

Subject: 333 Cedar Street: Advancing Scholarship in Medical Education
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From: Dean Robert J. Alpern
To: YSM Community and Alumni

333 CEDAR STREET

A message from Dean Robert Alpern

333 Cedar Street, A Message from Dean Robert Alpern

Advancing Scholarship in Medical Education

Programs sponsored by the Yale School of Medicine Teaching and Learning Center foster curricular innovation and teaching excellence.



To the School of Medicine Community,

This year, Yale School of Medicine [Teaching and Learning Center's](#) (TLC) Medical Education Fellowship (MEF) program will celebrate graduating over 100 faculty on May 16 as part of Medical Education Day at Yale. A milestone for the MEF, this graduation also reflects the transformational impact of the TLC, with cascading benefits from our faculty and resident educators to our students and the communities in which they serve, as well as medical education scholarship worldwide.

The importance of creating a Teaching and Learning Center emerged in 2010. At that time the Strategic Planning Committee for Medical Education, chaired by Richard Belitsky, MD, deputy dean for education, recommended the creation of a center at YSM with dedicated resources, education experts, and a clear mission to promote excellence in medical education. The plan was to include three critical components: educator development, assessment, and technology. This resulted in the creation of the TLC in February 2012, with Janet Hafler, EdD, associate dean for educational scholarship, serving as director. We are at an exciting point in the history of the TLC; many of its impactful programs have become traditions at YSM, while at the same time it is still charting its course and creating important new initiatives.

[Medical Education Day](#) falls into the tradition category. Faculty from the Schools of Medicine and Nursing, as well as the Yale School of Public Health and the Yale PA Programs, join with residents, fellows, and students to [submit Med Ed Day poster abstracts](#) to be included in the conference poster session. The Anlyan Center is routinely filled on Med Ed Day, with YSM community members attending the keynote address—this year given by Edward M. Hundert, MD, dean for medical education at Harvard Medical School—participating in workshops, and networking with colleagues about innovations in medical education and research.



YSM attendees discuss colleagues' poster presentations at Med Ed Day, May 2017; left to right: Emeric Bojarski, MD; Zheala Qayyum, MD; Claudia Moreno, MD; Linda Mayes, MD; Andres Martin, MD, MPH. Photo credit: Mara Lavitt.

The fact that on May 16, our 113th faculty member will graduate from the Medical Education Fellowship program, reflects that it too has become a tradition. Each year department chairs nominate a faculty member with leadership potential and a strong interest in medical education to participate in this prestigious year-long program. The significant waiting list demonstrates both the need for this training and its effectiveness. Participants engage in 18 interactive sessions over the course of nine months, delving into the educational literature and discussing principles of learning. Designing an educational project that will be implemented in their department is the focal point of the MEF and these projects are proudly presented in posters at Medical Education Day. The graduates of the program are making important contributions to medical education at YSM, presenting their work at regional and national conferences, winning teaching awards, and achieving scholarship in journal publications.

This year will mark the launch of an exciting new TLC initiative: the Masters in Health Science degree with a pathway in medical education (MHS-Med Ed). This two-year degree program for YSM faculty, fellows, and residents from approved departments and programs, is for those who are interested in developing a career in medical education. The rigorous program focuses on designing an education research project and a curriculum built upon an individualized learning plan within the framework of required and elective courses.

YSM will only fulfill its education mission if we foster curricular innovation and scholarship in medical education, enhance the status of our teachers, and promote and reward teaching excellence. Our TLC is helping the YSM community of educators achieve this through the programs it has established as traditions, as well as its ongoing innovations. Medical Education Day at Yale provides a wonderful opportunity to gather together and celebrate our medical education assets as a community.

Sincerely,

Robert J. Alpern, MD
Dean and Ensign Professor of Medicine

333 Cedar Street is distributed to faculty, staff, students, alumni, and friends of Yale School of Medicine. This and future letters may be found on the Web at <http://medicine.yale.edu/news/cedar>. Write to Dean Alpern at 333cedar@yale.edu.