



**American Board  
of Medical Specialties**

*Higher standards. Better care.®*

American Board of Medical Specialties

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## **NEWS RELEASE**

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### **ABMS Announces a Record Number of ABMS Scholars for the 2025-2026 Cohort**

*Eighteen scholars will receive financial awards for research in artificial intelligence (AI), competency-based evaluation (CBE), patient outcomes, and diagnostic excellence*

**CHICAGO – September 8, 2025**—The American Board of Medical Specialties (ABMS) has selected 18 outstanding individuals to participate in its 2025-2026 Scholars Program™. Established in 2014, this one-year, part-time program supports early-career physicians and researchers in scholarship and leadership development focusing on initial and continuing board certification. Each ABMS Scholar receives a \$15,000 financial award.

“We are pleased to support this record-setting number of ABMS Scholars, all dedicated to advancing research and scholarship across the board certification community,” stated Greg Ogrinc, MD, MS, ABMS Senior Vice President, Certification Standards and Programs. “We are grateful for the generous support of ABMS Scholars sponsors, including many of the ABMS Member Boards, which allows us to invest in these future physician leaders.”

ABMS Scholars are selected based on the quality of their proposed research project, the relevance of their research to the ABMS mission and the certification community, and the potential to make significant progress on the research project during the Scholar year. Program participants remain at their home institutions; collaborate with self-selected mentors; and participate in monthly virtual sessions with research project-in-progress updates to peers, mentors, subject matter experts, and ABMS Scholar alumni.

The following ABMS Member Board participants include: Allergy and Immunology, Dermatology, Emergency Medicine, Internal Medicine, Obstetrics and Gynecology, Ophthalmology, Orthopaedic Surgery, Pediatrics, Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, Radiology, Surgery, and Urology.

This ABMS Scholars cohort will begin in September 2025, and their term will culminate at the ABMS Conference 2026, where they will present their research before a national audience.

**The 2025-2026 ABMS Scholars and their co-sponsoring organizations are:**

**ABMS Research and Education Foundation**

- **Ruchi Thanawala, MD** – Oregon Health and Science University  
**Project:** *Self-Assessment: The Hidden Competency Underpinning CBE*
- **Syed Khalid, MD** – University of Illinois at Chicago  
**Project:** *Linking Milestones to Procedural Outcomes, Safety, and Value in Early Neurosurgical Practice*

**ABMS Research and Education Foundation and The Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation**

- **Daniel Sartori, MD** – New York University Grossman School of Medicine  
**Project:** *Implementation and Evaluation of an AI-informed Diagnostic Performance Feedback System for Internal Medicine Residents*
- **Lijia Xie, MD, MS, FACP** – Stanford Health Care Tri-Valley Hospital  
**Project:** *Advancing Diagnostic Equity Through Incorporating Reflection on Implicit Bias into Standardized Clinical Reasoning Workshops for Undergraduate Medical Education*
- **Maria Martinez-Lage Alvarez, MD** – Harvard Medical School  
**Project:** *Virtual Sign-Out: A Competency-Based Assessment Pilot in Neuropathology*

**American Board of Allergy and Immunology**

- **Samantha Minnicozzi, MD** – University of Virginia School of Medicine  
**Project:** *A Pilot for the Development and Implementation of Entrustable Professional Activities (EPAs) in Allergy and Immunology*

**American Board of Emergency Medicine**

- **The J. David Barry, MD Scholar is Adrian Haimovich, MD, PhD** – Harvard Medical School  
**Project:** *Assessing Emergency Physician Decision-Making Under Uncertainty: A Vignette-Based Approach to Admission/Discharge Tendencies*

**American Board of Internal Medicine**

- **Maria Theodorou, MD, FACP, FHM** – Feinberg School of Medicine, Northwestern University  
**Project:** *Post-COVID-19 Pandemic Professional Identity Among Internal Medicine Residents*

### **American Board of Obstetrics and Gynecology**

- **The George D. Wendel, Jr., MD Scholar is Alexandria Kraus, MD** – University of North Carolina School of Medicine  
**Project:** *Entrust & Deliver: Advancing Competency-Based Training in Operative Vaginal Delivery*

### **American Board of Orthopaedic Surgery**

- **Hai Le, MD, MPH** – University of California, Davis  
**Project:** *Integrating Real-Time Technology to Improve Surgical Skills Assessment Compliance in Orthopaedic Residency: A Pilot Quality Improvement Study*

### **American Board of Pediatrics**

- **Laura Chiel, MD MHPE** – Harvard Medical School  
**Project:** *Harnessing Artificial Intelligence to Synthesize Narrative Assessment Comments to Enhance Decision-Making by Training Programs, Drive Learner Growth, and Customize Learning*

### **American Board of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation**

- **Matthew Haas, MD** – University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine  
**Project:** *Factors Influencing Trainee Decisions to Pursue Pediatric Rehabilitation Medicine: A Mixed-Methods Study of Exposure, Motivation, and Career Pathways*

### **American Board of Radiology**

- **Abdullah Alshreef, PhD, MS, MSc** – Loma Linda University Medical Center  
**Project:** *Enhancing Clinical Readiness and Board Exam Preparation through Virtual Education Resources for Medical Physics*
- **Oluwatimileyin Ojo, MD** – Northwell Health Cancer Institute  
**Project:** *Evaluating and Enhancing Systemic Therapy Education in Radiation Oncology Residency Programs*
- **Joseph Lee, MD** – Virginia Commonwealth University Health System  
**Project:** *Agentic AI Platform to Enhance Radiology Oral Board Preparation and Certification Readiness*

### **American Board of Surgery**

- **Han Grezenko, MD** – Creighton University School of Medicine  
**Project:** *Scalpel and Code: Integrating Artificial Intelligence for Comprehensive Surgical Performance Evaluation*
- **Rebecca Williams–Karnesky, MD, PhD, MEdPsych** – Feinberg School of Medicine, Northwestern University  
**Project:** *Creation of an Implementation Science-Based Toolkit to Increase Engagement with EPAs in General Surgery*

### **American Board of Urology**

- **Nicholas Lanzotti, MD, MPH** – Loyola University Medical Center  
**Project:** *Inclusion of a Nonverbal Communication Assessment into the American Board of Urology's Oral Board Certification Process*

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### **About ABMS**

Established in 1933, the American Board of Medical Specialties (ABMS) is responsible for the creation of standards overseeing physician certification in the United States. Dedicated to improving the quality of care to the patients, families, and communities they serve, the [24 ABMS Member Boards](#) develop educational and professional standards and programs of assessment to certify physicians and medical specialists. More than 985,000 physicians and medical specialists are certified by one or more of the ABMS Member Boards in one or more of 40 specialties and 89 subspecialties. For more information about ABMS, [visit abms.org](https://www.abms.org) or call (312) 436-2600.