

Reimagining Residency

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All of us know our health care delivery system is changing and evolving rapidly, and we, as physicians, have an opportunity either to fuel and shape change or fall victim to it. At the AMA, we are driving the future of medicine by reimagining medical education, training and lifelong learning. And with more than five years of tackling undergraduate medical education under our belt, this year we turned our attention to residency, where challenges like structural issues, resource limitations and regulatory concerns, have long stood in the way of bold advances that will benefit patients and physicians, alike.

Our goal is to ensure physicians are prepared to adapt, grow and thrive at every stage of their training and career. Better prepared physicians who are professionally satisfied will deliver more effective and equitable health care.

To that end, over the summer, the AMA announced the award recipients of its new [Reimagining Residency initiative](#) aimed at significantly improving residency training. The AMA awarded \$14.4 million to support eight innovation projects led by medical schools, residency programs, and health systems from across the country who have oversight over graduate medical education (GME). These projects will help prepare future physicians for transition from medical school to residency, develop the skills needed to enhance their readiness for practice, and train in an environment that promotes their well-being.

Each of the eight innovation projects will receive \$1.8 million over five years for innovations aimed at promoting systemic change in residency training. The organizations, all of which have oversight of graduate medical education, will join the [AMA's Accelerating Change in Medical Education Consortium](#) and work together to evaluate successes and lessons learned, and promote wide dissemination and adoption of successful innovations. A complete list of innovation projects, including descriptions and sponsoring organizations, can be found at www.changeresed.org.

The recipients were selected based upon how well they addressed the aims of the program: improving the transition from medical school to residency to preserve continuity in professional development, ensuring readiness for practice through modifications of residency curricula, and optimizing the learning environment to support well-being among trainees, mentors, and staff.

And three of the projects are based here in the southeast. At the University of North Carolina School of Medicine, Fully Integrated Readiness for Service Training (FIRST) will enhance the continuum from medical school to residency to practice. The University of Alabama at Birmingham School of Medicine is working with Johns Hopkins and Stanford on the Graduate Medical Training "Laboratory" to generate, implement and evaluate interventions to improve resident burnout and clinical skill. And Vanderbilt University Medical Center and the University of Mississippi Medical Center partnered on a collaboration across academic health systems to better align GME with learner, patient and societal needs.

The AMA Accelerating Change in Medical Education Initiative, which was launched in 2013 to create the medical school of the future, is already producing meaningful results and rippling across medical schools and our health system. All of us are excited about these new projects and the possibility they hold to improve the health of the nation.

