



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 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.

Initiative to Transform Medical Education (ITME)

- A broad-based effort that focuses on physicians, specifically their preparation to interact with patients, to function within the health care system, and to carry out the responsibilities of their profession
- ITME seeks to identify and address major gaps in physician education throughout the continuum

Innovative Strategies for Transforming the Education of Physicians (ISTEP)

- Unique medical education research collaborative across the continuum of physician learning – 16 teams from 27 medical schools
- Goal is to create evidence base to transform medical education to ensure physicians are well-prepared to deliver quality patient care

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

- Most responsive agent to collective resident concerns through the Resident and Fellow Section of the AMA House of Delegates
- A member organization of the ACGME as well as an appointing member to each of the Residency Reviews Committees

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

Medical Education Services and Products

The AMA is the leading publisher of academic medical information, providing the most reliable medical education data over time.

- *Graduate Medical Education Directory*
- FREIDA Online
- *GME e-Letter*
- *Medical Education Bulletin*
- *CPPD (Continuing Physician Professional Development) Report*
- *State Medical Licensure Requirements and Statistics*
- *Health Professions Career and Education Directory*
- AMA Physician's Recognition Award
- Annual Medical Education issue of *JAMA*
- Customized data and graphs by state, specialty, and other variables

These and other AMA products and publications are available to members free or at substantial discounts. In addition, the AMA regularly produces materials that can be of use in educational programs. For example, the guide pertaining to *Gifts to Physicians from Industry* is available at no cost and can be useful in ethics and professionalism training programs.