



September 19, 2007

**Association of
American Medical Colleges**
2450 N Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20037-1127
T 202 828 0400 F 202 828 1125
www.aamc.org

Dear OSR:

We are writing to apprise you of our recent efforts to request financial support from your respective schools for your attendance at the Organization of Student Representatives (OSR) components of the spring regional meetings and the fall AAMC Annual Meeting. The OSR Administrative Board has received an increasing number of reports from OSR representatives about difficulties in securing funding from their schools to attend these meetings. With growing budgetary constraints at medical schools, attendance of OSR representatives to AAMC meetings is being identified at some institutions as an expendable activity. In response, we asked AAMC President Darrell G. Kirch, MD, to correspond with the Deans at all AAMC member medical schools regarding this matter (copy enclosed). The fact that Dr. Kirch was willing to write this letter is a very meaningful indicator of just how important your participation as an OSR representative is to the AAMC.

Responsibility for OSR representation at these meetings is, of course, not the sole province of your schools' Deans. Therefore, we would also like to ask for your help in addressing this concern regarding student representation at OSR meetings. It is essential that you, as your school's OSR representative, do everything possible to plan in advance for these meetings. We realize that the fast changing schedule of medical school courses and rotations may make it difficult to plan far in advance, but please advise your student affairs deans of your intention to attend these meetings, even if you cannot ask for permission from a specific course director until that particular course or rotation actually begins. Contacting your student affairs deans well in advance of meetings will not only help you later when addressing a course director, but will also allow the dean's office to plan accordingly for your travel expenses and allocate funding for the costs of your attendance in a timely manner.

We sincerely hope that, with your cooperation, these efforts to address funding concerns will allow us to progress towards our goal of complete representation at the 2007 Annual Meeting, November 1 – 4 in Washington, DC as well as at the 2008 regional spring meetings.

Please do not hesitate to contact us if questions arise.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "James E. Littlejohn".

James E. Littlejohn, OSR Chair

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Diane C. Reis".

Diane C. Reis, OSR Chair-Elect