



Innovation emerging in medical education
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Having spent my entire career working in medical education, I have seen firsthand the gaps between physician training and the future needs of our health care system.

These gaps exist because medical education in the United States has remained largely unchanged over the past hundred years. Despite changes to incorporate medical breakthroughs and discoveries into medical curricula, the focus and overall structure have not kept pace with the evolution of health care over the past century. That's why I'm proud to be part of the AMA's innovative work to help address these gaps and prepare physicians to enter practice during a period of rapid progress, new technology, and changing expectations from government and society.

Over the past four years, the AMA has been working with a consortium of 32 of the nation's leading medical schools as part of its [Accelerating Change in Medical Education](#) initiative to identify the innovations needed to create the medical school of the future. These schools are sharing best practices and ideas for developing innovative curricula that can ultimately be implemented in medical schools across the country.

And results are happening now.

The new "Health Systems Science" textbook, developed last fall by the 11 founding members of the AMA's Accelerating Change in Medical Education consortium, is currently being used by medical schools across the country to teach students how to deliver patient care in modern value-based health systems. Discovered through the consortium's work, this is an important innovation given that our medical schools are very good at preparing students for the basic and clinical sciences that are essential to providing care to patients, but what is largely missing is how to deliver that care in a complex health system.

Providing medical students with the ability to use EHRs during their training is another recent innovation identified by the consortium as necessary to the medical school of the future. The consortium discovered that students are too often entering residency training without the ability to effectively and efficiently work with EHRs, even though they are a primary tool of everyday practice. It is akin to graduating from medical school without learning how to properly use a stethoscope.

To help close this gap, the AMA and the Regenstrief Institute announced a new collaboration last spring to ensure more medical students and medical trainees gain real-world experience using EHRs during their training. Created by Indiana University School of Medicine (IU) along with the Regenstrief Institute, the newly enhanced [Regenstrief EHR Clinical Learning Platform](#) is currently being disseminated by the AMA and Regenstrief to medical schools across the country.

As one of the consortium's founding member schools, IU School of Medicine received a \$1 million grant through the AMA's initiative to accelerate change in medical education to work with the Regenstrief Institute to develop a way for its medical students to gain real-world experience using EHRs that can be replicated in other medical schools.

After more than a year of use by, and feedback from, IU medical students, the Regenstrief EHR Clinical Learning Platform has been enhanced and is available for widespread adoption in both medical and other health profession schools.

As with all of the innovations developed by the consortium schools, the AMA's goal is to enable all medical schools across the country, not just those working with the AMA's consortium, to access this work and the consortium's expertise.

The "Health Systems Science" textbook and the Regenstrief EHR Clinical Learning Platform will be among the innovations highlighted during the upcoming [ChangeMedEd 2017](#) national conference being held on Sept. 14-16 in Chicago. The conference will bring together innovators from medical and health professions education as well as health systems to continue the work underway to transform the way future physicians are trained.

As a member of the AMA Board of Trustees, I am excited to help further the AMA's ongoing work to accelerate change in medical education and ensure that physicians now and in the future learn about the newest technologies, health system reforms and scientific discoveries that continue to alter what physicians need to know to practice in modern health care systems.

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