

Internal Medicine Education Advisory Board (IMEAB) Virtual Meeting
Tuesday, July 21, 2025
2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. EDT

Participants

John Andrews, MD
Joanne K. Baker, DO, FACOI, FAODME, FHM
Christine Bryson, DO
Davoren A. Chick, MD, FACP
Kristan Davis, M.Ed.
Laura Edgar, EdD, CAE
Christopher A. Feddock, MD, MBA, MS
Leonard S. Feldman, MD, FACP, FAAP, MHM
Marie R. Fleury, DO, MBA
Eric S. Holmboe, MD, MACP, FRCP
Lisa Howley, PhD, M.Ed.
Erica Johnson, MD, FACP, FIDSA
Alegneta Long
Rance McClain, DO, FACOF, FAOASM

Polly E. Parsons, MD, MACP, FCCP, ATSF
Jerry Vasilias, PhD
T. Brooks Vaughan, III, MD
Tracy Wallowicz, MLS

AAIM Staff:

Kristin Barnard
Margaret A. Breida, MS
Emily Eadie
Erica Holland
Michael Kisielewski, MA
Valerie O
Lydia Redway
Sharlene Steward

Welcome and Introductions

Polly E. Parsons, MD, MACP, FCCP, ATSF, welcomed participants.

Overview

The advisory board discussed residency applications, curriculum changes, financial concerns, visa appointment delays, travel bans, and the impact of international medical graduates (IMGs) on the workforce. Attendees agreed that there is a need for increased support for department chairs and addressing issues of empathy among trainees. The group discussed state-level healthcare legislation, recent developments in ACGME's DEI program requirements, and ongoing advocacy efforts.

Medical Education Challenges and Support

Participants discussed the need for increased support for department chairs, who are facing turnover and managing difficult times, as well as growing concerns about a lack of empathy among trainees and providers.

IMG Support and Updates

Marie R. Fleury, DO, MBA announced that the NBOME Board of Directors approved a new licensing credential based on clinical assessments in the COMLEX exam, which will appear on transcripts for successful candidates.

Eric S. Holmboe, MD, MACP, FRCP and Tracy Wallowicz, MLS highlighted three main issues that Intealth is endeavoring to mitigate: visa appointment delays that have since been resolved, travel bans affecting primarily Sudanese and Venezuelan applicants, and an upcoming review of visa duration status. They also noted concerns about potential declining interest in US medical training programs, with early indicators coming from ERAS token requests, though no significant drop has been observed yet.

Ms. Wallowicz shared challenges and developments affecting IMGs, particularly J-1 visa holders. She highlighted visa appointment suspensions for enhanced social media vetting. It was noted that 63 out of 64 incoming J-1 physicians from 19 countries affected by the travel ban were already in training programs, while 50 were still seeking national interest exemptions. Ms. Wallowicz also mentioned ongoing efforts to address the duration of status issue, emphasizing the importance of foreign national physicians to U.S. healthcare, and stated that advocacy work in Washington is ongoing to raise awareness about these issues.

Participants highlighted the need for a welcoming environment for IMGs, despite some uncertainties about their ability to stay in the U.S. after training. It was noted that certain specialties, like nephrology and geriatrics, are increasingly reliant on IMGs, and there is a misunderstanding among some programs about IMG capabilities. Dr. Holmboe mentioned that the American Board of Family Medicine (ABMF) has published data showing equivalent performance between IMGs and domestic graduates. He also shared that a new Chief IMG Experience Officer is being hired to collaborate with organizations and improve the understanding and transition of IMGs into residency programs.

State Health Legislation and Impact

The group discussed state-level healthcare legislation, with 17 states passing new pathways to licensure, and concerns about Medicaid cuts impacting academic and rural hospitals – in particular, family medicine and internal medicine training programs.

Jerry Vasilias, PhD and T. Brooks Vaughan, III, MD presented about recent threats to medical education, including the closure of the Chester Crozer Hospital due to private equity involvement. Dr. Vaughan mentioned efforts to reduce burden and revise program requirements to allow for more flexibility in faculty qualifications and trainee movements between programs. He noted that the ACGME is focusing on reducing burden and anticipates new initiatives to strengthen stakeholder engagement.

Lisa Howley, PhD, M.Ed. shared a new advocacy resource for physician faculty and staff, while John Andrews, MD discussed AMA's stance and ongoing initiatives like Reimagining Residency and Precision Education. Davoren A. Chick, MD, FACP highlighted ACP's advocacy efforts, including litigation against HHS regarding vaccination issues and expressed optimism about potential positive outcomes from recent regulatory changes. The group also shared concerns about protected time for core faculty, noting the need for continued support and advocacy in this area.

Davoren A. Chick, MD, FACP, highlighted recent layoffs and service reductions at Trinity Hospital. Leonard S. Feldman, MD, FACP, FAAP, MHM shared concerns about urban healthcare systems and their Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC) clinic's ability to serve uninsured patients. Erica Johnson, MD, FACP, FIDSA provided an update on ABIM's special consideration pathway for internationally trained physicians seeking board eligibility in internal medicine, which was ratified in June and will be implemented later in the summer.

Action Items

- Valerie O will circulate the resources links that were shared in the Chat.
- Participants are welcome to send Dr. Parsons specific topics for future discussions:
pparsons@im.org.

Next Meeting

- The IMEAB will next meet in person sometime during the fall/winter. The meeting's duration will increase by an hour, adjourning at 3:00 pm (EST).