



Tomorrow's Doctors, Tomorrow's Cures

Learn Serve Lead 2020: The Virtual Experience

Highlights and Plenary Summaries for CFAS Reps

November 16–18, 2020

Learn

Serve

Lead



Association of
American Medical Colleges

AAMC Board of Director Transitions

Individuals continuing to serve in 2020-2021 term:

- J. Larry Jameson, MD, PhD
- Kirk Calhoun, MD
- Joseph Kerschner, MD
- Peter Buckley, MD
- Adi Haramati, PhD
- Danny Jacobs, MD, MPH
- Beverley Johnson
- Lee Jones, MD
- Gabriela Popescu, PhD
- Elizabeth Travis, PhD, MED
- Kate Walsh, MPH
- Marie Walters, PhD, MS
- Louann Woodward, MD

Departing Board members:

- Daniel Hashimoto, MD, MS
- Lilly Marks
- Alicia Monroe, MD

New Board members:

- Julie Freischlag, MD
- Brittany Hasty, MD, MHPE
- Michael Waldrum, MD, MSC, MBA

AAMC Leadership Plenary

Joseph Kerschner, MD, AAMC Board of Directors Immediate Past Chair



Academic medicine must focus on learners and put learner well-being as our top priority.

- Curricular changes and Step 1 exam change from pass/fail has helped learner wellness but we must do more to explore access to mental health resources, financial support, and milestone-based curricula.
- It's time for a national strategy of limiting medical debt through means-based support of economically disadvantaged students.

AAMC Leadership Plenary

- We need to find a way to allow students to begin residency at multiple intervals during calendar year.
- Med schools and institutions should pledge to become anti-racist and implement institution-wide practices related to unconscious bias training for all faculty, staff, learners, and admissions committee members.
- “Our attitudes influence our perceptions, which in turn create our realities.”

AAMC Leadership Plenary

AAMC President and CEO David J. Skorton, MD



The triple impact of a global pandemic, a severe economic downturn, and the unrelenting assault of systemic racism have made it impossible to ignore the truth: Our nation's approach to health needs some serious rethinking.

- Academic medicine has met the crushing challenges of the pandemic with determination and an innovative spirit.
- However, issues that predate the pandemic, such as systemic racism and poor mental health care, still dog us and more can be done to ameliorate those issues.

AAMC Leadership Plenary

AAMC Taking Action:

- AAMC is speaking out more publicly, more assertively, and more broadly this year on a range of issues through press conferences and numerous statements, media interviews, and opinion editorials.
- In addition to speaking out, we are developing solutions for major challenges, such as our *Road Map for the Way Forward on COVID-19* and our *Framework for Addressing and Eliminating Racism at the AAMC, in Academic Medicine, and Beyond*.
 - AAMC renamed Abraham Flexner Award for Distinguished Service in Medical Education as the AAMC Award for Excellence in Medical Education.
- Now, the association's new AAMC Research and Action Institute and the AAMC Center for Health Justice are two other examples of how the AAMC is acting with intention.

AAMC Leadership Plenary

Questions for researchers:

- What makes diverse and underserved patients, families, and communities concerned about participating in clinical trials?
- Does the design and implementation of your clinical studies reflect their input where appropriate?

Question for educators:

- Are you encouraging learners to listen and collaborate with patients and families — and giving them the tools to do so?

Question for learners:

- Are you volunteering in your community and joining public meetings so you can hear people's real experiences in their own words?

Question for leaders:

- Are you holding yourselves accountable for improving your community's health?

AAMC Leadership Plenary

To Get to the Next “New Normal”:

1. Stay focused on our most important constituents — our patients and their families.
2. Do your best to look in the mirror and see your own areas for improvement, as well as those of your institution.
3. Please contribute to the public discourse.

Plenary: Is There a Cure for Racism?

Ibram X. Kendi, PhD

**Andrew W. Mellon Professor in the Humanities; Professor of History;
Founding Director, Center for Antiracist Research, Boston University**



It takes courage to be honest and vulnerable with ourselves to admit that we still struggle with racism in 2020.

- In our polarized world, medicine is a space where all the country's bubbles intersect so we must do hard work of breaking down the bubbles and understanding systemic racism to actively embrace anti-racism.

Plenary: Is There a Cure for Racism?

Strategies and solutions:

- Measuring as much data as possible on diverse admissions is how medical schools can identify where their diversity shortfalls are so they can take steps to reduce the gaps.
- Police officers and doctors treating Black people and people of color must be empathetic and knowledgeable about the historical background so they can mitigate potential mistrust.
- Starting on this path of anti-racism requires training because we have to unlearn certain conditioning.

Plenary: Is There a Cure for Racism?

Strategies and solutions:

- When confronting a racist or sexist comment, respond according to how close you are to the person: if you're not close just say, "that was a racist comment," and leave it at that. If person is close to you, it would help them if you defined terms and have clear and consistent definitions.
- Providers should identify people who are trusted by the community who could become allies and who could advocate for the vaccine.

Plenary: COVID and Beyond: Where Do We Go From Here?



**NIH Director Francis
Collins, MD, PhD**



**Anne Schuchat, MD,
Principal Deputy
Director of the CDC**



**AAMC President and
CEO David J. Skorton,
MD**

Plenary: COVID and Beyond: Where Do We Go From Here?

- Those working in medicine must remember what worked and what didn't in the efforts against this pandemic and look ahead to be prepared for the next crisis.
- NIH was part of wide partnership called “Activ” – pharmaceutical companies and government agencies looked at available, promising therapeutics for Covid and got them into clinical trials.
- Interim analysis of Moderna vaccine trial with 30k participants showed efficacy of 94.5% and Pfizer had 90%+ efficacy. Both are mRNA trials.

Plenary: COVID and Beyond: Where Do We Go From Here?

- One big takeaway: the fact that wealthy countries had such a hard time with the virus shows that public health capacity should never be taken for granted. U.S. health system was not optimized to deal with this kind of crisis.
- Government must be united in messaging but also acknowledge uncertainty and transparency in response to health crises.
- Vaccine development process being done in 11 months after sequencing of virus is unheard of because usually it takes 5-7 years to develop vaccine.

Plenary: COVID and Beyond: Where Do We Go From Here?

- Infectious disease specialists need to be on the ground in countries around the world to stay vigilant on potential pandemic viruses because the chance of another pandemic in our lifetimes is very high.
- We must improve on human to human social-behavioral changes to curb spread of diseases, because we do well on a technology standpoint, but the public health system needs to be revitalized in the U.S.

Plenary: COVID and Beyond: Where Do We Go From Here?

- We need to look hard at whether the clinical trial system in the U.S. is optimized to handle emerging health crises.
- Political cooperation and goodwill is vital to unified approach to abating spread of diseases.

Is It Time for America to Confront Its Tortured Racial Past?

A Conversation with Lonnie Bunch III Facilitated by David Skorton



Today's racial conversations are different because there's a broader, more diverse coalition of people behind them than there was during the Civil Rights movement.

- Struggle for racial justice isn't just about improving lives of Black and brown people, but about improving all our lives as Americans.
- This generation of medical students must recognize they have the chance to change and redeem their profession from racism by not just treating the person but the culture behind the person to make the profession of medicine fair.

Is It Time for America to Confront Its Tortured Racial Past?

A Conversation with Lonnie Bunch III Facilitated by David Skorton

- Doctors of color carry a dual burden: they have to be the best doctors they can but they also have to help people grapple with their own misconceptions.

Potential solutions:

- Historically black institutions can continue to educate leaders who can transform society by giving Black people the academic, social, political skills they need to be competitive as a person of color in this country.
- Academic medicine must build hospitals in the communities that need them because medicine needs to demonstrate in concrete ways that it's part of the community and that it cares.
- Engaging in community service activities outside of the medical school helps medical students familiarize themselves with different cultures so they can combat negative stereotypes.

We All Have a Story to Tell: The Power of Human Connection

Anne Curry, Emmy Award-Winning journalist and producer



The pressure of our professions makes it hard to fit in empathy, but empathy makes you better and more effective in your work. We must rise to face the challenge again and again.

- A good way to ensure your patient care is empathetic is to use “the mom test”: imagine the patient in front of you is your mom and think how your interactions/care might change.

We All Have a Story to Tell: The Power of Human Connection

Four steps to recover from challenges and prepare for future ones:

1. Care for yourself emotionally and allow yourself to process what you've experienced
2. Care for yourself physically by relieving stress through running or exercise
3. Care for yourself mentally by thinking carefully about whether what you've witnessed is connected to broader purpose of your work
4. Care for others by reaching out to actively connect with colleagues who have had similar experiences.

We All Have a Story to Tell: The Power of Human Connection

How to foster empathy:

- Med schools should proactively talk about empathy and what the research on empathy says to help future doctors build empathy.
- Video clips that allow health professionals to actually hear patients in their own voices, as opposed to just hearing second-hand paraphrases of what patients say, would help health care become more empathetic.

Join Us Again Soon!

- **2021 Joint Council on Faculty and Academic Societies (CFAS) and Group on Faculty Affairs (GFA) Meeting – April 14, 2021 - April 16, 2021**

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