

Alabama Medical Education Consortium

Annual Report 2017

Ideas Have Consequences. - Richard M. Weaver

Dr. Ken McLeod had an idea about a “medical school without walls” which brought medical students to train in the AMEC Alabama clinical network. One of the unintended consequences was a medical school with walls in Dothan. AMEC is now involved with new Graduate Medical Education in a number of Alabama hospitals. The consequences are rewarding!



Dr. McLeod with 3rd year Medical Student
Family Medical Clerkship, Foley 2005



Recruiting for first Family Medicine residents South
Baldwin Regional Medical Center, Foley 2017

From the Executive Director

Our 2016 Annual Report noted that AMEC was in its last year of working with medical students and had taken on its new challenge – increasing the number of graduate medical education opportunities in Alabama. Year 2017 was a busy year. AMEC received funding from the State in the 2017 budget to assist up to 12 Alabama hospitals begin new residency programs.

By end of the fiscal year, September 30, five hospitals were actively involved in the latter stages of development of their GME program.

AMEC has dedicated \$1.487M for funding assistance. Eight other GME programs are in various stages of development.

All new GME starts will be accredited by ACGME; two will have new residents July 2018; five other new starts are expected to recruit for residents for 2019 or 2020. We anticipate that these new GME starts funded by the State will open over 100 PG1 slots.

In pursuing its revised mission to increase the number of residency slots in Alabama, AMEC has designed a scholarship program that would fund medical school scholarships that would require the graduates to do their residency in Alabama if possible, and to practice in rural or underserved areas of the State for five years. This proposal was submitted to the 2017 Alabama Legislative session. The Senate version passed that body unanimously; but the House version failed to get out of the House Ways and Means Education Committee.

The Scholarship Bill, designated as House Bill 20, has been pre-filed for the 2018 Legislative Session; its Senate companion bill will also be filed. Much of our time this year was spent working to have the bill approved; likewise, we expect to be spending many hours in Montgomery during the 2018 session. (A brief explanation is given of the bill's provision in this report.)

We're pleased and privileged to have two new members on our Board of Directors. Mr. Jim Coleman and Mr. Terry Mitchell have filled two spots of the three vacancies created by three members who retired: Drs. Herb Stone and Sandra Hullett and Mr. Kim Ballard. There remains one vacancy. We certainly appreciate the service of the three retired members and wish them the best.

The members of the Board have always supported AMEC's activities. That support, input, and direction are appreciated and will be even more beneficial as the new pursuits are undertaken. Thank you for your involvement and interest.



In the Beginning....

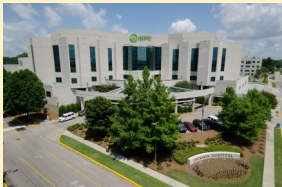
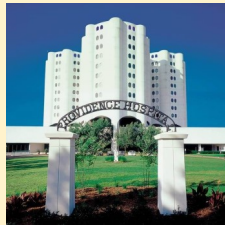
UPDATE – GRADUATE MEDICAL EDUCATION

AMEC is now working with fourteen Alabama hospitals who are engaged in developing graduate medical education programs. The 2017 Legislature funded AMEC's GME assistance effort with another \$1.615M. Two programs are recruiting for residents for July 2018 – it has been a busy year!

As last reported, each hospital has its individual situation to work through in order to start a GME program. Some have issues to resolve about the specialty it will offer; others are concerned with assurances about the CMS funding it will receive; and others have questions that require time and circumstances to coalesce before moving forward. The following is a brief report of hospitals' progress.

Two hospitals are now recruiting for residents to begin training in July 2018: South Baldwin Regional Medical Center in Foley and Southeast Alabama Medical Center in Dothan. Together these two facilities will have 21 new residents for a total of 63 when the program matures in three years.

Five hospitals expect to recruit new residents for 2019 or 2020: Eliza Coffee Memorial Hospital in Florence; Thomas Hospital in Fairhope; Marshall Medical in Guntersville; Jackson Hospital in Montgomery; and Providence Hospital in Mobile. New PG1 slots created by these five hospitals is 55. (165 at maturity)



AMEC "On the Road!"

From October 2016 to December 2017, AMEC personnel set a record for travel! Below are some of the major events AMEC staff attended; Dr. Baker gave presentations at many of these events.

- * Eight major conferences in Alabama and NW Florida; over 1000 physicians participated
- * A number of state conferences to familiarize people with the GME effort. For example, they joined over 500 Commissioners, Engineers, and County Officials for the annual meeting of the Alabama County Commission Association
- * Several meetings with Chairs of County Commissions as well as County Commission meetings
- * County Medical Society and Civic Club meetings

The regular AMEC schedule included:

- * About seven visits per month, January through May, to the Alabama Legislature
- * Conferences with hospitals interested in new GME programs
- * Numerous visits with hospitals actively involved in developing new GME programs



SCHOLARSHIP BILL – ALABAMA PHYSICIAN INITIATIVE

This Bill provides for 25 scholarships per year for medical students' tuition in any college of medicine in Alabama. At maturity, 100 students would be receiving tuition funding. The students would contractually agree to do their residency in Alabama if possible, and then to practice Family Medicine for five years in designated rural/underserved areas of Alabama for five years. AMEC would administer the various facets of the Bill: recruitment through the medical schools; residency; and assignment to a medically underserved area in Alabama through its Placement Component.

Funding would be for tuition only. Recipients would be selected from a preference criteria which would include State residency, rural background; and desire to pursue a career in Family Medicine.

AMEC will make an annual report to the Legislature attached to its funding request for the upcoming budget. Funding request will reflect tuition variances and management funding for AMEC to facilitate all aspects of the Bill's mandate.

State colleges of medicine would contract with AMEC, as do the students, to follow certain guidelines to assure that all scholarship recipients are nurtured and mentored in the concepts expected for training in Family Medicine. Funding would be made directly to AMEC for tuition disbursement to the various colleges of medicine whose students receive the scholarships.

ACOM'S FIRST CLASS GRADUATES!

Class of 2017 – 1ST Graduating Class



- 126 graduates—100% Placement Match
- 69% Primary Care
 - 25% Family Medicine
 - 33% Internal Medicine
 - 6% OB/GYN
 - 5% Pediatric
- 10% Placed in Alabama