

Clive Kearon Guideline Fellowship

The Clive Kearon Guideline Fellowship aims to acquaint early career clinicians with key aspects of guideline development, dissemination, and implementation. The program honors a key contributor to CHEST guidelines, Clive Kearon, MD, PhD, and aims to build a group of engaged and informed clinicians who understand the complexity of the guideline development process and challenges for maximizing widespread dissemination and implementation.

During their term of service, fellows will support the efforts of the Guidelines Oversight Committee (GOC) and CHEST guideline staff by understanding how to develop valuable, patient-oriented health care questions; perform and review systematic reviews; critically evaluate and assess quality of research studies; develop evidence-based, implementable guideline recommendations; and understand strategies to maximize guideline dissemination and implementation. Those fellows who are highly engaged and effective will have opportunities to continue to work with CHEST guidelines in a variety of roles, such as a guideline panelist, guideline methodologist, or a member of the GOC.

OVERVIEW

The CHEST organization supports the involvement of one early career clinician in a two-year fellowship. After the fellowship period, successful individuals will enjoy opportunities to continue to engaged with CHEST Guidelines and the GOC, guideline panel participation, and other endeavors related to guideline development, methodology, dissemination, and implementation. The Kearon Fellow is mentored by the GOC Vice-Chair and will receive guideline methodology training from the CHEST guideline staff. Work for this fellowship is remote, with travel to the CHEST Headquarters and select conferences as noted.

ELIGIBILITY

Eligibility is extended to individuals with doctoral degrees (MD, DO, PhD, or the equivalent) who have completed their training. Individuals must have a strong interest in guideline development, dissemination, and implementation.

APPLICATION PROCESS

Candidates will be asked to submit the following:

- One-two page statement of interest that addresses the following questions:
 - What are your long-term career goals and clinical or research areas of interest?
 - How will this fellowship allow you to further those goals?
 - Discuss how you are uniquely positioned to support and advance CHEST through participation in CHEST guidelines.
- 300-word biosketch
- Curriculum vitae
- Two letters of support (one letter must be from a division chief)

The GOC Chair and Vice-Chair, CHEST guideline staff, and other key GOC members and staff will screen candidates, and finalists will undergo an interview.

CURRICULUM/KEY ACTIVITIES

The following curriculum and activities represent the major opportunities available, but the program can be tailored to the interests of the selected individual.

Society and Guideline Overview: CHEST Headquarters (Glenview, Illinois)

Learning Objectives:

1. Differentiate the role of the organizational staff, leadership, and volunteer staff.
2. Navigate CHEST's organizational structure, including key staff roles, leadership, and committee governance.
3. Understand the overall guideline development process, and identify the key workflow stages.
4. Determine pathways for handling different types of documents related to guidelines (eg clinical practice guidelines, expert panel reports, technical statements).
5. Understand CHEST guidelines in the larger context of the organization's goals and mission.
6. Articulate an overview of steps in developing a clinical practice guideline.
7. Leverage software and systems to support guideline development.

GRADE Guideline Development Workshop (TBD)

Learning Objectives:

1. Explore key principles of evidence-based medicine and guideline development.
2. Facilitate the basic principles of guideline methodology based on the Grading of Recommendations, Assessment, Development, and Evaluation (GRADE) approach.
3. Effectively read a systematic review and conduct a systematic review using meta-analysis.
4. Develop expertise in GRADE, including critically appraising evidence, grading evidence quality, and moving from evidence to recommendation.
5. Create evidence profiles using the GRADE approach.
6. Determine the strength of a recommendation and overall evidence quality for a recommendation.

International Guideline Credentialing and Certification Program (Online)

Learning Objectives:

1. Understand and describe the evidence-based methods to developing practice guidelines.
2. Explore how to apply evidence-based methods to a guideline.
3. Learn how to lead a guideline panel in reaching consensus on a recommendation for health questions.
4. Learn how to participate in a clinical practice guideline in a variety of roles: panelist, methodologist, and/or chair.

Other Travel

The Fellow will be required to attend the CHEST Annual Meeting. Additionally, the Fellow will be required to attend guideline-specific meetings on an ad hoc basis.

Self-Study

The Kearon Fellow will participate in self-study to learn about key aspects of evaluating and developing systematic reviews and GRADE methodology. The recommended self-study program includes engagement in reading and online activities. See Appendix for proposed resources.

RESPONSIBILITIES

General Participation

The Kearon Fellow will join the monthly calls of the GOC and take on needs that emerge. The Fellow will also have a role in the development of at least one guideline, which will require contributing to performing systematic reviews, evaluating and synthesizing available evidence, presenting data to guideline panelists, and formulating guideline recommendations. The Fellow will be a coauthor on any systematic reviews and guidelines they contribute to in accordance with the International Committee of Medical Journal Editors (ICMJE) criteria.

Clinical Practice Guideline Review

The Kearon Fellow will conduct reviews of clinical practice guidelines and discuss comments and feedback with the GOC Chair and Director of Guidelines and Statements.

Clinical Practice Guideline Development

The key project to be undertaken during the fellowship term will be providing methodology support for a CHEST Clinical Practice Guideline. This will include the development of a systematic review that will serve as the basis of the guideline. With guidance from a senior methodologist, the Fellow will be involved with formulating questions with the guideline panel, performing a systematic review of the literature, assessing the quality of individual studies, extracting and synthesizing data pertaining to each question, and formulating guideline recommendations and overall quality of evidence. CHEST methodology staff will provide direction and support at key intervals. The final systematic review and guideline will be submitted to the *CHEST*[®] journal for potential publication.

Program Evaluation

The Kearon Fellow will be asked to provide periodic feedback and, at the culmination of the program, will submit an overall evaluation that addresses whether the experience matched initial expectations and enabled the participant to further their originally stated goals. The Fellow will have an opportunity to offer recommendations for program improvements.

TIMELINE

May 2025	Announce fellowship
June 2025	Application deadline
July 2025	Fellowship candidate selected
January 1, 2026	Beginning of fellowship period
December 31, 2027	Conclusion of fellowship period

APPENDIX: ADDITIONAL SELF STUDY RESOURCES

Online Coursework

- [GRADE Online Learning Modules](#)
- [Introduction to Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis](#) from Johns Hopkins School of Public Health
- [Conducting an Intervention Review](#) from Cochrane Interactive Learning

Online Resources

- [PRISMA Statement](#)
- Cochrane Education Video titled [What are Systematic Reviews?](#)
- [GRADE Handbook](#)

Articles

- Hassan MD. Clinical practice guidelines: a primer on development and dissemination. *Mayo Clin Proc.* 2017;92(3):423-433. doi: 10.1016/j.mayocp.2017.01.001 (and [video supplement](#) to this article)
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- Brunetti M, Shemilt I, Pregno S, et al. GRADE guidelines: 10. Considering resource use and rating the quality of economic evidence. *J Clin Epidemiol*. 2013;66(2):140-150. Preprint. Posted online August 3, 2012. doi: 10.1016/j.jclinepi.2012.04.012
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