

# ALLIANCE July/August 2026 Issue *update*

Connecting  
education  
to exceptional  
patient care

## National Initiative X At Its Midpoint

Last year at this time, twenty-one AIAMC member institutions (see side bar) were about to embark on the National Initiative (NI) X journey and *optimize their clinical learning environment*. Since that time, thirty-two projects have been launched —



some institutions are managing multiple projects—in focus areas including AI, professionalism, professional identity formation, and continuation of prior NI projects. Cohorts made up of similarly-based projects meet on a bimonthly basis to share their progress and ask colleagues to assist them with barriers identified. Two of the four meetings for all teams have been held; meeting one in October last fall and meeting two this past April in Carlsbad. A highlight of meeting two was the selection by National

Advisory Council members of the best storyboards from each cohort. The selected storyboards were then presented to the larger, combined audience of Annual Meeting registrants as well as National Initiative participants. All four of these presentations were given by residents representing the following AIAMC-member teams: *Guthrie Robert Packer Hospital, Hackensack Meridian Health—Ocean Medical Center, OhioHealth, and St. Luke's University Health Network*. Meeting three will be held virtually on October 9th, followed by NI X's fourth and final meeting April 9-10, 2027 at the Loews Ventana Canyon Resort in Tucson. We look forward to being wowed by the final posters and learning more about the critically important work of this Initiative. Many thanks to our NI X teams for optimizing their clinical learning environments!

THE  
FUTURE OF  
LEADERSHIP  
IS HUMAN  
INTENTION, INNOVATION, IMPACT



### Mark Your Calendar: 2027 Annual Meeting

Plans are underway for our 2027 Annual Meeting, to be held **April 8th –10th** at the Loews Ventana Canyon Resort in Tucson, Arizona. 2027 Annual Meeting Chairman *Reham Shaaban, DO*, Chief Academic Officer and DIO, The Valley Hospital, and Vice Chairman *Diana Singer, PhD*, Executive Director, Academic Affairs, *JPS Health Network*, are leading an energized group of more than two dozen AIAMC member volunteers in planning a conference that will provide exceptional content in an atmosphere of networking and dialogue you won't find at any other national meeting. Our conference theme *The Future of Leadership is Human: Intention, Innovation, Impact* is sure to bring lively and timely discussions. Mark your calendar now and plan to attend!

#### NI X Participating Institutions

AdventHealth Orlando  
Ascension St. Vincent  
Aurora Health Care  
Baptist Health South Florida  
Baystate Health  
Carolinas Medical Center  
Cleveland Clinic Akron General  
Guthrie Robert Packer Hospital  
Hackensack Meridian Health -  
JFK University Medical Center  
Hackensack Meridian Health -  
Ocean Medical Center  
Henry Ford Rochester Hospital  
Kaiser Permanente Northern  
California  
Mountain Area Health  
Education Center  
Novant Health  
Ochsner Health  
OhioHealth Doctors Hospital  
RWJBH Monmouth Med Center  
St. Luke's University  
Health Network  
TriHealth, Inc.  
UnityPoint Health Des Moines  
Virginia Mason Medical Center

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# Call for Proposals & Abstracts: '27 Meeting

Watch your email in-box and *AIAMC This Week* in mid-July for our annual **Call for Proposals** for breakout sessions and **Call for Abstracts** for posters for the AIAMC Annual Meeting program. The 2027 Annual Meeting will be held April 8th—10th at the Loews Ventana Canyon Resort in Tucson, Arizona. **Proposals and abstracts are due September 15, 2026.** Submitters will be notified of the committee's selections in October. All accepted presenters are required to register for the conference. **In accordance with AIAMC policy, all registration fees and travel expenses will be the responsibility of the presenter's home institution.** Submitting a proposal and/or abstract is a commitment that, if accepted, all presenters will attend the 2027 Annual Meeting and conduct the session(s) at the time(s) assigned. We encourage you to submit a proposal and/or abstract and look forward to connecting with you at the 2027 Annual Meeting!



*The beautiful Loews Ventana Canyon at the base of the Santa Catalina mountains*

## Welcome New Members

The AIAMC is actively reaching out to small (<5 programs) sponsoring institutions and inviting them to join us in our ongoing quest to improve the clinical learning environment. In the past two months, three new members have joined us as follows: **St. Clair Health**, **Shannon Medical Center**, and **Trinity Health of New England**. **St. Clair Health** currently sponsors two ACGME-accredited residency programs with 20 residents and is located in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. They are affiliated with Duquesne University Masuti College of Osteopathic Medicine. **Shannon Medical Center**, located in San Angelo, Texas, sponsors two ACGME-accredited programs and 48 residents. **Trinity Health of New England** is affiliated with UConn and Quinnipiac University. They sponsor four ACGME-accredited programs and 34 resident and are located in Hartford, Connecticut. WELCOME!

**DID YOU KNOW?...**  
**61.5% of the Sponsoring Institutions (SIs) in the United States sponsor FIVE or FEWER residency programs!**

**The AIAMC believes this could be a key area of growth for new members.**

### Primary Institutional Contacts:

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# SPOTLIGHT ON OUR VENDOR PARTNERS

## Germane Solutions: Silver Sponsor

Germane Solutions is the nation's leading boutique healthcare consulting firm dedicated exclusively to Academic Medicine and Graduate Medical Education (GME). Built by seasoned professionals with deep institutional expertise, we deliver end-to-end solutions that meet the full spectrum of GME and Academic Medicine needs. We partner with hospitals, health systems, and academic partners to advance their strategic, operational, and financial goals with clarity and precision. Our approach is rooted in data, driven by strategy, and guided by a commitment to expanding the healthcare workforce and strengthening the physician pipeline nationwide through strong, sustainable GME programs. Founded with a mission to elevate our clients through excellence, and a vision to revolutionize the delivery of Academic Medicine and GME, we've done exactly that. Our comprehensive service lines deliver a fully packaged, all-inclusive suite of GME solutions spanning Strategy, Finance, Operations, Accreditation, Community & Population Health, Marketing, and Human Resources. From concept to execution, Germane Solutions does everything GME, helping organizations strengthen their infrastructure, enhance program performance, and build educational environments where future clinicians thrive.



## Thalamus: Bronze Sponsor

**Thalamus** is a public benefit corporation and the premier, cloud-based interview management platform designed specifically for application to Graduate Medical Education (GME) training programs. The software streamlines communication by eliminating unnecessary phone calls/emails allowing applicants to book interviews in real-time, while acting as a comprehensive applicant tracking system for residency and fellowship programs. Thalamus provides comprehensive online interview scheduling and travel coordination via a real-time scheduling system, video interview platform, AI application screening/review tool (Cortex) providing technology-assisted holistic review, and first-in-class analytics dashboard (Cerebellum). Now featured nationally at over 800+ institutions, 8,000+ residency and fellowship programs, and used by nearly all applicants, Thalamus is the most comprehensive solution in GME interview management.



## 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).*

# Meet New Board Officers

Officers of the AIAMC Board of Directors were announced at our April 17th Town Hall Meeting in Carlsbad. These leaders will serve for the April 1, 2026—March 31, 2028 biennium:



James “JP” Orlando, EdD, President  
Associate Dean, Graduate Medical Education  
Washington State University



Ryan Pong, MD, Vice President  
Vice President and Chief Academic Officer  
Virginia Mason Franciscan Health



Victor Kolade, MD, Secretary-Treasurer  
Internal Medicine Clerkship Director  
Guthrie Robert Packer Hospital

*NOTE: Dr. Kolade is filling the vacancy of Kathy Zoppi, PhD, who was recently appointed Executive Director of the Institutional Review Committee at the ACGME*

## 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  
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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 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:**

- 2027 Keynote Speaker Announced
- Call for Nominations: Board and Awards
- Partner Profiles