Quality Academy

Quality Academy at Monroe Carell Jr. Children’s Hospital at Vanderbilt is a year-long course designed to teach quality improvement (QI) principles and science among provider, nursing, and administrative leaders through project-focused and didactic learning. Participants envision, create, and lead a team to complete a robust QI project focused on improving one or more of the following: patient outcomes, hospital or department goals, value by reducing waste, efficiency, or USNWR reporting. Each participant will have a mentor who has previously graduated from Quality Academy.

Participant Expectations

- Participate in mandatory monthly 4-hour didactic sessions, typically 3-7 p.m. weekdays
- Meet with mentor monthly
- Conceptualize, design, and lead a robust QI project to meet hospital or department goals using tools taught in the course (SMART aim statements, key driver diagrams, run and control charts)
- Develop and measure metrics over time and plot them using Microsoft Excel add-ins
- Present project progress to class every other month
- Present to Children’s and VUMC leadership at the end of the course
- Serve as a mentor to future Quality Academy students
Tools and Themes of Quality Academy

- Project conceptualizing and design
- SMART aim development
- Model for Improvement
- Key driver diagrams
- Roadmap for improvement projects
- Simplified FMEAs
- PDSA cycles and ramps
- Understanding variation
- Recognizing importance/role of systems
- Statistical process control basics to detect non-random change
- Reliability theory and its role in error prevention
- Building and managing teams
- Brainstorming methods (affinity mapping, empathy mapping, random word associations)
- Creating sustainability plans
- Principles of spread
- SQUIRE guidelines for publication of QI work
**Quality Academy Leaders**

**Autumne Bailey, M.S.N., R.N., P.C.N.S.-B.C.** is the administrative director of quality and patient safety at Children’s Hospital. She is a board certified pediatric clinical nurse specialist and graduate of the IHI Patient Safety Executive Course.

**Caroline Epps, M.S.N., R.N.** is a registered nurse who serves as a Quality and Safety Advisor in pediatrics. She is a graduate of the Intermediate Improvement Science Series (I²S²) at Cincinnati Children’s Hospital and Medical Center, and has worked with ambulatory and emergency services focusing on efficiency, and patient safety.

**Dave Johnson, M.D.** is a pediatric hospitalist and completed a fellowship in Performance and Quality Improvement following residency. He is also a graduate of I²S² and Advanced Improvement Methods courses at Cincinnati Children’s Hospital and Medical Center. His work has focused on improving patient value through standardizing care to reduce waste and eliminate patient harm.

**Barron Patterson, M.D.** is a general pediatrician and graduate of the Intermediate Improvement Science Series (I²S²) and Advanced Improvement Methods courses at Cincinnati Children’s Hospital and Medical Center. His work has focused on primary care screenings, well-care delivery, and clinic logistics.

**Apply to Quality Academy**

Discuss your application with your supervisor and obtain approval. [Complete the application here.](#)