

Exploring Opportunities to Improve Patient Access to Care through Strategic Changes to Graduate Medical Education A Workshop

March 24-25, 2026
Washington, DC

WORKSHOP AGENDA

PURPOSE

A planning committee of the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine will organize and host a [1.5-day public workshop](#) to consider ways to enhance broad patient access to care through strategic changes to GME, including collection and reporting of outcomes data, financial policy reforms, and evidence-based physician workforce planning. With emphasis on primary care, the workshop will feature invited presentations and panel discussions on topics such as:

- Possible strategies to catalyze data-sharing and reporting around common GME outcomes metrics to aid in developing a physician workforce that meets the needs of the U.S. population
- Relevant lessons learned from state leaders who are leveraging significant GME investments to address physician shortages and maldistribution within their states, and
- Potential ways to catalyze consistent, evidence-based GME financing policy actions at the state and federal levels.

TUESDAY, MARCH 24, 2026

1:00–1:20 OPENING REMARKS

Welcome

Robert Phillips, *Chair*

Founding Executive Director

The Center for Professionalism & Value in Health Care

Sponsor Remarks

Kathryn Phillips

Associate Director, Improving Access

California Health Care Foundation

1:20–2:50 SESSION I: PROBLEM IDENTIFICATION & SCOPE – DEFINING THE LANDSCAPE AND ASSESSING GME OUTCOMES AND WORKFORCE TRENDS

1) Assess current GME outcomes, spending, and reporting/analysis

2) Analyze workforce patterns and key barriers affecting the expansion of primary care access

3) Apply existing data to guide and strengthen policy development.

Facilitator:

Diane Rittenhouse, *Consultant*

Senior Fellow

Mathematica

2018 GME Workshop Proceedings & 2014 IOM Consensus Report

Debra Weinstein

President & CEO

Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME)

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GME Outcomes and Total Spending

Yalda Jabbarpour

Director

The Robert Graham Center for Policy Studies

Emily Hawes, *Planning Committee*

Professor & Director

Sheps GME Technical Assistance Center, University of North Carolina Chapel Hill

2:50-3:00

BREAK

3:00-4:30

SESSION II: THE ROLE OF FEDERAL GOVERNMENT – OPPORTUNITIES, CHALLENGES, AND STRATEGIES TO ENHANCE ACCOUNTABILITY

1) Define what accountability means to the federal government and explore processes that can adapt to evolving physician workforce priorities. 2) Review existing federal authorities that enable accountability tracking in GME and identify potential gaps where new authorities might be required to enhance oversight. 3) Discuss barriers and how to negotiate needed changes if accountability is not present to avoid harming pipeline production/programs.

Facilitator:

Lori Rodefeld, *Planning Committee*

Director

Wisconsin Collaborative for Rural Graduate Medical Education

Federal Support for GME: CRS Analysis and Policy Considerations

Elayne Heisler

Analyst

Congressional Research Service

Panel Discussion

Candice Chen

Associate Administrator, Bureau of Health Workforce
Health Resources and Services Administration

Vijay Kannan

Director, Office of Clinical Performance and Health Impact
Indian Health Service

Jake Quinton

Chief Medical Officer, Center for Medicare
Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services

Ryan Scilla

Director, Medical Dental Education
Department of Veterans Affairs, Office of Academic Affiliations

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4:30–4:45 CLOSING REMARKS

Robert Phillips, *Chair*

Founding Executive Director

The Center for Professionalism & Value in Health Care

END OF DAY 1

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 25, 2026

8:30–8:45 OPENING REMARKS

Welcome & Brief Recap of Day 1

Robert Phillips, *Chair*

Founding Executive Director

The Center for Professionalism & Value in Health Care

8:45–9:15 KEYNOTE

Kyu Rhee

President & CEO

National Association of Community Health Centers

9:15–10:30 SESSION III: ACCOUNTABILITY & OUTCOMES– ASSESSING STATE LEVEL GME EFFORTS TO ADDRESS PHYSICIAN SHORTAGES AND MALDISTRIBUTION

1) Learn relevant lessons from state leaders who are using data and leveraging significant GME investments to address physician shortages and maldistribution within their states. 2) Discuss state-level policies, incentives, and mechanisms that represent a robust distribution of financing, highlighting outcomes and lessons from implemented strategies.

Facilitator: **Sunita Mutha**, *Planning Committee*

Director

Healthforce Center, University of California San Francisco

Florida Medicaid Deserts and GME Solutions

Christopher Cogle, *Planning Committee*

Chief Medical Officer

Florida Medicaid

Missouri GME: Robust Strategies and Partnerships

Heidi Miller

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Chief Medical Officer
Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services

Arizona Rural Health Workforce Development Initiatives

Daniel Derksen

Walter H. Pearce Endowed Chair & Director
University of Arizona Center for Rural Health

Wisconsin Rural GME Development & Support

Lori Rodefeld, Planning Committee

Director
Wisconsin Collaborative for Rural Graduate Medical Education

10:30-10:45 Break

10:45–11:45 SESSION IV: GAPS AND NEEDS –STRENGTHENING AND SUSTAINING THE PHYSICIAN WORKFORCE TO MEET THE NEEDS OF THE US POPULATION

- 1) *Identify specialties experiencing workforce shortages, particularly in underserved areas.*
- 2) *Explore strategies to increase the proportion of trainees entering these shortage specialties*
- 3) *Discuss approaches to ensure equitable geographic distribution of these specialists and identify successful or potential models to build and sustain them.*

Facilitator: **Erin Fraher**
Researcher & Policy Analyst
Cecil G. Sheps Center for Health Services Research, University of North Carolina Chapel Hill

Panel Discussion

Natasha Bray (Virtual)

Dean
Oklahoma State University College of Osteopathic Medicine at the Cherokee Nation in
Tahlequah

Daniel Elswick

Professor & Farnsworth Chair for Educational Psychiatry
West Virginia University

Ben Jarman

General Surgery Residency Program Director
Gundersen Health System

11:45-12:45 LUNCH BREAK

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12:45–2:10 **SESSION V: BREAKOUT ACTIVITY – IDENTIFYING PROMISING MODELS, POLICIES AND PARTNERSHIPS TO SUPPORT GME STRATEGIC NEEDS**

In a breakout activity, workshop attendees split into small groups to enable more candid discussion and deeper engagement. Participants will discuss accountability, identify barriers, share stakeholder perspectives, and propose actionable next steps.

Facilitator: **Diane Rittenhouse, Consultant**
Senior Fellow
Mathematica

Breakout Activity: In-person attendees to see breakout assignment list and room numbers. Virtual attendees can participate and respond to the breakout questions via SLIDO and/or return at 2:10pmET when livestream resumes.

Breakout 1: What should the GME system be accountable for now and in the future?	
<u>Lead:</u> Kelly J. Caverzagie Chair, Council on Medical Education American Medical Association	<u>Report:</u> Jonathan Jaffery Chief Health Care Officer Association of American Medical Colleges
Breakout 2: What does an ideal accountability system look like? What are the different levels of accountability that are needed?	
<u>Lead:</u> Kathryn Phillips Associate Director, Improving Access California Health Care Foundation	<u>Report:</u> Maura Biszewski Senior Vice President, Osteopathic Engagement American Osteopathic Association
Breakout 3: What are the policy barriers and facilitators for change to the current GME system? What are the innovations needed to overcome the barriers?	
<u>Lead:</u> Sarah Hemeida Assistant Professor, Family & Community Medicine, UT Southwestern Medical Center	<u>Report:</u> TBD

2:10–3:10 **LEADERSHIP ROUNDTABLE**

Facilitator: **Robert Phillips, Chair**
Founding Executive Director
The Center for Professionalism & Value in Health Care

Breakout Leads Report-Out & Discussion
Planning Committee: Workshop Synthesis & Open Floor

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3:10–3:30

CLOSING

Sponsor Reflections

Melinda Abrams

Executive VP of Programs
The Commonwealth Fund

Workshop Closing Remarks

Robert Phillips, *Chair*

Founding Executive Director
The Center for Professionalism & Value in Health Care

3:30pmET

ADJOURN

END OF DAY 2