

2022
Annual Report

**ALABAMA
MEDICAL
EDUCATION
CONSORTIUM**

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

As in years past, 2022 presented AMEC with opportunities to further its mission and to assess the progress of our efforts. The year's activities also presented challenges for us to be innovative and helpful to the affiliated hospitals with our funding capabilities. Additionally, our consultants and AMEC personnel continue to provide assistance when appropriate.

We're pleased to report that there are now five hospitals with six operational GME programs with 71 PG-1 slots. The hospitals listed have a total of 163 residents in training.

Southeast Health – Internal Medicine – 16
– Transitional Year – 12

South Baldwin Regional Medical Center – Family Medicine – 11

Thomas Hospital – Internal Medicine – 14

North Alabama Medical Center – Internal Medicine – 12

Gadsden Regional Medical Center – Family Medicine – 6

In 2023, hospitals for whom AMEC is providing start-up funding expect to add four new programs. Three programs were approved in 2022 and will match in 2023. A fourth program in psychiatry is expected to be approved in February 2023.

Jackson Hospital – Family Medicine – 6 slots

Crestwood Medical Center – Family Medicine – 6 slots
– Internal Medicine – 10 slots

North Alabama Medical Center Shoals Hospital – Psychiatry – 5 slots

Note that in addition to the 163 residents cited above, through AMEC and the ACOM's efforts with new programs, Alabama now has 205 physicians practicing in over 40 locations in Alabama. While we are still challenged by a critical shortage in our State, 368 physicians including residents who were not here prior to 2008 are now seeing Alabama patients.

We recently shared with the Board the dilemma of Mobile Infirmary. It had been capped by prior federal regulation and was barred from receiving CMS funds for new residency programs. The hospital sought relief through legal action. Mobile Infirmary (MI) was notified by CMS in mid-December 2022 that the cap had been removed and can be reset. We're excited that we will be working with MI, one of Alabama's largest hospitals, to start as many new programs as possible in the next 3 – 4 years. It is anticipated that at maturity more than 200 new residency slots will be offered in their proposed five new programs.

An unanticipated positive outcome of the growth of Graduate Medical Education in our State is the increase in specialty fellowships. You may recall that in 2021 AMEC funded a one year fellowship through AltaPointe. Other new fellowship programs are now being developed.

AltaPointe Health – Addiction Medicine

North Alabama Medical Center – Pulmonary Critical Care
– Cardiology

In assessing our progress, we're encouraged that, as noted previously the number of programs is growing. Further, numbers of PG-1 slots are being increased in Internal Medicine and Family Medicine. Hospitals already adding to one or more specialty programs include Thomas Hospital, Fairhope; Southeast Health, Dothan; and North Alabama Medical Center, Florence.

Considerable time and effort was spent in the latter part of the year to understand and share with others the possibilities of the Grand Strategy advanced by our consultants. No doubt this strategy to reclassify from urban to rural and back to urban by some specific hospitals in the State would produce a sizable increase in CMS funds coming into Alabama. As you directed, we will continue to follow this proposal and to keep the Board informed.

We are grateful to the AMEC Board members for your continuing support of our mission.

Respectfully,

Wil Baker



AMEC—A LOOK BACK

We're grateful to the many people and entities who have supported AMEC and its mission(s). In the beginning, hospitals funded the initial startup of AMEC as did Representative Sonny Callahan's office. Governors Riley and Bentley funded the Pipeline concept followed by the Graduate Medical Education funding assistance to hospitals. Blue Cross has long been a supporter, having funded research projects and scholarships. Community Health Systems funded four-year scholarships.

Many people have left their imprint on AMEC, helping to make it the program it is today. We honor the memory of Mrs. Ruth Harrell, Dr. Neal Canup, Dr. Clyde Barginier, Dr. Max McLaughlin, and Dr. Richard Esham. We are also grateful to Mrs. Lucy Sowell, Mrs. Sharon Vest, Dr. Bill Hamilton, and Col. (Ret.) Jimmy Poole for their contributions in the early years of development; and to Mr. Dale Quinney, Dr. Kenneth McLeod, Ms. Lee Timberlake, and Dr. Boyd Bailey, who continue to add great value to our program.

From the beginning, we have been fortunate to have a Board of Directors headed by Dr. Richard Holland that continues to support and advise AMEC. As Executive Director I sincerely appreciate the contributions made by the Board and the many others who have shared the AMEC journey.

GADSDEN REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER WELCOMES ITS FIRST CLASS OF FAMILY MEDICINE RESIDENTS!

GRMC faculty recruiting for its first class



The vintage theater billboard publicly announces the beginning of the new program that has six first year residents



AMEC is pleased to have been a part of the startup of this new opportunity in Alabama for training physicians. We applaud GRMC and its residency staff and wish them the best. Alabama has a physician shortage, especially in Family Medicine, and we hope some of these young people will stay and serve in the State.

2022 ACOM MATCH DATA

The Alabama College of Osteopathic Medicine matched its sixth graduating class to residencies around the country, representing 35 different states. Fifty-six percent matched in Primary Care and another 18% matched in Urgent Care specialties. For the second year in a row, 100% of ACOM graduates matched.

Data is now available regarding the first three graduating classes from the medical school and where they choose to practice. From the Class of 2017, 17 graduates are now licensed and practicing in Alabama. Additionally, there are 24 from the Class of 2018 and 25 from the Class of 2019 who are now licensed and practicing in the State.



AMEC / ACOM PHYSICIAN LICENSE OUTCOMES	
Number of Alabama licensees from AMEC / ACOM affiliated avenues	205
Number of residents in training (2022)	163
TOTAL Number of physicians seeing Alabama patients	368

OSTEOPATHIC RECOGNITION

In 2014, the American Osteopathic Association (AOA), the American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine (AACOM), and the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME) concluded negotiations on the reconfiguration of the Osteopathic and Allopathic graduate medical education systems. A single accreditation system was developed and instituted in 2020. This system added the Osteopathic Principles and Practices (OPP) and Osteopathic Manipulative Treatments (OMT) to the ACGME's core competencies in what is now known as Osteopathic Recognition (OR).

Osteopathic Recognition emphasizes a specific set of knowledge and manual medicine techniques that will make residents highly skilled primary care physicians, capable of approaching patients with graduate level, advanced knowledge of OPP and OMT in their practice of medicine. OR is open to all specialties but most commonly fits in with Family Medicine or primary-care focused Internal Medicine programs.

Alabama would greatly benefit from the Osteopathic Methodologies taught in programs with OR. It is the plan of AMEC and the ACOM to aid residency programs in achieving OR as an added enhancement to patient care and to attract the most qualified medical students.

Thanks to Natalie A. Nevins, DO, MSHPE, FS, COL USAR and Richard Thacker, DO, MACOI for their contributions to this information.