

# **American Association of Chairs of Departments of Psychiatry CHAIR'S FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM**

## **PURPOSE:**

To establish a mentorship program for senior faculty who are either considering becoming psychiatry chair and /or are almost ready to be nominated for a chair of an academic department of psychiatry.

## **BACKGROUND:**

The American Association of Chairs of Departments of Psychiatry (AACDP) promotes the growth and development of psychiatry. In addition to providing a forum for exchange among current academic chairs, AACDP seeks to promote and develop Chair leadership in Psychiatry. Recent efforts to increase and diversify membership, as well as becoming more inclusive of other organizations (e.g., for the upcoming meeting with AAP) provide a platform for AACDP to become a more organized and potentially a more influential group. A key aspect of this is the recruitment of new chairs into AACDP. In recent years, Drs. Daniel Winstead, Stuart Munro, Joel Silverman and several other chairs, have devoted considerable effort to providing an orientation program for new chairs. This program has been universally acknowledged as beneficial and successful. Now is an opportune time to consider a mentorship program for aspiring chairs.

An announcement will be sent to all chairs of academic departments inviting them to nominate a suitable candidate. Appropriate candidates would include current Vice-Chairs as well as other senior faculty who are at a stage of their career where considering a Chair position is an appropriate aspiration. Candidates will be reviewed by the AACDP Executive Committee. Two candidates will be selected in any given year.

## **PROGRAM OUTLINE:**

The fellowship program will have three components:

1. Attendance at AACDP meetings and activities during the fellowship year
  - Annual and Fall AACDP meetings
  - New Chair Orientation program at the Fall Meeting
  - AACDP Executive Committee meetings and conference calls
  - Any other AACDP related activities (e.g., retreats, academic consortium)
2. Mentorship by a chair member of AACDP to include one or two week-long visits to the chair's institution.
3. Some scholarly/administrative activity relevant to the role of a chair. This could be decided upon in consultation with the proposed chair mentor.

## **CHAIR'S FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM**

### **APPLICATION AND SELECTION PROCESS:**

Nominations are made by Chairs of Departments of Psychiatry. The application consists of:

1. A one page letter of nomination from the candidate's chair of his/her Department of Psychiatry explaining how this applicant can most benefit from this program.
2. A letter (no longer than 2 pages) from the candidate describing his/her career trajectory and current interest in becoming a chair. The letter should include the name of the proposed chair who will be the chair mentor during the fellowship. It is the responsibility of the candidate to contact the proposed chair mentor and seek his/her approval in advance of submitting an application. The letter should also include some indication of the scholarly/administrative activity that the candidate would be interested in pursuing during the fellowship.
3. Candidate's CV

### **APPLICATION DEADLINE AND NOTIFICATION:**

Applications must be received by email to the AACDP Executive Office by March 21, 2009. A hard copy of the application must also be sent to the AACDP Executive Office. The selected fellow will be notified in early April 2009. The fellowship will commence May 2009 and be completed in May 2010. The fellows will be recognized at the May 2009 AACDP meeting.

### **AACDP FINANCIAL SUPPORT:**

The AACDP will provide \$1,000 stipend toward the fellowship. Remaining fees are the responsibility of the nominating institution.

### **Please send all application materials to:**

Lucille Meinsler  
AACDP Executive Office  
1594 Cumberland Street, c/o#319  
Lebanon, PA 17042  
Phone: 717-270-1673  
[aacdp@verizon.net](mailto:aacdp@verizon.net)