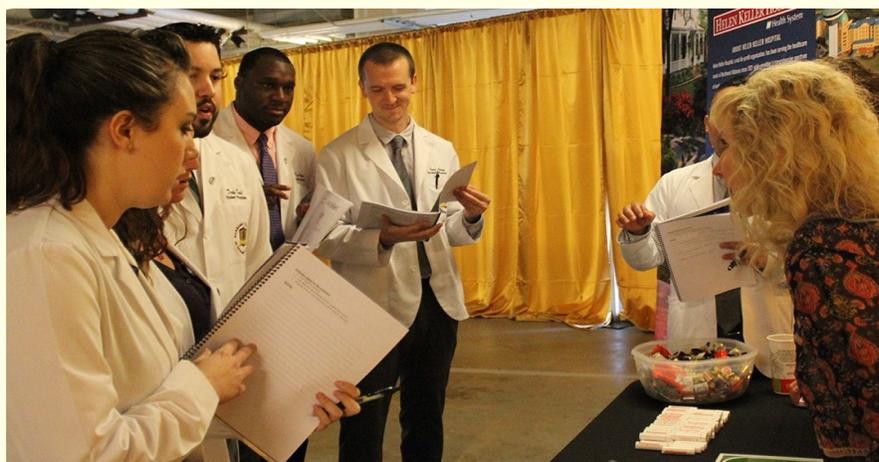


ALABAMA MEDICAL EDUCATION CONSORTIUM

AMEC continues its newest challenge to expand opportunities for medical school graduates to do their residency training in Alabama.

2018 Annual Report



FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

In 2016 AMEC began its present challenge of Graduate Medical Education to increase the number of physicians in Alabama. In the foyer of Springhill Hospital, I recently re-read the quotation from Dr. William Osler placed there by Dr. Gerald Wallace who founded the hospital. The quotation reads in part, “What has been accomplished is only an earnest of what shall be done in the future. Upon our heels a fresh perfection must tread, born of us, fated to excel us.”



The “Medical School without Walls,” was an idea proposed by Dr. Kenneth McLeod in 2004. That idea evolved into the Alabama College of Osteopathic Medicine in 2010 that will graduate its third class of physicians in 2019. With the influx of new physicians has come this new and exciting challenge of developing residency programs for our State. The Legislature has provided funding for the establishment of up to twelve new GME programs. With the current funding, two residency programs opened in 2018 with 21 new residents. Two more programs are expected to recruit for residents in 2019, and eight more GME programs are in the process of being developed. Five hospitals have received institutional accreditation, the first building block in developing an ACGME accredited program.

Our proposal for a scholarship program in which the recipients would contractually agree to practice for five years in a designated area of need in Alabama has not yet been approved or funded. Believing service scholarships are an economical way to substantially increase physician manpower in the rural and under served areas of the State, we will continue to pursue this proposal. The Pilot Project AMEC had with CHS matures this year. Two physicians will join the Alabama workforce in CHS communities for their five-years each of service. A third recipient will start his service in 2020, providing CHS with a total of 15 physician service years.

Along with the GME programs, AMEC is developing a “clearing house” to publicize opportunities in Alabama for faculty and program directors. In this effort, AMEC will assist hospitals to find faculty for their programs. One way to reach candidates who are interested in coming to Alabama is to network at physician conferences. In March 2019 we will attend the annual meeting of the USAFP, a conference for military physicians. We hope to meet a number of physicians to refer to the new programs in Alabama.

We welcome Dr. Brent Boyett as a new member of the AMEC Board of Directors. Dr. Boyett is both a practicing family physician and a dentist in Hamilton, Alabama. He is a member of the Governor’s Task Force on Addiction, is past president of the Alabama Osteopathic Medical Association and serves on the ALOMA Board. With his experience and influence in the Alabama medical community, Dr. Boyett will be a valuable member of the AMEC Board.

We appreciate your continued support and guidance.

Respectfully,

WE Baker

Executive Director

HEALTH CARE DATA

In a report citing the physician shortage in the United States, the author quotes Dr. Janis M. Orlowski of the AAMC, “There is going to be a significant workforce shortage under all of the likely projections. We see that only getting worse as the population ages.” The article stated that by 2030, “The United States will face a shortage (of doctors) of between 40,800 and 104,900.” The shortage of primary physicians is expected to be between 8,700 and 43,100. Compounding the problem is the aging of our population. Additionally, retirement of physicians will have a great effect on the number of practicing physicians.

According to data issued by the Health Resources Service Agency (HRSA 2017) 62 out of 67 Alabama counties are underserved or partially underserved for physician manpower. Alabama needs 321 physicians to meet HRSA’s minimum standard and 500 plus to meet optimal standard.

AMEC’S PROGRESS TOWARD FULFILLING ITS MISSION

323	AMEC Pipeline Students Graduated
82	Students did their residencies in Alabama
82	Trained in Family Medicine in Alabama or elsewhere
84	Are licensed to practice in Alabama (as of 2018)
27	Cities are represented by these licensees
21	Residents in new GME Programs (2018)
274	Students have graduated from the ACOM
31	ACOM graduates in Alabama residencies
648	Students attend the ACOM annually



APPRECIATION TO ALABAMA LEGISLATURE

AMEC’S journey officially began in 2005 with funding in Governor Riley’s recommended budget and approved in the 2006 State budget. Every year after that until budget year 2016, the consortium’s request for funding was approved. In 2015-2016 AMEC finished its mission of students progressing through the Pipeline for their third and fourth years of medical school. In 2016, ACOM students began their clerkships in the sites already established in Alabama.

In 2017 Governor Robert Bentley and the Alabama Legislature funded AMEC’s Proposal to assist up to 12 Alabama Hospitals to start new GME programs. When matured, these new programs will offer approximately 140 new PG1 slots for a total of over 400 residency slots. We are grateful to Governor Ivey and to the two Governors who preceded her, and to the State Legislature for their foresight in recognizing the pressing need for physicians in Alabama by funding this ongoing effort.

How To Increase Physician Manpower in Alabama?

GROW YOUR OWN!

ACOM graduated its first class in 2017. All graduates matched!



Of the students in the first two years, 22% had graduate degrees.



More than 50% of the first three class members were from the tri-state area of Alabama, Florida and Georgia.



In first four classes, 25% of students were from Alabama.



Average age of entering students in 2017, 2018, 2021 was 25.8 years.



These classes represent 972 medical students; 274 of them are physicians already in residency. (31 in Alabama programs)

