

Principles Regarding the Assessment of Scholarly Activity

Note for PED Trainees: American Board of Pediatrics requirements for scholarly activity.

Note for EM Trainees: The UMHS Pediatric Emergency Medicine Fellowship Program requires all fellows (EM and PD) to follow these requirements. EM trainee scholarly activities will be modified consistent with program length.

A. Core Curriculum

All fellows must participate in a core curriculum in scholarly activities. This curriculum should provide skills that lead to an in-depth understanding of biostatistics, clinical and laboratory research methodology, study design, preparation of applications for funding and/or approval of clinical or research protocols, critical literature review, principles of evidence-based medicine, ethical principles involving clinical research, and the achievement of proficiency in teaching. The curriculum should lead to an understanding of the principles of adult learning and provide skills to participate effectively in curriculum development, delivery of information, provision of feedback to learners, and assessment of educational outcomes. Graduates should be effective in teaching both individuals and groups of learners in clinical settings, classrooms, lectures, and seminars, and also by electronic and print modalities. Additional content specifications have been developed for subspecialty examinations based on the competencies related to the core curriculum in scholarly activities.

B. Scholarly Activities

In addition to the core curriculum described, all fellows are expected to engage in specific areas of scholarly activity to allow acquisition of skills in the critical analysis of the work of others; to assimilate new knowledge, concepts, and techniques related to the field of one's practice; to formulate clear and testable questions from a body of information/data so as to be prepared to become effective subspecialists and to advance research in pediatrics; to translate ideas into written and oral forms as teachers; to serve as consultants for colleagues in other medical or scientific specialties; and to develop as leaders in their fields.

All fellows will be expected to engage in projects in which they develop hypotheses or in projects of substantive scholarly exploration and analysis that require critical thinking. Areas in which scholarly activity may be pursued include, but are not limited to: basic, clinical, or translational biomedicine; health services; quality improvement; bioethics; education; and public policy. Fellows must gather and analyze data, derive and defend conclusions, place conclusions in the context of what is known or not known about a specific area of inquiry, and present their work in oral and written form.

A Scholarship Oversight Committee in conjunction with the trainee, the mentor, and the program director will determine whether a specific activity is appropriate to meet the ABP guidelines for scholarly activities. In addition to biomedical research, examples of acceptable activities might include a critical meta-analysis of the literature, a systematic review of clinical practice with the scope and rigor of a Cochrane review, a critical analysis of public policy relevant to the subspecialty, or a curriculum development project with an assessment component. These activities require active participation by the fellow and must be mentored. The mentor(s) will be responsible for providing the ongoing feedback essential to the trainee's development.

C. Work Product of Scholarly Activity

Involvement in scholarly activities must result in the generation of a specific written "work product." Examples include, but are not limited to:

- A peer-reviewed publication in which a fellow played a substantial role
- An in-depth manuscript describing a completed project
- A thesis or dissertation written in connection with the pursuit of an advanced degree
- An extramural grant application that has either been accepted or favorably reviewed
- A progress report for projects of exceptional complexity, such as a multi-year clinical trial

D. Scholarship Oversight Committee

Review of scholarly activity and the written work product will occur at the local level. Each fellow must have a Scholarship Oversight Committee. The Scholarship Oversight Committee should consist of three or more individuals, at least one of whom is based outside the subspecialty discipline; the fellowship program director may serve as a trainee's mentor and participate in the activities of the oversight committee, but should not be a standing (i.e., voting) member. This committee will:

- Determine whether a specific activity is appropriate to meet the ABP guidelines for scholarly activity
- Determine a course of preparation beyond the core fellowship curriculum to ensure successful completion of the project
- Evaluate the fellow's progress as related to scholarly activity
- Meet with the fellow early in the training period and regularly thereafter
- Require the fellow to present/defend the project related to his/her scholarly activity
- Advise the program director on the fellow's progress and assess whether the fellow has satisfactorily met the guidelines associated with the requirement for active participation in scholarly activities

E. Upon completion of training the ABEM will require

- Verification from the Program Director that the clinical and scholarly skills requirements have been met.