Congrats to Cohort 2 of the ASE Leadership Academy and Welcome Prospective Members of Cohort 3

Contributed by Vera H. Rigolin, MD, FASE, Northwestern Memorial Hospital, Northwestern University’s Feinberg School of Medicine, Chicago, IL
In June 2022, the second cohort of ASE’s Leadership Academy will graduate. Over the past two years, this dynamic group of early to mid-career sonographers and physicians gained the necessary skills to become leaders in ASE and in their own institutions. Despite the challenges of COVID-19 and need for virtual learning platforms, the group developed a strong bond and lasting friendships.
ASE’s Leadership Academy was founded in 2018 by Neil Weissman, MD, FASE, in order to support ASE members with leadership aspirations who have shown commitment to cardiovascular ultrasound. Leadership skills are acquired through educational modules and other reading materials, monthly group discussions, and in-person retreats. Participants are also assigned a senior advisor to assist with their professional growth. Graduates of Cohort 1 and Cohort 2 have already achieved professional success in ASE as well as in their own institutions.

Here is what a few graduates of the Leadership Academy have to say about their experience:

“The ASE Leadership Academy has helped me take my knowledge and passion for the field of echo and develop the skills I need to make a difference and lead with purpose in that field. Not only have I come out of the course with new tools in my leadership toolbox, but also with a network of brilliant ASE minds, a compassionate mentor, and new and fast friends.”
—Madeline Jankowski, RDCS, ACS, FASE (Cohort 2)

“I would like to say that the scope and breadth of projects I am prepared to take on and complete both at home and with ASE has increased exponentially because of my participation in the Leadership Academy. The course materials on negotiating and conflict resolution along with the collaborative experiences with ASE committee work have been transformative.”
—Matthew Parker MD, FASE (Cohort 2)

“I applied to the ASE Leadership Academy thinking it would help guide my journey and involvement within the ASE. What I found is that I apply the knowledge and skills I learned from the Leadership Academy every single day. Whether it’s spearheading a new project within my institution, being confident in my decision to say no, or navigating change in workflow and workforce, my ability to manage, resolve conflict, and think strategically is at the forefront of my decisions, and I have learned this all from the ASE Leadership Academy.”
—Melissa Wasserman, RDCS, RCCS, FASE (Cohort 2)
The ASE Leadership Academy has been instrumental in providing me with the leadership skillset needed to manage others, negotiate conflicts, and promote my work. It has been a stepping stone to greater leadership responsibility and roles in a variety of arenas locally within my home institution as well as nationally through my involvement in ASE committees and task forces. Moreover, the network of talented individuals I’ve met through this program, some of whom have become my closest friends, has provided a foundation for a lifetime career of service to the discipline of echocardiography.

–Jordan Strom, MD, FASE (Cohort 1)

“Participating in the ASE Leadership Academy was a valuable experience that allowed me to build excellent leadership and management skills that have been instrumental in my day-to-day practice and leadership roles. Furthermore, getting to know the other participants and outstanding ASE faculty creates a collaborative network that extends beyond completing the program.”

–Enrique Garcia-Sayan, MD, FASE (Cohort 1)

“It’s always been skeptical of people coming back from leadership training, hearing them start to use certain buzzwords and lingo. The best thing about the Leadership Academy was the people we met – others in the cohort and the incredible leaders of each session. They showed us how to not just ‘talk the talk’ but how to ‘walk the walk’ – we got the best mentors and role models for what good, thoughtful leadership looks like. Those relationships and lessons will stick with me the most.”

–Jimmy Lu, MD, FASE (Cohort 1)

It is now time to select Cohort 3 of the Leadership Academy! Applications opened June 1 and close on August 1, 2022. You can find information on how to apply online at ASEcho.org/LeadershipAcademy. The ideal candidate is a Fellow of the American Society of Echocardiography (FASE) (or one who will achieve FASE by completion of the program), who has shown a commitment to cardiovascular ultrasound and ASE, and who will benefit from the Leadership Academy in such a way that their professional growth will include an increasing contribution to ASE over the next 15-20 years. Candidates must be at least two years post training. The Leadership Academy strives for a diverse group of participants that is representative of ASE’s membership. This includes members from ASE’s Councils (sonography, perioperative, vascular, pediatric/congenital heart disease, and critical care) as well as Specialty Interest Groups. International members are also encouraged to apply. Members employed full or part-time by industry are not eligible for enrollment.

I would like to end by thanking Neil Weissman, MD, FASE, for his creation and support of ASE’s Leadership Academy. His vision and commitment to professional growth of our members assures the successful future of ASE. As I take over as Chair of the Leadership Academy, I hope to continue the work that Neil started. Let’s begin by recruiting a stellar Cohort 3!