



Clinic for Special Children

535 Bunker Hill Road, PO Box 128, Strasburg PA 17579 P 717.687.9407 F 717.687.9237

The Mary Ellen Avery Fellowship for the advancement of clinician-scientists

Background

Born May 6, 1927, Mary Ellen Avery was a pioneering scientist and pediatrician who mentored countless young physicians during her long career at Harvard Medical School and Boston Children's Hospital. In 1957, on a research fellowship at Harvard, Dr. Avery discovered the major cause of respiratory distress syndrome (RDS), which paved the way for the creation of the modern neonatal intensive care unit and continues to save hundreds of thousands of lives. Dr. Avery was the first woman physician-in-chief at Boston Children's Hospital and the first woman to chair a major department at Harvard Medical School (Thomas Morgan Rotch Professor of Pediatrics). In 1991, Dr. Avery was also awarded the National Medal of Science, citing her as one of the founders of neonatal intensive care and "a major advocate of improving access to care of all premature and sick infants."

Stepping down as chair of the department of pediatrics at Harvard in 1985, Dr. Avery turned her sights to global health, socioeconomic disparities, and human rights. She visited countries throughout the world with UNICEF, promoting oral rehydration therapy and polio vaccination. She gave generously of her time, mentoring innumerable young men and women, including CSC Co-founder Holmes Morton. With her passing on December 9, 2011, Dr. Avery leaves behind a legacy of breakthrough scientific discovery, vigorous advocacy for public health, and a legion of students who have benefited from her wisdom.

To honor the legacy of Dr. Mary Ellen Avery, the Clinic for Special Children has established the Mary Ellen Avery Fellowship Program; a fellowship for the training and advancement of clinician-scientists. The Avery Fellowship gives talented students the opportunity to spend up to one year embedded within our unique medical practice, working to solve complex problems with a focus on clinical applications and regional public health. Fellows will work directly with our molecular geneticist and pediatricians on projects that might include, but are not limited to: diagnostic testing, next generation sequencing, and genetic epidemiology.

Selection

Prospective fellows should hold a minimum of a bachelor's degree with specific training and interest in one or more of the following areas: pediatrics, genetics, bioinformatics, newborn screening, and public health. All interested students must submit the required documentation by February 28th. Finalists will be chosen, and interviews will be arranged in person or via teleconference (travel permitting). The Clinic staff will announce the Avery Fellow by March 31st. Avery Fellows will begin their year of study between June & August. The Clinic for Special Children is an equal opportunity employer. Fellows are selected without regard to race, color, ethnicity, national origin, gender, religion, disability or age (provided applicant holds the minimum requirements).

Stipend & Research Funding

The Clinic for Special Children offers a competitive yearly stipend of \$35,000 and a research budget to be determined by the Laboratory and Medical Directors (i.e. - reagents, supplies, etc.).

Conclusion

Over its 25-year history, The Clinic for Special Children has tried to keep progress in genomic science firmly rooted in the everyday needs of vulnerable people. Our Avery Fellows will learn about rural health care disparities, the education and work of midwives, and the medical anthropology of the Plain Communities. They will also learn how the Clinic for Special Children practices genomic medicine - translated into the every-day practice of pediatrics. They will see the latest advances in population genetics, newborn screening, and molecular technology applied on a local scale -- accessible to the community we serve. We want Avery Fellows to think about the life and work of a physician in underserved communities before they become immersed in the culture of the modern medical system.



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**Mary Ellen Avery
Fellowship**

Date

Name

Mailing Address

Street

City

State

Zip

Phone

Email

Institution(s)

Degree(s)

Requirements for Study

- Minimum of a bachelor's degree with specific training and interest in one or more of the following areas: pediatrics, genetics, bioinformatics, newborn screening, and public health
- Authorization to work in the United States indefinitely without restriction or sponsorship

Required Documents

- Completed Application
- Personal Statement
In 1,000 words or less, please describe what you hope to accomplish during the Avery Fellowship
- Transcript
- Curriculum Vitae
- Two letters of recommendation from persons familiar with your character, abilities and intent

DEADLINE: February 28th

ANNOUNCEMENT: March 31st

Send all required documents to Adam Heaps, Laboratory Scientist;

aheaps@clinicforspecialchildren.org

OR

RE: Avery Fellowship

Clinic for Special Children
Mr. Adam D. Heaps
PO Box 128
Strasburg, PA 17579