

Start a Local OSR Interest Group!

Why start a Local OSR Interest Group? As an OSR representative, you have been elected by your peers to fulfill a very important role. You are charged with representing the voice of all medical students at your school to the AAMC as well as disseminating information to your entire student body, Deans, and faculty – that's a lot of work! Together with a group of motivated colleagues, you can share the workload, get involved in national projects, and more effectively serve as the link between your school and the AAMC. Starting a Local OSR Interest Group is a great way to get more students involved and generate enthusiasm about academic medicine. As primary and alternate OSR representatives near graduation, the group will also serve as a great way to prepare new students for leadership in the OSR.

Get connected nationally

Get in the loop

- Visit the Communications XPRESS page to see how OSR reps communicate with each other and share information.
- This page will also outline OSR responsibilities and provide tools that help explain how the AAMC, OSR, and medical schools work together.
- www.aamc.org/members/osr/communications/start.htm
- Be proud of your school's membership in the AAMC and take full advantage of this opportunity to get involved in shaping the future of academic medicine; you can generate enthusiasm and recruit other students to participate!

Contact the AAMC-OSR Administrative Board

- The National Delegates and Regional Chairs will help you get the ball rolling at your school. They can connect you with resources and help generate school-specific ideas for your group's development.
- www.aamc.org/members/osr/contact/adboard.htm

Join the AAMC-OSR National Listserv

- This listserv is how OSR reps communicate, share ideas, and receive AAMC announcements.
- Currently, four OSR representatives (the primary and three alternate reps) are automatically subscribed to the National Listserv upon certification. One of you should be in charge of forwarding relevant emails to all members of your OSR Interest Group.
- For information about the National Listserv, contact Denine Hales (dhales@aamc.org).

Familiarize yourself with the AAMC and OSR web sites

- Be prepared to answer questions as students, Deans, or faculty approach you, and know where to send them for more information.
- www.aamc.org/
- www.aamc.org/members/osr/start.htm

Get connected locally

Participate in your OSR Regional Listserv

- Central: cosrlist@aamcinfo.aamc.org
- Northeast: neosrlist@aamcinfo.aamc.org
- South: sosrlist@aamcinfo.aamc.org
- Western: wosrlist@aamcinfo.aamc.org

Contact your school's office of student activities

- Each school has its own set of rules and regulations with regards to starting a new interest group. Your office of student activities is a great place to start for getting the scoop on how to reserve rooms, advertise events, etc.

Contact your Dean of Student Affairs

- Your Dean may be a source of tremendous support and guidance while developing your OSR Local Interest Group. They know how to work with your particular student body and faculty as well as what local resources are available.

Reach out to academic physicians

- Contact residents and physicians at your school who may be willing to mentor your group, host sessions, and speak to students about careers in academic medicine.

Assemble interested students

Establish a core group of interested students

- The primary and alternate OSR representatives should spearhead your OSR Local Interest Group development. They will decide how the group functions and are responsible for planning meetings and events.

Raising student awareness of the OSR

- You may want to announce the start of the group itself to drum up interest and gather names of interested students.
- Attend orientation week, special events, fairs
- Take advantage of special programming and other opportunities to raise awareness of the OSR and get new students involved.

Toolbox

- An on-line "toolbox" is available on the Communications XPRESS link that includes a brochure, Power Point presentation, and ideas about how to disseminate information at your school. You can download and print these items for distribution.
- If you develop similar tools yourself and would like to share them with other students, be sure to let the National Communications Delegate know.

Plan meetings and activities

Meeting ideas

- Informal gatherings with interested students to share ideas and discuss recent AAMC and OSR developments.
- Meetings with Deans or administrators to discuss general OSR activities or specific national or local projects.
- Larger meetings with speakers, a panel of residents or physicians, workshops, or presentations that inform students about academic medicine.
- Project-specific meetings (i.e. writing an AAMC Humanism in Medicine nomination, preparing for regional or national meetings, writing an OSR Newsletter article, Cover the Uninsured Week, Student Run Clinic, starting a new project from scratch).
- How frequently you have meetings is up to you, but most shoot for 1-2 per month.
- Initial meetings should focus on answering common student questions:
- What is academic medicine?
- What is the AAMC?
- What is the OSR?
- How do we get involved?

Publicize

- Each time the Local OSR Interest Group has a speaker, or hosts a larger event, you will need to advertise to attract students. This may take the form of posters, fliers, announcements or emails to the student body.

Attend AAMC/OSR Regional and National Meetings

One of the most important things you can do is get students to AAMC/OSR regional and annual meetings! Not only is this a great networking opportunity, it's also a ton of fun!

- The AAMC/OSR Annual Meeting is held every fall and OSR regional meetings are held every spring.

Registration & travel

- Check with your student activities office to see if there is money available to sponsor students or help subsidize travel costs.
- You can help reduce costs by planning ahead; take advantage of early bird registration, booking flights well in advance, and sharing hotel rooms.