

AJMQ Newsletter: New Chapters for the College

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Over the past 40+ years, the membership of the American College of Medical Quality (ACMQ) has encountered tremendous successes in educating physicians, researchers, and other health care professionals about quality improvement and patient safety. As detailed previously in this column, on June 10, 2014, the ACMQ Board of Trustees made a momentous decision that is markedly enhancing the College's focus and effectiveness: The Board voted unanimously to extend full membership status in the College to health care professionals with master's-level degrees or higher and to health professions students and trainees who currently are in such degree or training programs. In our Newsletter update from the January/February 2016 issue of this journal, we shared the College's intent to begin establishing ACMQ chapters. Over the past 8 months, much work has been accomplished and ACMQ chapters are now being founded throughout the United States.

Our inaugural chapter held its first meeting in late April of this year at the Medical University of South Carolina (MUSC) in Charleston. Attended by more than 50 health professions students, trainees, and faculty at the very end of a busy academic year, this first meeting helped lay the groundwork for determining the requirements and expectations of what an ACMQ chapter must include. Membership in MUSC's ACMQ chapter currently exceeds 100 people, continues to grow rapidly, and now comprises a diverse array of health professions students, trainees, faculty, and staff.

Under guidance by the ACMQ national Student, Resident and Fellow (SRF) section and Executive Committee leadership, over this past summer the MUSC chapter has elected officers, crafted a timeline for meetings to be held throughout this current academic year, and

also drafted a "How to Start an ACMQ Chapter" toolkit. The toolkit has since been vetted and refined by the ACMQ SRF section and Executive Committee leadership and is now posted on the ACMQ website.

ACMQ members are now encouraged to use this toolkit as a resource, reach out to other like-minded colleagues, and help establish ACMQ chapters in a variety of settings. While it is envisioned that most of the initial ACMQ chapters will be founded at academic health centers and other health professions training sites, the College leadership understands and appreciates that the chapter development process will be an iterative one and will continually undergo refinement as chapters are founded and mature.

Chapter members are encouraged to participate actively and meaningfully in local activities that will continue the College's long-standing tradition of providing education in all facets of medical quality management. Additionally, chapter members also are expected to do the same at the national ACMQ level. We envision an ACMQ future that includes a bidirectional flow of education and activity from the national level to the local level—and back again. Ideas, projects, and initiatives fostered at the ACMQ national level will now have a mechanism to be implemented at local or regional levels by chapter members. Likewise, learnings, successes, and challenges encountered by our chapters will help inform and shape the ACMQ's dialogue at a national level.

Further information about ACMQ chapters and the status of their development will be shared during Medical Quality 2017. Be sure to put a hold on your calendar now: MQ17 will be held from March 29 to April 1, 2017, at the prestigious Mayflower Hotel in downtown Washington, DC. Visit www.acmq.org for more information.