



Department of Medicine

SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO ANSCHUTZ MEDICAL CAMPUS

## University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus

# Department of Medicine Program for Academic Clinician Educators (PACE)

### **The Program for Academic Clinician Educators**

The Department of Medicine (DOM) is committed to the career development of clinician-educators. The Program for Academic Clinician Educators (PACE) will provide each PACE Scholar with up to \$40,000 during the 2025-2026 academic year, which may be used for medical education research, innovative program development in education, and/or professional development as an educator of the Scholar. The Division Head must pledge to protect at least 10% of the effort/time of the Scholar for the duration of the award.

Each Scholar will be expected to participate in a monthly education scholarship “Works in Progress” group meetings for additional project support and mentorship, and program progress will be evaluated periodically. Scholars may apply for a second year of funding in a competitive renewal process where their applications will be evaluated along with new applicants.

PACE grant funds may be used towards educational tools and materials, data and analytic support, conference fees (if presenting PACE program project), article processing charges, CU credit courses (if not already free), and with prior approval from the Department of Medicine, external courses. The funds may not be used towards protected additional time for the Scholar and personal electronics (i.e., laptop, smart phone, desktop). The funds need to be used by the end of the academic year (June 30, 2026).

Participants may be dually enrolled in SOM Academy of Medical Educator programs (e.g. TSP) but are required to clarify in both applications their capacity to complete the scope and scale of work required. Also, if applying to both programs, verify applicant’s division is committed to supporting 20% FTE (10% TSP, 10% PACE).

### **Eligibility:**

- Applicants must have a primary DOM appointment and must be working at UCH, VAMC, Denver Health, National Jewish, or as SOM faculty at the Colorado Springs or Fort Collins branch campuses
- Applicants should be actively engaged in clinical care and teaching with plans to focus the scholarly aspect of their career on medical education
- Applicants must identify a primary mentor and a mentorship team that includes at least one additional faculty member



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- The Division Head must pledge to protect at least 10% of the effort/time for the duration of the award
- Applicants must agree to participate in the monthly education scholarship “Works in Progress” group meetings and are expected to present their project updates at least quarterly
- Individuals from traditionally under-represented communities are strongly encouraged to apply

### **Process:**

Interested applicants should write a two-page maximum letter of intent (1” margins, size 11 Times New Roman font) with the following three sections:

#### **Section 1: Experience and/or Interest in a Career Focus in Medical Education Scholarship.**

Please describe your existing track record in medical education scholarships and specify how the PACE grant will help you move to a national level of prominence in education scholarship. For those applicants who are new to education scholarship as a formal career choice, please share relevant professional development and/or educational roles or projects that demonstrate your early interest and understanding of this career choice. Please also be specific about why PACE is the right step for you at this point in your career, taking into consideration professional development and scholarship opportunities that PACE will enable that other CU programs and/or regional/national programs will not. For all applicants, state your ability to attend and participate in monthly Works in Progress meetings.

**Section 2: Description of the Proposed Project.** Provide a brief description of the education research project or education program including its anticipated impact. A formal literature review is not necessary for the LOI. However, the project description should show an understanding of the health professions education evidence base and literature that supports your project. Be specific about how this project will extend the current “state of the art” to build new theories of learning or stronger learning outcomes. Or if your project is an innovation of an existing practice, specify how the growing literature about the innovative approach provides an educational advantage, supports positive learning outcomes, decreases the cost, increases access, or reduces bias or barriers to learning. Please note that PACE is particularly focused on projects that help scholars:

1. scale learning impact to many learners or programs, even if the immediate project is focused on a limited group of learners and/or program track;
2. achieve peer-reviewed national scholarly impact through publications, conference presentations, etc.; and



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3. move to a career in medical education scholarship, including grants, peer-reviewed works, etc.

**Section 3: Mentorship.** Please specify who your primary mentor will be, their capacity to commit to monthly meetings (at minimum), and their experience with medical education scholarship. If you have a mentorship team, please clarify the role(s) of each member, and their experience in mentoring successful education scholarship projects.

The LOI will be reviewed and if considered consistent with the intent of this Program, the applicant will be asked to submit a full proposal. If requested in the LOI, the Program Selection Committee will provide coaching to support the applicant in developing the full proposal.

### **Anticipated Outcomes:**

- Scholarly productivity:
- Publications in health professions education
- National presentations that focus on understanding the best methods, or outcomes, of teaching
- Second-step funding from other sources
- Initiation of novel and/or actionable areas of education research or innovation
- Development of innovative courses, syllabi, novel lectures, problem-based learning cases, laboratory exercises or other instructional materials
- Development of innovative teaching methods, such as educational websites, simulations, videos, packaged courses or workshops
- Demonstrable development of career vision including relevant accomplishments
- Demonstrable evidence that this investment enriched the education enterprise of the SOM/DOM

### **Timeline**

- Letter of Intent (LOI): January 31, 2025 by 5:00 PM MT
- Candidates will be notified of invitation to submit full proposal by February 21, 2025
- Full Proposals: March 21, 2025 by 5:00 PM MT
- Award Notifications: April 18, 2025
- Program Start Date: July 1, 2025



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**Contact Information:** Please email letter of intent to Emma Faye Sylvester (PACE program coordinator at [emmafaye.sylvester@ucdenver.edu](mailto:emmafaye.sylvester@ucdenver.edu)). Please note: LOIs are limited to a maximum 2 pages, 1" margins, size 11 Times New Roman font.

*Those invited to submit full proposals will be asked to include:*

### **Guidelines for full proposal:**

- A title page and a 200-word abstract
- No more than four (4) pages of narrative text addressing the following:
- Vision for career development
- Plans to promote career development including involvement in works-in-progress sessions, regular meetings with mentor, and meetings with mentorship committee
- Description of education research project, or program development and evaluation plan
- Background and evidence (literature or local needs assessment) supports the proposal
- Anticipated impact of education research project or program on learners
- Anticipated impact of education research project on the DOM and SOM
- Dissemination plan
- Budget and budget justification including specific requests for resources such as statistical support, qualitative instrument design, and grant writing
- Sustainability plan
- An NIH biosketch
- A letter of recommendation from the primary project mentor discussing the candidate, the proposed project, and their commitment to the candidate
- A nomination letter from the candidate's Division Head describing the candidate's qualifications and the plan to reduce the clinical activities of the candidate