



Fully Funded Outcomes & Health Services Research Fellowship Program through the Surgical Outcomes and Quality Improvement Center (SOQIC)

Northwestern University's [Surgical Outcomes and Quality Improvement Center \(SOQIC\)](#) is offering a funded two-year onsite fellowship in surgical outcomes, health services, and health care policy research for surgical residents to pursue during their research years. This position begins July 1, 2016 with space available for two residents. **Applications are due May 1, 2015.**

The goal of the research fellowship is to help prepare surgical residents for a successful career in academic surgery by developing an expertise in surgical health services and outcomes research. Research fellows will spend a minimum of two years with the SOQIC research team conducting research, taking advanced degree courses, and working on developing a robust, meaningful research agenda. Research fellows will earn a Master's or PhD degree that best suits their needs through one of the programs offered at Northwestern (Degree options: <http://www.surgery.northwestern.edu/research/labs/soqic/opportunities.html>). The advanced degree tuition will be fully funded. Applicants are not required to enroll in degree programs if a similar-level degree has already been achieved.

Prior fellows have had very successful research experiences including numerous presentations (e.g., American Surgical Association, American College of Surgeons), first author publications (e.g., JAMA, Annals of Surgery), and successful grant acquisitions (e.g., NIH, American Cancer Society). The work done during the fellowship has launched very successful research careers and has helped residents secure coveted clinical fellowships, faculty positions, and funding. The SOQIC Research Fellowship is a unique opportunity that allows the surgical resident to gain firsthand experience in outcomes and health services research methodology, as well as in practical quality and process improvement work. The program also prepares the Fellow for a career in academic surgery with a focus on national surgical healthcare issues. Strong preference will be given to candidates with prior research experience. One-year fellowships will not be considered. Applicants must be U.S. citizens or residents.

About SOQIC:

The Northwestern Surgical Outcomes and Quality Improvement Center is a nationally recognized multi-disciplinary research group consisting of more than 20 faculty, staff, and fellows. Our research focuses on examining the quality of care delivered across the United States and subsequently developing strategies to improve healthcare quality with national, regional, and local quality improvement research and practical initiatives. Research at SOQIC in 2014 led to 31 publications in high impact journals, including six featured in *JAMA*, and most had research fellows as the first author.

Link to 2014 SOQIC Publications ([Display the 31 citations in PubMed](#))

Link to all SOQIC Publications on PubMed: <http://1.usa.gov/1AMAn7x>

Current initiatives at SOQIC include:

Illinois Surgical Quality Improvement Collaborative (ISQIC)

ISQIC is a collaborative partnership of over 50 hospitals, the Illinois and Metropolitan Chicago Chapters of the American College of Surgeons, the American College of Surgeons National Surgical Quality Improvement Program (ACS NSQIP), Blue Cross Blue Shield of Illinois, and the Surgical Outcomes and Quality Improvement Center (SOQIC), working together to improve the quality of surgical care through novel approaches for process and quality improvement, including cluster-randomized trials of quality improvement initiatives. For more information, please visit <http://www.isqic.org>.

Flexibility in Duty Hour Requirements for Surgical Trainees Trial –“The FIRST Trial”

The FIRST trial is a national cluster randomized trial examining resident duty hour policies. The trial involves 152 hospitals and is sponsored and jointly funded by the American Board of Surgery (ABS), the American College of Surgeons (ACS), and the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME). The study aims to determine whether the current restrictions on resident duty hours may be detrimental to patient care and resident training. For more information, please visit <http://www.theFIRSTtrial.org>.

Please contact us if you have any questions:

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Application and Instructions

- Download application from SOQIC website
<http://www.surgery.northwestern.edu/research/labs/soqic/opportunities.html>

Timeline for position starting July 1, 2016

Application deadline	May 1, 2015
Interview notification	May 15, 2015
Interview Process	June 1–15, 2015
Notification of appointment	June 30, 2015
Start date	July 1, 2016