

# Iowa City VA Quality Scholars Program



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# What is VAQS?

- 2-year fellowship
- 9 active sites across the US, as an affiliate site in Toronto, Canada
- Strong interprofessional emp



# The program

- The VA Quality Scholars Program (VAQS) is a two-year national interdisciplinary program that focuses on training the fellows on healthcare quality improvement research and scholarship, operations leadership, and teaching quality and safety.
- The program is funded by the VA Office of Academic Affiliates (OAA).

# Eligibility Criteria

- US citizenship
- Not currently enrolled in an accredited clinical training program
- Interested in having a VA career with an emphasis on improving the quality and safety
- Physicians, nurses, pharmacists, or other healthcare providers with doctorate degrees



# Benefits

## VAQS Fellowship Benefits

The benefits of our program are numerous. But here are just a few highlights.

- ✓ Two-year healthcare improvement & leadership curriculum
- ✓ Networking with national experts & leaders
- ✓ Professional development
- ✓ Expansive alumni network
- ✓ Stipend and federal government benefits
- ✓ Data analysis training and consultation

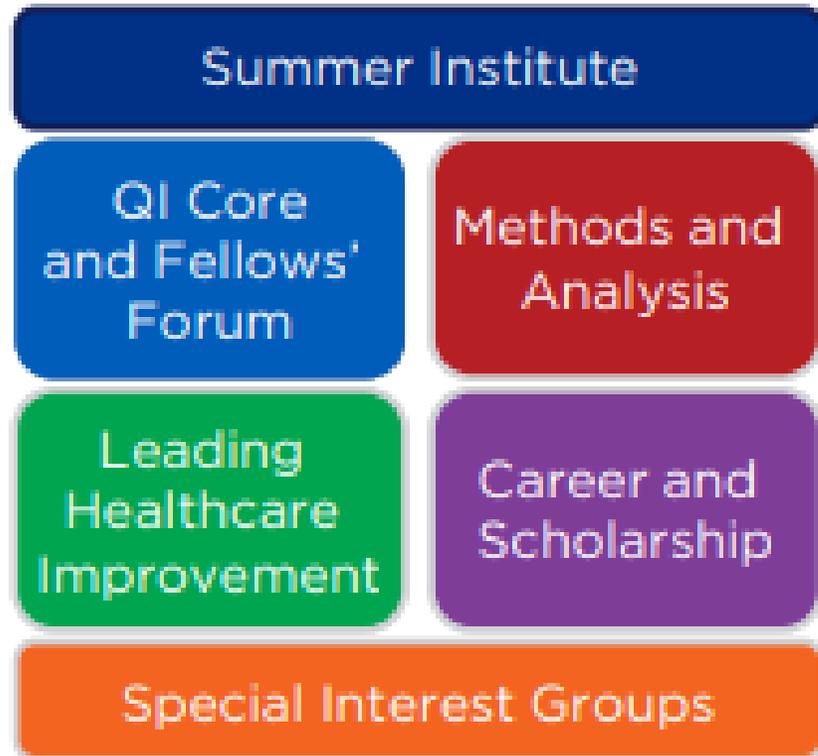


# Additional Opportunities

- Access to Yellow Belt and/or Green Belt Quality Improvement training
- Networking with quality and safety scholars from nine national VA sites
- Tailored/individualized mentoring
- Potential for mentoring others on quality improvement projects

# VAQS Training Program ▼

## National Curriculum



## Site-Level Training



# Prior Projects



Outpatient Clinic Creation for Follow-up of Inpatient Antibiotics



Palliative Care in Nephrology



Patient Safety Event Reporting in Trainees

# Prior Projects

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Homeless Veterans'  
Referral Streamlining

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Skin Cancer Care  
Optimization for Veterans

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HIV Risk Identification  
and Prevention

# Current Projects

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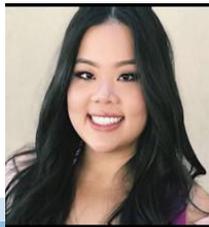
Fall Prevention in Home-based Primary Care

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Patient Self-Management of Low Back Pain

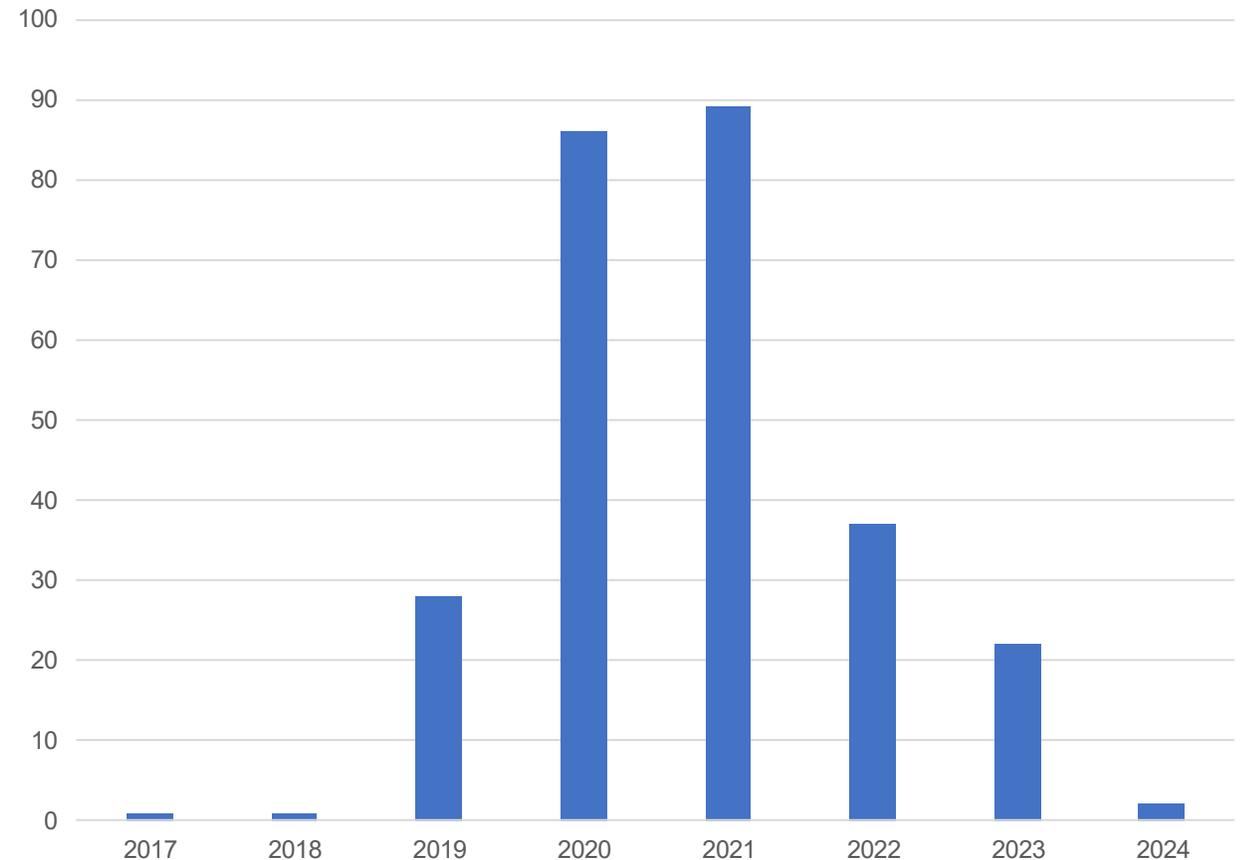
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Improving C diff Infection Rates

## Over 200 Articles Have Been Authored by VAQS Fellows Over Five Years

- There are 222 MEDLINE-indexed publications by 19 VAQS fellows who have graduated or are about to graduate between 2019 and 2024, during their time in fellowship
- 32 of these publications are first or last author publications



# Some Examples of Our Scholarly Work

> Clin Microbiol Infect. 2023 Aug;29(8):1039-1044. doi: 10.1016/j.cmi.2023.03.009. Epub 2023 Mar 12.

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> Antimicrob Steward Healthc Epidemiol. 2023 Oct 19;3(1):e169. doi: 10.1017/ash.2023.458.  
eCollection 2023.

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> J Knee Surg. 2024 Apr 10. doi: 10.1055/s-0044-1786021. Online ahead of print.

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Michael  
Daniel E  
Affiliation  
PMID: 38

> J Clin Rheumatol. 2022 Mar 1;28(2):62-68. doi: 10.1097/RHU.0000000000001800.

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> JMIR Res Protoc. 2022 Jan 4;11(1):e32635. doi: 10.2196/32635.

> Am J Med Qual. 2023 Jan-Feb;38(1):68-69. doi: 10.1097/JMQ.000000000000100.  
Epub 2022 Nov 14.

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## Preventing Opioid-Related Toxicity at a Regional VA Medical Center: A Resident-Led Interprofessional Quality Improvement Project

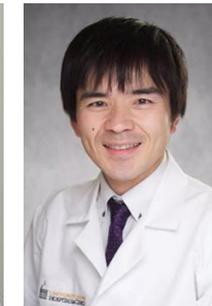
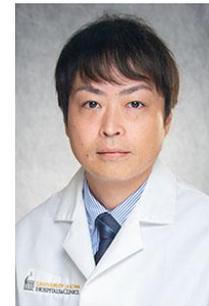
Kathie Zhang <sup>1</sup>, Jeremy Zhang <sup>1</sup>, Tommy Robinson <sup>1</sup>, Michael C Sauer <sup>1</sup>, Sarah Van Dorin <sup>1</sup>,  
Lauren Zabel <sup>1</sup>, Yvonne De Sloover Koch <sup>2</sup>, Matthew D Soltys <sup>1 2 3</sup>

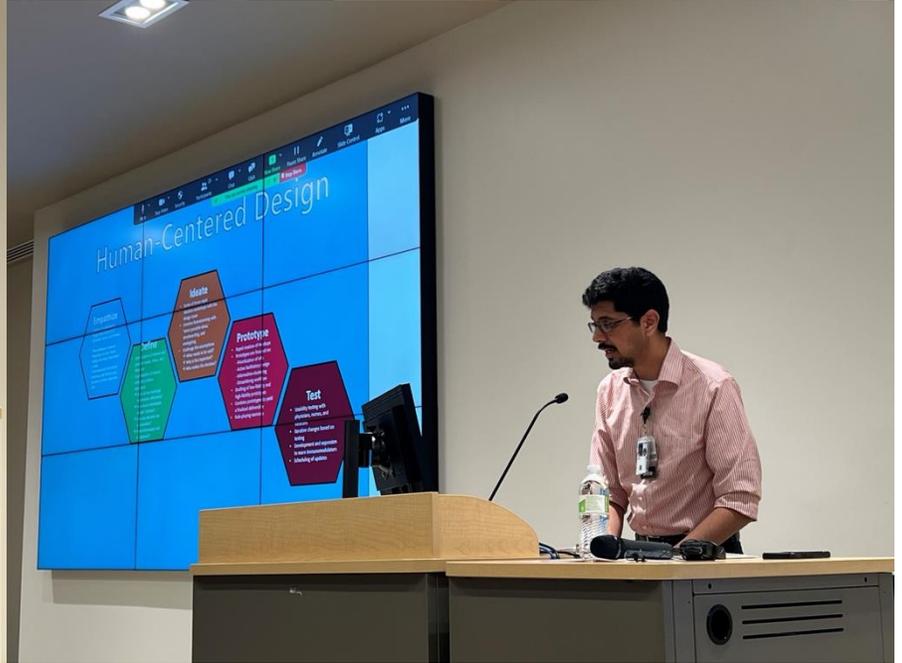
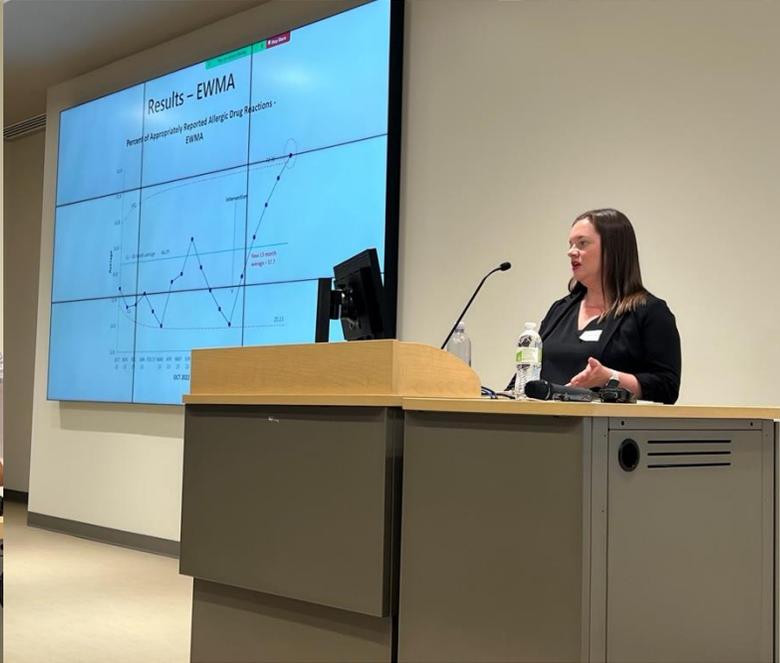
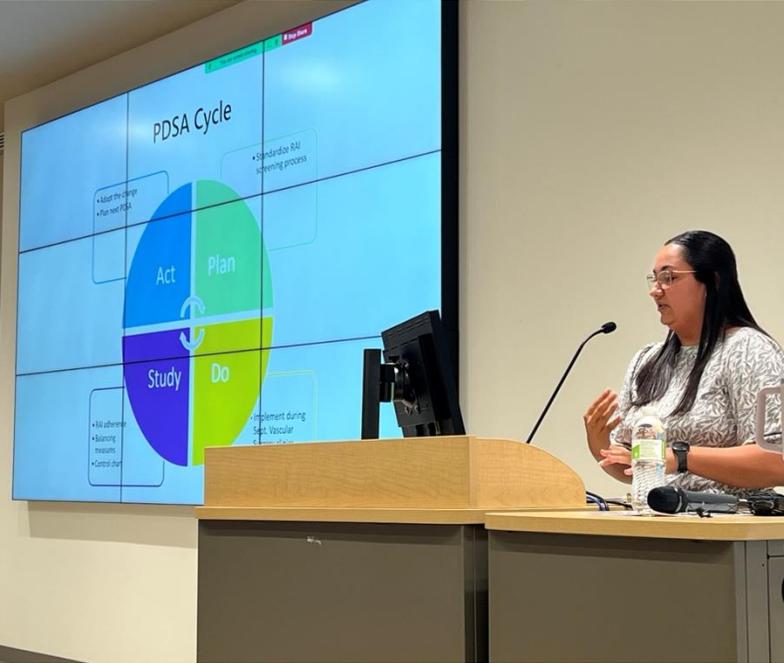
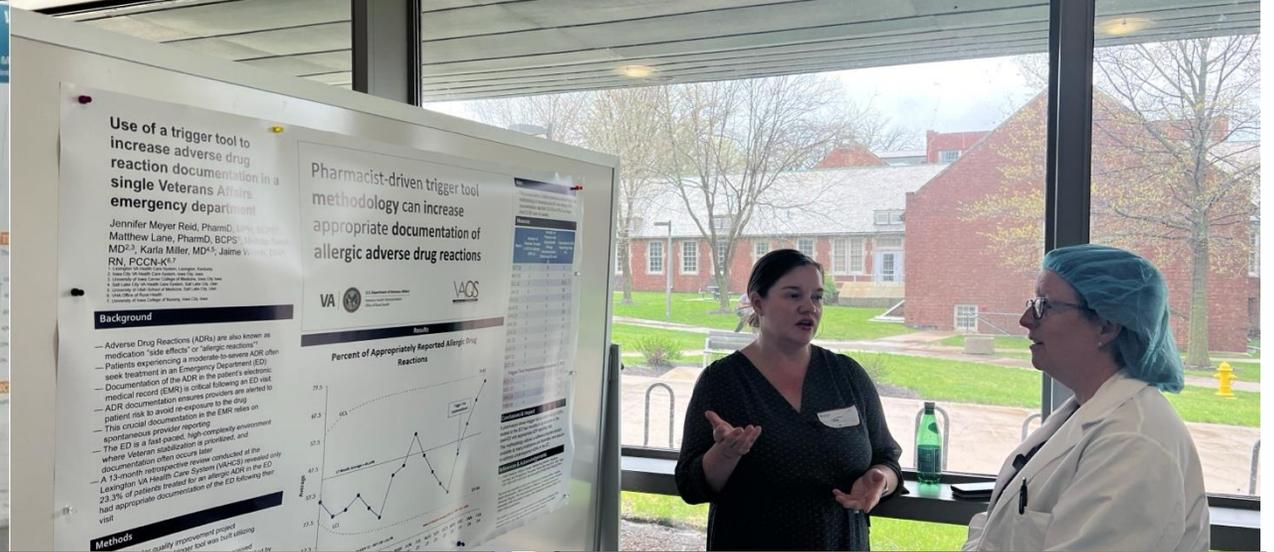
Affiliations + expand

PMID: 36367525 DOI: 10.1097/JMQ.000000000000100

# VAQS Program: Paving the Way for Professional Accomplishment

- ▶ Iowa Implementation for Sustainability Framework
- ▶ Associate Quality Officer for Adult Inpatient Services
- ▶ Director of Telenephrology
- ▶ VA Section Chief
- ▶ Hospital Epidemiologist
- ▶ Executive Director, Office of Rural Health





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For more information  
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