



2015 APS Nicaragua-U.S. Partnered Research Program

The Heysell Thomas Fellowship partners a senior Nicaraguan medical student and an experienced U.S. medical student or Master's student in global health related sciences to work with Atención Primaria en Salud (APS) in Managua and affiliated rural Nicaraguan sites to study elements of the APS health-care delivery model. The fellowship was designed to encourage a paired research experience with students from Nicaragua and the U.S. within an organization dedicated to community-based primary health care and social equity. The fellowship award for the Nicaraguan student spans an entire academic year in which the student will regularly work onsite with APS staff. For the U.S. student, the fellowship principally supports an 8-12 week onsite project in collaboration with the Nicaraguan student-partner.

Prospective Nicaraguan student-partners will apply locally through the UNAN Managua Facultad de Medicina. Prospective U.S. student-partners are eligible to apply from any U.S. School of Medicine or degree conferring institution in Master's level global health related sciences. Both Nicaraguan and U.S. student-partners must apply the fellowship experience toward fulfilling a scholarly requirement of their degree. U.S. partner-students must also demonstrate fluency in Spanish language and preference is given to students with previous work or volunteer experience in resource-limited settings. Both Nicaraguan and U.S. partner-students will identify an advisor at their institution that will provide a letter of support that details the student's aptitude for achievement, readiness for the experience, and how the fellowship will fulfill a scholarly necessity.

APS projects promote health as a universal value and largely involve a growing network of Community Health Promoters in underserved districts of Managua and rural municipalities throughout the country. In these settings, APS works closely with the Ministry of Health to advance common aims. As such, the U.S. student-partner will join an ongoing research project as defined by the Nicaraguan mentor and student-partner with guidance from the Ministry of Health. Consequently, the U.S. student-partner application does not require a research proposal. If awarded the fellowship, the U.S. student-partner will have an opportunity to communicate with the Nicaraguan student-partner and the APS team well in advance of their planned travel. The amount of pre-travel interaction will depend upon the U.S. student-partner's availability, but at a minimum will establish project aims and a timeline for achievement.

Prospective U.S. student-partners should complete the attached pdf application by the deadline (March 1, 2015). Following an initial review by the Heysell Thomas Fellowship Selection Committee, up to 3 applicants will be asked to arrange an interview. Currently, the fellowship supports only one Nicaragua student-partner and one U.S. student-partner. Notification of award will be made by (March 15). U.S. student-partners will receive \$1,000 for defraying travel and daily expenses while in country and accommodation will be provided at no-cost. In addition, the fellowship supports one full year of salary stipend for the Nicaraguan student-partner, ensures engaged onsite mentorship, and provides up to \$1,500 for research related incidentals and administration for the partnered student experience.

Drs. Scott K. Heysell and Tania A. Thomas are physician-scientists that benefited from similar experiences during their graduate training that ultimately ignited careers in global health, and the fellowship is reflective of their commitment to the mission of APS (www.apsnicaragua.org).