
  - Three letters of recommendation
- Those selected for formal interview will be asked to visit Pittsburgh for a site visit, street rounds and sit down interviews.

The Street Medicine Fellowship typically begins in July, but some flexibility can be offered. The Fellowship is one year in duration.