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Addiction to opioids is a crisis of national significance, and is an issue that we who represent the nation's medical schools and teaching hospitals play a unique role in addressing. With 44 people dying each day from prescription pain medication overdoses—according to HHS estimates*—academic medical centers across the country are actively developing robust curricula to train today's medical students about the threats posed by prescription drugs.

We are grateful to the White House and Congress for focusing on this devastating problem and bringing resources to bear to combat it. As independent partners in this effort, we understand that educating the next generation of doctors and medical professionals is a vital part of this effort. We are unwavering in our commitment to provide robust instruction and training across our programs to ensure that our graduates are equipped to meet these challenges.

In addition to training, our scientific research on addiction, pain, the brain, and behavior continues to advance our understanding of the complexities of this issue and direct how we can best respond within the context of policy and medicine. Similarly, our institutions are promoting clinical innovations in care to combat opioid dependence.

We look forward to continuing our work with policymakers and the federal government to advance solutions to this serious societal problem.

* Source: http://www.hhs.gov/opioids/about-the-epidemic/index.html (as of March 22, 2016)

Boston University School of Medicine

Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine

Charles E. Schmidt College of Medicine at Florida Atlantic University

Columbia University College of Physicians & Surgeons

Commonwealth Medical College

Cooper Medical School of Rowan University

Dell Medical School, University of Texas at Austin

Duke University School of Medicine

Georgetown University School of Medicine

Harvard Medical School

Herbert Wertheim College of Medicine of Florida International University

Hofstra Northwell School of Medicine

Jacobs School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences at the University at Buffalo

James H. Quillen College of Medicine, East Tennessee State University

Johns Hopkins Medicine

Keck School of Medicine of USC

Lewis Katz School of Medicine at Temple University

Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center – Shreveport

Loyola University Chicago Stritch School of Medicine

Marshall University Joan C. Edwards School of Medicine

Mayo Clinic

McGovern Medical School at The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston (UTHealth)

Medical College of Wisconsin

Michigan State University College of Human Medicine

New York Medical College

Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine

Oakland University William Beaumont School of Medicine

Ohio State University College of Medicine

Oregon Health & Science University

Penn State College of Medicine

Perelman School of Medicine

Ponce Health Sciences University School of Medicine

Rutgers New Jersey Medical School

Rutgers Robert Wood Johnson Medical School

Saint Louis University School of Medicine

Stanford University School of Medicine

SUNY Upstate Medical University

Texas A&M Health Science Center College of Medicine

Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center El Paso

UC Davis School of Medicine

UC Irvine School of Medicine

UC Riverside School of Medicine

UC San Diego School of Medicine

UC San Francisco School of Medicine

UCLA School of Medicine

University of Arizona College of Medicine - Tucson

University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences College of Medicine

University of Central Florida College of Medicine

University of Cincinnati College of Medicine

University of Illinois College of Medicine

University of Iowa Roy J. and Lucille A. Carver College of Medicine

University of Kansas Medical Center

University of Louisville School of Medicine

University of Massachusetts Medical School

University of Miami Miller School of Medicine

University of Minnesota Medical School

University of Mississippi Medical Center

University of Nevada School of Medicine

University of New Mexico School of Medicine

University of Oklahoma College of Medicine

University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine

University of Puerto Rico School of Medicine

University of South Dakota Sanford School of Medicine

University of Texas Rio Grande Valley School of Medicine

University of Washington School of Medicine

University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health

Vanderbilt University School of Medicine

Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University

Washington University in St. Louis

Weill Cornell Medicine

Woodruff Health Sciences Center at Emory University

Wright State Boonshoft School of Medicine

WVU School of Medicine

Yale School of Medicine