**American Medical Student Association**

**AMSA Academy**

**Professionalism & Ethics Scholars Program**

2016-2017

Tuesday @ 8:30– 10:00 pm ET

**Director:**  Emily C. White

**Vice Director:** Paolo C. Colet

**Course E-mail:**  pesp@amsa.org

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

**I. Course Description**

Professionalism and ethics in medicine is an area of increasing attention from numerous sectors of society resulting from several factors. A study in the United States among 665 medical students in their third and fourth years reported that 98% had witnessed unprofessional conduct committed by their faculty. Similarly, Colquhoun J. (2009) found that most complaints towards doctors were not their lack of knowledge of medicine, but rather because of their behavior. The Professionalism and Ethics Scholars Program focuses on the journey through medicine from medical student to medical professional, paying particular attention to navigating medical errors and providing you with a forum to explore a personal evolution of the understanding of professionalism and ethics. It is the hope of AMSA to educate future physicians, and mitigate the consequences of these controversies so as to reinvigorate the virtues of the medical profession.

**II. Course Objectives**

By the end of the Scholars Program, scholars will:

* Achieve familiarity and understanding of one’s responsibility to patients and to the medical profession, including relevant ethical principles and laws.
* Express and articulate one’s views clearly during discussions.
* Write a reflective paper demonstrating one’s insight and ability to apply the knowledge and skills gained through this course.

**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.
* There will be nine sessions with different topics to be presented and discussed that run from October 2016 to February 2017.
* Each session (except for the first and last) will have an online article to read before participating in the discussion. The articles will assist us in providing some background information as well as guiding us through the content.
* There will be an invited guest for each session to provide us with their experience, thought and answers to any questions we may have. The guest will also to help us clarify and understand the topic during our discussion.

***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:

* Participate in lively and informed discussion during each session.
* Share ideas or comments in a respectful and thoughtful manner as we will be engaging in some controversial topics of discussion.
* Read assignments to their corresponding scheduled session prior to the session.
* Complete short pre- and post-session quizzes
* Complete final writing assignment
* 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 students with respect, humility, and possess an open mind.
* Scholars will be highly encouraged, but NOT required, to attend the AMSA National Convention, February 23-26, 2017, in Washington, D.C.

**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
  + *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
* **Participation policy**
  + Must post to 80% of online discussion questions
* **Final Project**
  + Requirements
    - Write a reflective paper demonstrating one’s insight and ability to apply the knowledge and skills gained through this Scholars Program as it pertains to a given topic, practice, or situation related to professionalism and ethics.
    - In organizing your essay, please include the following parts: introduction, body, and conclusion.
  + Guidelines
    - In writing your reflection paper, choose any of the topics that will be discussed throughout the program or reflect upon an experience that fits with the objectives of the Scholars Program.
    - Length: 750-1200 words (8.5”x 11” bond paper) excluding references
    - Text spacing: single, with one space allotted in between sections and paragraphs
    - Font type and size: Times New Roman, font 12
    - Indention: 1” on all sides
    - Pagination: Top right
    - Reference and citation format: APA
  + Timeline
    - Directors will remind scholars on the completion of the requirement Beginning January 2017.
    - The essay will be due on 02/7/17 (Thursday) for us also to read before our last session on (2/18/17), which will be devoted to sharing of your essay.

**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** |
| 10/4/2016 | Introduction to the Scholars Program | No assigned reading |
| 10/18/2016 | Respect | Decisional vs. Competency (medical vs legal definitions of agency) |
| 11/8/2016 | Responsibility and Accountability | Communion (article about GI doctor confronted with a patient who wasn’t there for GI problems, but needed to disclose a traumatic event to someone) |
| 11/22/2016 | Honor and Integrity | Discussion of policies (for example, Candor in Iowa) |
| 12/13/2016 | Rudeness: Is it a real issue in Humanistic Medicine? | Riskin, A., Erez, A., Foulk, T. A., Kugelman, A., Gover, A., Shoris, I., ... & Bamberger, P. A. (2015). The Impact of Rudeness on Medical Team Performance: A Randomized Trial. *Pediatrics*, *136*(3), 487-495. |
| 1/3/2017 | Professional behaviors of tomorrow’s physicians, does it really matter? | Fargen, K. M., Drolet, B. C., & Philibert, I. (2016). Unprofessional Behaviors Among Tomorrow’s Physicians: Review of the Literature With a Focus on Risk Factors, Temporal Trends, and Future Directions. *Academic Medicine*,*91*(6), 858-864. |
| 1/17/2017 | Understanding Privacy and Confidentiality in advancement of sexual and reproductive health | Wissow, L. H. (2012). Public Health vs. Privacy: Rebalancing the Government Interest in Involuntary Partner-Notification Following Advancements in HIV Treatment. *Am. UJ Gender Soc. Pol'y & L.*, *21*, 481. |
| 2/7/2017 | Relief of Existential suffering: Is there a place in today’s medicine? | Dignity Therapy |
| ***2/7/2017*** | ***Reflective Essay Due*** |  |
| ***2/21/2017*** | ***Share Reflective Essay*** | No assigned reading |
| ***2/23-26/2017*** | ***AMSA National Convention in Washington, D.C.*** |  |