



ABMS VISITING SCHOLARS



American Board  
of Medical Specialties

*Higher standards. Better care.®*

## OUR PROGRAM

The American Board of Medical Specialties (ABMS) Visiting Scholars Program is an exciting, one-year, part-time program that provides early career physicians and others with relevant advanced degrees with exposure to the fields of:

- Physician assessment and continuing professional development
- Quality improvement (QI)
- Regulatory policy, assessment and performance improvement work of ABMS and its Member Boards
- Health services research and scholarship in areas that improve patient care, quality, and/or physician performance and that are relevant to ABMS Board Certification

Scholars conduct research in collaboration with mentors from their institution, and liaisons from ABMS and its Member Boards, engaging in a project that is relevant to Board Certification and Maintenance of Certification (MOC)/Continuing Certification (CC). Through project research and program engagement, scholars help inform the fields of continuing professional development, physician self-regulation, and quality improvement.

Directed, specialty-specific Visiting Scholars opportunities may be available.

## SCHOLAR BENEFITS

- Scholars have an opportunity to pursue professional goals through relationships with the ABMS Member Boards Community and other leading professional organizations;
- Scholars become familiar with the policy and the health care delivery environment in which continuing certification occurs;
- Scholars receive exposure to current issues and initiatives related to Board Certification through interactive monthly videoconferences and in-person meetings with health care and Member Boards Community leaders;
- Scholars are introduced to the ABMS Member Boards Community through in-person participation in committee meetings, conferences and forums, and discussions with leadership; and,
- Scholars have opportunities for ongoing engagement with each other and the ABMS Member Boards Community through an alumni network.



“The Visiting Scholars Program is an exciting and productive way to engage with young leaders in our field and involve them in quality improvement, lifelong learning, and health policy. It’s also a great way to create Ambassadors to help build critical connections to the next generation of physicians and deepen their appreciation of professionalism and physician self-regulation.”

David F. Martin, MD, Executive Medical Director, American Board of Orthopaedic Surgery



## CURRICULUM

### EDUCATIONAL NETWORKING

During the year, scholars participate in three 3-day, in-person programs—primarily in Chicago—which may include:

- ABMS conferences and committee meetings; and,
- Meetings with leaders from ABMS Associate Members, such as the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education, Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education, American Hospital Association, American Medical Association, and Council of Medical Specialty Societies.

### RESEARCH

- Scholars receive support from ABMS leadership to enhance their research projects related to Board Certification and MOC/CC;
- Scholars are linked to contacts within ABMS, the Member Boards Community, and others who assist with the spread and scale of the scholars' research projects; and,
- Scholars are awarded a grant to support research and travel expenses associated with program participation.

### ALUMNI ENGAGEMENT

Scholars join a growing alumni network of physicians and researchers committed to quality improvement and patient safety, and working to improve health care systems.

### INFORMATIONAL PRESENTATIONS

Scholars participate with health care leaders in monthly leadership development seminars via videoconference related to the following topics:

- **Continuing Professional Development** focusing on key issues, innovations, and best practices in the continuing professional development of physicians and other health care professionals.
- **Health Policy and the External Environment** focusing on issues and influences in the health policy environment, how different health care organizations play a role in continuing certification, how the interests of the federal and state governments influence quality and patient care, and how health policy impacts quality, safety, and the health care workforce.
- **Quality Improvement** focusing on quality improvement methods and tools and the role of QI in the clinical environment.
- **Health Services Research** focusing on research and evaluations underway in health care delivery, QI, and financing.

“The Visiting Scholars Program is an outstanding educational experience—we learn from leading educators, engage in thought-provoking discussions with fellow scholars, and lead research projects to advance the field. I would absolutely do it again.”

Maya Babu, MD, MBA, 2015-2016 Visiting Scholar, Mayo Clinic



## WHO SHOULD APPLY

The Visiting Scholars Program is open to early career physicians, junior faculty, fellows, residents, and individuals holding Masters or Doctorate degrees in public health, health services research, and public health policy and administration, or other related disciplines.

Applicants should have a project that is ongoing or ready to begin and a designated institutional mentor to help guide their work. The project may build on existing research at the scholars' institutions.

## APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

Scholars are selected based on the quality of their proposed research project, the relevance of their research to the ABMS mission, and the likelihood of making substantial progress on the project during the scholar year. Applications that address areas of priority concern to the certification community or are developed in collaboration with one or more ABMS Member Boards may receive priority.

Applications must include:

- A structured description of the applicant's research project including: research questions, research plan, budget, expected outcomes, and timeline;
- Personal statement of 500 words or less describing the applicant's interests and goals for the program;
- Current CV; and,
- Letters of support from: (1) the faculty member or other institutional leader who will serve as the scholar's research mentor and, (2) the applicant's department chair, associate dean/assistant dean, residency program director, or other supervisor.

## RESEARCH PROJECT

Under the guidance of their institutional mentor and ABMS liaisons, scholars will further develop, refine, and conduct their research. At the end of the year-long program, scholars are expected to disseminate their work, either at an ABMS conference or other national meeting, and/or by submitting a paper for publication to a peer-reviewed journal within 12 months of completion of the scholar year.

Potential areas of research include QI in patient care; organizational or systems improvement; continuing professional development; assessment of knowledge, judgment and skills; professionalism; systems-based practice; patient safety/harm reduction; milestones, and physician-patient communication.

## APPLICATION DEADLINES

For information about this year's application deadline and notification process, or to access the online application form, go to: [visitingscholars.abms.org](http://visitingscholars.abms.org)

## QUESTIONS ABOUT THE PROGRAM AND APPLICATION PROCESS

Contact: [ABMSVisitingScholars@abms.org](mailto:ABMSVisitingScholars@abms.org)



“The Visiting Scholars Program is a fantastic and unparalleled opportunity for both the scholar and sponsoring institution. This program is developing the leaders of the future and providing institutions the opportunity to sit at the table in shaping the future of health care.”

Dr. Susan Moffatt-Bruce, MD, PhD, Visiting Scholar mentor, The Ohio State University College of Medicine





## ABMS MEMBER BOARDS

American Board of Allergy and Immunology  
American Board of Anesthesiology  
American Board of Colon and Rectal Surgery  
American Board of Dermatology  
American Board of Emergency Medicine  
American Board of Family Medicine  
American Board of Internal Medicine  
American Board of Medical Genetics and Genomics  
American Board of Neurological Surgery  
American Board of Nuclear Medicine  
American Board of Obstetrics and Gynecology  
American Board of Ophthalmology

American Board of Orthopaedic Surgery  
American Board of Otolaryngology  
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American Board of Pediatrics  
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American Board of Preventive Medicine  
American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology  
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