



**THE COMMONWEALTH FUND
HARKNESS FELLOWSHIPS IN HEALTH CARE
POLICY AND PRACTICE**

The Commonwealth Fund, in collaboration with B.Braun Stiftung and the Robert Bosch Stiftung, invites interested applicants from Germany to apply for the 2009-10 Harkness Fellowships.

The Harkness Fellowships provide a unique opportunity for mid-career professionals—academic researchers, government policymakers, clinicians, managers, and journalists—from Australia, Germany, the Netherlands, New Zealand, and the United Kingdom, to spend up to 12 months in the United States conducting a policy-oriented research study, working with leading U.S. health policy experts, and gaining an in-depth knowledge of the U.S., Australian, Canadian, Dutch, German, New Zealand, and U.K. health care systems. Fellows also participate in a series of policy and leadership seminars organized by the Fund throughout the year with U.S. health care leaders drawn from government, politics, health care organizations, and academia.

Applicants must demonstrate a strong interest in health policy issues and propose a study within the scope of The Commonwealth Fund's principal areas of focus: health care system performance—including access to care and insurance coverage, quality and patient safety, efficiency, and equity; patient-centered primary care; and quality of care for vulnerable populations, e.g., low income families, children, the elderly, and minorities.

Through partnerships with the **Robert Bosch Stiftung** and **B. Braun Stiftung**, support has been provided for two additional Harkness Fellows, enabling a total of three German Harkness Fellows to be selected annually. The **Harkness/Robert Bosch Stiftung Fellowship** aims to encourage the translation of knowledge into practice and health care policy, improve the quality and coordination of care, and advance nursing science. The **Harkness/B. Braun Stiftung Fellowship**, which aims to advance nursing science and encourage the next generation of leaders in nursing policy, is targeted to nursing health services researchers, managers and policymakers.

Once selected, the Fund will provide extensive support to successful Fellows to help them develop and shape their research proposals to better fit the context of the U.S. health system. Through its network of contacts, the Fund will help identify and place Fellows with mentors who are experts in the policy areas to be studied, e.g., at Harvard University, Columbia University, University of California at San Francisco, Johns Hopkins University, Kaiser Permanente, Veterans Health Administration, Institute for Healthcare Improvement (IHI), RAND, Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, and Group Health Cooperative at Puget Sound.

A peer-reviewed journal article or policy report for Health Ministers and other high-level policy audiences is the anticipated product of the fellowship. Harkness Fellows have published their findings in leading journals, including: *British Medical Journal*, *Health Affairs*, *Health Policy*, *International Journal for Quality in Health Care*, *New England Journal of Medicine*, and *Quality and Safety in Health Care*.

Building on their fellowship experiences, Harkness Fellows have moved into senior positions within academia, government, and health care delivery organizations, making valuable contributions to health policy and practice at home and in the United States. In addition, Harkness Fellows become part of a strong international network, with opportunities for ongoing cross-national collaborations and research.

DEADLINE FOR RECEIPT OF APPLICATIONS IS SEPTEMBER 5, 2008.

Each fellowship will provide up to U.S. \$107,000 in support, which includes round trip airfare to the United States, a monthly stipend, travel to a program of Harkness seminars and policy briefings, project-related travel and other research expenses, health insurance, and U.S. taxes. In addition, a supplemental allowance is provided to Fellows accompanied by a spouse and/or children.

For details and application form, please visit www.commonwealthfund.org/fellowships For questions about the program, eligibility, and proposed projects, contact Robin Osborn, vice president and director of the International Program in Health Policy and Practice (Email: ro@cmwf.org)

The Commonwealth Fund is a private foundation, based in New York, which aims to promote a high performing health care system that achieves better access, improved quality, and greater efficiency, particularly for society's most vulnerable.