



## Health Care Careers e-Letter

July 2010

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(Disclaimer: The external links in this newsletter are provided for informational purposes only and may not necessarily reflect the official positions or policies of the AMA.)

### Diversity and allied health

Dear Reader,

My colleague Sarah Brotherton, PhD, and I were pleased to write an article, "Racial-Ethnic Diversity in Allied Health: The Continuing Challenge," that appeared in the summer issue of the [Journal of Allied Health](#).

Despite gains over the last few decades, the racial-ethnic diversity of health professionals in the US has not kept pace with demographic changes, with negative consequences for the health of minority populations and access to health care.

Data for allied health educational programs accredited in 1989-90 and 2006-07 showed that blacks and Hispanics have higher attrition rates than whites and Asian or Pacific Islanders.

In addition, for-profit institutions have higher rates of student racial/ethnic diversity, but have higher attrition rates than other types of institutions -- a trend that merits continued attention and additional study.

At the same time, of course, all institutions face the challenge of directing more resources toward increasing diversity and ensuring higher graduation rates among racial/ethnic minority students.

We welcome your comments on these and other health professions education issues at [meded@ama-assn.org](mailto:meded@ama-assn.org).

*Best Regards,*  
*Fred Donini-Lenhoff, editor*

PS: Interested in learning more about disparities in health care? Subscribe now to our free monthly [Ending Disparities e-Letter](#).

### 1. "This is your captain speaking": What can we learn about patient safety from the airlines?



Join us for an AMA webinar, "[Patient safety 102: Checklists, and beyond](#)," Sept. 15 at 1 p.m. Eastern time.

## CANCELLED

All health professionals, students, educators and patient safety experts are encouraged to participate. Cost is \$79 per site for AMA members and \$99 per site for nonmembers.

Reminder: Obtain an archive version of our May 19 webinar, "[Patient safety 101: It's the system, stupid \(or, It's the stupid system\)](#)."

Also, save the dates for our final two webinars:

- **Nov. 17**  
"Patient safety 103: Communication: Disclosing Events and Errors to Patients"  
David Mayer and Timothy McDonald, University of Illinois at Chicago
- **Jan. 19**  
"Patient safety 104: The NASA Safety Culture: Applications to Healthcare"  
Gregg A. Bendrick, MD, MPH, Chief Medical Officer, NASA Dryden Flight Research Center

## 2. What are you worth?

The AMA's [handy chart of salary ranges](#) has been updated. See how your field (or the field you'd like to enter) compares to others.

## 3. Featured profession: Health information technician

The health information management profession includes managers, technicians, and specialists with expertise in systems and processes for health information management.

Graduates of associate degree programs are known as health information technicians and conduct health data collection, monitoring, maintenance, and reporting activities.

[Learn more about this field](#) (PDF), as described in the AMA's annual *Health Care Careers Directory*.

Also, check out our chart of [health care career income ranges](#), for salary in this and other health professions fields.

## 4. On the calendar...

[National Therapeutic Recreation Week](#), July 12–18

## 5. Health care careers and education news and views

- Hospital employees unhappy, in 3-D: Detached, discontented, and distanced describe nearly half of employees in hospitals ([2010 Hospital Pulse Report: Employee and Nurse Perspectives on American Health Care](#), Press Ganey Associates) (PDF)
- April layoffs at hospitals reach close to 2,000 -- the second highest month ever aside from September 2005, which was high because of Hurricane Katrina ([American Medical News](#), June 14).
- An article in the June 25 [Atlanta Journal-Constitution](#) describes career opportunities for diagnostic medical sonographers.
- Writing in the June 28 [Miami Herald](#), a senior official at Florida International University notes the need for better interdisciplinary education and practice as a means to deliver better care in the community, particularly for underserved patients.

## 6. Register now for allied health education summit

A summit meeting, "Educating the Allied Health Workforce of the 21st Century," will be held September 22-23 in Chicago.

Sponsored by the [Health Professions Network \(HPN\)](#), this event will bring together allied health program directors, administrators, school officials, and others involved in educating future health professionals to discuss common issues and identify best practices.

## 7. Reminder: View archive of "Emerging Trends in Health Care Workforce Development"

Held last September, our webinar "[Emerging Trends in Health Care Workforce Development](#)" continues to be a popular offering for archive viewing.

Our presenters discussed innovative ways to bring providers, educators, and professional associations together to collaborate for maximum effectiveness.

## 8. New kit offers "Medicare 101" resources for future health professionals

The revised Medicare Resident, Practicing Physician, and Other Health Care Professional Training Program Facilitator's Kit (October 2009) is now available at no charge from the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services Medicare Learning Network. The kit includes everything needed to prepare for and present an educational program about Medicare to health professions students.

To order, visit: <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/mlngeninfo>. Then scroll down to "Related Links Inside CMS" and select "MLN Product Ordering Page."

## 9. Help get the word out about ExploreHealthCareers

ExploreHealthCareers offers free, objective, and reviewed information on health careers, enrichment programs, and educational funding for minority and low income students interested in careers in health care.

Copy and post an EHC logo (with a link to <http://www.ExploreHealthCareers.org>) on your Web site. If space allows, include this description: "Free information on health careers, enrichment programs & educational funding for minority and low income students."

Also, [register now](#) to get a Free Health Career Planning Kit and an online e-Newsletter.

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### Interested in more news ?

In addition to the Health Care Careers e-Letter, the AMA also offers three other free monthly e-Letters that may be of interest:

The [Healthy Lifestyles e-Letter](#) provides information and tools that can assist in offering patients counseling on four key lifestyle behaviors (poor diet, physical inactivity, tobacco use, and excessive or risky use of alcohol) and their health consequences.

The [Ending Disparities e-Letter](#) shares news, information, and updates related to eliminating racial and ethnic disparities in health care.

The [GME \(graduate medical education\) e-Letter](#) covers issues affecting GME -- everything from resident work hours and health workforce concerns to updates on accreditation activities and development of new subspecialties.

### About us

The [Health Care Careers e-Letter](#) is produced by the American Medical Association (AMA).

This monthly newsletter covers educational trends and career-related issues in the health professions.

### Give us your story ideas and feedback

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

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