AAMC Resident Readiness Survey
Frequently Asked Questions

1. **Why is the AAMC doing this? What problems will this solve?** The AAMC Resident Readiness Survey (also referred to as the PD Survey) will eliminate the need for the schools to create and administer local surveys and will reduce the number of different school-specific surveys throughout the year that are sent to PDs. It will assist the medical schools with their continuous quality improvement processes to meet LCME standard 8.4. Ultimately, the AAMC Resident Readiness Survey should improve the transition from UME to GME and the feedback between leaders within and across these schools and programs.

2. **What is timing of this project?** For the operational pilot for the 2020-2021 academic year, the AAMC will survey the Program Directors (PDs) Nov 2020 to Jan 2021 during the first milestone reporting period. Reports would be available in late spring – early summer 2021. After the pilot, the AAMC will decide whether to proceed for future annual administrations of the survey.

3. **How will the PD Survey work?** Program Directors (PDs) will log into GME Track and access a tab for the AAMC Resident Readiness Survey. Next to each resident’s name, there will be a link to a PGY-1 survey for that resident. Only those residents that are eligible (meaning they have graduated from a school that is participating in the pilot) will be listed and a link will be provided for each to a brief survey about readiness. A medical school chooses to participate by signing a pilot participation agreement with the AAMC. The agreement describes AAMC and medical school responsibilities for the pilot and includes data use limitations and a limitation on the school conducting its own PGY-1 survey.

4. **If a learner does not want their program director to complete a PD survey about them, what is the process for the learner to make sure their program director knows this and does not complete the survey?** Student/residents may opt-out of the process. Those who complete ERAS applications, starting with the 2020 ERAS Cycle, are informed that their assessment data for PGY-1 may be collected by the AAMC and provided to their medical school of graduation, subject to certain conditions. If an ERAS applicant does not want to participate in the PD survey, they may email privacy@aamc.org and request to opt-out. PDs will only receive requests for surveys of those residents who: 1) completed at least one ERAS application (and hence, were notified of the process); 2) are NOT on the opt-out list; and 3) graduated from a participating school (i.e., has signed an agreement with the AAMC). A resident may make a request to their program director to not complete the survey. It is entirely up to the PD to decide whether to abide by the request. The AAMC is not involved in this decision.

5. **Will the PD be required to participate?** No, participation is voluntary. Further, it is the responsibility of the PD to determine whether the PD may share the information per institutional policy. This is the current state with all school-generated surveys sent to program directors about resident readiness.
6. **What will the AAMC do with the data?** The AAMC will provide the data to the medical school of graduation for each resident by creating a school specific report, including identified (by resident name) data that will be available via a secure portal – the Medical School Profile System (MSPS). The AAMC may also use the data for its own presentations, publications, and analysis, subject to the AAMC Privacy Statement and the pilot participation agreement.

7. **Will the national data be published in aggregate or somehow placed in the public domain?** The AAMC may publish information on residents, interns, fellows, and applicants to residency, internship, and fellowship programs in the form of aggregate statistics in various AAMC reports. Such information may include PD Survey data. The AAMC will not share individual, program, or school identified data with public or with accrediting bodies.

8. **How long will the survey take to complete?** We will be collecting analytics during the pilot to determine average time to complete. We anticipate a PD to take up to five minutes to complete one survey per PGY-1 resident.

9. **How long will the data be stored?** The AAMC will store the data indefinitely or as long as the data are useful.

10. **Is our UME or GME training program going to be compared to other programs on the basis of these data?** These data will be used only for continuous quality improvement of the curriculum and will not be used for “ranking” UME or GME programs based on the program-director assessed readiness of the residents in the program.

11. **Is there a fee to participate in the pilot?** No.

12. **My school prefers to use our own survey. How does our school opt out of having the AAMC collect data about our graduates in this national PD survey?** A school must forego sending its own PGY-1 survey if it agrees to participate in the pilot. If a school does not participate in the pilot, the AAMC will not collect data on its graduates during the pilot year. The pilot participant agreement does not preclude schools from sending program director surveys about their graduates beyond the PGY-1 year of training.

13. **As a program director, I will want to get consent from my residents first before I complete any surveys about them. Will the AAMC please provide a form for me to do so?** See #4 above for related information. The AAMC is not providing a standardized form. Please consult with your legal and human resources advisors about what permission is appropriate.

14. **When will the AAMC let us (program directors/schools) know if this is or is not going to happen for graduates of the school who begin PGY-1 training in 2020?** We anticipate launching the PD Survey with the first ACGME milestone reporting cycle in 2020 (Nov-
Jan) as a pilot and data would be available in 2021. We will be notifying schools of this 2020 pilot in early Spring, 2020 via email to the Sr Med Ed Leader and the Student Affairs Dean at all medical schools.

15. **Who will the PD survey data be sent to at my school?** Each school will identify a data contact who will access the data via MSPS.

16. **We share our own school’s PD survey results with numerous individuals at our school. Will there be any limitations placed on how we can use and share the PD survey data from the AAMC?** Yes, there will be restrictions on use of the data. Please refer to the pilot participation agreement for the specific terms.

17. **What is the plan for following up with non-respondent PDs?** Our school sends three reminders. Will the AAMC do this? If we don’t get information via the AAMC survey for particular graduates, can the school then follow up directly with the program directors? The AAMC will send multiple reminders to increase responses. For purposes of the pilot administration, we ask that schools not survey or follow up with PDs for those entering PGY-1 in 2020.

18. **We use our PD survey data for research purposes. What steps will we have to take to get permission from the AAMC to use the PD Survey data for our research studies?** The pilot participation agreement does not permit use of the data for research purposes.

19. **How will the school receive the data?** The report available in MSPS will be individual level, identified data for the graduates from that specific school.

20. **How will the AAMC assure medical schools that these PD survey data will not be used for comparative or ranking purposes?** The AAMC will not provide resident, school, or program identified data to accrediting bodies, and it will not publish any resident, school, or program identified data.

21. **Can I request specific items be included on the PD survey?** The PD Survey does not allow for customization by school. Survey items have been designed and reviewed by hundreds of stakeholders. The survey instrument will be shared with the schools (in concert with the participant agreement process). We will be evaluating the items in the pilot process for possible future administrations.

22. **Who should I contact if I have additional questions?** Additional questions about the project should be directed to ResidentReadiness@aamc.org.