

From: Jennifer M. Schlener, AAMC Chief of Staff

Sent: Monday, March 2, 2026

Subject: Evolution of AAMC Affinity Groups: Update on Group Governance and Administration



Dear Colleagues,

As we have shared previously, our intention in evolving the AAMC's affinity group structure is to make the groups even more collaborative, easier to navigate, and more flexible and accessible. We are committed to providing a path for constituents to establish closer connections with the AAMC, and expand opportunities to bring more constituents together, amplify collective voices, and provide a clearer path for engagement.

I am pleased to share an update on important progress we have made on the formation and planned launch of our 11 new affinity groups.

Earlier this month, we finalized governance and administration guidelines for each new group, which were shared last week with current group steering committees following a discussion we convened with representative leaders from each group. Feedback from constituent leaders has been essential in helping the AAMC develop these administrative frameworks, and we will continue to rely on their leadership as we establish the new affinity groups under these guidelines.

The governance and administrative guidelines include:

- Rules and regulations, approved by the Board of Directors in accordance with AAMC bylaws
- An administrative manual that codifies a group's name, purpose, membership, roles, programs, and other operations
- A Steering Committee transition plan, including guidance for the first transitional year
- Recommendations on how groups may more effectively engage with each other and with the AAMC to seek and share feedback
- The AAMC's vision for regional access to scholarship and professional development

We believe these governance and administration guidelines set each group up for success by:

- Providing transparency around rules, regulations, structures and processes;
- Ensuring consistency across all affinity groups;

- Clarifying and defining roles and responsibilities; and
- Serving as a handbook to help members—especially new committee leaders—understand a group’s purpose, structure, operations and resources.

This progress represents an important step in our transition to the new groups on July 1, and the AAMC will continue to evaluate and refine this work. Ensuring that each group is operating within these guidelines will be important as we evaluate across all groups.

We will continue to update the resource page and [Frequently Asked Questions](#) on our website, including updates around the administrative guidance and other progress related to the evolution of our affinity groups. Additionally, the resource page includes email addresses for each of the new groups should you have specific questions for AAMC staff.

These governance and administration guidelines outline a way forward that ensures AAMC affinity groups remain a valuable source of professional growth, leadership development, networking, and collaboration, and an essential connection between the AAMC and its member institutions.

I appreciate your support and patience throughout this planning and launch process – thank you.

Sincerely,
Jennifer M. Schlener
AAMC Chief of Staff