

2020 Annual Report



2020 – A year to remember...

Wearing masks; Social distancing; Working remotely; Meeting virtually; Networking on Zoom; Adjusting to the “new normal.” The Covid-19 pandemic presented many changes and challenges. Our hope is that we learn from our experiences this year to better understand the value of relationships, family, and good health. We mourn the death of friends and loved ones in this fateful year.

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

For all of us 2020 has been a year of what is popularly entitled as setting in place a “new normal.” Not sure what that term may mean to each of us, but certainly 2020 was a many faceted experience. AMEC continued on its mission of medical education and its expanded mission of increasing residency opportunities for the many graduating physicians in Alabama.

Working with the various hospitals that wish to become a teaching hospital and adding a residency component to its service has been a rewarding experience. Hospitals see the value in becoming a teaching hospital and subsequently there is the excitement and enthusiasm evidenced by the faculty and support personnel. The new programs have a contingency of beginning physicians who exhibit excellent medical knowledge and interest in the residency mission of clinical experience, research, and service. On the opposite page there is an update of the various programs that are either fully implemented or are in the development stage of starting new residency programs. Note that some programs have slowed in their development because of the demands of the Covid-19 pandemic.



Noteworthy is the progress of Thomas Hospital in Fairhope. The hospital received its initial accreditation in April of 2020. Dr. David Clarkson became the program director and even though the official residency match was over in the spring, he immediately began recruiting residents for his program. Thomas Hospital now has an active, productive residency program with 13 residents (10 first year and 3 second year). The program is working on a number of innovative research projects and communication alternatives.

The 2019 report cited information about a proposed opioid pilot project in conjunction with AltaPointe/ Springhill Hospital. While AMEC was unable to get funding for that program, we have set aside funds to provide an opioid fellowship at AltaPointe. We hope a candidate will be found soon to fill that fellowship opportunity. Alabama presently is among the states with an opioid crisis; this fellowship is the first one offered in Alabama to help alleviate the need for more treatment opportunities.

We have cited the number of physicians who trained in the AMEC pipeline. To update you, I'm pleased to pass on the information that there are now 102 of those physicians licensed in Alabama. Additionally, there are 100 new residents in Alabama residency programs. Although the economic productivity of those numbers is not the primary objective, it is noteworthy that according to an article in the March/April 2020 issue of the Alabama League of Municipalities authored by MASA and the Alabama Academy of Family Physicians "...each Alabama physician has an average output of \$1.9 million and funds an average of more than \$839,000 in wages and benefits." The article continues..."every physician in Alabama supports an average of 11.7 jobs in the economy...". We're pleased that the number of AMEC/ACOM physicians continues to increase in Alabama.

Normally AMEC attends several conferences each year. Attendance at the conferences insures that we meet with others in the medical community, learn from shared experiences, and publicize AMEC's success in its mission to increase access to medical care in our State. Most of the conferences this year were virtual events and we have participated in some of those. However, even though this lack of personal contact has restricted interaction, we have been able to keep up most of our usual relationships with hospitals and other entities with whom we work. We can all hope that 2021 will see the end of the pandemic and allow for more personal contact with our supporters.

Thank you for the time spent and your interest in AMEC's activities. Your support is very much appreciated.

Respectfully,

Wil E Baker

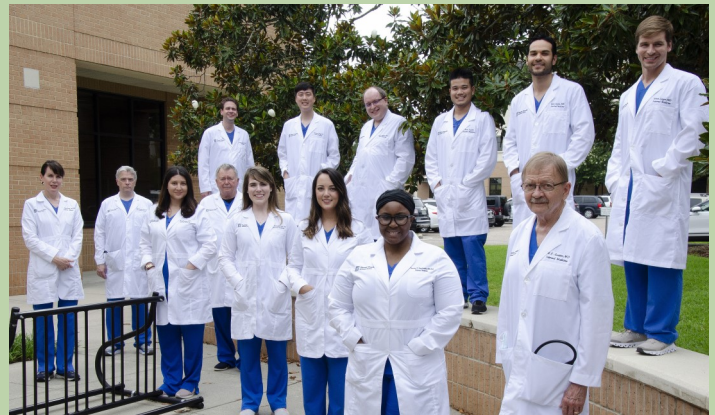
GRADUATE MEDICAL EDUCATION UPDATE

Hospitals	Specialty	PG1 Slots (Total)	Comments
Gadsden RMC Gadsden	Family Medicine	8 (24)	Program site visit completed
Jackson Hospital Montgomery	Family Medicine	8 (24)	In initial phase of development
Crestwood MC Huntsville	Family Medicine	6 (18)	Recruiting Program Director
Springhill MC Mobile	Internal Medicine– Psychiatry	8 (32)	Designated Institutional Official in place
Southeast Health Dothan	Internal Medicine Emergency Medicine Transitional Year	13 (39) 10 (30) 12 (12)	All have Program Directors. EM & Trans. Year site visit completed
South Baldwin RMC Foley	Family Medicine	8 (24)	1st class completing residency July 2021
North Alabama MC Florence	Internal Medicine	12 (36)	Two classes of residents
Thomas Hospital Fairhope	Internal Medicine	10 (30)	Two classes of residents

Other hospitals in various stages of developing new GME programs: Decatur-Morgan Hospital, Decatur; Helen Keller Memorial Hospital, Sheffield; Regional Medical Center, Anniston; Marshall Medical Systems, Guntersville.

THOMAS HOSPITAL BEGINS INTERNAL MEDICINE RESIDENCY

Thomas Hospital, Fairhope, recruited for its first internal medicine residency class in 2020. Ten PG-1 and 3 PG-2 residents were recruited for this inaugural year. The residents are under the guidance of Program Director, Dr. David Clarkson and Designated Institutional Official, Dr. Mike McBrearty.



GADSDEN REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER MAKING STRIDES TOWARDS GME

The Regional Medical Center in Gadsden is moving forward with development of its family medicine GME program. The hospital has hired Dr. Shawn Morehead as the Program Director. A virtual site visit for program accreditation was completed January 7th, 2021. GRMC is now awaiting accreditation at the next ACGME meeting.

2020 ACOM MATCH DATA

The Alabama College of Osteopathic Medicine matched its fourth graduating class to residencies around the country, representing 29 different states. Fifty-eight percent matched in Primary Care and another 13% matched in Urgent Care specialties. Ninety-nine percent of ACOM graduates placed during the match.

State Placement Statistics

Alabama	10
Out-of-State	132
Adjoining States (FL, GA, MS, TN)	38



DR. COLLEEN TOBE-DONOHUE BECOMES THE AAFP PRESIDENT



In 2019 an AMEC Pipeline graduate, Colleen Tobe-Donohue, D.O., was elected president of the Alabama Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP). Dr. Tobe-Donohue has been in private practice in the Birmingham area since 2011 when she completed her Family Medicine residency at St. Vincent's East. She graduated from Pikeville University School of Osteopathic Medicine after completing her clinical work in Alabama through the AMEC Pipeline.

A member of the American Medical Association and the American Academy of Family Physicians, Dr. Tobe-Donohue is a member of the Grandview Medical Group network with her office in Vestavia Hills.

WORKING FOR MORE DENTAL TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES IN ALABAMA

We appreciate the support of the Board for the programs that AMEC has envisioned and worked on to further our mission. The original mission was to increase opportunities for medical education in our State; that successful effort evolved into the Alabama College of Osteopathic Medicine. Our amended mission, to assist certain Alabama hospitals with startup funding for new residency programs, is still in progress and we expect to continue to build relationships with hospitals throughout Alabama.

Leadership at the ACOM asked that Dr. Baker explore possible avenues for funding a dental school at the COM. For several months, he has worked with various entities, including the State Legislature, and individuals to secure startup funding for that proposal.

After much investigation and study of the need for more dentists in Alabama, especially in the rural areas, an Executive Summary by Trip Umbach Associates has recommended that the ACOM build a dental school associated with its medical school. In the Summary, AMEC was cited as a forerunner of the community-based medical education in Alabama and noted that the dental facility would also be community based. An update will be provided when available.



Architect's rendering of the proposed new dental facility in the foreground with the current COM