



Tomorrow's Doctors, Tomorrow's Cures®

### ■ About the AAMC

The AAMC (Association of American Medical Colleges) is a nonprofit association dedicated to improving the health of people everywhere through medical education, health care, medical research, and community collaborations. Learn more about us at [aamc.org](https://aamc.org).

### ■ Who does the AAMC represent?

The AAMC's members are all 158 U.S. medical schools accredited by the Liaison Committee on Medical Education; 13 accredited Canadian medical schools; approximately 400 academic health systems and teaching hospitals, including Department of Veterans Affairs medical centers; and more than 70 academic societies. Through these institutions and organizations, the AAMC leads and serves America's medical schools, academic health systems and teaching hospitals, and the millions of individuals across academic medicine, including more than 193,000 full-time faculty members, 96,000 medical students, 153,000 resident physicians, and 60,000 graduate students and postdoctoral researchers in the biomedical sciences. Following a 2022 merger, the Alliance of Academic Health Centers and the Alliance of Academic Health Centers International broadened participation in the AAMC by U.S. and international academic health centers.

### ■ What is the value of academic medicine?

Academic medicine touches the lives of Americans every day. The patient care improvements and cutting-edge research breakthroughs that start at academic medical centers propel systemic change across the nation's health care system. To learn more about academic medicine's value to patients, families, and communities everywhere, from rural to urban, visit [whatstartshere.aamc.org](https://whatstartshere.aamc.org).

### ■ How can I learn more or become involved with academic medicine?

The bipartisan Congressional Academic Medicine Caucus (CAMC), co-chaired by Rep. Greg Murphy, MD (R-N.C.) and Rep. Kathy Castor (D-Fla.), provides a forum for members of Congress and staff to engage in a constructive and educational dialogue about key issues that affect the academic medicine community and the patients they serve. Learn more about the CAMC at [aamc.org/camc](https://aamc.org/camc).

### ■ What are our members' missions?

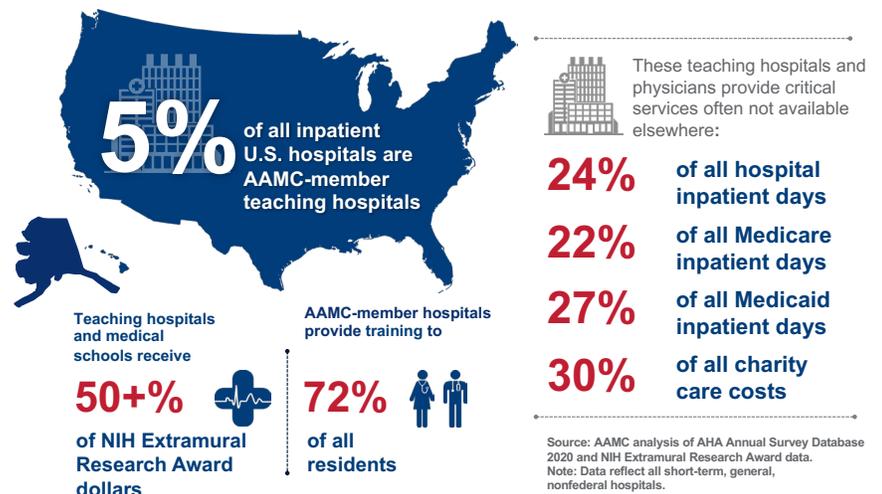
**Medical education.** AAMC-member institutions and physician faculty work together to educate and train the next generation of physicians, biomedical scientists, and other health professionals.

**Patient care.** AAMC-member institutions and physician faculty provide a wide range of high-quality health care services, including primary, preventive, and specialty care. Our members care for the most complex and vulnerable patients, many of whom are unable to receive care elsewhere.

**Research.** AAMC-member institutions are major centers of medical research. Their researchers discover and pioneer new and more effective prevention strategies, diagnostics, treatments, and cures.

**Community collaborations.** AAMC-member institutions work toward a healthier future for all by building partnerships and cultivating trust as anchor institutions in their communities.

## Academic Medicine Is Critical to U.S. Health



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## ■ What is our impact?

**Ensuring high-quality care.** Although our member teaching hospitals account for just 5% of all inpatient, short-term, nonfederal hospitals in the United States, they provide a **disproportionate amount of care**. Research shows that care provided at major teaching hospitals leads to **better mortality outcomes**.

**Driving new discoveries.** More than 50% of NIH-funded extramural research **takes place at medical schools and teaching hospitals**, where scientists, clinicians, and trainees work together to advance scientific breakthroughs that improve the lives of millions of Americans.

**Propelling economic activity.** Our members are **vital economic engines** at the local, state, and national levels. In 2019, our members added more than \$728 billion in value to the nation's economy, generating 7.1 million jobs in communities across 47 states. Every dollar granted to AAMC members for research contributes \$1.60 to the U.S. economy.

## ■ What are our priorities in the 118th Congress?

**GME and the health care workforce.** The nation currently faces a serious physician shortage, which the AAMC projects will be between **13,500 and 86,000 physicians** by 2036. To make matters worse, the COVID-19 pandemic has hastened the exit of many physicians from the profession. We cannot afford to wait to address this growing crisis. To increase the supply of physicians, the AAMC urges Congress to increase investment in Medicare-supported graduate medical education (GME), which will allow teaching hospitals to train more medical school graduates and help ensure they get the training needed to be practicing physicians. Additionally, the AAMC supports the HRSA Children's Hospital GME and Teaching Health Centers GME programs, as well as GME programs administered by the VA and Department of Defense (DOD), which provide vital support for training physicians in primary care and a multitude of subspecialties.

The AAMC recommends increased investment in **HRSA Title VII and VIII workforce development programs**, which play an essential role in training and supporting a diverse and culturally competent health care workforce through scholarships, mentorship, community-based and interdisciplinary training, and well-being programs. We also support federal recruitment programs, such as Public Service Loan Forgiveness, the National Health Service Corps, and those administered by the VA, DOD, and Indian Health Service, which encourage graduates to pursue careers that benefit communities in need by providing student loan relief to physicians.

**National Institutes of Health (NIH) funding.** Since its inception, the NIH has funded breakthrough medical research that has helped Americans live healthier, longer lives. Today, it is more important than ever to ensure that the NIH can continue to support both the health of Americans and regional and local economies. Research supported by the NIH, funded primarily through an annual Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies (LHHS) appropriations bill, serves as the foundation of scientific knowledge and drives medical innovation in every state in the nation. To ensure America continues to lead in medical research advancements, the AAMC recommends sustained and robust increases in NIH funding.

**Financial sustainability of teaching hospitals and health systems.** Given the immense financial challenges facing our members, including historic workforce shortages, supply chain disruptions, and a significant growth in expenses, the AAMC supports policies that ensure the long-term financial viability of teaching hospitals and health systems. Teaching hospitals play a vital role in the nation's health care safety net by caring for a disproportionately high percentage of Medicare and Medicaid beneficiaries, despite unsustainably low reimbursement rates. Without adequate reimbursement from these public payers, our members will be unable to fulfill their core missions of high-quality patient care, training, research, and community collaboration.

In addition, the AAMC advocates for much-needed supplemental financial support for hospitals that care for high numbers of low-income patients. We support the **340B Drug Pricing Program**, which, at no cost to taxpayers, allows safety-net hospitals to purchase certain outpatient drugs at a discount from pharmaceutical manufacturers. In addition, we urge Congress to eliminate or delay scheduled cuts to the **Medicaid Disproportionate Share Hospital (DSH) program**, which helps hospitals offset costs associated with uncompensated care.

**Health equity.** Our member institutions collaborate with their local communities to reduce health disparities and inequities and address the systemic risk factors that affect health outcomes and well-being. In addition, the AAMC is committed to ensuring that all people have access to high-quality, affordable health care. We work with the new **AAMC Center for Health Justice** to advance its evidence-based work and the work of our anchor institutions around maternal health, environmental justice, and data and related infrastructure to improve health equity. In addition, as pioneers in research and clinical care, AAMC-member institutions are essential to the health care system's ability to respond to natural and human-induced disasters and emergencies. A robust public health infrastructure is essential to supporting our members' efforts to prevent and respond to both emerging and ongoing threats.



We are eager to work with our nation's leaders to advance policy priorities that will strengthen the nation's health and well-being. For more information and additional resources, please contact the AAMC Office of Government Relations at [gov-relations@aamc.org](mailto:gov-relations@aamc.org).