



Graduate Medical Education (GME) e-Letter

October 2009

Dear colleague,

The annual medical education issue of [JAMA](#) (September 23/30) includes several thought-provoking contributions:



- Evaluating Obstetrical Residency Programs Using Patient Outcomes
- Association of an Educational Program in Mindful Communication With Burnout, Empathy, and Attitudes Among Primary Care Physicians
- Association of Resident Fatigue and Distress With Perceived Medical Errors
- Attitudes, Training Experiences, and Professional Expectations of US General Surgery Residents: A National Survey
- Online Posting of Unprofessional Content by Medical Students
- Tools for Direct Observation and Assessment of Clinical Skills of Medical Trainees: A Systematic Review
- Academic Year-End Transfers of Outpatients From Outgoing to Incoming Residents: An Unaddressed Patient Safety Issue
- Why Medical Educators May Be Failing at Feedback
- Clinical Gist and Medical Education: Connecting the Dots
- Educating Health Care Professionals to Care for Patients With Disabilities
- Practice, Rehearsal, and Performance: An Approach for Simulation-Based Surgical and Procedure Training
- Enhancing Meaning in Work: A Prescription for Preventing Physician Burnout and Promoting Patient-Centered Care
- Manipulation and the Match

Also in this issue are [data tables on US medical schools and graduate medical education](#), resulting from data collected through the LCME Annual Medical School Questionnaire and the National GME Census.

We [welcome your comments](#) on these or other pressing topics.

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AMA Division of Graduate Medical Education

PS: This e-Letter is distributed free each month to more than 13,000 readers. Physicians: Help support this publication. Are you a member of the American Medical Association? If so, thank you! If not, please [join or renew your membership](#) now.

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1. JAMA study: Medical students posting inappropriate content online

A study on medical students' online behavior (or lack thereof), in the September 23/30 medical education issue of *JAMA*, drew significant media attention.

["Awareness: In Medical Schools, Some Rudeness Online"](#)

The New York Times, Sept. 29

["When Online, Med Students May Get Out of Line"](#)

MedPage Today, Sept. 22

["Social Media Create Patient Privacy Minefield"](#)

HealthLeaders Media, Sept. 28, 2009

2. Study: Resident fatigue, distress linked to medical errors

Resident fatigue (and the need to limit resident duty hours) gets much of the attention, but distress caused by financial woes and personal or family concerns can also lead to significant increase in medical errors, according to a study in the September 23/30 *JAMA*. Media coverage of the study included:

["When the Doctor Is Distressed"](#)

New York Times, Oct. 1

["Tired, Stressed Docs Make More Mistakes, Study Finds"](#)

HealthDay (Medline Plus), Sept. 22

["Program for Physicians Emphasizing Self-Awareness Associated with Improvements in Burnout, Mood and Patient Empathy"](#)

Medical News Today, Sept. 23, 2009

["Better Residency Programs May Make a Better Ob/Gyn"](#)

MedPage Today, Sept. 22

3. Question of the Month: Will they choose primary care?

The 41 members of the first class of students at the new University of Central Florida College of Medicine will receive full scholarships for all four years of their medical education (*American Medical News*, Sept. 7).

Many point to student debt as a factor in medical school graduates eschewing primary care and choosing higher-paying fields. What effect (if any) will a free medical education have on these students' choices of specialty/subspecialty?

Please send your responses to gme@ama-assn.org. A randomly selected respondent will receive a complimentary copy of *The Art of JAMA*.

The lead in a recent *Baltimore Sun* article highlights this issue: "Ryan Circh's heart is drawn to family medicine, but his head--fixed on his daunting student loans and the uncertainties of health care reform--is leading him toward emergency or sports medicine."

Those seeking a satisfying career may want to look at caring for either old or young patients: A study of physician career satisfaction within specialties found that geriatrics and pediatrics (and pediatric subspecialties) ranked at the top (*BMC Health Services Research*, Sept. 16) (PDF).

Meanwhile, a study of Canadian medical students finds that interest is declining in careers in family medicine (in urban areas) as well as psychiatry (*BMC Medical Education*, Sept. 4).

4. Study: Do reduced duty hours result in more adverse events?

The July 2003 reduction in resident duty hours is associated with an increase in complications related to surgery to repair hip fractures, according to a study in the *Journal of Bone and Joint Surgery*. (Abstract)

The authors suggest that this "concerning finding" can be attributed to increased handoffs (due to shorter shifts) as well as lack of supervision and a heavier patient work load (*MedPage Today*, Sept. 8).

Today, more than six years after duty hour limits were implemented, the available evidence makes it difficult to argue that patient outcomes have improved (*American Medical News*, Oct. 5).

5. New Medical Education Bulletin profiles AMA activities

The summer 2009 edition of the AMA's *Medical Education Bulletin* is now available online.

This issue includes information and updates on key AMA activities related to medical education, including duty hours, GME workforce, publication of IMG observership guidelines, and AMA House of Delegates actions from the AMA's annual meeting.

[Subscribe now!](#)

6. Research opportunities and awards for physicians in training

Medical students and residents/fellows: Apply for seed grants of \$2,500 from the AMA Foundation to conduct basic science or clinical research projects in:

- Cardiovascular/pulmonary diseases
- HIV/AIDS
- Leukemia
- Neoplastic diseases

[Applications](#) are due by Dec. 11; recipients will be announced in March 2010.

The AMA Foundation also sponsors the [National and Regional Student Research Forums](#), which offer students/residents the opportunity to present research, receive meaningful feedback, and participate in scholarly discussions with their peers and

established scientists.

In addition, medical students, residents/fellows, and early career physicians are encouraged to apply for the 2010 [AMA Foundation Leadership Awards](#). Applications are due Nov. 16.

7. Medical education news and views

Resident/fellow physician are not receiving adequate instruction and mentoring in the "demanding competency" of patient communication, argues M. Douglas Jones Jr, MD, in "Why Don't We Talk?" ([Archives of Pediatrics and Adolescent Medicine](#), September).

What you didn't learn in medical school (or residency): A four-day seminar on the business of medicine is proving popular for residents ([Boston Globe](#), Aug. 23).

A recent study "found that nearly half of all medical students believe they have been inadequately educated about the 'practice of medicine'--especially related to medical economics" ([Inside Higher Ed](#), Oct. 1).

The AMA Medical Student Section and Resident and Fellow Section offer a wide variety of resources and services to help you succeed throughout the training years and into practice ([American Medical News](#), Sept. 7).

A recent medical school graduate, writing in *JAMA*, argues that Match violations are eroding the sense of fairness and trust between residency applicants and programs ([Wall Street Journal Health Blog](#), Oct. 2).

Teaching hospitals play a key role in providing patient care and ensuring a well-trained health care workforce ([Trendwatch](#), American Hospital Association, September). (PDF)

Pauline Chen, MD, recalls an episode as a medical student when she contaminated a sterile field in the operating room. Outside the OR, however, cleanliness is nowhere near godliness, which begs the question: Why don't doctors wash their hands more? ([New York Times](#), Sept. 17).

The Joint Commission is working with eight hospitals and health systems to "identify and overcome barriers to 100% hand-hygiene compliance" ([American Medical News](#), Oct. 1).

At its recent meeting, the [Medicare Payment Advisory Commission](#) (MedPAC) examined how and why some hospitals continue to fund residency positions that exceed their caps and discussed ways in which changes in GME policies could lead to an increase in the number of primary care residents.

Three fact sheets on surgical workforce concerns are now available from the [Health Policy Research Institute of the American College of Surgeons](#).

A new report, [Physicians and Their Practices Under Health Care Reform](#), looks at seven broad areas in health care, including medical education, and calls for shortening the length of the training continuum from premed through residency and streamlining the pathways to specialization.

8. AMA symposium on Dec. 2 examines IMGs in US physician workforce

Register now for an AMA symposium, [IMGs in the US Physician Workforce](#), to be held Wednesday, Dec. 2, 6:00 - 7:30 pm at the AMA Headquarters in downtown Chicago.

The 2009 edition of the "International Medical Graduates in the US Physician Workforce: A Discussion Paper" will be unveiled to meeting attendees prior to its online publication in January.

9. Religion, patients, and medical ethics

As two responses to human suffering, religion and medicine are bound to intersect. Occasionally the values of secular medicine and those of religion conflict. Beliefs can shape patient values and treatment decisions in ways that physicians do not understand. Likewise, caregiver beliefs can conflict with the obligations of the profession, as sometimes seen in physician exercise of conscientious objection to particular medical services.

The October [Virtual Mentor](#) explores the tensions between religion and medicine and suggests how health professionals can respond to them effectively.

10. Join health system reform conference call on Oct. 22

Because health system reform legislation would have the greatest impact on medical students, residents, and fellows as they begin to enter practice, the AMA Resident and Fellow Section is holding a conference call on Oct. 22 to provide the most up-to-date information on this critical issue.

The call will focus on reform elements that are particularly important to physicians in training. There will be time for Q and A and an opportunity for participants to share thoughts or concerns.

Please share this information with your program's residents and fellows and encourage their involvement in this important issue so their voices continue to be heard on Capitol Hill.

Thursday, October 22, 7:30 - 8:30 pm Central Time
Dial in: 1 (888) 771-4371
Confirmation Number: 25538077

Participants should RSVP to dfs@ama-assn.org

11. Congress establishes new academic medicine caucus

Rep. Allyson Schwartz (D-PA) and Rep. Patrick Tiberi (R-Ohio) have established a new [Congressional Academic Medicine Caucus](#) in the House of Representatives. The caucus will work to maintain and strengthen the nation's medical schools and teaching hospitals.

12. Register for the AHME Fall Academy, Nov. 6, in Boston

The [Fall Academy of the Association for Hospital Medical Education](#) will be held Friday, Nov. 6 in Boston, in conjunction with the AAMC Annual Meeting. The AHME Academy is a one-day primer for those new or returning to GME, open to AHME members and nonmembers alike. Topics include:

- GME 101
- Preparing for a Site Visit
- Recipe for Conducting Successful Internal Reviews
- Using Educational Committees and the Resident Survey for Program Improvement
- NRMP Update (new)
- Integrating Competencies Into Your Educational Program (new)

13. ACGME launches first journal devoted to GME

The Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME) is launching the first peer-reviewed journal dedicated entirely to the education of medical residents and fellows and the settings in which it occurs. The new [Journal of Graduate Medical Education](#) is of interest to the GME community, including program directors, graduate medical education leaders,

faculty, learners and researchers.

The first issue covers such topics as using computer simulations to train surgical residents and assessing beginning residents to create a safer environment.

14. ACGME honors program coordinators, directors, DIOs, and residents

The Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME) has chosen five program coordinators to receive the first annual GME Program Coordinator Excellence Award:

- Sherry Berka, internal medicine, University of Colorado
- Anne Hoffmann, emergency medicine, New York Presbyterian Hospital
- Vicky Huebner, internal medicine, Mayo Clinic
- Mary Liberty, psychiatry, Maine Medical Center
- Jeri Whitten, pediatrics, West Virginia University

Also announced were the winners of the first annual David C. Leach Award, which honors notable residents who have improved learning, fostered innovation, increased communication, made processes more efficient, or advanced humanism in health care:

- Omar Bhutta, MD, pediatrics, University of Washington
- Jenny Han, MD, internal medicine, Henry Ford Hospital
- Kyla Terhune, MD, general surgery, Vanderbilt University Medical Center
- David Turner, MD, pediatrics, Duke University
- Christopher Young, MD, neonatal-perinatal medicine, University of Florida

The winners of the 2010 Courage to Teach Award, presented annually to 10 notable program directors, are:

- Ramesh Ayyala, MD, ophthalmology, Tulane University
- John Frohna, MD, pediatrics, University of Wisconsin Hospitals and Clinics
- Michael Hart, MD, surgery, Swedish Medical Center
- Ronald Maier, MD, surgical critical care, Harborview Medical Center
- Eileen Reynolds, MD, internal medicine, Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center
- Michael Rhodes, MD, family medicine, Utah Valley Regional Medical Center
- Gregory Rouan, MD, internal medicine, University of Cincinnati College of Medicine
- Philip Shayne, MD, emergency medicine, Emory University
- Prathibha Varkey, MD, preventive medicine, Mayo Clinic
- Diane Wayne, MD, internal medicine, McGaw Medical Center of Northwestern University

The winners of the 2010 Courage to Lead Award, given annually to three outstanding designated institutional officials, or DIOs, are:

- Arnold Eiser, MD (small institution), Mercy Catholic Medical Center, Philadelphia
- Norman Ferrari III, MD (medium institution), West Virginia University
- Mark Juzych, MD (large institution), Wayne State University, Detroit

15. New ACGME program requirements approved

During its September meeting, the ACGME approved the major revisions to the program requirements for neurology as well as the program requirements in the new subspecialty of ophthalmic plastic and reconstructive surgery; both actions are effective July 1, 2010.

Approval of revisions to the program requirements for the subspecialties of diagnostic radiology (including abdominal radiology, musculoskeletal radiology, and pediatric radiology) was deferred till February 2010. This will allow for review of eligibility criteria for entry into radiology subspecialty programs by international medical graduates who have not completed

accredited residency training in either the US or Canada.

16. Provide feedback on changes to ACGME program requirements

The [Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education](#) (ACGME) is requesting feedback on the proposed major revisions to the nuclear medicine and colon and rectal surgery program requirements.

Deadline for receipt of comments is Nov. 4 and Nov. 18, respectively.

17. Ending Disparities e-Letter debuts

The new [Ending Disparities e-Letter](#), an e-mail newsletter from the AMA's Medicine and Public Health department, is now available.

"The e-Letter's goal is to share periodic news, information, and updates related to eliminating racial and ethnic disparities in health care, and to keep readers abreast of the AMA's numerous activities/projects in this regard," said Sonja Boone, MD, Director, Physician Health and Healthcare Disparities.

18. Seeking medical licensure?

Are you looking for up-to-date information on every facet of medical licensure? Seeking an initial license or updating your existing one?

Call (800) 621-8335 and get the AMA's newly updated 2010 edition of *State Medical Licensure Requirements and Statistics*, or [order your copy online](#).

Are you a member of the American Medical Association (AMA)?

If so, thank you! If not, please [join or renew your membership](#) now.

Do we have your most current address?

Attention US physicians and students attending accredited medical schools in the US: Access our [secure data change form](#) to provide any address updates or other data changes.

Interested in news about health care careers/education?

Then subscribe to the AMA's free [Health Care Careers e-Letter](#), which covers educational trends and career-related issues in all health professions.

About us

The GME e-Letter is produced by the Medical Education Group of the American Medical Association (AMA), which offers information and resources for medical students, residents/fellows, and program directors, such as the [Guidebook for GME Directors and Coordinators](#).

Give us your story ideas and feedback

Direct comments to [Fred Donini-Lenhoff](#), (312) 464-4635

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