**American Medical Student Association**

**AMSA Academy**

**Health Care for All Scholars Program**

2016-2017

Thursdays at 7-8 pm EDT/EST

**Course Director:**  Iain Miller

**Vice Director:**  Preethi Vinnakota

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

**I. Course Description**

Over the last few decades the United States has witnessed skyrocketing health care costs and an unacceptably high uninsured population. With the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (ACA) becoming law, many of these challenges within the US health care system are being addressed. While much progress has been made over the last few years, there is still more work to be done. The Health Care for All Scholars Program will provide a training ground for physician leaders – established by students, for students and strives to empower medical students to affect change in medicine. Combining didactics with experiential learning, the program will build on key principles of topics in universal health care while guiding students through the core competencies of leadership and project implementation.

The Health Care for All Scholars Program will explore the definition of universal health care and use this as a lens through which the past, present, and future states of the US health care system will be viewed. This program is based on the core principle that everyone should have access to quality and affordable health care, regardless of social and economic factors. In addition to discussing the ACA, the Health Care for All Scholars Program will also examine disparities among groups of health care users and how those disparities impact access and treatment from a variety of viewpoints. Along with building an argument for this perspective, the program will provide Scholars with practical skills and tools to educate their peers and organize advocacy initiatives in their communities. We will accomplish this through discussions with national experts and by studying current initiatives from around the country.

**II. Course Objectives**

By the end of this Scholars Program, scholars will:

* Understand the Affordable Care Act.
* Understand how the expansion of Medicare/Medicaid will impact access to health care.
* Understand the Single Payer model for health care.
* Understand factors that limit patients access to health care.
* Examine the differences in access to health care services across different populations.
* Understand how to promote and advocate for health care changes.

**III. Format and Procedures**

This course will be structured similarly to any introductory college course taken at your local university, though with an emphasis on efficiency and time management. We don’t want this course to be a burden on you but we do expect a certain degree of progress by scholars. 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.

The Scholars Program will have four main expectations: attendance at the scheduled webinars, completion of pre-webinar readings & comprehension quizzes, regular activity on discussion activities, and completion of a final project. Each of these expectations has been outlined below:

* Attendance: We plan to hold eleven (11) scheduled webinars with experts in their fields. These webinars will be recorded but you will get the most out of them if you attend them live and interact with the speakers. All scholars are expected to attend at least 80% of the webinars live unless they can provide evidence of a suitable time conflict (living in an extreme time zone). Logging into a webinar more than 15 minutes late will be considered an absence unless prior notification has been given. Our guest speakers are taking time out of their very busy schedules to have discussions with us and their time should be respected. If you are unable to attend, you will be required to complete a one page reflection paper about the webinar session in order to receive credit for that session.
* Pre-Webinar Readings & Comprehension Quizzes: Prior to each webinar, appropriate and concise resources will be provided to aid you in familiarization with the topic to be presented. Being familiar with the topic will provide for better understanding and interaction with the presenter. These resources will vary from speaker to speaker, but may include a combination of videos, journal articles, popular culture articles, etc. An online comprehension quiz will be available and all scholars are expected to satisfactorily demonstrate their understanding of the material prior to the webinar. It is expected that required materials will be kept to a minimum for the purposes of the quizzes, though additional materials may be provided for your own leisure.
* Discussion Boards: Discussion topics will be posted once a month and will be related to the material being examined at that point of the Scholars Program. Scholars will be expected to make one original discussion post and reply to at least one other scholar’s discussion post. It is recommended that scholars will be involved in the discussion boards more than the minimum amount but satisfactory completion of the minimum requirements will be noted for course completion. Scholars will also have access to an open discussion board to network with each other or to pose questions for other scholars.
* Final Project: The final project will consist of a comprehensive project where scholars will be expected to incorporate aspects of their learning from the Scholars Program. These projects are intentionally left open-ended in their direction as we hope that you will formulate a project based on your interests and motivations. Projects should be focused on at least one of the three tenants of the Health Care for All concepts: Advocacy, Education, and Engagement. Scholars will have several opportunities to refine their project ideas and to touch base with the course directors in the months leading up to the due date.

***Course Credit***

In past years, some scholars have been able to receive academic credit from their home institutions. AMSA is unable to guarantee that such credit will be awarded by your university. The award of academic credit is at the discretion of your home university and is often associated with successful completion of the program requirements. While we cannot guarantee that any credit will be provided, we may be able to assist with the collection of supporting documentation, if necessary.

**IV. Expectations of Scholars**

In order for a scholar to effectively learn and apply the skills presented in this program, it is crucial that each scholar participate in each aspect of the program. We see our mission as training physician leaders in order to transform the face of medicine.

The expectation is that each scholar will be prepared with recommended readings, participate in group discussions, and attend all the webinars. There will also be short quizzes associated with the readings. In total, we expect that each month will require approximately 2 hours of webinar time plus outside preparation time. We anticipate that the tasks will be flexible in nature and not a significant strain on your schedule. Scholars will also be encouraged to design and implement projects related to Health Care for All. Scholars are encouraged to attend the 2017 AMSA National Convention, including Lobby Day. However, attending the 2017 National Convention is not mandatory to participate in the program.

All scholars are expected to respect the opinions of others, including the guest speakers, course directors, and other scholars. Over the course of this program, scholars will likely be exposed to new ideas and opinions. Nobody is necessarily expecting you to change your personal beliefs or values based on the statements of others but everyone is expected to listen to and engage with other ideas. Scholars will be given one warning if their conduct is inappropriate or disrespectful towards others; any additional incidents may result in removal from the Scholars Program.

**V. Completion Requirements for Certification**

* Class attendance
  + *Domestic Students and International Students in the Caribbean and the Americas:*
    - Must attend 80% 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
    - Scholars should focus on an issue that they are passionate about relating to the concept of health care for all
    - Project will include a combination of the tenants of advocacy, education, and/or engagement. Scholars may also choose to focus on one of these tenants as well.
    - Scholars must submit either a presentation poster or a 6 page summary of their project
  + Guidelines
    - It is recommended that scholars discuss their ideas with the course directors early in the program. The course directors will help you refine your ideas into projects
    - Select a topic that you’re passionate about. Perhaps consider a topic that directly impacts your community
    - Your project will be submitted as a written document or as a summary poster which will explain why your project benefited a community and was connected to the Health Care for All concept
  + Ideas
    - Pick a piece of health care legislation and write an opinion article for your local newspaper or have a meeting with a legislator about that legislation
    - Pick a topic in the Health Care for All umbrella and design a course related to that topic by creating a syllabus or give a lecture on that idea
    - Put on a community event related to Health Care for All and explain how that event benefits health care for a local population in need
  + Timeline
    - Before 11/10/16: Iain & Preethi will facilitate discussion opportunities for the formulation of project ideas
    - 11/20/16: Scholars need to submit their project idea
    - 12/20/16: Project outline submitted
    - 01/20/16: Rough draft submitted
    - 02/01/17: Final projects are due

**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** | **Topic** | **Reading Assignments** |
| 10/4/16 | History of Health Reform & the Affordable Care Act | 1 Journal article & 1 Popular News article/video |
| 10/18/16 | Roadmap to Health Care for All: Single Payer, Public Option | 1 Journal article & 1 Popular News article/video |
| 11/1/16 | Medicaid Expansion & State-Based Initiatives | 1 Journal article & 1 Popular News article/video |
| 11/15/16 | The Rising Costs of Health Care | 1 Journal article & 1 Popular News article/video |
| 11/29/16 | The Rising Burdens of Health Care | 1 Journal article & 1 Popular News article/video |
| 12/6/16 | Health Disparities: The Roadblocks Preventing Health Care for All | 1 Journal article & 1 Popular News article/video |
| 12/13/16 | Health Disparities: Unique Challenges for Different Patients | 1 Journal article & 1 Popular News article/video |
| 1/3/17 | Is this just an American issue? An Overview of Health Care Access in other countries | 1 Journal article & 1 Popular News article/video |
| 1/17/17 | How to Identify a Health Care Burden in your Community and What you can do about it | 1 Journal article & 1 Popular News article/video |
| 1/31/17 | Introducing Patient-focused Advocacy into your Education & Practice | 1 Journal article & 1 Popular News article/video |
| 2/7/17 | Roles in Health Care Reform: Organizing, Coalition-Building, Communication | 1 Journal article & 1 Popular News article/video |
| ***2/23-26/17*** | ***AMSA National Convention in Washington, D.C.*** |  |