2016 SNMMI Robert E. Henkin Government Relations Fellowship

Application Window: TBD

Description

It is essential for any highly regulated profession to have leaders who have an understanding—gained first hand—of the challenges that the practice of nuclear medicine faces. In America today, we produce a great number of skilled professionals. But too few of these individuals provide society with statesmanlike leadership and guidance in the public affairs arena.

The Robert E. Henkin Fellowship is designed to provide young professionals in nuclear medicine and molecular imaging direct personal exposure to government relations activities of the SNMMI as well as the state and federal legislative and regulatory process. The Fellowship is designed to provide gifted and highly motivated young nuclear and molecular imaging professionals with firsthand experience in the process of health policy development. For the purpose of this proposal, a young professional shall be defined as a resident or fellow (physician), a scientist or technologist who has completed their training within the last 10 years. Professionals who have been in the field for longer than ten years are not eligible.

Applications for the 2015 program will be accepted starting on September 1, 2014 with a closing date for submission of December 31, 2014. The Fellow will be selected at the SNMMI Mid-Winter meeting in San Antonio, TX, with the Fellowship week to occur at a time mutually agreed upon between February 1, 2015, and June 30, 2015. Expenses for the week will be paid and a stipend provided.

SCOPE

The fellow will spend 5 days in the SNMMI Department of Health Policy and Regulatory Affairs (HPRA). The fellow will be supervised by the Director of HPRA or his/her designate. The fellow will also have a mentor who is a member of the SNMMI’s Committee on Government Affairs, or other professional volunteer. The mentor will be designated by the Director of HPRA by mutual consent of the fellow and mentor. The Director of HPRA will be responsible for direct supervision of the fellow, whereas the mentor will serve as an additional educational resource. It is expected that the mentor and fellow will talk by phone, with the option of the mentor making a one-day visit to SNMMI headquarters during the program.
The fellowship will include:
1. Selected reading on the Congressional legislative process
2. Education about public policy development by SNMMI staff and mentor
3. Legislative education day spent on Capitol Hill
4. Regulatory education day spent at CMS and FDA
5. Regulatory education day spent at NIH and NRC
6. Focused education and experience in one area of public policy

The fellow will also be appointed to the SNMMI/ACNM Committee on Government Relations, to serve a term no less than one year.

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES

Day 1 - SNMMI Orientation- The first day will be spent meeting with the relevant senior staff for SNMMI: CEO, HPRA, and Communications with the following learning objectives:
• The role of professional societies in public policy development
• The role of advocacy in public policy development
• The role of Congress in public policy development
• The role of federal regulatory agencies in public policy development
• The role of the media in public policy development

Day 2 - Legislative Education Day - A day will be spent on Capitol Hill - the learning objectives will include:
• Attend a Congressional hearing
• Shadow a Legislative Aide to gain a greater understanding of the depth and breadth of the issues that a Congressional office faces and the multitude of outside entities trying to influence judgment
• Learn how a bill REALLY becomes a law
• Lobby Members of Congress

Day 3 - CMS and FDA Day - Spend the day with HPRA staff traveling to CMS and FDA with the following learning objectives:
• Learn the various stages of the rulemaking process
• Meet with CMS and FDA experts on how to navigate the agencies
• Meet with CMS and FDA personnel to learn the inner workings of the agencies
Day 4 - NIH and NRC Day - Spend the day with HPRA staff traveling to NIH and NRC with the following learning objectives:
• Learn the various stages of the rulemaking process plus gain insight into how political pressure influences the process
• Meet with NIH and NRC experts on how to navigate the agencies
• Meet with NIH and NRC personnel to learn the inner workings of the agencies

Day 5 - Wrap-Up at SNMMI - Spend the day putting learning into practice with the following learning objectives:
• Identify a policy issue of interest and relevance to the candidate and SNMMI; then draft a policy position statement
• Identify action items to take home to implement in every day work life

POST FELLOWSHIP ACTIVITIES

Fellows are expected to return to their occupations more experienced in public policy decisionmaking and better prepared to contribute to the practice of nuclear medicine and molecular imaging. Fellows are expected to apply what they have learned by becoming a health policy leader in their respective communities, and being a resource for SNMMI.

As a member of the SNMMI/ ACNM Committee on Government Relations, the fellow will participate in conference calls, meetings, and other activities of the committee. The fellow is expected to keep a log of all activities while serving on the committee.

PROGRAM OUTCOME MEASURES

One month after completion of the program, the fellow will:
• Provide a written summary and analysis of the fellowship experience, including suggestions how the fellowship could be improved
• Provide a written update on the selected public policy issue of interest specifically stating any new information and what types of activities have been undertaken to demonstrate additional learning on the public policy issue
• Write an article for JNM Newsline highlighting the fellowship Experience

Six months after completion of the program, the fellow will:
• Provide a written update on the public policy issue he/she selected • Provide a written update on any public policy activities undertaken
• Join the SNM Grassroots network and become a liaison to state and federal policy makers
• Write an article for JNM Newsline highlighting the public policy issue he/she selected
Requirements

Applicants will be asked to provide curriculum vitae, and a written statement of their interest in health policy and regulatory affairs. Two letters of recommendation in support of the application may be submitted, but will not be required. U.S. citizenship or U.S. residency is required.

Fellowship assignments demand a capacity for quick learning and a willingness to work hard, often on issues outside an individual's area of expertise.

Selection will be based on a combination of the following criteria:
• Record of professional achievement in one's career • Evidence of leadership skills and the potential for further growth
• Demonstrated commitment to public service evidenced by prior government relations positions (campaign volunteers, chapter activities etc)
• Sincere desire to achieve the goals and objectives of the Fellowship in the form of an essay on why the applicant thinks they should be selected.
• Skills to succeed at the highest levels in nuclear medicine and molecular imaging, and the ability to work effectively as part of a team
• Exceptional writing ability, a positive attitude, and strong leadership skills.

Serious applicants only, please. Questions regarding eligibility requirements or application contents should be directed to the Development Department, at developmenttemp@snmmi.org or at 703-326-1194