

Quality Improvement Scholars Program (QISP)

Request for Applications (RFA)

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

I. Purpose

The Quality Improvement Scholars Program (QISP) is a year-long training program designed to support physicians and quality leaders seeking advanced training in QI methods. This competitive program provides the skills and support needed to successfully complete and publish rigorous QI research projects. QI Scholars combines a mentored QI project experience with a formal curriculum in QI research methodology. In addition, scholars receive statistical and data analytic support for their projects and have access to an engaged network of QI Scholars alumni. It is expected that scholars will submit a first-authored manuscript based on their QI Scholars project to a peer reviewed journal by the end of their program participation. Graduates of the program are capable of leading, publishing and mentoring others engaged in quality-focused projects.

II. Program Components

A. Curriculum

Scholars are exposed to QI research methods and leadership skills during 12 monthly seminars. The morning seminars are a blend of didactics, small group exercises, and practical hands-on applications. The seminars are led by both internal and external experts in the field of QI science (see seminar schedule below). Seminar attendance is required. While in person attendance is preferred, all sessions are recorded and available by Zoom. The monthly sessions are structured as follows:

8:30 AM – 9:00 AM: Breakfast (optional)
9:00 AM – 12:00 PM: Interactive didactic seminar
12:00 PM – 1:00PM: Lunch and break
1:00 PM – 3:00PM: Work in Progress and/or guided project work time

B. Mentoring and Statistical Support

Each scholar is matched with a mentor experienced in QI research methodology. The scholar is expected to meet regularly with their assigned mentor to refine their project design, identify resource needs, interpret data, and draft a manuscript. The scholar and their mentor also meet with the program's data and analytics team who assist with data acquisition/cleaning and analysis.

C. Community

QISP is comprised of a cohort of scholars from across the local health system. Scholars from Seattle Children's are joined by scholars from UW Medicine, providing opportunities for system-wide networking, collaboration, and shared learning.

D. Educational credits*

As part of our commitment to providing comprehensive professional development opportunities, **physician** participants in the program are eligible to earn Continuing Medical Education (CME) credits (45 AMA PRA Category 1 Credits), and **nurse** participants are eligible to earn Continuing Education Contact Hours (up to 46 ANCC). These credits serve as a testament to the dedication and expertise demonstrated by our scholars in advancing quality improvement initiatives within healthcare. **In-person or online live sessions only*

III. Expectations of QI Scholars

A. QI Research Project

Scholars are expected to complete their QI research project and submit a first-authored manuscript after program participation. Scholars may apply with QI projects at any stage of development, but most successful applicants have projects that are already underway at the start of the program. If the QI project is ongoing at the end of the first 12 months, scholars are eligible for an additional 12-month extension of statistical and data analytic support.

B. Attendance

Scholars are required to attend the monthly sessions from 9:00AM to 3:00PM. See schedule below for specific dates.

C. Work-In-Progress (WIP) Sessions

Scholars present a WIP at least twice during program participation. These presentations are an excellent opportunity to address project barriers with the larger group and active participation/engagement is expected.

D. Grand Rounds and Webinar Presentations

Seattle Children's scholars present the results of their QI research project at the University of Washington Department of Pediatrics Grand Rounds in the Spring of the year following program completion. All scholars are invited to present at the UW Center for Scholarship in Patient Care, Quality and Safety's *Emerging Topics in Quality Improvement* noon webinar in the year following program completion.

IV. Eligibility Criteria

A. Participant Eligibility

Preference is given to applicants who are:

- Assistant or Associate Professors in any Department or Division. Professors will be considered on a case-by-case basis. If the applicant has not yet been appointed a faculty position, a letter from the Division Chief stating that such an appointment will commence by the program start date is required.
- Quality leaders (MD, RN, APP, other) affiliated with the Seattle Children's Center for Quality and Patient Safety (CQPS).

B. Time commitment

- Program participation requires day-long attendance at the monthly sessions, time for QI project implementation, meetings with mentors/data analysts/statisticians, and time to write a manuscript. This is estimated at 5% FTE release from clinical/other responsibilities for the year of program participation.

V. Program and Tuition Information

A. Applicants from Seattle Children's and the University of Washington Department of Pediatrics

- Tuition: generously supported by the Center for Quality and Patient Safety and UW Dept of Pediatrics. 5% FTE salary support is provided directly to scholars from the Department of Pediatrics.
- Mentoring and Statistical Support: Scholars are expected to meet regularly with their assigned mentor to refine their project design, identify resource needs, interpret data, and draft a manuscript. Scholars have access to a data analyst and statistician to support project needs for up to 24 months (12 months of QISP participation, plus up to 12-month extension).

B. Applicants from UW Medicine (including UW Montlake/Northwest, Harborview Medical Center, Seattle Cancer Care Alliance, and the VA)

- Tuition: [Learn more about the tuition structure for UW Medicine applicants](#)
- Mentoring and Statistical Support: Scholars are expected to meet regularly with their assigned mentor to refine their project design, identify resource needs, interpret data, and draft a manuscript. Scholars have access to a data analyst and statistician to support project needs for up to 24 months (12 months of QISP participation, plus up to 12-month extension).

VI. Application Requirements

- Applicants are strongly encouraged to work with their Division Chief or Department Chair and mentors for input on their proposed QI project.
- Dr. Lori Rutman, Program Director, is available for consultation with all interested applicants (lori.rutman@seattlechildrens.org).

1. Application includes:

- Project Title
- Applicant Name
- Applicant's academic rank and track and or role
- Hospital, Department and Division
- Name of Division Chief or Director

2. Description of proposed QI research project (2 pages **maximum** excluding references, Arial 11-point, single-spaced, ½ inch margins – proposals not adhering to these instructions will not be reviewed). Please clearly indicate the stage of the project (planned, implemented/underway, completed).

Please include the following sections in your project proposal:

- **Brief background/significance:** Why is improvement needed in your area of focus? What is the rationale for your intervention? Cite supporting literature – or lack of previous studies in this area
- **Objective / Aim** What are you trying to accomplish with your QI project?
- **Time frame:** What is the study time period? Consider a pre-intervention baseline period and post-intervention period.
- **Measures:** List potential process, outcome, and balancing measures relevant to the aim and research questions.
- **Potential data sources:** Describe data sources for the proposed project – indicate ease of access to this data (i.e., electronic health record, chart review, manual data collection).

- **Ideas for study design:** Applicants may propose a **draft idea** for the study design however, this is not required. The assumption is that the final design will be determined during work sessions with the applicant's assigned mentorship team and the data and analytics team during the first 2 months of program participation.
- **Proposed timeline:** QI Scholars projects must be completed over a 12-month period. This timeframe should include write-up of the study results and submission for publication.
- **Ethical considerations/IRB:** The applicant should state their plans for IRB application submission, i.e., will they apply for exemption, expedited review, or full review.

3. Letter of support from Division Chief/Supervisor

4. Current CV

5. Personal statement indicating how the applicant believes that participating in the program will advance their career. Limit to ½ page.

Submit applications online at:

[QISP Application](#)

Key Dates for 2025-2026

Program Announcement: **April 28th, 2025**

Applications Due: **July 31st, 2025, by 5:00pm**

Announcement of Awards: **August 2025**

First Meeting for Scholars: **October 15th, 2025**

Program End-Date: **September 30th, 2026**

If you have questions about this RFA please send them to Lori Rutman (lori.rutman@seattlechildrens.org).

**Quality Improvement Scholars Program
2025-2026 Seminar Series**

Presenter	Topic	Date
Lori Rutman, MD, MPH UW Department of Pediatrics, Seattle Children's Nick Meo, MD UW Department of Medicine Russ Migita, MD UW Department of Pediatrics, Seattle Children's	Welcome to QI Scholars and Fundamentals of Quality Improvement	October 15, 2025
Casey Lion, MD, MPH UW Department of Pediatrics Seattle Children's Research Institute	Assessing and Improving Disparities using QI Research Methods	November 19, 2025
Lori Rutman, MD, MPH UW Department of Pediatrics, Seattle Children's	Advanced QI Tools and applications	December 10, 2025
Lauge Sokol-Hessner, MD, CPPS UW Department of Medicine	Leading Change	January 14, 2026
Arti Desai, MD, MSPH Seattle Children's Research Institute	Survey Development in Quality Improvement Research	February 11, 2026
Mersine Bryan, MD MPH UW Department of Pediatrics Seattle Children's Research Institute Erin Gillespie, MD UW Department of Radiation Oncology	Introduction to Implementation Science	March 11, 2026
Davene Wright, PhD Harvard Pilgrim Ankur Pandya, PhD Harvard School of Public Health	Health Economics and QI Supply, Demand, and Value and Decision Analysis	April 08, 2026
Lauren McDaniel, MD UW Department of Pediatrics, Seattle Children's Dwight Barry, PhD Center for Quality and Patient Safety Seattle Children's	Introduction to Statistical Process Control/Using QI Charts Software	May 13, 2026
Rob Penfold, PhD Kaiser Permanente WA Health Research Institute	Interrupted Time Series Analysis in QI Research	June 10, 2026
Andrew F. Beck, MD, MPH Cincinnati Children's Hospital	Geospatial Analysis in Quality Improvement	July 15, 2026
Lauren McDaniel, MD UW Department of Pediatrics, Seattle Children's Dwight Barry, PhD Center for Quality and Patient Safety Seattle Children's	Advanced SPC and Challenging Cases	August 19, 2026
Maria Britto, MD, MPH Cincinnati Children's Hospital	Leadership in Quality Improvement	September 16, 2026