

# Information



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Memorandum #12-05

Date: July 10, 2012

To: Board of Directors  
Council of Deans  
Council of Teaching Hospitals and Health Systems  
Council of Academic Societies  
Organization of Resident Representatives  
Organization of Student Representatives  
Medical Center Leaders Caucus  
Group on Educational Affairs  
Group on Resident Affairs  
Group on Student Affairs

From: Darrell G. Kirch, M.D., AAMC President and CEO

Subject: AAMC and AMA Sign LCME Memorandum of Understanding

For more than 70 years, the AAMC and the AMA have jointly sponsored the Liaison Committee for Medical Education (LCME) and in the process, have encouraged the development of the world's "gold standard" for accreditation of medical education programs. Unknown to most individuals, there has never been a formal agreement between the AAMC and the AMA regarding the LCME – up until now. On July 9, 2012, my colleague, Jim Madara, M.D., executive vice president and CEO of the AMA, and I both signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) outlining our joint, ongoing commitment to support the medical education accreditation process well into the future.

The MOU is the result of an in-depth review which addressed critical issues regarding LCME operations, governance, membership, communication, innovation, and the increased accreditation demands associated with the development of several new schools. A joint task force was formed to examine these concerns with senior representatives from the AAMC, the AMA, and the LCME. The final report was reviewed by all three entities and it was determined that an MOU would provide a useful framework for many of the task force's recommendations.

A nine-member council, with three representatives from each sponsoring organization and the LCME will be created to enhance communications, improve planning, and facilitate the sharing of best practices. The MOU also elucidates a number of issues related to the governance and membership of the LCME. We believe these important clarifications will benefit our schools of medicine and ultimately those who depend on U.S.-trained physicians for the highest quality care in the world.

Since the AAMC was chartered in 1876 to advance medical education, we have worked with our members and partners, such as the AMA, to improve our system of educating and training tomorrow's doctors. By strengthening the LCME and our organizations' shared commitment to it, this MOU lays the groundwork for even greater advances in the years ahead. Please direct any questions to John E. Prescott, M.D., AAMC chief of academic affairs ([jprescott@aamc.org](mailto:jprescott@aamc.org)).