

Information



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To: Board of Directors
Council of Academic Societies Representatives
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Group on Resident Affairs
Group on Regional Medical Campuses
Group on Student Affairs
Organization of Resident Representatives Administrative Board
Organization of Student Representatives Administrative Board

From: Darrell G. Kirch, M.D., President and CEO

Subject: ***Behavioral and Social Science Foundations for Future Physicians Report***

I am pleased to share with you the *Behavioral and Social Science Foundations for Future Physicians* report, the result of an AAMC-convened expert panel of physicians, scientists, and educators charged to identify learning outcomes and educational experiences to establish behavioral and social science understanding in medical school graduates. This report is intended as a companion to the 2009 *Scientific Foundations for Future Physicians* joint AAMC-HHMI report, which in its recommendations called for a follow-up assessment addressing the applicability of the social sciences in physician education.

According to this report, the perspectives that flow from the behavioral and social sciences serve not only to prepare physicians for comprehensive, patient-centered practice but also provide the conceptual framework needed to address complex societal problems that have direct bearing on health and health care disparities.

The findings are intended to illustrate behavioral and social science learning outcomes across the learner continuum by drawing from related reports, specifically those from the Institute of Medicine and the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada (CanMEDS), and highlight the interrelations between the behavioral and social sciences and the natural sciences.

In addition to providing several case study descriptions, the report findings clarify the applicability of behavioral and social science content in the medical education program with a narrative example of successful content incorporation, a crosswalk of the IOM behavioral and social science knowledge domains and the CanMEDS physician role framework, as well as aspirational professional clinician behaviors. The report also includes a blank matrix array of behavioral and social science knowledge domains by physician roles that educators can use to guide student learning and, in the practice setting, to augment decision-making and enrich physician-patient interaction.

The panel's effort reflected here is consistent with that of the recent Medical College Admissions Test Review (MR5) initiative and I am confident these findings will go far in supporting faculty as they prepare medical students to engage the health care challenges ahead.

The report can be accessed electronically at www.aamc.org/socialsciencefoundations by signing in with your AAMC login ID and selecting the report for PDF download.

Comments or questions about the report should be directed to Alexis L. Ruffin, director, Medical Education at alruffin@aamc.org or 202-828-0439.