



Tomorrow's Doctors, Tomorrow's Cures®

The AAMC (Association of American Medical Colleges) is a nonprofit association dedicated to improving the health of people everywhere through medical education, health care, medical research, and community collaborations. Learn more at aamc.org.

WHO DOES THE AAMC REPRESENT?

Collectively referred to as "academic medicine," our members are all 160 U.S. medical schools accredited by the Liaison Committee on Medical Education; nearly **500 academic health systems and teaching hospitals**, including **Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) medical centers**; and more than **70 academic societies**.

Through these institutions and organizations, the AAMC leads and serves the millions of individuals across academic medicine, including more than:

- 210,000 full-time faculty members
- 99,000 medical students
- 162,000 resident physicians
- 60,000 graduate students and postdoctoral researchers in biomedical sciences

WHAT ARE OUR MEMBERS' MISSIONS?

Medical Education: AAMC-member institutions and physician faculty work together to educate and train the next generation of physicians, biomedical scientists, and other health professionals.

Patient Care: Our members provide a wide range of high-quality health care services — including primary, preventive, and specialty care — and care for the most complex and vulnerable patients, many of whom are unable to receive care elsewhere.

Research: As major centers of medical research, researchers at AAMC-member institutions discover and pioneer new and more effective prevention strategies, diagnostics, treatments, and cures.

Learn more about [AAMC members' intertwined missions](#).

WHAT IS THE VALUE OF ACADEMIC MEDICINE?

Academic medicine touches millions of lives every day. The patient care improvements and cutting-edge research breakthroughs that start at academic medical centers propel systemic change across the nation's health care system.

Powering Economic Prosperity: Our members are [vital economic engines](#) at the local, state, and national levels. Every dollar granted to AAMC members for research contributes \$1.60 to the U.S. economy.

Driving New Discoveries: More than 60% of extramural research funded by the National Institutes of Health (NIH) [takes place at medical schools and teaching hospitals](#), where scientists, clinicians, and trainees work together to advance scientific breakthroughs that improve the lives of people everywhere.

Ensuring High-Quality Care: Teaching hospitals and physicians provide critical services often not available elsewhere. Research shows that care provided at major teaching hospitals leads to [better mortality outcomes](#).

To learn more, visit whatstartshere.aamc.org.



We stand ready to work with our nation's leaders to advance policy priorities that will strengthen the nation's health and well-being. For more information and resources, please contact the AAMC Office of Government Relations at gov-relations@aamc.org.

OUR PRIORITIES IN THE 119TH CONGRESS

STRENGTHEN THE HEALTH CARE WORKFORCE TO IMPROVE THE HEALTH OF PATIENTS AND COMMUNITIES

The nation currently faces a serious physician shortage, which the AAMC projects will grow to 86,000 doctors by 2036. To support a workforce that is ready to serve all patients, the AAMC urges Congress to:

- **Increase investment in Medicare-supported graduate medical education (GME)**, which will allow teaching health systems and hospitals to train more medical school graduates and produce more practicing physicians that care for patients.
- **Support vital physician training** through Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) Children's Hospitals and Teaching Health Centers GME programs, as well as those administered by the VA and Department of Defense.
- **Expand funding for HRSA Title VII and VIII workforce development programs**, which play an essential role in training and supporting a representative health care workforce in rural and other underserved areas through scholarships, mentorship, community-based and interdisciplinary training, and well-being programs.

AAMC-member hospitals provide training to

72%

of all residents



Teaching hospitals and medical schools receive

60%

of NIH extramural research award dollars



PROMOTE FUNDING FOR HEALTH AND SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH TO REVOLUTIONIZE PATIENT CARE

Recent technological advancements have rapidly evolved the health care and biomedical research landscape. To keep pace with these changes and ensure that tomorrow's physicians and researchers are prepared to harness emerging technologies for the benefit of patients and communities, the AAMC urges Congress to:

- **Allocate robust and sustained growth in medical research supported by the NIH** to ensure that the nation continues to lead in medical research advancements and that this critical agency can continue to support patient health, the scientific workforce, and regional and local economies.
- **Support teaching health systems and hospitals' efforts to responsibly deploy artificial intelligence** and related technologies in support of research, training, and patient care.
- **Support the full spectrum of scientific inquiry** by promoting discourse, facilitating impactful and well-designed research, and preventing political interference in conducting life-saving research and disseminating research findings.
- **Reduce, streamline, and harmonize excessive or outdated medical research regulations** to minimize burden on the scientific workforce without sacrificing scientific integrity or safety.
- **Ensure a robust public health and research infrastructure** to support our members' efforts to prevent and nimbly respond to natural and human-induced disasters and emergencies and advance medical research.

PROTECT PATIENTS' ACCESS TO CARE AT ACADEMIC HEALTH SYSTEMS AND TEACHING HOSPITALS

Immense financial challenges — such as unprecedented capacity constraints, insufficient reimbursement by payers, supply chain disruptions, and significant growth in expenses — threaten the long-term financial viability of teaching health systems and hospitals. To preserve patients' access to care at these critical anchor institutions, the AAMC urges Congress to:

- **Protect the tax-exempt status of nonprofit teaching health systems and hospitals**, which support education and training, invest in medical research, and provide high-quality patient care, regardless of patients' ability to pay.
- **Improve reimbursement from Medicare and Medicaid**, ensuring that the nation's premier academic health systems and teaching hospitals can continue to provide high-quality, specialized care to beneficiaries of these programs.
- **Preserve supplemental financial support** for safety-net hospitals that care for a disproportionate number of low-income patients, including the Medicaid Disproportionate Share Hospital program and Medicaid state-directed payments.
- **Uphold the 340B Drug Pricing Program**, which, at no cost to taxpayers, allows safety-net hospitals to purchase certain outpatient drugs at a discount from pharmaceutical manufacturers.
- **Reduce the administrative burden on teaching health systems and hospitals**, allowing them to focus on their core missions of patient care, research, and training.

Although our member teaching hospitals account for just 5% of all inpatient, short-term, nonfederal hospitals in the U.S., they provide a **disproportionate amount of care**, including:

32% of all hospital-based charity care

22% of Medicare inpatient days

26% of Medicaid hospitalizations

61% of all level I trauma centers



SUPPORT THE TRAINING OF FUTURE PHYSICIANS AND SCIENTIFIC RESEARCHERS

Every community nationwide relies on medical schools and teaching hospitals to prepare future physicians and researchers who will serve all patients. To champion an environment in which the highest quality care and medical discovery can flourish, the AAMC urges Congress to:

- **Ensure medical expertise guides medical care** by preventing government and political interference in medical education curriculum.
- **Preserve critical student financial aid programs** that encourage health care providers to pursue careers benefitting communities in need — including the Public Service Loan Forgiveness program, the ability for medical students to borrow up to the cost of attendance in federal loan programs such as Direct PLUS, the elimination of loan origination fees and all instances of interest capitalization, and parity between undergraduate and graduate professional repayment plans.