

## About the AMA Health Systems Science Scholars Program

### Overview

The **AMA Health Systems Science (HSS) Scholars Program** is an initiative of the American Medical Association (AMA) Accelerating Change in Medical Education Consortium. The purpose of the HSS Scholars Program is to equip faculty who have significant responsibility for—or who anticipate having responsibility for—implementing and/or teaching topics related to health systems science, with the knowledge and skills needed to be outstanding teachers and leaders. Specifically, the program will provide an overview of how to design, implement and evaluate health systems science curriculum at participants' local institutions. This 12-month program will include a 2-day faculty development workshop taught by nationally known experts in HSS, who will also serve as mentors to the scholars over a year-long period and several webinars. In addition, scholars will join a community of faculty scholars with similar interests from across the country.

### Brief Background

For many years there has been general consensus that medical education—based largely on an educational model more than a century old—has needed to change in order to address significant gaps in physician training and prepare new doctors to practice effectively in our 21st century health systems. To help fill these gaps, and as part of its larger strategic focus to improve the nation's health, the AMA launched the "Accelerating Change in Medical Education" initiative in 2013. This resulted in the formation of the AMA Accelerating Change in Medical Education Consortium—a unique, innovative collaboration that allowed for the sharing and dissemination of groundbreaking ideas and projects. Through this consortium, the discipline of health systems science which complements the other two pillars of medical education—basic and clinical sciences—was born. Health systems science includes improving health care quality, increasing the value of care provided, enhancing patient safety, delivering population-based medical care, working collaboratively in teams, recognizing the socio-ecological determinants of health and understanding health care policy and economics. The AMA Health Systems Science Scholars Program provides a mechanism, on a national level, to provide faculty development for current and aspiring medical education leaders in HSS. The program is currently funded by tuition and supplemental funds from the AMA Accelerating Change in Medical Education Consortium.

### Program Purpose

The purpose of the AMA Health Systems Science Scholars Program is to provide faculty with the opportunity to grow and acquire the skills critical to advancing as teachers, education program administrators and leaders in HSS. This will be accomplished by providing each scholar with individual coaching and mentorship by one of the program's faculty experts and providing them with the opportunity to join a national community of like-minded faculty with similar interests. Scholars will receive a certificate of completion at the end of the program and will be given the opportunity to participate in future programs as appropriate. We expect HSS scholars to go on to fulfill major educational positions within their department, medical school, health system and other national professional societies to advance health systems science.

## Curriculum

- Basic HSS content
- Curriculum development
- Curriculum integration
- Assessment and program evaluation
- Leadership skills and career development
- Educational Scholarship

The curriculum is delivered in online pre-workshop webinars, a two-day workshop, post workshop webinars, and mentor meetings peppered throughout the 12 months. The night before the workshop is a Welcome Reception held to meet the faculty, advisors and fellow scholars.



In addition to formal instruction, attendees are expected to complete an Education Application Project (EAP). This project, designed by the participant, can be either a research or curriculum development project. The EAP provides an important learning opportunity to apply what the scholar is learning, and is often a project that explores or improves an educational aspect of health systems science at his/her local institution. Projects are publicly displayed and presented at the AMA ChangeMedEd meeting held every September in Chicago.

The program is designed to be relevant and interactive. The workshop portion will use HSS content to deliver pedagogical methods. The program will be evaluated on an ongoing basis, enabling ongoing curriculum updates and modifications.

Graduation from the AMA Health Systems Science (HSS) Scholars Program requires attendance and participation in the workshop and mentor sessions, and completion of the project along with an abstract describing the Education Application Project.

## **Faculty**

The faculty includes highly experienced clinician-educators who serve as advisors and mentors. In addition, local mentors are encouraged and invited to participate as advisors to support the attendee within his/her institution.

## **Frequency of Offering**

The first class began in 2018 and the program will be offered every year.

## **Selection of Faculty Scholars**

All candidates should hold faculty positions at a US medical school and have a strong interest in and evidence of participation in educational activities related to HSS. Preference is given to individuals who currently fulfill defined administrative positions. The candidate must submit a curriculum vitae detailing educational experience, complete the online application, and provide a letter of support *and* a signed statement of commitment from the candidate's chair or dean. This statement must include the provision of time for participation, financial support for the course, and plans for utilizing the skills and expertise gained by the candidate in the program.

## **Ranking Criteria:**

Leadership Position at Institution

Scholarship in Education and Related Areas

Current Educational Activities

Teaching Recognition (Awards)

Project of interest and benefit to institution and career goals

Department Chair Statement of Support and Commitment to the Candidate's Success

In addition, accepted scholars must sign an agreement wherein they pledge to satisfactorily fulfill all elements of the curriculum, including modifications as deemed necessary by the faculty, to attend all sessions at the workshop, to complete a project and submit for a presentation. In addition, each scholar will endorse a clear understanding that evaluation of ongoing participation and completion of this program is solely the decision of the faculty. Failure to participate fully will lead to dismissal, for which there will be no refund of fees. The program is limited to 40 participants. ***Please note that faculty applying from a consortium school or institution must be nominated by the AMA Consortium Principal investigator in order to obtain tuition waiver to the program. if more than one person applies from the same institution, only the one nominated by the PI will be supported. All applications must be complete when submitted.***

## **Financial Considerations**

The cost for each physician-scholar will be \$2,000 (non-refundable) for the 12-month duration of the program (waived for one attendee per consortium school/institution who is nominated by the PI). This will be paid in advance and it will cover the cost of the workshop as well as hotel and meals. In addition, the department of the physician-scholar is expected to provide air travel to the workshop as well as

registration fee and expenses for the ChangeMedEd meeting. The tuition fee of \$2,000 (non-refundable) will be payable upon confirmation by the AMA of the physician-scholar acceptance into this program.

**Required Meeting Dates** (for the 2019-2020 class year) are as follows:

Faculty Development Workshop: Dec 8-9 in Chicago, IL

AMA ChangeMedEd 2021 Meeting in September 2021

## **How to apply**

**Eligibility:** Faculty in good standing at a US medical school.

## **Application Schedule and procedure:**

August 29: Applications due

September 30: Applicant notifications

October 8: Orientation Webinar

October 31: Applicant pre-work due

December 8-9: Faculty development workshop

Please have the following prepared to upload with your online application.

- Current curriculum vitae
- Statement of Department Chair/Medical School Dean Commitment and Support
- Up to one additional letter of support if desired

For questions regarding the AMA Health Systems Science Scholars Program, please contact [changemeded@ama-assn.org](mailto:changemeded@ama-assn.org).