

# 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 1-5 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 Monroe Carell and VUMC leadership at the end of the course
- Serve as a mentor to future Quality Academy students



### Tools and Themes of Quality

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

### Quality Academy Leaders

Autumne Harding, MSN, APRN, CPPS, PCNS-BC is the senior director of quality and patient safety at Monroe Carell. She is a board certified pediatric clinical nurse specialist and graduate of the IHI Patient Safety Executive Course.

Dave Johnson, M.D. is a pediatric hospitalist and completed a fellowship in Performance and Quality Improvement following residency. He is a graduate of Intermediate Improvement Science Series ( $I^2S^2$ ) 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  $I^2S^2$  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.

Ashley Ried, MMHC, BSN, RN, CPPS, NE-BC is the Magnet Program Director at Monroe Carell. She is a graduate of Quality Academy and the Advanced Improvement Methods course at Cincinnati Children's Hospital and Medical Center. Her work has focused on medication safety, employee safety, and the behavioral health patient population.

### Apply to Quality Academy

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