



P.O. Box 38237
Albany, New York 12203
www.NYACP.org
(518) 427-0366

Steven Walerstein, MD, MACP Advocacy Internship Program

SYLLABUS

2023 New York State Legislative Session

Contact Information: Loretta Ponesse CAE, Executive Director, New York Chapter ACP
lponesse@nyacp.org / 518.427.0366 Ext. 1– office / 518.339-8644 – cell

Program Description:

The Steven Walerstein, MD, MACP Advocacy Internship Program is, first and foremost, an educational program designed to introduce medical students and residents to the various ways in which state health policy issues impact the practice of medicine. Interns will be asked to select an issue that is important to them to focus on throughout the duration of their 3-4 week program. Interns will learn how to research state policies that impact their area of interest, and how to find federal policy guidance influencing state policy decision-making. Using a focus issue as a starting point, interns will prepare a policy brief summarizing their topic in a format prescribed by NYACP. Ideally, the policy brief will become a guidance document for NYACP’s Health & Public Policy Committee with enduring impact by informing the work of the committee in a meaningful way.

Each issue studied by NYACP advocacy interns throughout the academic year must be distinct from one another and impact internal medicine. Advocacy interns are encouraged to interview and/or survey medical students, residents and/or physicians as part of their work on their project as a way to gather insights and recommendations from practitioners. All advocacy interns must meet with NYACP program administrators at least once per week.

During the course of the internship, the NYACP office will engage in various legislative activities. When appropriate, interns will be invited to participate in these meetings (ie: NYACP advocacy day, ACP leadership meeting, NYACP Council/Board, etc.). Additionally, as issues arise during the NYS legislative session, interns will be asked to write drafts of memorandum in support or opposition to legislation in accordance with NYACP positions on issues.

Learning Objectives:

At the conclusion of the NYACP advocacy internship, participants will be able to:

- Identify sources of NYS-level policy influence on the practice of medicine;
- Describe how the NYS Legislature influences health policy;
- Describe how NY agencies (e.g.: NYS Department of Health) impact health policy;
- Identify ACP positions on issues of importance to the practice of internal medicine;
- Reach members of the NYS Legislature and identify policy issues they would like to discuss;
- Conduct a meeting with legislative leaders;
- Prepare memorandum in support and/or opposition to health policy proposals;
- Write a health policy position memoranda;
- Conduct health policy research; and
- Articulate policy positions for policy decision-making leaders.

Reading/Viewing Materials:

Depending upon the policy issue identified by advocacy interns and approved by Chapter staff, reading and/or video material may be suggested as helpful background sources.

Advocacy interns will also be asked to review legislative bills and memorandum as identified by NYACP staff in the conduct of the program.

Schedule of Program Deliverables:

Weeks 1-4: Work on discrete legislative issues in collaboration with NYACP staff.

Week 1: Identify a policy issue to focus on throughout the duration of your participation in the program. Conduct preliminary research including state and ACP sources relative to the issue you identify. Draft a 2-3 page, single-spaced memorandum in the following format:

- Statement of the Issue
- NY Policy Impacting the Issue
- Federal Policy Impacting the Issue
- Policy or Issue Controversy
- Identify Additional Research that can Help Inform the Issue

Week 2¹: Conduct a literature review. Draft a summary of the literature.

Week 3: Conduct research.

¹ For 3-week internships, deliverables outlined for Weeks 2 and 3 are aggregated into a one-week timeframe.

Week 4: Prepare final 6-7 page, single-spaced report (include reference page as an additional page) in the following format:

- Statement of the Issue (Updated/Revised/Clarified from Week 1 Policy Statement)
- NY Policy Impacting the Issue (Updated/Revised/Clarified from Week 1 Policy Statement)
- Federal Policy Impacting the Issue (Updated/Revised/Clarified from Week 1 Policy Statement)
- Controversy (Updated/Revised/Clarified from Week 1 Policy Statement)
- Discussion
- Implications for Internal Medicine
- Conclusion