

Congratulations to AAPM&R's Academy Leadership Program Classes!

The Academy Leadership Program was established by your Board of Governors in 2012 to identify a select number of diverse, emerging member leaders and help prepare them to lead the Academy and the specialty through the coming changes in the health care environment. The Board committed significant financial resources and coordinated necessary infrastructure—a Selection Committee and an Oversight Committee—within the existing infrastructure to ensure support for and integration of the Leadership Program. In January 2013, the call for applications was launched, announcing:

“No leadership experience is required, but the program requires applicants who demonstrate interest, energy, and commitment. In return, the selected individuals will experience unprecedented access and exposure to the Academy Board of Governors and Academy initiatives. Because of the access and training afforded by this program, only a limited number of members will be selected to participate.

Selected individuals will be taken through a 2-year curriculum that introduces them to association leadership, strategic planning, media skills, Academy governance, products, and services, and volunteer leadership. The program expects a steady stream of commitment, communication, and accountability from participants without being overwhelming.”

The response to the call for emerging leaders has been overwhelming—more than 80 applications to fill 10 slots every 2 years! The Selection Committee works hard on its difficult task of choosing 10 candidates for each Leadership Program class, and each class has been determined and exceptional beyond expectations. We look forward to seeing all of their successes and accomplishments!

“There will be very few opportunities in a member’s professional career where they will have the opportunity to sit with a current board member and openly discuss issues relevant to the field and strategize on how to improve on those issues. It’s a fantastic opportunity.”

—JEFFREY RADECKI, MD, FAAPMR

Visit www.aapmr.org/leadershipprogram to learn more.

2013-2015 CLASS

Our inaugural class set a very high bar for classes to come, in terms of commitment and post-program impact. Listed below are these extraordinary Leadership Fellows and just some of their volunteer positions of influence.



Michele Arnold, MD, FAAPMR
Swedish Spine Sports and Musculoskeletal Medicine
Nominating Committee
Membership Committee



Deborah Bergfeld, MD, FAAPMR
Seton Brain and Spine Institute
Performance Metrics Committee



Charles Dillard, MD, FAAPMR
Children's Hospital of The King's Daughters
Membership Committee



Erik Ensrud, MD, FAAPMR
OHSU Orthopedics and Rehabilitation
Pain Medicine/Neuromuscular Medicine Member
Council Leader



Kevin Fitzpatrick, MD, FAAPMR
Mount Vernon Rehabilitation Medicine Associates
Evidence Committee



Marlis Gonzalez-Fernandez, MD, PhD, FAAPMR
Johns Hopkins University
Evidence Committee



Nneka Ifejika, MD, MPH, FAAPMR
The University of Texas Health Science Center
Health Policy & Legislation Committee



D.J. Kennedy, MD, FAAPMR
Stanford University
Board of Governors, Member-at-Large



Deepthi Saxena, MD, FAAPMR
Lafayette Regional Rehabilitation Hospital
Chair Elect, General & Medical Rehabilitation Member
Council



Jennifer Zumsteg, MD, FAAPMR
University of Washington
Chair, Health Policy & Legislation Committee

2015-2017 CLASS

A second class of diverse and talented Academy Leadership Fellows is now completing the program. Coming off a robust session of Capitol Hill visits to advocate for the specialty, this unique and impressive class will continue the commitment of taking talents and intensive leadership training to key volunteer positions of influence.



Shane Burr, MD, FAAPMR
The Physician Network
Reimbursement and Policy Review Committee



Alexios Carayannopoulos, DO, FAAPMR
Comprehensive Spine Center
Evidence Committee



Mehul Desai, MD, MPH, FAAPMR
International Spine, Pain & Performance Center
Corporate Relations Committee



Carl Gelfius, MD, FAAPMR, FAANEM
Ohio State University
Health Policy & Legislation Committee



Corinne Layne-Stuart, DO, FAAPMR
West Virginia University
Program Planning Committee



Annie Purcell, DO, FAAPMR
Redding Spine & Sports Medicine
Chair, Reimbursement & Policy Review Committee



Jeffrey Radecki, MD, FAAPMR
Lehigh Valley Health Network
Clinical Practice Guidelines Committee



Monica Rho, MD, FAAPMR
Shirley Ryan AbilityLab
Graduate Medical Education Committee



Monica Verduzco-Gutierrez, MD, FAAPMR
The University of Texas Health Science Center
Self-Assessment Examination Committee



Aurora Wong, MD, FAAPMR
North Mississippi Medical Center
Membership Committee

"If you have a passion for PM&R and supporting the future of our specialty, consider applying! You'll receive expert support and training in learning some of the hard skills of leadership and get to know a national diverse cohort of co-leaders as passionate about the long-term success of PM&R as you are."

—JENNIFER ZUMSTEG, MD, FAAPMR

2017-2019 CLASS

With 2 complete and successful classes in its portfolio, the Academy Leadership Program announces the next class of Leadership Fellows.



Angela Beninga, DO, FAAPMR
Shepherd Center



David S. Cheng, MD, FAAPMR
Rush University Medical Center/Midwest Orthopaedics



Sarah M. Eickmeyer, MD, FAAPMR
University of Kansas Medical School



Keith J. Foster, MD, MBA, CPE, FAAPMR
Memorial Rehabilitation Institute



Sarah Hwang, MD, FAAPMR
University of Missouri



Ninad Karandikar, MD, FAAPMR
VA Palo Alto/Stanford University



Lennox McNeary, MD, FAAPMR
Carilion Clinic



David E. Reece, DO, FAAPMR
Walter Reed National Military Medical Center



Clarice Sinn, DO, MHA, FAAPMR
University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center



Eric Wisotzky, MD, FAAPMR
MedStar National Rehabilitation Network

"This is truly an opportunity of a lifetime to help define the future of PM&R with the leaders of our field. As a young physiatrist, you get to make personal connections with our Academy's leaders and make decisions that will impact the future of our specialty."

—MONICA VERDUZCO-GUTIERREZ, MD, FAAPMR

"The Academy Leadership Program experience has yielded 9 new friends/colleagues with a similar interest in expanding our field. My advice is to just go for it. My mentors have always encouraged me to pursue opportunities— what's the worst that could happen?"

—NNEKA IFEJIKI, MD, MPH, FAAPMR