

Quality Improvement Scholars Program (QISP)

Request for Applications

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

I. Purpose

The Quality Improvement (QI) Scholars Program is a year-long training program designed to support physicians and quality leaders seeking advanced training in QI methods. This competitive program provides the skills and support needed to successfully complete and publish rigorous QI research projects. QI Scholars combines a mentored QI project experience with a formal curriculum in QI research methodology. In addition, scholars receive statistical and data analytic support for their projects and have access to an engaged network of QI Scholars alumni. It is expected that scholars will submit a first-authored manuscript based on their QI Scholars project to a peer reviewed journal by the end of their program participation. Graduates of the program have the tools needed to become leaders with an advanced QI skillset, capable of mentoring others in the future.

II. Program Components

A. Curriculum

Scholars are exposed to state-of-the-art QI research methods and leadership skills during 12 monthly seminars. The morning seminars are a blend of didactics, small group exercises, and practical hands-on applications. The seminars are led by both internal and external experts in the field of QI science (see attached seminar schedule and descriptions). Seminar attendance is required. The monthly in person sessions are structured as follows:

- 8:30 AM – 9:00 AM: Breakfast (optional)
- 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM: Interactive didactic seminar
- 12:00 PM – 1:00PM: Lunch and break
- 1:00 PM – 3:00PM: Work in Progress and/or guided project work time

B. Mentoring and Statistical Support

The QI Scholars Program matches each scholar with a mentor experienced in QI research methodology. The scholar is expected to meet regularly with their assigned mentor to refine their project design, identify resource needs, interpret data, and draft a manuscript. The scholar and their mentor also meet with the program's data and analytics team who assist with data acquisition/cleaning and analysis.

C. Community

The QI Scholars Program is comprised of a cohort of scholars from across the local health system. Scholars from Seattle Children's are joined by scholars from UW Medicine for seminars and Work-In-Progress sessions, providing opportunity for system-wide networking, collaboration, and shared learning.

D. Continuing Medical Education (CME) credit.

As part of our commitment to providing comprehensive professional development opportunities, physician participants in the QI Scholars Program are eligible to earn Continuing Medical Education (CME) credits (45 AMA PRA Category 1 Credits). These credits serve as a testament to the dedication and expertise demonstrated by our scholars in advancing quality improvement initiatives within healthcare.

III. Expectations of QI Scholars

A. QI Research Project

Scholars are expected to complete their QI research project and submit a first-authored manuscript after program participation. Scholars may apply with QI projects at any stage of development, but most successful applicants have projects that are already underway at the start of the Program. If the QI project is ongoing at the end of the first 12 months, all scholars are eligible for an additional 12 month extension of their statistical and data analytic support.

B. Seminar Attendance

Scholars are required to attend the monthly interactive learning seminars on QI research methods.

C. Presentations and Attendance at Work-In-Progress (WIP) Sessions

Scholars present a WIP at least twice during Program participation. These presentations serve as an excellent opportunity to address project barriers with the larger group and active participation/engagement is expected.

D. Grand Rounds

Seattle Children's scholars present the results of their QI research project at the University of Washington Department of Pediatrics Grand Rounds in the Spring of the year following Program completion.

IV. Eligibility Criteria

A. Participant Eligibility

1. Preference is given to applicants who are:

- Assistant or Associate Professors on the Clinician Scholar or Clinical tracks in any Department or Division. Professors will be considered on a case-by-case basis. If the applicant has not yet been appointed a faculty position, a letter from the Division Chief stating that such an appointment will commence by the Program start date is required.
- Quality leaders (MD, RN, APP, other) affiliated with Center for Quality and Patient Safety (CQPS) micro or mesosystem teams.

B. Time commitment

- Program participation requires 5% FTE release from clinical/other responsibilities*
*5% FTE salary support is provided directly for scholars from the Department of Pediatrics

V. Application Requirements

- Applicants are strongly encouraged to work with their Division Chief or Department Chair and mentors for input on their proposed QI project.
- Dr. Lori Rutman, Program Director, is available for consultation with all interested applicants (lori.rutman@seattlechildrens.org).

1. Application cover page should include:

- Project Title
- Applicant Name
- Applicant's academic rank and track and or role
- Department and Division
- Name of Division Chief or Director

2. Description of proposed QI research project (2 pages **maximum** excluding references, Arial 11-point, single-spaced, ½ inch margins – proposals not adhering to these instructions will not be reviewed). Please clearly indicate the stage of the project (planned, implemented/underway, completed).

Please include the following sections in your project proposal:

- **Brief background/significance:** Why is improvement needed in your area of focus? What is the rationale for your intervention? Cite supporting literature – or lack of previous studies in this area of care.
- **Objective / Aim** What are you trying to accomplish with your QI project?
- **Alignment with hospital priorities:** Describe how this project aligns with quality improvement goals of the hospital at which this project is taking place.
- **Research question(s):** Limit to three key questions.
State a hypothesis for each research question.
- **Time frame:** What is the study time period? Consider a pre-intervention baseline period and post-intervention period.
- **Measures of interest:** List potential process, outcome, and balancing measures relevant to the aim and research questions.
- **Potential data sources:** Describe data sources for the proposed project – indicate easy of access to this data (i.e., electronic health record, chart review, manual data collection).
- **Ideas for study design:** Applicants may propose a **draft idea** for the study design however, this is not required. The assumption is that the final design will be determined during work sessions with the applicant's assigned mentorship team and the data and analytics team during the first 2 months of Program participation.
- **Proposed timeline for Project:** QI Scholars projects must be completed over a 12-month period. This timeframe should include write-up of the study results and submission for publication. The applicant should provide a proposed timeline for the project that fits within these parameters.
- **Ethical considerations/IRB:** The applicant should state their plans for IRB application submission, i.e., will they apply **for exemption, expedited review, or full review**.

3. Letter of support from Division Chief and/or Department Chair

4. Current CV

5. Personal statement indicating how the applicant believes that participating in the program will advance their career. Limit to ½ page.

Submit applications online at:

[How to Apply | Seattle Children's \(seattlechildrens.org\)](https://seattlechildrens.org)

Key Dates for 2024-2025

Program Announcement: **April 29th, 2024**

Applications Due: **June 28th, 2024, by 5:00pm**

Announcement of Awards: **July 2024**

First Meeting for Scholars: **October 15th, 2024**

Program End-Date: **September 30th, 2025**

If you have questions about this RFA please send them to Lori Rutman (lori.rutman@seattlechildrens.org).

**Quality Improvement Scholars Program
2024-2025 Seminar Series**

Italicized sessions not yet confirmed and subject to change

Presenter	Topic	Date
Lori Rutman, MD, MPH UW, Department of Pediatrics Seattle Children's Hospital Nick Meo, MD UW Department of Medicine Russ Migita, MD UW Department of Pediatrics and Seattle Children's Hospital	Welcome to QI Scholars and Fundamentals of Quality Improvement	October 15, 2024 <i>Tuesday</i> <i>*Morning only</i>
Casey Lion, MD, MPH UW, Department of Pediatrics Seattle Children's Research Institute	Assessing and Improving Disparities using QI Research Methods	November 19, 2024 <i>Tuesday</i>
Lori Rutman, MD, MPH UW, Department of Pediatrics Seattle Children's Hospital	Project deep dive – work session	December 11, 2024 <i>Wednesday</i>
Clarissa Hsu, PhD <i>Kaiser Permanente WA Health Research Institute</i> Helene Starks, PhD, MPH <i>UW Department of Medicine</i>	<i>Qualitative Methods in QI Research</i>	January 15, 2025 <i>Wednesday</i>
Patricia Kritek, MD, EdM Vice Dean Faculty Affairs, UW School of Medicine Lauge Sokol-Hessner, MD, CPPS UW Department of Medicine	Leading Change	February 12, 2025 <i>Wednesday</i>
Leah Marcotte, MD UW Department of Medicine Erin Gillespie, MD UW Department of Radiation Oncology	Introduction to Implementation Science	March 12, 2025 <i>Wednesday</i>
Davene Wright, PhD Harvard Pilgrim Ankur Pandya, PhD Harvard School of Public Health	Health Economics and QI Supply, Demand, and Value and Decision Analysis	April 09, 2025 <i>Wednesday</i>
Arti Desai, MD, MSPH UW, Department of Pediatrics Seattle Children's Research Institute	Survey Development in Quality Improvement Research	May 14, 2025 <i>Wednesday</i>
Rob Penfold, PhD Kaiser Permanente WA Health Research Institute	Interrupted Time Series Analysis in QI Research	June 11, 2025 <i>Wednesday</i>
Lauren McDaniel, MD <i>Seattle Children's Hospital</i> Dwight Barry, PhD <i>Seattle Children's Hospital</i>	<i>Introduction to Statistical Process Control/Using QI Charts Software</i>	July 16, 2025 <i>Wednesday</i>
Andrew F. Beck, MD, MPH <i>Cincinnati Children's Hospital</i>	<i>Geospatial Analysis</i>	August 20, 2025 <i>Wednesday</i>
Maria Britto, MD, MPH <i>Cincinnati Children's Hospital</i>	<i>Leadership in Quality Improvement</i>	September 17, 2025 <i>Wednesday</i>