



Georgia Quality Improvement Program Research Fellow Program

Last Updated November 2025

Shape The Future of Trauma and Surgical Quality in Georgia

The Georgia Quality Improvement Program (GQIP) invites applications for a two-year grant-funded research fellowship to support the trauma and surgical collaborative in the state of Georgia. The program goals include preparing a 2nd or 3rd year surgical resident for an academic surgery career and developing their expertise in quality and safety program implementation. This fellowship offers a unique opportunity to work with the trauma and surgical collaboratives at the statewide systems level, advancing trauma and surgical quality initiatives while gaining advanced training in data analytics, research design, and patient safety science. Applicants must have completed two years of training in a surgical residency program in Georgia. Qualifying applicants must have a written letter of support from their residency program director.

Fellowship at a Glance

The GQIP Research Fellow will supply 80% of their time to GQIP-specific projects, with the other 20% dedicated to their program/facility trauma or surgical quality projects. The grant funding will provide 80% PGY-level salary support and funds for travel to appropriate state, regional, and national meetings. The home program/facility would be responsible for 20% of salary support and providing working space and appropriate computer access.

Leadership and mentorship will be provided by the GQIP Trauma & GQIP Surgical Medical Directors and the GQIP Director. The Fellow will have access to work with other trauma and surgical leaders throughout the state and potentially nationally as well.

A concurrent Master of Science in Clinical Research (MSCR) is offered and encouraged through either Emory University or Morehouse School of Medicine. It is a formal 30-credit Emory Laney Graduate School program, providing innovative didactic and mentored research training to those fellow applicants interested in enhancing their research career and honing their data analytic skills. The MSCR requires a minimum of 30 academic credit hours, which include classes, a research thesis, and a written grant proposal. Full-time students complete two semesters of class work in the first year. The summer and second year consist of completing the grant writing product and a master's thesis. The MSCR is funded through the Georgia Clinical & Translational Science Alliance (GCTS) for those applicants from Emory, Morehouse, and University of Georgia.

Fellow Application Requirements

1. Current CV
2. Letter of Interest – One single-spaced page describing your interest in the program, your goals for the fellowship, and your career goals.
3. Letter of recommendation/approval from your surgical residency program director
4. Reference from surgical mentor or sponsor (general/trauma surgeon, surgical subspecialty or research mentor)

Fellow Responsibilities

1. Collaborative Engagement
 - Attend and actively participate in all GQIP meetings
 - Provide updates on project progress and analyses
 - Assist in workgroup facilitation and deliverables
 - Develop collaborative research proposals
2. Data & Analytics
 - Aggregate and clean multi-center datasets
 - Lead analytic strategy discussions
 - Perform primary statistical analyses and model development
 - Create publication-ready tables and figures
3. Scholarship
 - Prepare and submit abstracts to national meetings
 - Author and submit peer-reviewed manuscripts
 - Contribute to collaborative reports and quality initiatives
4. Leadership Development
 - Support the GQIP Director
 - Assist centers with data drill-downs
 - Collaborate with and mentor additional GQIP research fellows
 - Help onboard future fellows

Populations & Data Sources

Fellows gain hands-on experience with robust statewide and national datasets, including:

- Georgia Quality Improvement Program (GQIP) databases
- Trauma registry data from all designated Georgia trauma centers
- ACS National Surgical Quality Improvement Program (ACS-NSQIP) – Georgia Collaborative
- ACS-NSQIP and Trauma Quality Improvement Program (TQIP) Participant Use Files
- Institution-specific datasets, as available



Current GQIP Projects:

1. Prehospital blood administration to pediatric and adult trauma patients across the state of Georgia
2. Time to Definitive Care study to determine trauma outcomes related to delays in care and optimize movement of trauma patients on regional and state levels.
3. Non-therapeutic trauma transfers study to determine gaps in care throughout the state and optimize prehospital provider utilization
4. Improvement of care for Georgia's geriatric trauma population
5. Development of GQIP trauma data platform

Be part of a collaborative effort to advance trauma and surgical quality across Georgia while building the foundation for a successful academic career. Thank you for your interest and application for the Georgia Quality Improvement Program (GQIP) Research Fellowship.

For more information about GQIP:

<https://trauma.georgia.gov/gqip>