**Just Medicine Scholars Program**

**American Medical Student Association**

**AMSA Academy 2016-17**

**Mondays at 8PM**

**Course Director:**  Hannah Keppler

**Vice Director:**  Michael Shen

**Course Email:**  jmsp@amsa.org

**Grading:**  Pass/Fail (see below for Completion Requirements)

**I. Course Description**

The Just Medicine Scholars Program exists to teach students to think critically about evidence-based medicine, and will encourage students to ask the right questions in order to give the best quality care to their future patients.

The Just Medicine Scholars Program will encourage scholars to critically examine the current pharmaceutical and device industry. Medical students and professionals are constantly in contact with this industry, but generally have minimal knowledge regarding its influence on healthcare and healthcare professionals. This program will expand scholars’ knowledge not only on industry interactions, but also the bigger picture of global access to medication, conflict of interest in medical education, and the evidence behind evidence-based medicine.

**II. Course Objectives**

By the end of the Scholars Program, scholars will:

* Develop a strong and critical understanding of the interaction of the pharmaceutical and device industry with healthcare providers.
* Recognize how industry can impact clinical care.
* Develop and learn strategies to mitigate the negative influences the pharmaceutical and device industry may have on health care.
* Properly manage industry relations to maximize patient and societal benefit.
* Learn about drug pricing and global access to medication.

**III. Format and Procedures**

* The course will largely be conducted via webinar using an online-based web conference platform. You will need access to either a phone or a computer equipped with audio.
* This course will consist of ten online webinars. The first one will be an introduction to the course, and the last will be a review of the final projects. The other eight webinars will be speakers that are invited to discuss a particular topic.
* Reading assignments will be given before each webinar to prepare scholars for a better understanding of the topic.
* After each webinar, scholars will be expected to complete a short post-webinar assignment.
* The time commitment of the Scholars Program is about 2-3 hours per week, including one hour to prepare for webinars, 1.5-2 hour for the actual webinar (bimonthly) and then time to complete the post-assignment and work on the final project.
* Each scholar will be expected to complete a final project by the end of the Scholars Program (see details below).

***Course Credit***

* Scholars may be able to receive elective credit from their home institution for this course. While AMSA unfortunately cannot grant elective credit at this time, we are happy to support you with documentation that will aid you as you seek elective credit.
* Each scholar that completes the requirements outlined in Section V below will be provided an official Certificate of Completion.

**IV. Expectations of Scholars**

Scholars are expected to:

* Attend ten online webinars.
* Complete reading assignments and short quiz before webinar (usually one or two articles).
* Complete post-webinar assignment after every webinar due one week after each webinar (usually one paragraph writing assignment and short quiz).
* Complete a final project that will be presented to group at final webinar.
* Notify the course directors if they are unable to complete the activities associated with each webinar or are unable to attend a webinar.
* Treat speakers, course directors, and other scholars with respect, humility, and possess an open mind.
* Scholars are encouraged, but NOT required, to attend the AMSA National Convention on February 23-26, 2017, including Lobby Day.

**V. Completion Requirements for Certification**

* Class attendance
  + *Domestic Students and International Students in the Caribbean and the Americas:*
    - Must attend 80% (8/10) of webinars
    - Can watch **up to two** recorded webinars and complete a reflection of the webinar to obtain make-up credit for attendance
    - Complete quizzes at the beginning and end of each webinar
  + *International Students in Europe, Asia, Africa, and Australia*
    - Must watch 80% of recorded webinars within 48 hours of the original session
    - Submit a SHORT reflection of the webinar to the co-Course Directors within 72 hours of the original session
    - Complete quizzes at the beginning and end of each webinar
* Participation policy:
  + Must post to 80% of online discussion questions
* Project:
  + Requirements
    - The goal of the project is for scholars to implement a policy change at their home university or medical school (it is recommended that this be regarding the school’s conflict of interest policy but it can be something else. This policy change proposal needs to be submitted and approved by the course directors before the project moves forward). The scholar will then put together either a presentation or reflective writing piece about what it was like to implement change and work with the administration at their institution, and next steps for moving forward with policy change.
  + Guidelines
    - Scholars have to first present their idea to and receive approval from the course directors before implementation
    - Scholars then will implement or attempt to implement a policy change at their home university with the help of the course directors
    - Scholars must then put together a presentation or reflective writing piece (2-3 pages of writing, five-minute presentation, or other creative method) discussing their experience and advice they would give other students when wanting to implement change.
  + Ideas
    - One example of a policy change would be to look at the AMSA Scorecard, find your medical school, and see where your school did not get a good grade, then contact the dean of your school about upgrading its policy using the grade as an incentive.
  + Timeline
    - The idea for the policy change has to be submitted to course director by November 7th, 2016.
    - The scholar has to have implemented or attempted to implement that policy change by February 6th, 2017.
    - The scholar has to present their final paper or presentation to the group on 3/6/17

**VI. Inclusivity Statement**

We understand that our members represent a rich variety of backgrounds and perspectives. The American Medical Student Association (AMSA) Academy is committed to providing an atmosphere for learning that respects diversity. While working together to build this community we ask all members to:

* Share their unique experiences, values and beliefs.
* Be open to the views of others.
* Honor the uniqueness of their colleagues.
* Appreciate the opportunity that we have to learn from each other in this community.
* Value each other’s opinions and communicate in a respectful manner.
* Keep confidential discussions that the community has of a personal (or professional) nature.
* Use this opportunity together to discuss ways in which we can create an inclusive environment in this course and within the AMSA community.

**VII. Course Schedule: (May change to accommodate guest presenters needs)**

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| **Date & Time** | **Topic** | **Post-Assignment Due** |
| 10/10 8 PM EDT | Introductory meeting |  |
| 10/24, 8PM EDT | Intro to Pharmaceutical and Device Industry | 10/31, 8PM EST |
| 11/7, 8PM EST | Conflict of Interest in Medical Education | 11/14, 8 PM EST |
| 11/7 8 PM EST | Final Project Idea Due |  |
| 11/21, 8PM EST | Drug/Vaccine Pricing and Transparency | 11/28 8 PM EST |
| 12/5, 8PM EST | Access to Medicines / TPP | 12/12 8 PM EST |
| 1/9, 8PM EST | All Trials Campaign | 1/16 8 PM EST |
| 1/23, 8PM EST | Selling Sickness and Overtreatment | 1/30 8 PM EST |
| 2/6, 8PM EST | AMR/ The Evidence behind Evidence Based Medicine | 2/13 8 PM EST |
| 2/6 8 PM EST | Final Project Implemented |  |
| 2/20, 8PM EST | Student Activism/Lobbying | 2/27 8 PM EST |
| ***2/23-26*** | ***AMSA National Convention in Washington, D.C.*** |  |
| ***3/6 8 PM EST*** | ***Final project Presentations*** |  |