



AAMC Commitment Statement on Countering the U.S. Opioid Epidemic

Opioid misuse has devastated communities across the country, and a concerted, collective effort across multiple sectors is needed to stem the tide of opioid and substance use disorders (SUDs). Through their missions of education, research, and clinical care, medical schools and teaching hospitals are actively responding to this public health crisis.

By working with their communities and enhancing content on SUDs and pain management in both classroom and hands-on experiences, these institutions are preparing the next generation of health professionals by integrating learning opportunities throughout medical education. Additionally, as leaders in groundbreaking medical research and lifesaving clinical care, medical schools and teaching hospitals are advancing efforts to prevent, identify, and treat SUDs and to manage pain.

As the organization that represents the nation's 154 medical schools and nearly 400 major teaching hospitals and health systems, the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC) through a multi-year initiative is working to support its members as they continue to generate and implement the evidence-base in these areas and to help address gaps and challenges they encounter. For example, the AAMC is convening a national workshop with other leading organizations across the medical education continuum, has provided curricular innovation awards to recognize novel educational approaches, and will be awarding "challenge grants" to promote development of new training resources on pain management and SUDs.

To complement the work happening within our own community, the AAMC is pleased to join the National Academy of Medicine, the Aspen Institute, and more than 55 other organizations from across government, local communities, health systems and providers, payers, industry, academia, and other sectors in the Action Collaborative on Countering the U.S. Opioid Epidemic.

Specifically, the Action Collaborative aims to:

- Identify and raise the visibility of complex challenges, outstanding research gaps, and needs of the opioid crisis that require a collective, multi-sectoral response;
- Elevate and accelerate evidence-based, multi-sectoral, and interdisciplinary solutions to improve outcomes for those affected by the opioid crisis; and
- Catalyze action on shared priorities and solutions to help overcome the crisis and improve outcomes for all.

As part of this unique public-private partnership, the AAMC commits to sharing knowledge gained at the national level and by our members working on the ground in their communities, aligning our ongoing initiatives with those of other organizations, and advancing evidence-based, impactful, cross-sector solutions.

We look forward to joining forces with our partners in the Action Collaborative to amplify and align all our individual organizational efforts to reverse the opioid epidemic.

To learn more about the Action Collaborative, please visit www.nam.edu/OpioidCollaborative.

To learn more about the academic medicine community's response to the opioid epidemic, please visit www.aamc.org/opioidresponse.