Update from the Chief

Greetings! As my one year work-anniversary at the AAMC approaches I wanted to check in with all of you and provide an update. I spent a lot of the year listening at formal and informal meetings at Learn Serve Lead; at sessions, posters, and round tables at smaller AAMC meetings; and as a participant in others’ conferences. It has been wonderful reconnecting with longtime colleagues and meeting so many new colleagues. I am only beginning to process how much I have learned! I am grateful to all of you for sharing your work, ideas, and insights. And I appreciate the time and thought you have given me—thank you. I remain committed to continuing to listen but also want to act on your suggestions.

One consistent message I heard was you would like to hear more from the AAMC, and from each other, about what’s happening in Medical Education. As a result, I’m pleased to introduce you to a new plan for sharing upcoming events, opportunities to get involved, and items of interest to the GEA. Starting with this inaugural edition of the AAMC Medical Education Activity Report, we will be sending a monthly column to you from the AAMC and the GEA. Each quarter you will receive news from the GEA Chair or me, the sections or the regions, and the AAMC. We’ve spent some time developing a plan to assure that we’ll bring the most relevant and timely content to you as succinctly as possible, while still having a little fun along the way.

I look forward to sharing the exciting work of Medical Education, both AAMC initiatives, as well as GEA activities with you! And we look forward to hearing from you: does this communication work? How can we improve it? What else should we try? Give us a few months and let us know at the Spring meetings!

Alison Whitaker, MD

Reminder

Learn Serve Lead 2017: The AAMC Annual Meeting Early Bird Registration Deadline August 31, 2017
To register click here

Medical Education Activities

Core EPA for Entering Residency Toolkits Released
In 2014, the AAMC launched a pilot project with 10 institutions to address the feasibility of implementing 13 EPAs for entering residents in undergraduate medical education. To standardize our approach as a pilot, the Core EPA Pilot Group developed toolkits for each of the 13 EPAs. These toolkits include one-page schematics for each EPA and other resources to facilitate implementation.

All 13 toolkits, including the schematics, can be found here.

The Role of Humanities and Arts in Medical Education
During a unique forum held in July, hosted by the AAMC with support from the National Endowment for the Humanities, participants focused on evaluating the current landscape of the arts and humanities across the continuum of medical education. Numerous examples of how medical schools are incorporating the humanities and arts into their curricula were showcased and experienced by the participants. The participants also discussed how medical educators can integrate the humanities and arts throughout the medical education continuum to further develop professionalism, self-awareness, communication, and observation skills, empathy, and care for the patient. As a result of the forum, the AAMC is considering future initiatives to guide members in their efforts to incorporate arts and humanities into medical education.

For more details, see Focusing on Arts, Humanities to Develop Well-Rounded Physicians.

The Medical Education Response to the Opioid Epidemic
The medical education team at the AAMC is conducting a number of projects to better understand the role of education in the opioid epidemic. A series of focus groups were held in the spring to better understand the practices and needs of members in responding to this epidemic. This work led to a national telephone survey about specific needs for teaching and learning approaches to pain assessment and management within medical school curricula across our 147 member institutions. Through interviewing curriculum deans, or their delegates, we hope to create a more accurate assessment of how the AAMC member schools are addressing the opioid crisis and how we can better serve the needs of our member institutions. Other activities include the following: A webinar series was held from January to April 2017, which highlighted efforts across the three mission areas and the continuum of medical education. A call for research submissions for MedEdPORTAL is currently underway to increase the evidence-based tools for effective teaching. To learn more about these and other AAMC efforts, see https://www.aamc.org/opioids.

In the News

AAMC Reaffirms Commitment to Principles of Health Equity and Diversity and Inclusion
Following recent tragic events, the AAMC has posted a statement on our website underscoring our commitment to you, our constituents at the nation’s medical schools and teaching hospitals. We know that you see first-hand the impact of inequality and bias on health care in your communities and recognize the crucial value of a diverse, culturally competent physician workforce. The AAMC stands with you in commitment to the fundamental principle that all people should be treated with decency, respect, and civility, and that all patients deserve equitable health care regardless of background, race, sexual and gender identity, or geography. The AAMC will continue to be a powerful voice for compassion, equity, and justice as we work to ensure accessible and high-quality health care to improve the health of all.

2017 Medical School Graduation Questionnaire Report Published
The AAMC has released its annual report of medical school graduates, the Graduation Questionnaire (GQ). Medical education is continuing to change and to adapt to new understanding of how best to care for patients. The GQ report serves as a benchmark for measurement.

Read More

Educating Physicians for the Future of Medical Education
A new LinkedIn series on medical education features an article by Darrell G. Kirch, MD, AAMC president and CEO. “Through rese...