UMKC School of Medicine

Quality Improvement & Patient Safety (QIPS) Consortium

QIPS Faculty Scholars Program

2027-2028 Call for Applications

Now recruiting UMKC SOM faculty interested in a leadership development opportunity

Become a champion for Quality Improvement & Patient Safety scholarship through a faculty-driven, student-led project

Application deadline: 5pm on Friday, November 6, 2026

"QIPS Faculty Scholars" Program Description

The UMKC School of Medicine's Quality Improvement & Patient Safety (QIPS) Consortium is **seeking faculty interested in learning QIPS methodology to support clinical and operational improvement efforts** within University Health (all locations) and Saint Luke's Hospital (all locations).

Future physician leaders will need problem solving methods and tools to engage in the critical work of making today's healthcare system sustainable for tomorrow. Now recruiting for its sixth cohort, **the QIPS Faculty Scholars program** is a **scholarship development experience** that will prepare you to lead healthcare improvement efforts, while mentoring an aspiring UMKC medical student.

This program is for any faculty member working in a University Health or Saint Luke's Hospital clinical setting who is interested in teaching, coaching, and problem-solving to build their academic and leadership profile, even if they are not pursuing a career as a research scientist.

Quality Improvement "[a]rises from our conviction that healthcare will not realize its full potential unless change making becomes an intrinsic part of everyone's job, every day, in all parts of the system."

(Batalden P B , Davidoff F Qual Saf Health Care 2007;16:2-3)

Image source: https://www.chesshealthsolutions.com/2023/08/01/the-quintuple-aim-what-is-it-and-why-does-it-matter/

About the QIPS Consortium

Strategic Pillars:

- ***Education:*** Develop and maintain a robust educational curriculum in quality improvement and patient safety (QIPS) that incorporates concepts of scientific method, problem-solving, and clinical reasoning throughout.
- ***Scholarship:*** Expand the infrastructure to support the creation and dissemination of QIPS scholarship locally and nationally.
- ***Resources:*** Support and provide resources for projects and programs.
- ***Collaboration:*** Provide an organizational infrastructure for quality and safety across UMKC and its affiliate hospitals to facilitate collaboration, communication, scholarship development and sharing.
- ***Community:*** Improve quality and safety in the community.

Events & Programs:

- Annual Vijay Babu Rayudu QIPS Day
- QIPS Curriculum integration at the SOM
- Coaching to build improvement methodology skills and experience.

Mission:
To lead in the scholarship and dissemination of local, regional, and national activities directed at enhancing quality improvement and patient safety initiatives.

UMKC School of Medicine

FACULTY - CLICK TO APPLY

by 5pm on Friday, November 6, 2026

You should apply if you would like to:

- **Solve recurring problems** that plague daily clinical workflow and create chaos
- Engage in solutions by applying the scientific method to **seek out and eliminate waste**
- **Improve job satisfaction,** reconnect to purpose, and increase provider wellbeing scores (resilience)
- **Coach, develop, and mentor others** through QI project leadership
- **Produce academic scholarship** (scientific sharing, publications, MOC, leadership development)
- **Connect with a professional community** within the School of Medicine; learn from the other hospital affiliate programs, clinical divisions, and academic departments (networking opportunities)
- **Earn recognition** as an improvement scholar and as a mentor, teacher, and coach

You qualify for this program if:

- You are (or interested in becoming) a **UMKC SOM faculty member** working in a clinical setting at University Health (any location) or Saint Luke's Hospital (any location).
- You **interact with and influence learners** (students, residents, fellows, or other faculty) in your current role
- You have the **authority or influence** to identify and implement an improvement project in your clinical work environment
- You are **willing to coach** others, including medical students and your staff/peers
- You have a **passion for continuous improvement** (clinical and operational)
- You have **academic scholarship** goals (publication, leadership, academic promotion)
- You are passionate about **improving the future of the healthcare delivery system**
- You are adept at **balancing extra-curricular activities** with your existing clinical and administrative responsibilities

UMKC School of Medicine

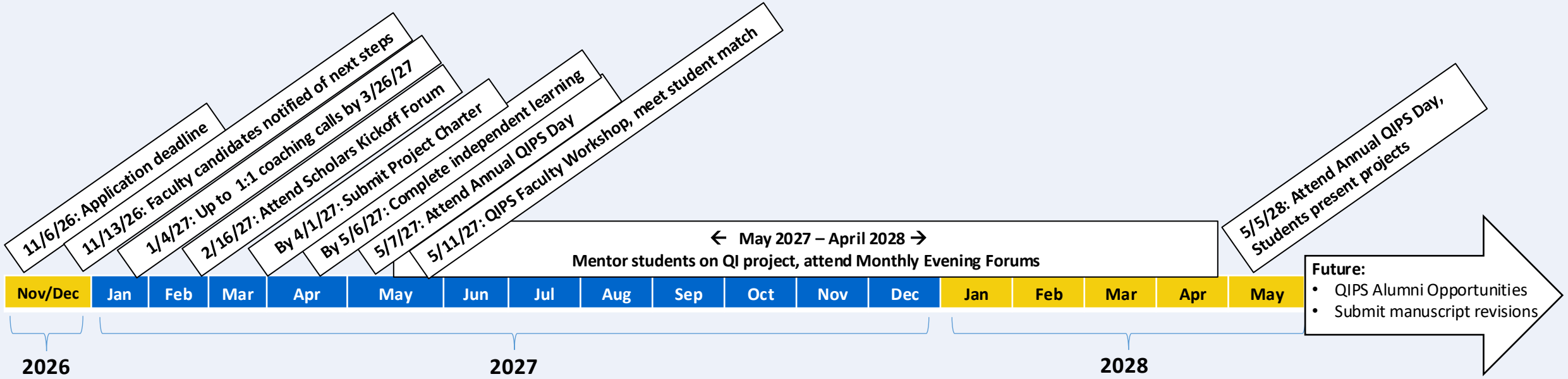
FACULTY - CLICK TO APPLY

by 5pm on Friday, November 6, 2026

What will be required of QIPS Faculty Scholars?

- Attend up to 3 one-to-one coaching calls between 1/4/27 and 2/26/27 to **refine your project idea** (virtual, flexible timing available)
- Attend the **QIPS Scholars Kickoff Forum** on 2/16/27, 5:30-6:30pm
- Submit your **project charter** by 4/1/27 and be paired with a student match
- **Independently complete 10 modules of online pre-work** to learn "problem solving basics" (total of 3.5 hours) by 5/6/27
- Attend the **14th Annual Quality Improvement & Patient Safety Day** on 5/7/27, from 8am to 4pm
- Participate in an immersive **one-day workshop on 5/11/27** to learn QI coaching principles, develop a plan for project success, and meet your QIPS Student Scholar. The workshop will be held in-person at the UMKC School of Medicine from 8am to 4pm.
- **Mentor a "QIPS Student Scholar"** to submit a scientific abstract to the Annual QIPS Day (abstract submission in March 2028)
- Assist your student mentee in preparing a first draft of a manuscript for **publication** in which you will be listed as "last (mentor) author" (templates, coaching, and technical support will be provided)
- Attend 7-9 **monthly Faculty Scholar Evening Forums** for ongoing technical guidance and coaching support (e.g., third Tues of each month between June 2027 to April 2028, excluding Aug 2027 and Dec 2027)
- Attend the **15th Annual Quality Improvement & Patient Safety Day** on 5/5/2028, from 8am to 4pm
- Participate in future QIPS Faculty Scholar **alumni opportunities**

Faculty Scholars Training & Student Mentoring Schedule



UMKC School of Medicine

FACULTY - CLICK TO APPLY

by 5pm on Friday, November 6, 2026

The Student Impact

"... one of the most impactful educational experiences of my medical training..."

~ Mira Bhatia, MS5
Class of 2026

"[The QIPS Scholars Program] has been a career defining experience..."

~ Audrey Otwell, MS6
Class of 2025

"[The QIPS Scholars Program] has been invaluable... in shaping my approach to medicine..."

~ Priya Patel, MS5
Class of 2025

"My experience in the QIPS program has been one of the highlights of my time at UMKC."

~ Jacob Tribble, MS5
Class of 2025

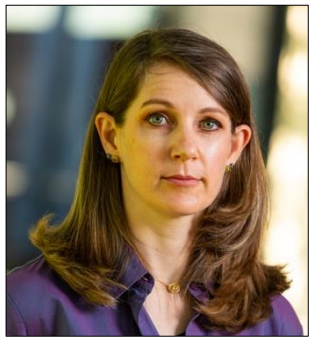
"[The QIPS Scholars Program] has been an incredible part of my time at UMKC...."

~ Satya Sivasankar, MS5
Class of 2025

"[Faculty Mentorship in this program has been] a unique relationship that is not found in other aspects of medical school."

~ Madeline Glodowski, MS5
Class of 2026

The Faculty Impact



"As an advisor, I have learned more as a QI Scholar than I have in many years in other advisory roles. It has been a sometimes challenging but groundbreaking experience that I feel privileged to have had."

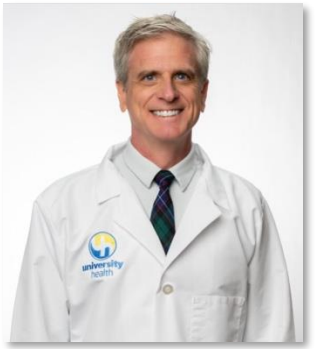
~ Dr. Kathleen Spears
Assistant Dean, Student Success
Director, Rural Medicine Pathway Program

"I have always been interested in Quality [but] the thought of trying to get involved was intimidating. The support and guidance of the QIPS program was exactly what I needed to learn the process and develop a robust project!"

~ Amy H. Savage, MD
Associate Program Director
UMKC Department of Anesthesiology

"Participating in QIPS has helped me to see my practice through the eyes of QI. Now that I have the basic tools under my belt, I almost can't stop seeing opportunities for improvement and 'pebbles in the shoe' that could be removed with the right plan."

~ Peter J. Everson, MD - Orthopaedic Traumatologist, UH Truman Medical Center



"The program not only encourages students and faculty to adopt a mindset of continually looking for ways to improve, but also to do so with a framework employing structure, focus and creativity. This has been a valuable experience for me."

~ Richard Galbraith, MD, JD, MBA
Director of Transfusion Medicine
University Health Kansas City
UMKC Department of Pathology

"The education provided is informative, relevant, and helpful; the mentorship is extraordinary and personalized."

~ Brenda Rogers, MD
Associate Professor, Internal Medicine/Pediatrics
UMKC School of Medicine

"I found a true interest in QI and plan to implement more QI projects throughout my career, an essential practice to improving the care we provide to patients and families."

~ Alexa Pagano, MD
Children's Mercy Hospital
Division of Clinical Pharmacology, Toxicology, and Therapeutic Innovation
Assistant Professor of Pediatrics
UMKC School of Medicine

UMKC School of Medicine

FAQs

Is past QIPS experience needed to participate?

- Past QIPS project experience is useful but not required.
- Frequent coaching, technical guidance, and resource sharing will be provided throughout the program timeline.

How are QI project topics determined?

- A project plan is not required prior to applying but broad topic ideas will be solicited as a part of the application.
- Technical support will be provided to help you refine a project idea prior to the launch of the student program in May 2027.
- The problem can be described as a gap using numeric language.
- The problem is in your “realm of influence” and you personally know the players. impacted by this problem?

Prompts to Inspire QI Project Ideas

- Spot inefficiencies: What slows things down or causes extra work?
- Think patient-first: Where could care be clearer, smoother, or more compassionate?
- Focus on safety: Are there steps where errors could happen—or have happened?
- Notice variation: Do people handle the same task differently?
- Ask “what could be better?”: Is there something you’ve always wished worked differently?

To learn more about the program and the projects conducted by past participants, you can visit: https://med.umkc.edu/research/qips/scholars.html

What does project work look like?

You can expect to coach a student on the following activities during a QI project:

- Gathering and analyzing baseline data
- Conducting process observations and mapping workflow
- Interviewing or surveying stakeholders, including possibly patients
- Brainstorming and implementing countermeasures with stakeholders
- Gathering and analyzing data to determine if countermeasures resulted in improvement
- Sharing results with local stakeholders and helping your student mentee submit an abstract, present a poster, and draft a manuscript for publication

What does a typical mentor meeting look like?

The program will utilize the A3 framework for problem-solving, a structured method that guides the process step-by-step. Students and their mentors will meet at least once a month to review project progress using the A3 framework as a guide.

What is the time commitment for faculty?

Following the pre-work (Jan 2027 to April 2027) and after the one-day workshop (5/11/27), the estimated time commitment will be about 4 hours per month while mentoring a student to implement your project between May 2027 to May 2028.

What does my student gain through my participation?

A commendation at graduation, “Distinction in Healthcare Quality & Patient Safety”

Further questions?

Contact Dr. Mamta Reddy, SOM Chair of Patient Safety, at reddyma@umkc.edu

UMKC School of Medicine

FACULTY - CLICK TO APPLY

by 5pm on Friday, November 6, 2026

UMKC
School of
Medicine