

THE 3D INITIATIVE

Innovation and Collaboration in Action: Accelerating The Medical Device Development Process

For twenty years, Dartmouth Health and the Geisel School of Medicine have convened a unique and preeminent annual think tank meeting for the medical device ecosystem which includes leaders representing the clinical, business, governmental, financial and legal sectors. The **3D Symposium**, led by Dr. Aaron Kaplan, Professor of Medicine at the Geisel School of Medicine, is an internationally respected program. This annual forum provides an opportunity to exchange ideas and address common challenges as the community – academics, clinicians, regulators, investors, industry – strives to bring new life-saving and life-improving technologies to market.

Building on the success of the Symposium, the Geisel School of Medicine and Dartmouth Health are establishing the 3D Initiative at Dartmouth with the goal of advancing the medical device development process to improve the health of our patients. The Initiative's initial focus will be the **3D Symposium** and establishing the **3D Scholars Program**.

Clinician Leaders with a Sophisticated Understanding of Device Development

The growing demands on our healthcare system, brought about by an aging population and shrinking resources, requires new technologies to better meet the medical needs of our patients. To this end, we must develop partnerships between academic medicine, regulators, and industry to efficiently develop new therapies. This requires a corps of active clinicians with a sophisticated understanding of the medical device development process.

The 3D Scholars curriculum has been developed in close collaboration with the Center for Devices and Radiologic Health (CDRH) at the FDA and leaders across the medical device ecosystem.

NEED

Medical device development is a highly technical and complicated capital-intensive process requiring industry to work closely with regulators. The ability to address patients' needs requires a current understanding of the clinical environment. Though device developers and FDA have deep competency in development and regulatory processes, the ecosystem is often frustrated by the inability to maintain a current understanding of the quickly changing clinical environment.

GOAL

Equip active clinicians with an understanding of the device development and regulatory processes to provide regulators and the medical device community with guidance and leadership.

CANDIDATES

3D Scholars will be early/mid-career active clinicians from device-driven fields who have completed clinical training. Scholars must commit to 100% participation in the five retreats, monthly seminars, and individual work. The 3D Initiative is committed to recruiting Scholars from diverse backgrounds including physicians from a broad spectrum of specialties, practicing in diverse care settings. The goal is to have 8-12 participants in the year-long certificate program.

TUITION

Philanthropic support and tuition (~\$50,000/Scholar) will cover program costs. To ensure diverse participation, scholarship funding will be available for Scholars who do not have financial support from their home institution.

CAPSTONE PROJECT

Each scholar will be assigned a device for which they will develop a clinical/regulatory development plan. The project will culminate with a simulated FDA pre-submission meeting. Scholars will be guided through the process by a designated group of advisors with relevant, clinical, industry and regulatory experience.

CURRICULUM

The program includes five week-long retreats and monthly half-day seminars.

Scholar Retreats

3D Scholars Boot Camp (Summer)

Q3 - September 2025
Dartmouth College

Three-day residence with didactic sessions, coordinated with the annual 3D Symposium.

Regulatory, Reimbursement, and Policy (Fall)

Q4 - December 2025
CDRH/FDA, Silver Spring, MD

Three-day residence with visits to CDRH/FDA and seminars on coverage and policy.

Start-up 101 (Winter)

Q1 - February 2026
Fogarty Innovation, Mountain View, CA

Four-day residence with a deep dive at Fogarty Innovation and visits to Bay Ares, venture capital firms and start-ups.

Large Medical Device Companies and OEM Manufacturers (Spring)

Q2 - April 2026
Minneapolis/St. Paul, MN

Three-day residence with visits to leading manufacturers and OEM suppliers.

Capstone Presentations/ Graduation (Summer)

Q4 - September 2026
Dartmouth College

Two-day meeting for Capstone Project presentations and graduation ceremony, coordinated with the 3D Symposium.

3D Symposium

Q4 - September 2025 and 2026

Monthly Seminars

Q4 - October and November 2025
Q2 - May and June 2026
Q3 - August and September 2026
Q4 - September 2026

3D Scholars Philanthropic Support

The 3D Scholars Program was launched with the help of critical philanthropic support to provide funding for Scholars in the inaugural class. Additional efforts are underway to ensure funding of future classes, as well as to create scholarship opportunities for program participants

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3D Initiative Leadership



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www.3D-scholars.org