Disrupting Definitions of Scholarship

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In recent years, a new phenomenon has emerged in medical academia, fundamentally changing the roles and responsibilities of physician faculty. Unlike traditional physician roles primarily focused on patient care, this new generation of physician faculty finds themselves within the larger university system without many peers who share similar clinical roles. This unique position creates what is often described as a "dual identity," where they must balance their medical practice with academic commitments.

Despite their dual roles, physician faculty members do not benefit from the job security offered by tenure, as their research-focused colleagues do. Instead, they face the continuous need to justify their roles and contributions while also ensuring their department's financial sustainability to maintain competitive salaries. This duality of maintaining clinical excellence and financial viability characterizes this recent shift in medical academia.

As Academic Medical Centers (AMCs) grapple with shrinking operating margins and reduced federal research funding, they are reconfiguring their operational models to better align with the goals of their affiliated hospital systems. This shift has triggered changes in the composition of AMC physician faculty, leading to a realignment of priorities.

In response to these changes, a noticeable transformation has occurred within the AMC physician faculty.

A number of organizations are interested in hiring physicians that focus primarily on full-time clinical roles, and a growing number have taken on new roles as "physician executives." These individuals now oversee operations, innovation, and strategy, reflecting the evolving healthcare landscape as institutions adapt to financial constraints and changing dynamics in the medical field.
The Evolving Landscape of Academic Scholarship

Boyer's framework, introduced in the 1990s, represented a significant expansion of the concept of scholarship, particularly within the realm of academic medicine. This framework laid the groundwork for a more comprehensive understanding of what constitutes scholarly work in this field, encompassing not only traditional research but also teaching, application, and integration of knowledge. Recent events, notably those that transpired during the global pandemic, have further underscored the importance of medical professionals embracing their roles as health advocates and champions of systemic change. The crisis shed light on the critical need for healthcare practitioners to not only provide direct patient care but also to advocate for necessary reforms in healthcare systems to ensure better preparedness and equity. In the context of these shifts, scholarship within academic medicine has undergone significant evolution over the past two decades. This transformation reflects the broader recognition of the multifaceted responsibilities and contributions of medical professionals in education, practice, and advocacy, emphasizing the importance of a holistic approach to scholarship that extends beyond traditional research paradigms.

A Selected Bibliography
About New formats of Scholarship


Scholarship comes in diverse forms

- Discovery
- Application
- Teaching
- Integration
- Systems Change
- Advocacy
New Forms of Scholarship

In additional to usual formats of scholarship

Usual formats of scholarship include but are not limited to: Peer reviewed manuscripts, Book chapters, Case reports, Grants and contracts, Systematic reviews.

- Clinical guidelines (local to national)
- QI projects (local to national)
- Community partnerships
- Educational curricula or tools (with evaluation)
- Advocacy (e.g., impacting regulation / legislation)
- Positions and policies (local to national)
- Social media, other digital platforms
- Clinical informatics improving the EHR

All of the above must have demonstrable impact

Useful Frameworks & Theories

- Advocacy Scholarship Framework
- Digital Scholarship Framework
- Justice, Equity, Diversity, Anti-racism, and Inclusion (JEDAI) Scholarship Framework
- Team Science Scholarship Framework

This QR code takes you to see the Clinical Faculty Policy for Duke University

Also found at: https://medschool.duke.edu/about-us/faculty-resources/faculty-appointments-promotion-tenure/clinical-science-apt/faculty-3
Each of our facilitators have detailed some of their own journeys in scholarship.

1

**Dr. Ortega:**
- Creation of non-English language content
- Graphic Medicine

2

**Dr. Chan:**
- Serious Games
- Free Open Access Medical education
- Policy Making & changing the rules

3

**Dr. Manning:**
- #MissionDriven
- #MedTwitter & Social Media for advocacy
Duke Expressions of Scholarship including Frameworks for Scholarship related to Advocacy, JEDAI, Digital Media and Team Science: [Expressions of Scholarship | Duke University School of Medicine](#)
