

# 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)

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

## A Workshop

March 24-25, 2026  
Washington, DC

### 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

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

## A Workshop

March 24-25, 2026  
Washington, DC

### 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**

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

## A Workshop

March 24-25, 2026  
Washington, DC

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 PHYSICAN 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

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

## A Workshop

March 24-25, 2026  
Washington, DC

### 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.

<b>Breakout 1: What should the GME system be accountable for now and in the future?</b>	
<u>Lead:</u> <b>Kelly J. Caverzagie</b> Chair, Council on Medical Education American Medical Association	<u>Report:</u> <b>Jonathan Jaffery</b> Chief Health Care Officer Association of American Medical Colleges
<b>Breakout 2: What does an ideal accountability system look like? What are the different levels of accountability that are needed?</b>	
<u>Lead:</u> <b>Kathryn Phillips</b> Associate Director, Improving Access California Health Care Foundation	<u>Report:</u> <b>Maura Biszewski</b> Senior Vice President, Osteopathic Engagement American Osteopathic Association
<b>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?</b>	
<u>Lead:</u> <b>Sarah Hemeida</b> 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**

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

## A Workshop

March 24-25, 2026  
Washington, DC

**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**