



NEW JERSEY MEDICAL SCHOOL

University of Medicine & Dentistry of New Jersey

DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHIATRY

Office of the Chair

April 22, 2013

Dear Colleagues,

I am very excited to announce the launching of an innovative Mini-Fellowship in Addiction Medicine for attending physicians from all specialties leading to Board Certification by the American Board of Addiction Medicine (ABAM).

Although addiction continues to be a major cause of mortality and morbidity in our communities, only a handful of us have the necessary skills to adequately manage substance use disorders. I would like to invite you to join us in our efforts, learn the state of the art in Addiction Medicine, and become recognized for your expertise as an ABAM Diplomate.

ABAM is the nation's first medical specialty board that certifies addiction medicine physicians across a range of medical specialties. The board sets standards for physician education, assesses physicians' knowledge and requires and tracks life-long education. It is an independent specialty board established in 2007, and, as of 2013, no formal fellowship is required (yet) for ABAM certification.

I will serve as director of the program, help guide you through the process, teach you what I know about addiction and mental health, and prepare you for the examination. Rajashri Patel, CRA, will help us coordinate the various aspects of the project.

Requirements for the NJMS Mini-Fellowship in Addiction Medicine are as follows:

1. Register for the Mini-Fellowship by June 30, 2013, by sending me an e-mail at PetrosLevounis@umdnj.edu.
2. Attend the "Fundamentals of Addiction Medicine" Lecture Series offered in the summer of 2013 as follows:

a. NEUROBIOLOGY OF ADDICTION	Wednesday, July 3	10:30 am to noon
	Wednesday, July 10	NO CLASS
b. ALCOHOL	Wednesday, July 17	10:30 am to noon
c. OPIOIDS	Wednesday, July 24	10:30 am to noon
d. STIMULANTS	Wednesday, July 31	10:30 am to noon
e. NICOTINE & CANNABIS	Wednesday, August 7	10:30 am to noon
	Wednesday, August 14	NO CLASS
f. THE BEHAVIORAL ADDICTIONS	Wednesday, August 21	10:30 am to noon

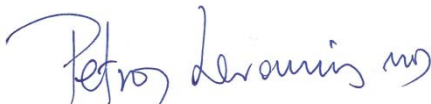
3. Register for the 2014 ABAM Examination by October 31, 2013 (ABAM.net). If you register by the October 31 deadline, you will be eligible for the reduced examination fee of \$1,950. Please make sure that you meet the ABAM requirements outlined on the last page.
4. Actively engage in learning about Addiction Medicine by:
 - a. Reviewing the "Principles of Addiction Medicine, 4th Edition" textbook and other addiction-related books and articles that I will recommend.
 - b. Participating in webinars and other Internet-based educational activities.
 - c. Diagnosing and treating patients with substance use disorders and behavioral addictions in your own practice.
5. Prepare cases for discussion and attend the "Quarterly Addiction Medicine Retreats" on the first Wednesday of the quarter as follows:
 - a. Wednesday, October 2, 2013 8:00 am to 1:00 pm
 - b. Wednesday, January 8, 2014 8:00 am to 10:30 am
 - c. Wednesday, April 2, 2014 8:00 am to 1:00 pm
 - d. Wednesday, July 2, 2014 8:00 am to 1:00 pm
 - e. Wednesday, October 1, 2014 8:00 am to 1:00 pm
6. Attend the 2014 American Society of Addiction Medicine (ASAM) Annual Medical-Scientific Conference in Orlando, Florida, on April 10-13, 2014 (ASAM.org).
7. Attend the 2014 ASAM three-day Review Course in Nashville, Tennessee, on September 18-20, 2014. Attending the NJMS "Fundamentals" course, the ASAM conference, and the Review Course will fully satisfy ABAM's 50 addiction-related CME requirement.
8. Take the ABAM Certification Examination in New York City or Elizabeth, NJ, on November 8, 2014. Break a leg!

I am delighted that a limited number of partial scholarships will be made available through the generosity of the Office of the Dean. Once you have been accepted by ABAM to take the 2014 Certification Exam, you'll be eligible to apply for partial reimbursement of the fee through the Dean's scholarships. Participants will be responsible for the rest of the examination fee, books, the ASAM Med-Sci Conference in April, and the ASAM Review Course in September 2014. There is no tuition fee for the lecture series or the retreats.

If you would like additional information, please don't hesitate to contact me at PetrosLevounis@umdnj.edu/973.972.7117 or Ms. Rajashri Patel at Patel122@umdnj.edu/973.972.0614. Even better, stop by my office at BHSB F-1439 when you get a chance.

I am looking forward to working with you to become Board Certified in Addiction Medicine!

Best wishes,



Petros Levounis, MD, MA
Chair, UMDNJ-NJMS Department of Psychiatry



Applicants must meet each of the following six criteria in order to sit for the ABAM Certification Examination in 2014:

LICENSURE: A valid and unrestricted license to practice medicine in the United States, its territories, or Canada. A valid medical license is a certificate to practice medicine which is issued by the appropriate agency and which certifies that a physician is allowed to practice medicine within that country, province or state. A physician may hold one or more licenses, each of which must be valid, full, unrestricted and unqualified at the time of application and at the time of the examination.

MEDICAL EDUCATION: Graduation from a medical school in the United States or Canada approved by the Liaison Committee on Medical Education (LCME), or the Committee of Accreditation of Canadian Medical Schools (CACMS), or from a school of osteopathic medicine approved by the American Osteopathic Association (AOA). If the applicant is a graduate of a medical school outside the United States or Canada, the applicant must have a currently valid standard certificate from the Educational Commission for Foreign Medical Graduates (ECFMG); or have passed the Medical Council of Canada Evaluating Examination (MCCEE).

BOARD CERTIFICATION AND RESIDENCY REQUIREMENTS: This requirement must be completed by June 15th, 2014. Certification by a member board of the American Board of Medical Specialties (ABMS), OR certification by the American Osteopathic Association (AOA), OR successful completion of a residency training program in any medical specialty. Residency programs must be accredited by one of the following:

- The Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME)
 - The Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada, or
 - The Professional Corporation of Physicians of Quebec.
- Residency programs accepted by any member board of the American Board of Medical Specialties as qualifying to sit for that member board's certification examination will be accepted as qualifying to sit for the ABAM Certification Examination.

PRACTICE OR SPECIALIZED TRAINING FOR ADDICTION MEDICINE: This requirement must be completed by June 15, 2014 and may be fulfilled by either of the following pathways:

Pathway A: *Practice: One year full-time equivalent (1 FTE) of activity in the field of Addiction Medicine:* 1 FTE is equal to at least 1,920 hours over the previous 5 years (2009-2014) in teaching, research, administration, and clinical care or the prevention of, as well as treatment of individuals who are at risk for or have a substance use disorder. At least 400 of these hours MUST have been spent in direct clinical care of patients. Hours used to meet the requirement must have been accrued between July 1, 2009 and June 15, 2014. This practice experience in the field addiction medicine MUST be in addition to, and not concurrent with, residency training in any other field. For example, "elective rotations" during a Primary Care residency program may not be used to fill this requirement. Examples include: ASAM-sponsored educational programs or educational programs specifically on Addiction Medicine that are eligible for Category I credit towards the AMA Physician Recognition Award. **OR**

Pathway B: *Completion of an ABAM-Foundation accredited training program.* Candidates who have successfully completed a one year ABAM-Foundation accredited Addiction Medicine residency training program will be able to sit for the 2014 ABAM certification, if all other requirements have been fulfilled. Formal training in Addiction Medicine may occur over 1 or 2 years. A letter of program completion from the program director that documents successful completion of the Addiction Medicine residency training program must accompany the application. One year training programs are equivalent to approximately 2,000 hours.

LIFE LONG LEARNING: 50 hours of Addiction Medicine educational course work (CME) Category I Credit towards the AMA Physician Recognition Award. Credits must relate to addiction and substance use disorders, and MUST have been accrued between December 15, 2012 and December 15, 2014. (Canadian or osteopathic equivalent accepted.)

PROFESSIONAL STANDING: Good standing in the applicant's medical community as evidenced by at least one letter of recommendation by: an ABAM- or ASAM-certified physician, or a direct physician supervisor.