2015 – 2016
Academic Associate Program

North Shore-LIJ Health System
Department of Emergency Medicine
About the program

The NS-LIJ Academic Associate Program is a one- or two-year, full-time, paid program in the North Shore-LIJ Health System’s Department of Emergency Medicine. The position is designed for post-undergraduates who are interested in gaining experience in clinical research, quality improvement, and hospital administration. Academic Associates often apply to medical school but also go on to pursue other careers in fields such as public health, research, and healthcare administration. This booklet contains details on the application process as well as information on past and ongoing Associate projects, Associate testimonials, and contact information for current Associates.

What do Associates do?

Associates gain exposure to many aspects of academic medicine. They work primarily with physicians but also collaborate with other healthcare professionals including administrators, statisticians, nurses, and physician assistants (PAs). The program has five key areas of focus: (1) Healthcare administration, (2) Research, (3) Performance Improvement, (4) Information Technology, and (5) Continuing Medical Education (CME). This breadth of focus provides Associates with a comprehensive perspective on the workings of an academic medical department.

The program has 5 key areas of focus:

1. Hospital administration
2. Continuing Medical Education (CME)
3. Information Technology
4. Research
5. Performance Improvement

Where do Associates work?

Academic Associates work for the North Shore-LIJ Health System, the largest integrated health system in New York State and the 14th largest in the country. It is the largest private employer in New York State and serves more than 7 million people on Long Island, Manhattan, Queens, and Staten Island.

Within the health system, Associates are employed by the Department of Emergency Medicine and spend most of their time at two locations: North Shore University Hospital and Long Island Jewish Medical Center.

Associates also work with professionals from the Feinstein Institute for Medical Research, Cohen's Children Medical Center, Center for Learning and Innovation, and Hofstra North Shore-LIJ School of Medicine. Associates travel to Manhattan for Continuing Medical Education (CME) conferences, to venues such as the New York Academy of Medicine and Lenox Hill Hospital.

Benefits

- Co-authorship on various publications
- Strong networking opportunities with practicing locally and nationally practicing physicians
- Stipend salary and full healthcare benefits
- Located 30 minutes from New York City
North Shore University Hospital
- 788 bed, tertiary care teaching hospital
- More than 3,000 specialty and sub-specialty physicians
- Approximately 90,000 ED visits per year

Long Island Jewish Medical Center
- 524 bed tertiary care teaching hospital
- More than 700 staff physicians
- Approximately 80,000 ED visits per year

Feinstein Institute for Medical Research
- Oversees over 21,000 research studies in which over 15,000 subjects participate
- Ranks top 6th percentile of all National Institute of Health (NIH) grants

Hofstra NSLIJ School of Medicine
- Inaugural class of 2011
- In the past, medical students from Hofstra have worked closely with Academic Associates at LIJ while conducting summer research

Hospital Administration

Emergency Medicine Career Advancement Program (EMCAP)

The Emergency Medicine Career Advancement Program (EMCAP) was newly created to help facilitate the development of North Shore-LIJ Emergency Medicine faculty. It includes 7 committees, each of which oversees an area of the department, such as research, education, innovation, or faculty promotions.

Associates who are assigned to manage EMCAP are responsible for tasks like coordinating meetings, recording meeting minutes, and modifying committee documents. In addition, Associates help on the individual committees. For example, for the Faculty Promotions Committee, Associates help Emergency Medicine faculty navigate the faculty promotion process, serving as liaisons between them and the Hofstra North Shore-LIJ School of Medicine.

Through this project, they gain a high-level perspective on the workings of an academic medical department and work closely with some of the most senior staff in the department.

“EMCAP has given me the opportunity to serve as a liaison between our department and Hofstra North Shore-LIJ School of Medicine. I have developed networking skills through working directly with departmental leaders and health system administrators that I will apply throughout the rest of my career.”

Kathryn Bradburn
Academic Associate 2013-2015
Continuing Medical Education Conferences

Physicians and other healthcare professionals attend Continuing Medical Education (CME) conferences to stay abreast of new developments in medicine and to improve the quality of care.

The Department of Emergency Medicine at North Shore-LIJ hosts nine CME events each year on topics such as international emergency medicine, health policy, and pediatrics. These events are held both on Long Island and in Manhattan.

Academic Associates are integral to coordinating each of these events. They manage event logistics, registration, finances, and reporting. The Health Policy Assembly (pictured above) was coordinated by Associates and held at the New York Academy of Medicine in Manhattan.

Electronic Medical Records (EMR)

Electronic Medical Records (EMR) have enormous potential to improve healthcare delivery. On a national scale, they enable large observational research studies, the findings of which can be applied to improve clinical decision-making. On an individual scale, they give physicians better access to patients’ medical histories, allowing doctors to better understand their patients’ conditions and to improve their care.

Academic Associates apply data from EMR to improve care at the departmental scale in the North Shore University Hospital (NSUH) ED. Associates electronically abstract data, such as patient volume, door-to-provider times, and patient dispositions (i.e. admitted, discharged, left against medical advice) from the EMR to enter into a departmental database.

Departmental leaders in turn use this database to improve care. For example, the data allow physicians to see how much NSUH ED compares to national benchmarks in metrics such as door-to-physician time. If the comparison is not favorable, the problem can be addressed.

Occasionally, a physician will also request EMR data that isn’t normally collected. In these instances, Associates are tasked with writing queries to gather the necessary data. This allows Associates to hone their skills in data management.

Associates who work on this project not only gain firsthand experience abstracting, analyzing, and presenting EMR data for performance improvement and research purposes, but also have the opportunity to work closely with departmental leaders.
Sepsis Quality Initiative at North Shore University Hospital

Sepsis is an overwhelming immune response to an infection, leading to widespread inflammation and the potential failure of one or more organs. Every year, sepsis costs approximately $17 billion in the United States and kills an estimated 200,000 Americans – more than stroke, cancer, and even heart attack.

In 2009, North Shore-LIJ convened the Sepsis Task Force. Comprised of faculty from across the health system, it was charged with reducing in-system sepsis mortality and has been an enormous success: through development and implementation of an algorithm-based protocol, health system sepsis mortality decreased by 50%.

Now, all hospitals in New York must begin to follow this example, leaving North Shore-LIJ uniquely positioned to assume a leadership role in driving the quality of sepsis care as it becomes a larger issue on both state and national agendas.

The Academic Associates play a vital role in North Shore’s on-going fight against sepsis. At North Shore University Hospital (NSUH), Associates are responsible for the following tasks:

- Screening ED medical records to determine which patients may have had sepsis, and more specifically severe sepsis and/or septic shock based on set of criteria and sign of infection
- Entering clinical information on identified sepsis patients into a departmental database

Under the guidance of Dr. Jason D’Amore, the Task Force Co-Chair, Associates also have had active roles in the design and implementation of sepsis performance improvement initiatives, including revamping the sepsis algorithm.

Furthermore, the massive amount of data captured for the Sepsis Quality Initiative has loaned itself to further research opportunities for the Associates in a diverse array of clinical, systems, and financial contexts.
Research

Overview

Academic Associates are integrally involved with the Department of Emergency Medicine’s research program, working on a diversity of projects in variety of roles. Associates work directly with physician investigators and depending on the status of a particular project, help with the following:

- Protocol development
- IRB approval
- Patient enrollment
- Patient follow-up
- Data management
- Data analysis
- Abstract/manuscript writing
- Poster presentations

2013-2014 Academic Associates were authors on 14 abstracts accepted at national conferences

Sexual Assault Victims in the North Shore University Hospital Emergency Department

One in every thirty-three men and one in every six women are victims of sexual assault during their lifetime, and sexual assault survivors frequently seek care in the Emergency Department (ED) after their attack. The Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (SANE) Program was developed to provide these patients with necessary support and medical care that they need. SANE nurses are registered nurses who have advanced education and clinical preparation and provide prompt, compassionate, highly specialized, expert survivor-centric care and comprehensive forensic evidence collection. The work of the SANE program has received national recognition, but additional empirical research is necessary to support its efficacy.

At North Shore University Hospital, investigators initiated the Sexual Assault survivors in the Emergency Department (SAVED) research program to fill this knowledge gap, and Academic Associates have played a critical role in its execution. They conducted a retrospective chart review of sexual assault survivors over a twelve-year time period, analyzing data such as specifics of the attack, demographics of the patient, whether or not the patient received SANE care, and details of their care. To date, six abstracts have been published from this program and Associates are currently working on a manuscript with the principal investigators.

“Through working on this project, I learned the importance of meticulous work. Clinical research can have such large and meaningful implications, so attention to detail is critical.”

Lauren Granat
Academic Associate 2014-2015
Diabetes Education in the LIJ Medical Center

Emergency Department

In 2012, the American Diabetes Associate (ADA) estimated that 29.1 million Americans are living with diabetes. A staggering 8.1 million, nearly 30%, remain undiagnosed.

Staff at Long Island Jewish Medical Center believed that the Emergency Department could potentially serve a role in diagnosing these patients, educating them, and referring them to care, ideally before diabetes and its complications progress. With this in mind, they launched a performance improvement (PI) initiative. Academic Associates play an integral role in this project.

In the Clinical Decision Unit (CDU), a 24-hour observation unit within the ED, Associates identified patients who had never been diagnosed, but at high risk for developing diabetes. Once identified, Associates determined patients’ hemoglobin A1C (HbA1C) levels. The HbA1C level reflects average blood glucose for the past two to three months and is commonly used to diagnose diabetes or pre-diabetes. If the test indicated that a patient had either diabetes or pre-diabetes, Associates informed the patients and then provided them with a brief education. The education focused largely on lifestyle changes patients could make to slow the progression of the disease. Associates are hopeful that this education, along with the diagnosis, will encourage some patients to make adjustments in their lives that could avoid or delay diabetes and its associated complications.

The program has recently become standard of care in the hospital’s CDU and may expand to the rest of the ED. If effective, diabetes screening in the ED could extend to the entire North Shore-LIJ Health System and possibly become part of standardized care in the hospital setting.

Under the guidance of Dr. Robert Silverman, Associates have continued this PI initiative as well as refined their educational program, developed a research protocol, and secured IRB approval so that they can publish some of the results from the project. They recently submitted a manuscript for publication and hope to present some of their findings at a national conference.

“For me, working on this project is rewarding. I’m grateful for the opportunity to speak with these patients, especially as many are receptive and appreciative. Working on this project has also been enlightening, as it shows me firsthand the gaps in Diabetes screening and education.”

Christopher Valente
Academic Associate 2014-2015

“I have gained a new appreciation for the benefits of preventative care, an appreciation that I expect to maintain as I move forward in my medical career.”

Mackenzie Schleicher
Academic Associate 2014-2016

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Life beyond work

Academic Associates work hard, but also have a strong work-life balance. Importantly, they are given the flexibility to take time off work for medical school interviews, an unusual benefit in an entry-level position. Also, they work closely with the other Associates whom are in a similar place in life and often also have similar interests and aspirations. In the past, Associates have gone on skiing and camping trips and frequent all-you-can-eat sushi restaurants.

As both North Shore University Hospital and Long Island Jewish Medical Center are located 30 minutes by train from Penn Station, Associates also have access to New York City and all its cultural and culinary attractions. These benefits and more allow Associates to have a year that is both professionally and personally fulfilling.

How to apply

If interested in applying to the 2015-2016 Academic Associate Program, please fill out the application located at http://goo.gl/forms/o5nXjHd6pb. In addition, send a resume, unofficial transcript, and cover letter to Patrick Sheppard and Kathryn Brady at emaap@nshs.edu. Applications are reviewed starting in September and interviews begin in late November. Candidates are encouraged to apply as early as possible as interviews are granted on a rolling basis. Please reach out to Patrick, Kathryn, or any of the Associates listed on the program webpage (link below) with questions about the program.

Patrick Sheppard · 718-470-7987  |  Kathryn Brady · 516-562-1223
https://www.northshorelij.com/research-and-education/continuing-and-professional-education/graduate-clinical-education/academic-associates