

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

**Sent:** Friday, October 3, 2025

**Subject:** The Evolution of AAMC Affinity Groups



David J. Skorton, MD  
President and CEO



Dear Colleagues,

The AAMC's professional development groups — known as affinity groups — are a valuable source of professional growth, leadership development, networking, and collaboration for the individuals at our member institutions. Affinity group members like you are at the heart of America's medical schools and academic health systems and serve as an essential link between the AAMC and its member institutions.

As we have experienced significant changes in academic medicine over the last several decades, it is time for our affinity group structure to evolve as well. Today I am pleased to let you know that the AAMC is modernizing this structure to better meet the professional needs of our constituents.

Over the next several months, we will transition the structure of our affinity groups to provide a fresh approach and address challenges and opportunities facing academic medicine. This new model will better reflect constituent needs, promote collaboration, and amplify collective voices. The new structure will be easier for our constituents to navigate and provides a clearer path for aligning with the priorities of the AAMC. The new group structure goes into effect July 1, 2026.

Affinity groups — as they are organized under the current model — will convene as planned in spring 2026 for annual professional development conferences. Elections for group steering committee roles will be paused during this transition period and will resume when the new group structure takes effect on July 1, 2026. We invite current steering committee members to consider extending their current term until June 30 to provide leadership and continuity through this evolution.

### **What Will Change?**

Across all affinity groups, this modernization of our structure allows for an expanded and more flexible group vision and purpose that may appeal to a broader range of participants; new group names that make it easier for current and future participants to find their professional fit; more

open access for group members; and the evolution of affinity groups with shared interest areas and professional focus in order to promote collaboration and amplify voice.

Also, while related but a separate decision, effective immediately, the AAMC Group on Diversity and Inclusion will change its name to the Group on Collaboration, Engagement, and Community during this transitional period. This change is being made to align with how programming has evolved for this group and the AAMC, as well as in response to feedback from member institutions who continue to experience external pressures.

### **What Will Not Change?**

The AAMC's mission and vision are not changing. We remain deeply committed to fostering professional development through our affinity groups and all affinity groups will continue to be led and supported by AAMC Constituent Engagement staff. In fact, the AAMC is streamlining and improving internal operations to support affinity group staff and improve the consistency of services and programs for affinity group members. These changes will not impact our governance councils (Council of Deans, Council of Academic Health System Executives, and Council of Faculty and Academic Societies), organizations (Organization of Student Representatives and Organization of Resident Representatives), or Government Relations Representatives.

### **Next Steps**

I want to highlight a few opportunities to learn more, ask questions, or provide feedback:

- These [Frequently Asked Questions](#) provide more detail on the evolution of our affinity groups.
- Submit your questions or feedback to me directly [via this feedback form](#).

We recognize these changes represent a shift in the way we will work together, which has long been rooted in shared experiences and support. The relationships and sense of community we have built together are truly valued – and will continue. We are committed to thoughtfully navigating this transition with you.

We are confident this new path forward keeps pace with the evolution of academic medicine and improves the way the AAMC engages with you, our community, to advance our mission to improve the health of people everywhere.

All best,  
David