The Academy at Harvard Medical School

Membership Benefits, Criteria, and Responsibilities

The mission of the Academy at HMS is to advance the education of physicians and scientists throughout the Harvard Medical School community by:

- Creating and supporting a community of leaders in education and a culture of excellence in teaching and learning.
- Fostering the careers of educators in medicine and science.
- Providing programming to improve the skills of teachers.
- Stimulating and supporting the creation and implementation of innovative approaches to teaching, learning and assessment.
- Supporting educational research and scholarship in medical (undergraduate and graduate medical education, UME and GME) and graduate education (Division of Medical Sciences).

The Academy at HMS has several components. The Center for Teaching and Learning, the professional development arm of the Academy, sponsors the Medical Education Grand Rounds series, an annual Symposium on the Science of Learning, and the Academy Fellowship in Medical Education. The Academy also holds regular symposia on important issues in medical education and an annual series of presentations on medical education projects by HMS faculty from the host hospitals – the Medical Education Inter-Hospital Collaborative. In addition there are 12 active faculty interest groups, which focus on key topics in medical education; the interest groups play a very active role in planning and implementing our programming. The Academy and its membership work closely with the Program in Medical Education at HMS, as well as hospital-based Academies and Centers for Education within the HMS affiliates and the graduate education programs at HMS. Among our goals, we hope to support innovation in pedagogical methods and curriculum development and promote research that focuses on teaching, learning, and assessment at the undergraduate and graduate medical education levels and in the science education of our graduate students.

Why should you join the HMS Academy?
Membership in the Academy is evidence of your commitment to education and to being an “educator,” a term that implies not only a pledge to grow and improve in your own teaching but a desire to work with others, both at HMS and the greater community, to make teaching better. As a member of the Academy, you will have enhanced opportunities for collaboration and scholarship; you will be able to participate more fully in professional development activities; you will have greater access to personal mentoring; and the Academy will advocate for you, at the appropriate time, in support of academic promotion.

Membership Criteria and Responsibilities:

- **An HMS Faculty Appointment** that includes at least partial teaching responsibilities (e.g. Lecturer, Instructor, Associate/Assistant Professor, Professor).
- **Evidence of Educational Leadership**: Individuals who hold positions of leadership in education or are actively engaged in educational scholarship related to medical education are eligible to apply. Leadership positions may relate to medical or graduate student education, as well as postgraduate training of residents and fellows at HMS affiliated hospitals. In addition, if you are a graduate of or currently pursuing one of the four Medical Education Fellowships: Academy Fellowship in Medical Education, The Rabkin Fellowship in Medical Education, Mount Auburn Hospital Fellowship in Medical Education, and the Academy Medical Education Research Fellowship, you are also eligible to apply.
- **Commitment to participate** (as a learner or instructor) in a minimum of 12 hours of educational development sessions each year. Such sessions will include those for which continuing medical education (CME) credit is granted (by HMS or another institution) and are designated as meeting this requirement by HMS, hospital or graduate school education leadership (examples include: medical education grand rounds, workshops and seminars offered by the Academy at HMS and/or hospital academies/centers for education/departments, as well as courses devoted to education topics such as Harvard-Macy programs and the Shapiro Institute CME course on teaching skills; participation in interest group activities is also considered in the calculation of your total hours). Active participation in HMS Academy interest groups will also count toward this requirement.
- **Commitment to participate** in at least three major Academy events (i.e., Medical Education Day, the annual Symposium on the Science of Learning, general Academy symposia [typically 3 hours in duration], and the annual membership meeting) every two years.
- **Commitment to participate** in Academy committees, interest groups and activities as appropriate.

HMS Course directors and clerkship directors, as well as graduate medical education (GME) program or associate program directors are encouraged to apply. Examples of leadership include but are not limited to: course directors, clerkship directors, associate clerkship directors, GME program directors and associate program directors, HMS society leadership, and graduate school program directors and associate directors. Individuals who have been active within their hospital-based academy/center for education are also eligible with a letter of support from the director of that unit.

Membership terms are for two years and are renewable. Each year, Academy members will be notified if they have not met the criteria delineated above. If a member fails to meet the criteria in each of two consecutive years, membership in the Academy will be withdrawn.