



TRAUMA CENTER

Association of America

ADVOCACY • FINANCE • OPERATIONS

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TCAA TRAUMA FINANCE FELLOWSHIP GUIDELINES

Dear TCAA Trauma Program or Business Manager:

In 2008, the TCAA Board of Directors approved a "once-in-a-lifetime" educational opportunity for trauma program managers seeking to build upon their existing business acumen in trauma finance through a two-week fellowship funded by the TCAA. This exclusive TCAA member opportunity includes working directly with TCAA staff and president to build confidence and knowledge to assist the selected fellow with the business skills needed for decision support and to build a finance base for trauma programs using available data and reports.

The selected fellows participate in assisting staff to respond to member queries for information and data, TCAA committee conference calls, and confer with the president on TCAA member advisory conference calls. The fellowship awardees also spend time with the TCAA staff to build knowledge in developing study instruments, organizing data bases, outlining study reports, and screening study responses for unusual or outlier data. The fellows join the president in conference calls with individual members to advise them as to the ramifications of their data and to gain insight into the application of available information into action plans.

Other activities include responding to TCAA member emails and participating in scheduled calls related to trauma response charges, program compensation, designation/verification issues as well as the orientation of new members.

Trauma Fellowship Program

Objective

To increase the number of trauma program leaders who are knowledgeable about trauma center finance and operational issues using the tools and technical materials available through the TCAA.

Issue

There are no existing educational programs, either on-site or on-line, that can provide a seasoned trauma program manager/director with advanced knowledge about the fiscal and operational issues facing trauma centers and systems at the hospital, state and federal levels. The vast majority of trauma program leaders arise from the clinical path and are often not adequately prepared for the business challenges they must embrace for their program to survive much less thrive.

The TCAA President and staff have a broad range of knowledge and skills that are shared through education, conference calls, email, publications and web postings. These interactions are brief and do not constitute comprehensive exposure to TCAA perspectives, activities, technical data and advisory conversations which occur on a daily basis.

This program offers a means to instill TCAA fiscal philosophies and management advisory skills into a core group of trauma professionals, primarily focused on trauma program managers who have a sustained career path in trauma and are seeking to integrate trauma center fiscal management into their skill set and future professional development.

Application

Interested applicants should apply promptly using the enclosed form or electronically through email. All applications will be reviewed by the Member Services Committee using an objective scoring method to ensure that this opportunity meets the needs of the applicant as well as TCAA objectives. Applicants also agree to a scheduled telephone interview, if advised by the committee, to assure that the fellowship is a good match for the candidate's learning objectives and skill set.

Eligibility

Applicants must be employed with a TCAA member hospital. They should understand the importance of TCAA's mission and be familiar with TCAA's services through their professional experience. Support and approval from their current employer, if needed, prior to applying for and/or accepting a TCAA fellowship is necessary.

Terms of Fellowship

TCAA offers two (2) fellowships per year unless otherwise approved by the board. Over the term of this on-site fellowship with TCAA staff, guided by a standardized orientation defined by the Education Committee, the fellows spend two work weeks in Mooresville, NC. Key factors for selection of the fellow would include career longevity and long-term goals, commitment to the trauma field, identification of readiness to learn including attainment of other educational objectives, ability to apply lessons learned through networking, and selection of professional goals and projects. Fellows must participate in a timely written evaluation of the process and outcome of the fellowship program to ensure an ongoing cycle of performance improvement for each successful participant.

Each Fellow will work to complete a fellowship program project within six months of the conclusion of their visit. The fellowship project may be presented by the fellow as a webinar or conference presentation. Final format will be determined by TCAA administration. Fellows will receive an Annual Meeting registration, plus travel and lodging for the next conference year.

Fellowship Benefits

The TCAA offers CE contact hours for time spent on educational efforts, consistent with educational objectives being met and a post-evaluation completed by the participant. Fellows are eligible for a total stipend of \$2,000 for participation in the program. TCAA pays \$2,000 upon the completion of the fellowship writing and research project within a six-month timeframe. Transportation and lodging expenses are included as arranged by TCAA staff. Fellows are reimbursed for reasonable and customary expenses including rental car, not to exceed \$3,000. The fellowship timeframe will be subject to TCAA's workload, so that the fellow receives the attention appropriate to justify their time and educational experience.

The Fellow is invited to participate in year-round TCAA activities, which may include face-to-face and virtual meetings. Specific work may be assigned to the fellows based on individual skill sets. During the TCAA Annual Lobby Day, in Washington, D.C., the fellows will be invited to participate in our advocacy efforts to educate legislators about trauma care and promote related legislation. Transportation and lodging expenses are included as arranged by TCAA staff. It is also recommended, for each fellow to select a TCAA committee to serve on for a three-year term. Committee participation will offer opportunities for the fellow to continue to learn and network with peers.

Sincerely,



Jennifer Ward, MBA, RN
TCAA President