

Connecting education to exceptional patient care

## AIAMC Mourns Loss of Founder

Ethel Schwartz Weinberg, MD, founder and first president of the AIAMC, died of melanoma at her home on March 4th. She was 83. In 1989, Dr. Weinberg of Baystate Medical Center was curious to know how the dollars raised in her own research program compared to other non-university hospitals. She developed a questionnaire to gauge such activity, and, upon receiving an overwhelming response, the Alliance of Independent Academic Medical Centers took its first step toward inception. Eleven other visionary leaders across the country joined Dr. Weinberg in her tireless efforts for IAMC recognition and respect. Many important outcomes were the direct result of their leadership and advocacy. One was the formation of the AAMC’s Section on Resident Affairs, which is now Group on Resident Affairs and an entity created to recognize independent academic medical centers. Dr. Weinberg served as the first AIAMC president until 1994.

Born in Wilmington, Delaware, Dr. Weinberg graduated from Hahnemann Medical College in 1961 and completed residency in anesthesiology at Thomas Jefferson University Hospital. When she joined the faculty of the Woman’s Medical College of Pennsylvania in 1968, she worked on medical staffing issues and noticed that many women were leaving jobs in medicine due to the time constraints of raising families. At the same time, hospitals were beginning to hire doctors specifically for emergency work. The new field provided flexible hours, perfect for women with children. Dr. Weinberg appealed to the American Medical Association in 1970 to create the first internship in “acute care medicine,” which provided opportunities for women to continue working while setting the standards for the field of emergency medicine. She was always thinking ahead.

2001-thru 2005 AIAMC President Bill Thomas, MD, described Ethel as “a master, gentle but thorough and winning negotiator, all in service of the great medical education cause.” Dr. Weinberg’s vision, passion and leadership changed the landscape in 1989, and 31 years later the AIAMC is a strong and deeply respected voice in the academic medicine community. She was a force of nature and will be deeply missed.



Ethel Weinberg, MD



## Covid-19 Cancels March Meetings



The coronavirus, or Covid-19, was declared a global pandemic on March 11th. The next day, our AIAMC leadership team made the difficult and necessary decision to cancel the 2020 Annual Meeting and National Initiative VII Meeting Two. Both meetings were set to take place at the Omni Barton Creek Resort & Spa in Austin, Texas on March 26th thru 28th. At the time of writing this article on May 7th, more than 73,000 people have died from Covid-19 in the United States and more than 1.2 million

Americans have been infected. Worldwide, at least 263,000 deaths and 3.7 million cases have been reported. This was the first time in 25 years that we did not hold an Annual Meeting. All meeting registrants will receive a full refund. More than \$31,000 in refunds have already been processed, with \$50,000 more to come once the AIAMC receives a check from Omni for deposits paid. We hope all AIAMC members are in good health and staying safe and look forward to seeing you at our 2021 Annual Meeting March 25th—27th In Nashville.

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# National Initiative News

The Covid-19 pandemic has understandably disrupted the progress of our 30 National Initiative (NI) VII teams. Optional cohort calls were held in April and offered an opportunity to check in with NI colleagues during this most challenging time. We learned that 62% of NI VII teams were at what the ACMGE is calling Stage 2, or increased but manageable clinical demand, while 38% were at Stage 3's pandemic emergency status. One team, or 4%, reported that Covid-19 has had little impact on their project, while 33% stated their projects were about a month delayed. Sixty-three (63%) reported their projects were on hold indefinitely or until the coronavirus becomes manageable. The AIAMC's Committee on the Integration of Academics and Quality (CIAQ) and Board of Directors are currently working to adjust the roadmap, milestones and timelines for National Initiative VII. These adjustments will include back-up plans for NI VII Meeting Three, currently scheduled to take place October 8th and 9th in Chicago. Our members' ability to safely participate will continue to be the most important consideration in all we do.

*The AIAMC National Initiative (NI) is the only national and multi-institutional collaborative of its kind in which residents lead multidisciplinary teams in quality improvement projects aligned to their institution's strategic goals. Sixty-seven hospitals and health systems and more than 1,200 individuals have participated in the AIAMC National Initiatives since 2007 driving change that has resulted in meaningful and sustainable outcomes improving the quality and safety of patient care.*

## Meet New Board Officers

The following AIAMC members began their officer appointments on the Board effective April 1st:

**Shelly Monks, FACHE**, President.

Ms. Monks is the System Vice President of Academic Affairs at **Ochsner Health System** in New Orleans and has served on the AIAMC Board since 2010. She is the AIAMC's first female President since founder Dr. Ethel Weinberg served as President from 1989 to 1994.

**Heather Sankey, MD, MEd, FACOG, CPE**, Vice President

Dr. Sankey is the Chair of Obstetrics/Gynecology at **Baystate Medical Center** and was appointed to the AIAMC Board in 2019.

**Joseph Portoghese, MD**, Secretary-Treasurer

Dr. Portoghese is the Chief Academic Officer and DIO at **AdventHealth Orlando** in Orlando and has served on the AIAMC Board since 2016.

Ms. Monks, Dr. Sankey and Dr. Portoghese will serve in these leadership roles through March 31, 2022. Dr. Sankey will be appointed President on April 1, 2022. We extend to them our congratulations and appreciation!

## Call for Peer Reviewers

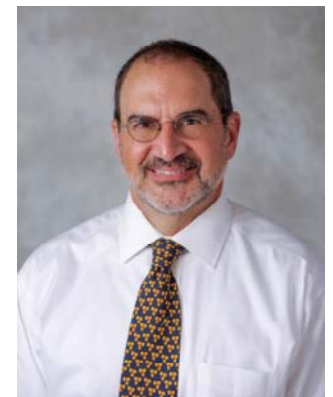
*The Ochsner Journal*, the official journal of the AIAMC, is seeking reviewers. This is an ideal opportunity for AIAMC physician members who are junior career or early in their career. Residents PGY-II and up will be considered, as will all attending physicians. Including this on your list of credentials would most certainly be a CV enhancer! The editors will regularly provide reviewers with feedback, and reviewers are expected to provide medical edits, not grammatical ones. For more information and to express interest, contact Kathleen McFadden, Managing Editor, at [kmcfadden@ochsner.org](mailto:kmcfadden@ochsner.org).



Shelly Monks, FACHE



Heather Sankey, MD



Joseph Portoghese, MD



# SPOTLIGHT ON OUR VENDOR PARTNERS

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ECG is a strategic consulting firm that is leading healthcare forward, using the knowledge and expertise built over the course of four decades to help clients see clearly where healthcare is going and to navigate toward success. We work as trusted, professional partners with hospitals, health systems, medical groups, and academic medical centers across the country. We thrive on delivering smart counsel and pragmatic solutions to the critical challenges that will revolutionize the healthcare system. Client success is our primary objective. ECG's national presence includes offices in Boston, Dallas, San Diego, San Francisco, Seattle, St. Louis, and Washington, D.C.

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## LAK Group: Silver Sponsor

MIKE MILSTED, PRESIDENT, MANAGING PARTNER

As a president and partner with the LAK Group, Mike Milsted has a strong desire to help people find meaningful involvement in what they do, because aligning people and business is his passion. Mike works as a business advisor and creates solutions to align clients' talent and business strategies. Mike works with his clients to understand their strategic vision and help them move forward to achieve the goals they have set for themselves. He provides strategic advising to executive leaders to empower them to move their businesses forward. Over his career, he has facilitated this through implementing Talent and Leader Assessments, Development and Management, Coaching, Career Development, Market Strategy, Workforce Strategy, Organizational Effectiveness and Employee Engagement.

Throughout his career, Mike has worked with companies of all shapes and sizes, from Fortune 100 global manufacturing firms to small- and medium-sized businesses, from a variety of industries, including: Retail, Healthcare, Financial Services, Heavy Manufacturing, Energy Exploration, Development and Distribution, P&C Insurance, Consumer Packaged Goods, Agricultural Manufacturing and Distribution, and Bioscience.

Mike holds a Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. He began his career working as a social worker at a women's shelter, is currently an adult leader and committee member with the Boy Scouts of America and volunteers with the National Kidney Foundation and has developed a professional career dedicated to helping people to reach their potential. Outside of work, Mike enjoys spending time with his family. You can reach Mike via his email: [mmilsted@lak-group.com](mailto:mmilsted@lak-group.com).



Transforming Careers, Cultures & Organizations

## Partnership Program



*The AIAMC Partners Program is designed to cultivate a meaningful relationship between our members and the companies that sponsor AIAMC educational outreach programs. Partner support is critical to our ongoing ability to develop and present substantive programs with knowledgeable faculty in central and appealing locations.*

## Thank you to our vendor partners!

*If you would like to be a vendor partner with AIAMC, contact Kimberly Pierce-Boggs, Executive Director, by e-mailing [kimberly@aiamc.org](mailto:kimberly@aiamc.org) or by calling 312.836.3712.*

## AIAMConnect Announced

Keeping our AIAMC members connected during this pandemic is of utmost importance. We are pleased to announce a new program called AIAMConnect, a series of weekly conference calls on topics such as virtual graduations and onboarding, how to telehealth and educate, supporting the wellbeing of residents and faculty during the pandemic and more. We currently have four weeks planned beginning May 15th and will meet for as many weeks as our members express need and interest. These sessions will be provided at *no charge* and pre-registration is *not* required. To learn more, visit <https://aiamc.org/blog/aiamconnect>.

## New Webinar Series Begins in June

We are pleased to announce a new webinar series beginning in June thru year's end on the first Thursday of each month at 1:00 pm Eastern Time. Visit <https://aiamc.org/event/23> to learn more and to register. The registration rate is just \$100 for AIAMC members and \$150 for non-members. Choose the "bundle" option by June 1<sup>st</sup> and register for all six webinars for the price of five!



**WE THANK YOU FOR ALL YOU DO.....BE WELL AND STAY SAFE!!**

## AIAMC Mission Statement

*To serve as a learning organization of independent academic medical centers through the application of innovative education and scholarship that drives exceptional patient care.*

## AIAMC Vision Statement

*To be the leader in achieving exceptional health and well-being outcomes for the communities we serve through medical education and scholarship.*

The Alliance of Independent  
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*Alliance Update is a bi-monthly, members-only publication provided by the Alliance of Independent Academic Medical Centers (AIAMC).*

*Please send news submissions to Kimberly Pierce-Boggs, Executive Director, by e-mailing [kimberly@aiamc.org](mailto:kimberly@aiamc.org) or by calling 312.835.3712.*

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