

# ALLIANCE *update*

January/February 2025 Issue

Connecting  
education  
to exceptional  
patient care

## 2025 Innovation Award Winner Named

The AIAMC Board of Directors recently announced **OhioHealth Doctors Hospital** as the winner of the 2025 AIAMC Innovation Award.

They will be recognized with this esteemed honor at our awards dinner in New Orleans on Friday, March 21st.

*Beyond Checking a Box: Developing Best Practices Around Screening for Social Determinants of Health* was submitted by **Joy Walton, MD**, Medical Director, Community Care, and Associate Program Director, Internal Medicine Residency Program.



**Dr. Walton** stated in her application, “We identified six leading organizations that provide care to underserved populations. We developed a set of semi-structured interview questions focusing on SDOH screening practices and tools, interventions and support services, challenges and resource management, measurement and evaluation, and patient engagement and access. We transcribed this qualitative data from focused interviews into a summary table and met as a team to identify common themes. Based on these best practices, a new SDOH questionnaire was developed. This novel tool incorporated learnings such as scripting around the importance of social determinants on health, centering patient consent, and keeping the questionnaire patient-friendly and culturally sensitive. The tool was made available in

written form in English and in Spanish and implemented into Community Care in July 2024.” At the time the application was submitted in early October, 526 patients had been seen at the Community Care Clinic with a screening rate of 97%. 253 patients (~48%) screened positive for at least one SDOH. The domain with the highest identified positive rate was financial strain (95/253), followed by food insecurity (63/253), housing

insecurity (49/253), transportation (43/253), and intimate partner violence (3/253). All patients who consented were referred to a community health worker or social worker and connected to resources. This work has been recognized at a system level and is now being lateralized to five other pilot sites within OhioHealth. **Dr. Walton** led the **OhioHealth Doctors Hospital** team in National Initiative IX, with the opening of Community Care being the focus of their project.

Congratulations, **OhioHealth Doctors Hospital**!



*The AIAMC Innovation Award is presented on an annual basis to our institutional member who best exemplifies creative and innovative approaches to medical education and research in the following categories:*

- *The development and/or implementation of innovative medical education programs for residents, physicians and other staff and may include curriculum development and implementation, assessment methodologies, and/or outcomes related to medical education initiatives.*
- *Innovation significant themes such as provider well-being, quality improvement, population health, health disparities and/or cultural competency initiatives involving residents, physicians and other staff and related outcomes.*
- *The development and/or application of scientific discoveries. Areas of research may include education, health care improvement, biomedical research and/or translational research.*

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*OhioHealth is a founding member of the AIAMC and has participated in every National Initiative with the exception of National Initiative V. They previously won the AIAMC Innovation Award in 2022 (OhioHealth) and 2007 (Riverside Methodist Hospital)*

*To learn more about this AIAMC member exemplar, visit*

<https://www.ohiohealth.com/>

# National Initiative News

National Initiative IX will come to a close with Meeting Four March 21st and 22nd in New Orleans. Friday afternoon programming will be devoted to NI IX only, while Saturday morning will be combined programming with the Annual Meeting. Teams' final posters will be on display, and team leaders will present their capstone presentations in the cohort breakout sessions. To register for National Initiative IX Meeting Four, please visit <https://aiamc.org/event/61>

You won't want to miss the closing session of the 2025 Annual Meeting and NI IX Meeting Four on Saturday, March 22nd. Carl Patow, MD, former AIAMC President and Founder of our National Initiatives, will take us on a trip down memory lane by sharing how the Initiatives began back in 2007 and how they have developed and grown through the years. Prior resident NI team leaders will share how their experiences helped shape them into the attending physicians and academic medicine leaders they are today. The session will close with an exciting announcement of the theme for National Initiative X. We need YOUR input: please complete this brief survey <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/NIXThemeSurvey> and let us know your top choice for a theme. We hope to celebrate this amazing milestone with record AIAMC-member participation!

## Welcome New Members

The AIAMC welcomed five new members in the fourth quarter of 2024, capping off a successful recruitment year yielding a total of ten new members. "Our 2024 recruitment strategy was two-pronged", stated AIAMC Executive Director Kimberly Pierce Burke. She continued, "Targeting sponsoring institutions with five or fewer residency programs as well as additional members from current large health systems proved most fruitful and complemented the diversity of our membership." We warmly welcome the following new institutions and their individual primary points of contact:

Bakersfield Memorial Hospital—Bakersfield, CA  
Angelica Ocampo, GME Manager  
[angelica.ocampo@commonspirit.org](mailto:angelica.ocampo@commonspirit.org)

Dignity Health Methodist Hospital—Sacramento, CA  
Ronald Chambers, Jr., MD, DIO and Family Medicine Program Director  
[Ronald.Chambers@commonspirit.org](mailto:Ronald.Chambers@commonspirit.org)

Dignity Health St. Joseph's Medical Center—Stockton, CA  
Jennifer Oakes, MD, DIO and Interim Chair of Pediatrics  
[jennifer.oakes@commonspirit.org](mailto:jennifer.oakes@commonspirit.org)

Ochsner Lafayette General Medical Center—Lafayette, LA  
Ziad Ashkar, MD, DIO  
[ziad.ashkar@ochsner.org](mailto:ziad.ashkar@ochsner.org)

Riverside Regional Medical Center  
Christopher Stolle, MD, DIO



### *Did You Know....*

*AIAMC members sponsor more than 850 ACGME-accredited residency program representing 11,500+ residents.*

*Our members have more than 45,300 hospital beds and nearly 100 affiliation agreements with 60+ medical schools.*

*Since 2007, seventy AIAMC member hospitals and health systems and over 1,500 individuals have participated in the AIAMC National Initiatives and completed 268 QI projects*



# SPOTLIGHT

## ON OUR VENDOR PARTNERS

## Thalamus: Bronze Sponsor

Dear AIAMC Community,

Thalamus was thrilled to join you at the AIAMC conference in April and share how our interview management platform can optimize your institutional workflows to streamline recruitment. We are following up with exciting updates, as Thalamus continues to grow, now working with 800+ academic institutions and health systems nationally, across 8000+ residency and fellowship programs.

### Thalamus Updates for the Community

In November 2024, [Thalamus and AAMC announced an expansion](#) of our [initial collaboration](#) to include [Cortex](#), our technology-assisted holistic application review and screening software as a complementary offering for ERAS residency and fellowship programs, starting in July 2025.

Programs and institutions may still purchase Thalamus Video for virtual interviews for ERAS programs. Non-ERAS programs can continue to purchase Thalamus products. If you are interested in purchasing Thalamus products, please [submit an inquiry here](#). Last month, [Thalamus shared an update](#) on [Thalamus Video](#), including tips for optimization and troubleshooting.

### Thalamus Resources for Programs and Institutions

[Thalamus Holistic Review](#): Thalamus's competency-based scoring tool promotes comprehensive screening, evaluation, and assessment throughout GME recruitment. If your institution or specialty is interested in a Thalamus Holistic Review workshop, [submit a request here](#).

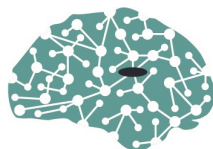
[Thalamus Training](#): Led by Thalamus Customer Success specialists, our various training options will enable you to optimize recruitment outcomes.

[Thalamus User Guides](#): provide step-by-step instructions on everything Thalamus. Search for a particular question or browse a category.

**Have product or training questions?** Please contact us anytime at [customercare@thalamusgme.com](mailto:customercare@thalamusgme.com).

Happy New Year!

Team Thalamus



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connecting the docs<sup>™</sup>

## 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 Burke, Executive Director, by e-mailing [kimberly@aiamc.org](mailto:kimberly@aiamc.org).*

# 2025 Vendor Partners Announced

The AIAMC Partners Program is designed to cultivate a meaningful relationship between our members and the companies who so generously sponsor our educational outreach programs. You will have the opportunity to meet key representatives from these companies at our Annual Meeting March 20th—22nd in New Orleans. If you are unable to attend the Annual Meeting, additional information will be available throughout the year via our *Alliance Update* newsletter and website.

## SILVER SPONSORS:



## BRONZE SPONSORS:



## EXHIBITORS:



## 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  
Academic Medical Centers  
PO Box 35756  
Canton, OH 44735

*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 Burke, Executive Director, by e-mailing [kimberly@aiamc.org](mailto:kimberly@aiamc.org) or by calling 330.497.8332.*

Follow us on social media!



In our next issue (March)

- Weinberg Award Winner
- Annual Meeting Reflections
- Partner Profiles