

## **AVA SCHOLARS PROGRAM APPLICATIONS DUE APRIL 1, 2014**

### **Purpose:**

The Academy on Violence and Abuse (AVA) Scholars Program is a mentorship program designed to improve the ability of junior researchers to conduct high quality research and to enter into productive careers focused on understanding and minimizing the effects of violence and abuse on people's health.

### **Rationale:**

- Violence and abuse are prevalent and adversely affect health across the life-course.
- One approach to mitigate the impact of violence and abuse on health is to advance research on the prevention, recognition, and treatment of the health effects of violence and abuse.
- The number of researchers conducting this work is relatively small and funding is scarce.
- One way to improve researchers' success is to provide role models and mentors to junior violence researchers

### **AVA Scholars Program:**

- The Program will select two AVA scholars in 2014. To be eligible, applicants must:
  - Be an active AVA member
  - Plan to pursue violence-related research and have a specific project for which they would like senior mentor input
  - Be at an early stage in their career (includes post-doctoral fellows and junior faculty within 5 years of completion of terminal degree)
  - International candidates may be accepted if they are physically located within the US for the 2 yrs duration of the program
- Because they already have demonstrated research expertise, former or current principal investigators on an NIH R01 research project or the equivalent are not eligible to apply.
- Each AVA Scholar is matched with a mentor who will provide support for the 2014-15 and 2015-16 years. Mentors are educators and/or researchers working in the field of violence or abuse who have strong mentorship abilities, experience with research and who are committed to the program. Mentors will provide support about: a specific research project identified by the scholar; career advice and guidance; other challenges typical of violence-related research (working with IRBs, applying for grant funding, etc).
- AVA scholars and their mentors will meet in person during AVA conference meetings and will have continued contact, at a minimum monthly, via phone. In between phone meetings, the AVA scholar and his/her mentor will remain in touch via email.
- AVA scholars will be recognized at the 2015 AVA meeting and their registration will be waived. In addition, Scholars will attend the pre-conference faculty development institute at no cost.
- An outcome expectation is that AVA Scholars will present the project for which they received mentorship through the AVA Scholars program at the 2016 AVA conference. The scholar will be provided registration, domestic travel and lodging to attend this meeting.
- The findings from this project also should be submitted to a peer-reviewed journal.

## **AVA SCHOLARS APPLICATION**

Please complete the attached application. Also include a CV in your application, and have two letters of recommendation emailed to Karla Vaughan (email address below). Finally, a letter from the applicant's supervisor expressing commitment to the proposed course of work is required.

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_  
Email \_\_\_\_\_  
Current position \_\_\_\_\_

Please describe in 600 words or less your current position, research area and future career plans.

Please describe in 600 words or less a research project about which you would benefit from having the input of an expert mentor. Include research objectives, methods, and a proposed timeline.

Please describe in 350 words or less how being an AVA Scholar would benefit your current research and future career.

### **Selection Criteria**

The following factors are considered in the selection process:

- Evidence of the potential for, and strong commitment to, a career addressing the health effects of violence and abuse.
- Evidence of the potential to become a national leader in addressing the health effects of violence and abuse.
- General merit of the candidate's research proposal.
  - Potential of the proposed research to advance understanding of the health effects of violence and abuse; and
  - Potential of the proposed research to serve as a launching point in the candidate's career.
- Final selection must be approved by the entire AVA Board.
- The selection committee values and will prioritize diversity across multiple dimensions, such as race, ethnicity, gender, age and disadvantaged socioeconomic status. We strongly encourage applications from candidates who will help us expand the perspectives and experiences we bring to our work. We believe that the more we include diverse perspectives and experiences related to the health effects of violence and abuse, the better able we are to help all Americans live healthier lives.

- As an organization, AVA is multidisciplinary and our goal is to have Scholars reflect this diversity of health professions.

**Evaluation and Monitoring** Individuals selected as AVA Scholars must participate in AVA conference meetings and provide an annual progress report. The scholars will be required to complete AVA's requirements for program evaluation and annual and final reports.

**Program Contact:** Please forward applications to Karla Vaughan at [Karla@AVAhealth.org](mailto:Karla@AVAhealth.org)

### **About the Academy on Violence and Abuse**

AVA is an academic, health-professional membership-based organization dedicated to making violence and abuse a core component of medical and related professional education.

Violence and abuse have been viewed predominately as criminal justice or social welfare issues with a focus on stopping crime, prosecuting criminals and treating the victims' immediate physical wounds. Criminal justice systems, however, are not designed to address the full spectrum of health care needs of victims of violence and abuse. Subtle forms of violence and abuse such as verbal abuse and neglect are rarely recognized or deemed serious enough to be classified as criminal behavior. Still, these less obvious cases of abuse require prevention and contribute to serious health problems, which warrant professional treatment.

**Without formal training, health care professionals often lack knowledge and understanding about the issues surrounding violence and abuse, and are inexperienced in recognizing related physical and emotional health symptoms. Instead, health problems resulting from abuse are often attributed to unrelated factors — or worse yet, to nothing at all.**

For these reasons, AVA is creating dialogue, raising awareness and promoting changes in the way the issues of violence and abuse are addressed in health professional education and its academic communities.

AVA intends to enhance the infrastructure of health care education and highlight the pivotal role health care professionals play in addressing these critical issues, ultimately reframing the limited view of violence and abuse into one that establishes them as critical health care issues.

For more information, visit <http://www.avahealth.org>.