

## 2026 Bio

**Michael J. Baron, MD, MPH, DFASAM, FAPA**, is medical director of the Tennessee Medical Foundation, which operates the Professionals Health Program (PHP) for physicians and other health professionals battling substance use, mental, emotional, behavioral and other health conditions that can impact patient safety. He is the outgoing national president of the Federation of State Physician Health Programs (FSPHP).

Dr. Baron was appointed to the Tennessee Board of Medical Examiners (BME) in 2010 and reappointed in 2015. He helped write Tennessee Department of Health rules pertaining to the treatment of pain, prescribing controlled substances, and Office-Based Opioid Treatment. He also served on workgroups for the Federation of State Medical Boards (FSMB) pertaining to Physician Sexual Misconduct and Physician Illness and Impairment. Dr. Baron resigned from the Tennessee BME in January 2017 to accept the Medical Director position of the Tennessee Medical Foundation–Physician’s Health Program.

In 2006, he published original research showing that high dose opioids increased chronic pain scores. In 2023, Dr. Baron co-authored chapters for two scientific publications: “Fitness for Duty” for the *Encyclopedia for Neurological Disorders*; and “Supporting Patients Working in Safety Sensitive Occupations” for the 4th Edition of the *ASAM Criteria*.

Dr. Baron obtained his MD and MPH degree from Tulane University in New Orleans; he completed his anesthesiology residency at Washington University in St. Louis and his psychiatry residency at Vanderbilt University in Nashville, TN. Board certified in anesthesiology, psychiatry, and addiction medicine, he is a clinical assistant professor of psychiatry at Vanderbilt University.