

**ALABAMA
MEDICAL
EDUCATION
CONSORTIUM**

**2021
Annual Report**

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

In our report for 2020 much of the focus was on the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic. Year 2021 has been somewhat of a return to “normal” and AMEC continues to be actively engaged in its mission with Graduate Medical Education. In this report, there are tables and charts that depict the progress being made to increase the PG1 slots for residency training in Alabama.

Additionally, now that AMEC has been pursuing its original and amended mission – to increase the number of medical students in core sites throughout the State and to provide startup funding and leadership for developing new GME programs – there are 15 years of data and we can see more clearly the notable outcomes. Our emphasis in the past has been on numbers and placement of students and/or residents.

The numerical data is certainly noteworthy, but we are also pleased to focus on the people represented by these numbers. In the 2020 Annual Report, we highlighted the career of Dr. Colleen Tobe-Donahue, an AMEC pipeline student, who served in 2020 as President of the Alabama Academy of Family Physicians. As a student, Dr. Jamie Bell, from Birmingham, matriculated in 2008 to Pikeville College of Osteopathic Medicine through the AMEC admission process. After residency at St. Vincent’s East, she has practiced in the Birmingham area. In 2019 she was added to the Board of the Alabama College of Osteopathic Medicine and was the commencement speaker for the 2021 graduation ceremonies at ACOM.



Among the students AMEC has fostered, we’re pleased to note that many of the Pipeline students served as Chief Residents for their respective programs. Several hospitals that provided the clerkship training have employed former students as physicians. Some of our former students are now physicians who train medical students from the ACOM.

Our work with Alabama hospitals continues. Southeast Health in Dothan has now expanded its Internal Medicine program and is adding a Transitional Year. North Alabama Medical Center in Florence has an Internal Medicine program and is working on an application for a Transitional Year. Thomas Hospital in Fairhope has also expanded its Internal Medicine program.

Jackson Hospital in Montgomery and Crestwood Medical Center in Huntsville have received Institutional Accreditation and are working on program applications that will include a total of 24 new PG1 slots. Flowers Hospital in Dothan and Springhill Medical Center in Mobile are moving forward toward Internal Medicine Programs.

Gadsden Regional Medical Center is recruiting for its first class of residents to begin in July 2022. This will be a Family Medicine program with eight PG1 slots.

Last year we cited the possibility of an opioid fellowship at AltaPointe Health. That position was filled in July and we will be funding the first Fellowship until July 2022. While the other hospitals with whom we work to develop new residency opportunities expect to receive sustainable funding from CMS, AltaPointe has applied for funding with HRSA as a Teaching Health Center. AltaPointe has received its Institutional Accreditation and is working on its Program Application in Family Medicine. The THC application has been approved for \$500K startup funding.

As one of the largest hospitals in Alabama, the Mobile Infirmary is very interested in developing new residency programs. It has received its Institutional Accreditation; however, because of residency cap issues, Mobile Infirmary is seeking to start new programs through a number of avenues. Should the hospital succeed in becoming GME eligible, it would open the possibility of more than 6 programs and up to 200 residents annually. We continue to work with Mobile Infirmary to solve the issues about its potential GME programs.

Funding for the various GME activities was provided in 2017 – 2019 by the Alabama Legislature. To be accountable to the Legislature, funding support to the hospitals is based on AMEC’s written Policies and Procedures. A contract is signed between the hospital and AMEC for its proposed program; invoices with supporting receipts are submitted to AMEC for payment; and funding is limited to an amount up to \$300K per program. No grants are paid to the hospitals. Due to the time involved to get new programs in place, AMEC has a sizable amount of invested funds which are insured. We believe that because of our formal policies for disbursement and the carefully invested monies, a funding stream will be available for completion of our mission to increase residency programs in Alabama.

Thank you for your continued support. Healthcare in Alabama is more accessible today because you were willing to support the AMEC / ACOM vision.

Respectfully,

Wil E Baker

GRADUATE MEDICAL EDUCATION UPDATE

Hospitals	Specialty	First Class	Projected or Actual PG1 (Total) Slots	Comments
Southeast Health Dothan	Internal Medicine Transitional Year	2018 2022	16 (48) 12 (12)	Graduated first class this year. 8 of 13 in Alabama.
South Baldwin RMC Foley	Family Medicine	2018	8 (24)	Graduated first class this year. 7 of 8 within 50 miles.
North Alabama MC Florence	Internal Medicine Transitional Year	2020 2023	12 (36) 10 (10)	Three classes of residents. Working on Transitional Year program application.
Thomas Hospital Fairhope	Internal Medicine	2020	14 (42)	Expanded program. Three classes of residents.
Gadsden RMC	Family Medicine	2022	8 (24)	Recruiting for 2022 match.
AltaPointe Health Mobile	Family Medicine	2023	8 (24)	Received Instit. Accreditation. Has Program Director. Approved for HRSA grant.
Jackson Hospital	Family Medicine	2023	8 (24)	Received Instit. Accreditation.
Crestwood MC Huntsville	Family Medicine Internal Medicine	2023 2023	6 (18) 10 (30)	Received Instit. Accreditation. Has Program Director. FM site visit scheduled. IM application submitted.
Mobile Infirmary MC	Internal Medicine	2024	30 (90)	Designated Institutional Official in
Springhill MC Mobile	Internal Medicine	2024	8 (24)	Designated Institutional Official in place.
Flowers Hospital	Internal Medicine	2024	8 (24)	Moving forward with LOI and Instit.

Other Alabama hospitals are in various stages of developing new GME programs.

GRADUATES OF NEW RESIDENCY PROGRAMS – WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

The graduation in 2021 of the residents from our AMEC-affiliated GME programs was an exciting first. Southeast Health and South Baldwin Regional Medical Center graduated their inaugural classes with outstanding results for our mission to keep more physicians in the State. In Dothan, 13 Internal Medicine graduates completed residency. Out of those, seven stayed in the city, one moved to a rural practice in Centre, and another to a cardiology fellowship. In Foley, seven of the eight Family Medicine graduates are now practicing within 50 miles of Foley with the eighth graduate going into the military.

2021 ACOM MATCH DATA

The Alabama College of Osteopathic Medicine matched its fifth graduating class to residencies around the country, representing 30 different states. Sixty-four percent matched in Primary Care and another 4% matched in Urgent Care specialties; 100% of ACOM graduates placed during the match.

Data is now available regarding the first and second graduating classes from the medical school and where they are choosing to practice. Out of the Class of 2017, 17 graduates are now licensed and practicing in Alabama. There are 23 graduates from the Class of 2018 who are now licensed and practicing in the state as well.

AMEC / ACOM PHYSICIAN LICENSE OUTCOMES	
Number of Alabama licensees from AMEC / ACOM affiliated avenues	161
Number of residents in training (2021)	124
TOTAL Number of physicians seeing Alabama patients	285

NUMBER OF LICENSEES BY CITY (RESIDENTS & FULL-LICENSE)

Alabaster	1	Brownsboro	1	<u>Fairhope</u>	30	Huntsville	9	Prattville	1
Albertville	1	Centre	1	<u>Foley</u>	28	Madison	2	Pinson	1
Andalusia	1	Centreville	3	<u>Florence</u>	37	Maplesville	1	Sheffield	3
Athens	3	Cullman	3	Gadsden	2	Lillian	1	Sylacauga	1
Auburn	1	Daphne	2	Gardendale	2	Mobile	22	Trussville	2
Bessemer	2	Decatur	1	Guntersville	2	Montgomery	10	Tuscaloosa	5
Birmingham	20	<u>Dothan</u>	55	Homewood	2	Muscle Shoals	1	Valley	1
Boaz	2	Enterprise	3	Hoover	1	Opelika	4	Vestavia Hills	1

*Physicians without a primary practice city on license: 16

DENTAL SCHOOL UPDATE

The critical need for better access to dental healthcare in Alabama has been cited by several sources. In response to the need for more dentists to help alleviate the oral health shortage, the ACOM asked that I look into the possibility of funding for a new dental school on its campus. For almost two years, I've worked on the request to find monetary support for this effort.

Support has been sought from members of the Alabama legislature; the Governor's office; the Alabama Dental Association officers; influential past members of the Legislature; some Alabama political delegations; members of the House and Senate in Washington; as well as from private sources. Recently, there was a lengthy item in newspapers and on television citing the various causes of the fact that Alabama is number 51 of 51 states in dentists per capita population.

While efforts continue to seek funding, I am pleased to share the enthusiasm expressed by many individuals and groups to support a new dental school. Because of my efforts and those of others, I believe there is a growing state-wide awareness of the need for better access to dental care. As one legislator said after seeing the data... "How can we not support this effort?"