

Sharing the Value of Academic Medicine

Key Messages

Primary Message

- Academic medicine is the backbone of America's health and progress
- Medical schools, academic health systems and teaching hospitals transform the lives of Americans every day. Whether it's by developing cutting-edge treatments, providing world-class patient care, training tomorrow's health workforce, or creating jobs that strengthen communities, academic medicine touches us all.
- When policymakers invest in academic medicine, they are investing in a healthier, stronger America – and affirming the critical role of the nation's medical schools, academic health systems and teaching hospitals in improving the health of all.
- Whether it's a first-year medical student or a breakthrough cancer therapy, what starts in academic medicine touches every American.
- The nation's academic health systems and teaching hospitals, medical schools, resident physicians, faculty physicians, students, and biomedical researchers are working to improve lives every day, driving better health, stronger communities, and a thriving economy.

Academic Medicine Saves Lives Through Cutting-edge Patient Care

- From clinical trials for Alzheimer's to cancer research that has helped save 3.8 million lives since 1991, medical breakthroughs start in academic medicine.
- 64% of pediatric ICU beds and most Level 1 trauma centers are located in teaching hospitals—providing essential, high-acuity care for patients who have nowhere else to turn.
- Academic medicine institutions across the country deliver care that makes a difference every day. Whether in rural health, emergency medicine, or specialized pediatric care—lives are saved because of the people of academic medicine.

Academic Medicine Trains the Health Workforce of Today and Tomorrow

- Physicians, nurses, and researchers begin their journey in academic medicine—ensuring the pipeline of skilled professionals never stops.
- With 99,000 students in MD programs, 162,000 resident physicians, and thousands of other critical health professionals, the medical schools, academic health systems, and teaching hospitals of academic medicine are ensuring that the health care workforce is prepared to serve the American people today, and tomorrow.
 - Over 70% of residents are trained at AAMC-member teaching hospitals, making these institutions the foundation of physician education in the U.S.
- The United States is facing a projected shortage of up to 86,000 physicians by 2036. A key element of addressing the physician shortage and ensuring access to care for all communities is increasing Medicare support for graduate medical education, which will help patients receive care when they need it, particularly in rural and other underserved areas.

- Medical education is not only about clinical skills, but also about helping nurture doctors who understand the communities they serve.

Academic Medicine Drives Innovation and Discovery

- From cancer therapies to cutting-edge technologies, innovation in academic medicine reaches patients nationwide.
- Nearly 60% of NIH extramural research is conducted by AAMC-member institutions, producing groundbreaking advancements in treatments, therapies, and technologies.
- From basic science to translational medicine to precision diagnostics, transformational research starts in academic medicine, and only in academic will you find the institutions that can translate a discovery in the lab into a treatment that save lives.
- The historic partnership between NIH and academic medicine continues to bring cutting-edge care to the bedside, from gene therapies to personalized cancer treatments.

Academic Medicine Fuels the Economy

- Every dollar supports research, care, and training that improves lives in every zip code, strengthening communities and powering local economies.
- Academic medicine generates over 7.1 million U.S. jobs—that's 4.4% of the national workforce—with an average salary and benefits package of more than \$68,000. These jobs transform lives and help families and communities thrive.
- The sector contributes \$728 billion annually to GDP, rivaling industries like transportation and food services.
- Academic medicine doesn't just serve patients. It powers the economy, supporting local schools, small businesses, and families.