

The AMA Advantage for Academic Physicians

Academic physicians can derive valuable benefits from membership in the nation's largest physician organization. The American Medical Association (AMA) is uniquely positioned to bring together academic medical centers, medical education programs, teaching institutions, and health delivery systems to ensure that medical students, resident physicians, and physician educators/researchers and administrators are prepared to succeed in today's, and tomorrow's, health care environment.

The AMA monitors trends and develops strategies and policies that provide critical assistance to the academic community. The following issues are being closely examined for their effect on academic medicine.

Key Issues in Medical Education

- Financial and regulatory pressures that may lead to the loss of patients and faculty as educational resources and that may threaten the quality of medical schools and residency programs
- Medical student debt, which continues to rise and could impact the demographics of the physician workforce and the specialty and geographic distribution of physicians
- Development of new medical schools, after a 20-year hiatus, which could impact the physician workforce
- The need for expanded GME funding to allow for new programs to meet the increased number of medical school graduates
- Impact of duty hour standards for medical students, resident/ fellow physicians, and academic physicians
- Gifts to physicians and pharmaceutical and medical device firms' access to students/residents
- Impact of specialization on medicine and patient care
- Issues of continuing physician competence and increasing stress on training programs to ensure the competence of their graduates
- Professionalism and medical ethics, as inculcated through medical school, residency and continuing education.

In response to these issues of importance to the academic community, the AMA is active in the following ways.

Transforming Medical Education

The U.S. medical education system is a worldwide leader; through the initiatives described below, the AMA is working to build on its strengths to enhance physician education and patient care.

- The AMA partnered with the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC) to host an invitational conference in September 2010, "New Horizons in Medical Education: A Second Century of Achievement," as well as an [online forum](#) to encourage dialogue on the key issues in medical education and help chart the new directions for medical education for the next 10 years and beyond.
- The AMA's Center of Expertise for Transforming Medical Education continues the goals established by AMA's [Initiative to Transform Medical Education](#) (ITME). The Center's overall objective is to provide national and international leadership and direction for medical education and change.
- The AMA's [Innovative Strategies for Transforming the Education of Physicians](#) (ISTEP) is a unique medical education research collaborative that brings together individuals and institutions from across the continuum of physician learning. This initiative is housed under the Transforming Medical Education umbrella. By conducting rigorous research on how physicians learn, ISTEP investigators are developing the evidence base for decisions that will lead to needed reforms in physician education—a foundation that will translate into better care for patients. Currently, 27 medical schools are represented in this initiative.

Medical Student Support

- Accredits medical school programs through the Liaison Committee for Medical Education, in partnership with the AAMC
- Provides direct support to medical schools and medical students through the AMA Foundation
- Largest developer of medical student leadership through the Medical Student Section of the AMA House of Delegates
- Operates FREIDA Online, which provides detailed information on residency/fellowship programs at no cost to students and offers residency program mailing labels for members

Resident/Fellow Support

- Largest organization of resident physicians that advocates through the Resident and Fellow Section of the AMA House of Delegates.

- Acts to improve the work environment, creates tools to help resident and fellow physicians succeed both personally and professionally, and provides leadership opportunities.

Professional Support

- Appoints representatives to the Liaison Committee for Medical Education, ABMS approved medical specialty boards as well as one third of all representatives to the 26 Residency Review Committees.
- Offers educational programs on pertinent issues to the medical education community for continuing medical education credit.

Patient Care and Reimbursement

- Recognizes that academic medical centers are increasingly dependent upon clinical revenues from faculty practice plans
- Strong advocate for access to care for patients and for fair and equitable reimbursement
- Works actively to ensure appropriate legislative and regulatory actions to benefit both patient and physician
- Advocate for meaningful liability reform

Support for Research

- Consistent support of the NIH budget requests
- Support for the availability of funds for research fellowships