

**Message to GEA | Curriculum, Assessment, Instruction, and Research Group
Informational Email**

Sent 3/20/2026

If you should have received this email from the AAMC and did not, please reach out to gea@aamc.org

Greetings, GEA Membership:

As many of you have read in previous communications, the AAMC is transitioning to a new structure for affinity groups, moving from the 17 current affinity groups to a new organization of 11 groups beginning on July 1, 2026.

We have received many questions about these changes via email, at the NEGEA conference last week, and through discussions with GEA leadership over the past few months. To provide more information about this change for GEA members, we're providing responses to these questions in an FAQ-style question and response format below.

We hope this provides more clarity about the focus of the new Curriculum, Assessment, Instruction, and Research (CAIR) group and what to expect moving forward. We will also send additional communications as more information is available.

Please feel free to email gea@aamc.org with any follow-up questions. We'll respond directly and use questions that come through to help inform future communications to the group regarding these changes.

We hope to see you at the upcoming [WGEA](#), [CGEA](#), and [SGEA](#) conferences this spring!

Sincerely,

Stephen McKenzie
GEA Constituent Engagement Leader

CC:

Elissa Hall, EdD
GEA Chair

Bill Cutrer, MD MEd
GEA Past Chair

FAQ-style responses to questions received from the GEA Community

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What is the Curriculum, Assessment, Instruction, and Research (CAIR) Group and who is the target audience?

- CAIR is the new AAMC affinity group focused on medical education across the continuum: UME, GME, CPD, and educational research and scholarship
- CAIR grows from the legacy of the Group on Educational Affairs (GEA) and will serve medical educators in all facets of medical training, including:
 - Undergraduate medical educators and scholars
 - Graduate medical educators and scholars
 - Continuing professional developers, faculty developers, and scholars
 - Staff professionals who support the medical education mission and related institutional programs
- CAIR welcomes faculty and staff at all career levels.

Who will lead the CAIR Group? How will leadership be identified/selected?

- The group will be led by a volunteer steering committee and AAMC Staff
- The inaugural steering committee (2026 – 2027) will be selected from current GEA leadership for continuity and transitional purposes. GEA leadership includes:
 - Current GEA Steering Committee Members
 - Current GEA Regional Steering Committee Members
 - Current GEA Section Steering Committee Members
- Future CAIR Steering Committee Members (2028 and beyond) will be solicited through an open call for nominations to group membership
- Additional volunteer leadership positions will be made available through open calls for nominations. These opportunities include, but aren't limited to:
 - Program Planning Committee (see below)
 - Standing Committees
 - Ad hoc working groups

- Additional leadership opportunities are expected to open following CAIR's official launch in July 2027, and anticipated to open this summer or early-Fall

Will CAIR have a conference?

- Yes, CAIR will host a national conference annually
- The conference program will be organized by a program planning committee of constituent volunteers and AAMC staff
- The conference program will be largely populated through an open call for proposals and academic peer review process
- We anticipate 2027 conference dates and location will be confirmed in summer 2026
- Learn Serve Lead will continue to support and highlight medical education scholarship

If CAIR has a national conference, what happens to regional conferences? Will there be regional conferences?

- CAIR will not host regional conferences. None of the new affinity groups will host regional conferences
- Starting in 2028, AAMC will host regional scholarship meetings which will serve faculty, staff, and learners at every career stage
- These meetings will provide opportunities to share scholarly work, build networks and connections more locally, and advance scholarship across academic medicine
- These conferences will not be tied to a specific group in the new affinity group structure. They will serve the broader academic medicine community, including medical education
- The conference programs will be planned by a constituent program planning committee
- Opportunities to provide input towards development of these AAMC-hosted regional conferences are forthcoming

I'm not sure exactly where I fit in the new AAMC affinity group structure. How do I find my place?

- CAIR will serve as the affinity group home for medical education and medical educators across the continuum, including UME, GME, CPD, Research and Scholarship, and med ed staff
- Individuals may find that they want to participate in multiple AAMC affinity groups based on their role and/or professional needs

- The new affinity groups are open to all individuals at AAMC member institutions. A full list of the new affinity groups along with a crosswalk to previous affinity groups can be found here: [The Evolution of AAMC Affinity Groups | AAMC](#)

I'm a GME educator. How do I interface between CAIR and the Graduate Medical Education affinity group?

- GME educators and leaders can join both groups and determine if one or both best fits their professional needs. Generally:
 - CAIR will include a focus on GME Education – the explicit training of residents and fellows and topics/issues related specifically to education
 - The GME group will focus on issues and topics related to GME administration, policy, program oversight, and accreditation

I'm CPD educator or faculty developer. How do I interface between CAIR and the Faculty and Staff Vitality affinity group?

- CPD educators and leaders can join both groups and determine if one or both best fits their needs. Generally:
 - CAIR will include a focus on CPD educators and faculty developers who focus on the learning and development of faculty and clinician educators across the professional lifespan.
 - The Faculty and Staff Vitality Group will focus on issues and topics related to faculty affairs administration and policies, promotion and tenure, supporting work-life integration, and cultivating a culture of recognition and inclusion

I'm a staff professional. I see many new groups include staff, which is great. How do I find my primary home?

- Staff across AAMC member institutions may find homes in different AAMC affinity groups based on their specific role at the institution
- CAIR will include a focus on professional staff who contribute to the medical education mission in their roles, be that in UME, GME, CPD, or scholarship and research
 - CAIR will offer leadership opportunities for staff in medical education roles
- Staff in other roles may find that other groups best fit their professional needs and may find that one group serves as their primary home and another as a secondary point of engagement

Who is leading the development of CAIR and when will more information be available?

- The GEA Steering Committee and AAMC Staff are currently developing CAIR's specific focal points and developing its initial structure
 - Once identified, the inaugural CAIR Steering Committee will collaborate with the current GEA Steering Committee and AAMC Staff in group development
 - The inaugural CAIR steering committee will continue to refine and solidify this focus areas and structure through its term (July 2027 – June 2028)
- Additional communication will be shared via the GEA email list as development progresses, with the next communication is anticipated in April or May, 2026, depending on that progress.
- This information will also be available on the GEA website and CAIR website in the future