

ALLIANCE *update*

March/April 2026 Issue

Connecting education to exceptional patient care

2026 Weinberg Award Winner Named

The AIAMC Board of Directors recently announced **W. John Yost, MD**, as the winner of the 2026 Ethel Weinberg Award. He will be recognized with this esteemed honor at our awards dinner in Carlsbad on Friday, April 17th. Dr. Yost is the Chief Academic Officer and DIO at AIAMC-member **UnityPoint Health—Des Moines**. He was nominated by colleague **Chanteau Ayers, JD**, Executive Director of Medical Education Administration.



W. John Yost, MD

Ms. Ayers stated, “Dr. Yost has been a leader in academic medicine at local, state, and national levels. Locally, he directs all research and medical education activities at UnityPoint Health-Des Moines, the largest private hospital in the state of Iowa. Dr. Yost was elected Governor of the Iowa Chapter of the American College of Physicians and served as Iowa’s representative to the American College of Physicians Board of Governors from 2019-2023.”

His service to the AIAMC has also been exemplary. AIAMC Executive Director Kimberly Pierce Burke added, “UnityPoint Health – Des Moines has been a member of the AIAMC since 2002 and has participated in nine of our ten National Initiatives – most of those under Dr. Yost’s leadership. He was a member of the Annual Meeting Planning Committee for many years, serving as Vice Chair in 2022 and Chair in 2023. John is currently a member of the AIAMC Programming Committee. He has been an enthusiastic advocate of the AIAMC, as evidenced in his testimonial recorded in 2022 (<https://aiamc.org/testimonials>).”



Finally, Ms. Ayers described Dr. Yost’s advocacy for independent academic medical centers as follows, “Dr.

Yost is a strong voice for independent academic medical centers. Locally, he has become the leader of undergraduate and graduate medical education programming for all UnityPoint Health System hospitals and clinics. He is the recognized leader and serves as the ‘go-to’ person for all clinical research and medical education issues and concerns for the health system (18 regional hospitals + 17 community network hospitals + over 400 medical clinics are part of the system).” We know that Ethel Weinberg (see story page 4) would be proud that her incredible legacy remains alive and well through stellar leaders like John Yost. Check out our recent podcast of Dr. Yost being interviewed by 2025 Weinberg Award winner Dr. James “JP” Orlando here: <https://aiamc.org/news/new-aiamc-podcast-episode-2026-ethel-weinberg-award-winner->

Congratulations, John!

The AIAMC presents the Ethel Weinberg, MD, award on an annual basis to its individual member who best exemplifies the energy and commitment of our founder. The person selected for this prestigious honor must demonstrate excellence in providing:

- Significant service to the AIAMC, including but not limited to Board officer or director as well as committee member and leader;
 - Noted leadership in academic medicine, both locally and nationally;
 - Advocacy for the independent academic medical center by articulating our unique role and contributions;
- A vision for the future of academic medicine in the IAMC.*

Prior winners may be viewed here: <https://aiamc.org/awards>

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National Initiative News: NI Impact Award

Kaiser Permanente Northern California (KPNC) is the winner of the 2026 National Initiative Impact Award. Established in 2025, the AIAMC National Initiative Impact Award is presented on an annual basis to our institutional member who completed a National Initiative project at least two years ago and best represents impact in the following areas: Individual/Participant, Alignment, Internal Utilization, and External Dissemination. KPNC's nomination was submitted by [Theresa Azevedo-Rouso, MPA](#), Regional Senior Director and DIO, and described the sustained impact of National Initiative IV held in 2013-15. Their NI project began with the simple premise of improving the visibility of patient safety and quality in residency programs and grew to a streamlined research process and expert biostatistical support. Ms. Azevedo stated, "The KPNC NI IV project has had a transformative impact on research culture and infrastructure across our health care system. The initiative began in one medical center and has expanded to eight medical centers, supported by nine full time research project managers. This represents an annual investment of over 1.6 million dollars in salary and benefits and more than three million in direct research support for resident and fellows." She continued, "The NI IV success has positioned it as a replicable framework for other KP regions and external institutions, demonstrating how strategic investment in research support can elevate scholarly activity, improve patient care, and strengthen the clinician-research pipeline. Its scalability and adaptability make it a cornerstone for current and future GME programs, setting a national benchmark for integrating research into a learning health system."

The award will be presented at our annual awards dinner on April 17th in Carlsbad. Runners-up [Aurora Health Care/Atrium Health](#) and [St. Luke's University Health Network](#) will also be recognized.



Register Now for April Meetings

[On-line registrations](#) for the AIAMC 2026 Annual Meeting are now being accepted. Our meeting will be held April 16th – 18th at the beautiful Omni La Costa Resort & Spa in Carlsbad, CA. Our conference theme of *Anchored in Purpose: Leading Through Uncertainty with Compassion and Courage* will be delivered by outstanding, nationally- recognized speakers in an atmosphere of networking and dialogue you won't find at any other national meeting.

Registration for National Initiative X Meeting Two is also open here: [National Initiative X Meeting Two | AIAMC](#) Meeting Two will be held in conjunction with the AIAMC 2026 Annual Meeting and will take place on Friday, April 17th and Saturday, April 18th.

When registering for these meetings, remember to make your hotel reservation at the Omni La Costa Resort and Spa. You may call 800-THE-OMNI (800-843-6664) or reserve online with this direct link: <https://bookings.omnihotels.com/event/san-diego-la-costa/aiamc-2026-annual-meeting> **Our conference rate of \$299/night will be honored through March 16th, and rooms are filling fast!**

Please be aware that the AIAMC is contractually obligated to fill our room block at the Omni La Costa Resort & Spa. While it may be tempting to stay at your loyalty brand and earn points, please realize that if we don't fill the block, we will have no choice but to increase registration fees for future meetings - something we do not wish to do. EACH and EVERY reservation matters: starting with yours.

We can't wait to see you in Carlsbad!





SPOTLIGHT ON OUR VENDOR PARTNERS



AACOM: Gold Sponsor

Shaping Care Across Communities: The 2025 OME Impact Report

AACOM and its member colleges of osteopathic medicine (COMs) play an important role in training and developing tomorrow's compassionate, competent and culturally-aware physicians.

As the profession has grown, attracting nearly 30 percent of future physicians through its philosophy and values, AACOM wanted to quantitatively capture its community's contributions to health.

[The 2025 OME Impact Report](#), conducted by EY, found that COMs are investing in the communities they serve—through education, healthcare, community programming, jobs, economic development and more.

COMs generated \$6.2 billion in economic output through direct, indirect and induced spending—all of which make an impact within and beyond their communities.

Nationally, COMs supported 38,155 jobs and created \$3.3 billion in GDP, showing real jobs and spending power created in communities as a byproduct of medical education.

As a national shortage of healthcare workers threatens the health and well-being of Americans, COMs are fueling a strong pipeline of physicians that are ready to train and serve where they are most needed.

Osteopathic medicine is one of healthcare's fastest growing segments, and its grads have a long history of serving in primary care fields. Fifty-six percent of COM alumni practice in primary care, and an additional 25 percent are in specialties that commonly support primary care.

COMs are recognized for producing physicians that practice in rural or medically underserved areas (MUAs) at high rates, with 12 percent of COM alumni serving in rural areas and 16 percent in MUAs.

Learn more about the findings: aacom.org/2025-ome-impact-report

Hall Render: Bronze Sponsor

The mission and vision of the Alliance of Independent Academic Medical Centers (AIAMC) is to serve as a learning organization of independent academic medical centers. As an AIAMC Vendor Partner for the last ten years, **Hall, Render, Killian, Heath & Lyman, P.C.**, applauds the AIAMC's commitment and strong position as a leader in supporting independent academic medicine.

Hall Render has focused intently for many decades on matters important to health care organizations, including academic medicine. Whether your legal needs relate to Medicare and other GME funding, rural reclassification, multi-campus hospitals, PATH, ACGME accreditation, Teaching Health Centers/Rural Health Clinics, or resident termination and discipline, Hall Render is committed to the health care industry and serving the needs of teaching hospitals, non-hospital teaching sites, and academic teaching institutions.

CONTACT US

Look for our booth during the AIAMC Annual Meeting from April 16 to April 18, 2026 and/or contact Scott J. Geboy, J.D. at sgeboy@hallrender.com or 414.721.0451 with any questions.

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



A Tribute to Our Founder Ethel Weinberg

Dr. Ethel Weinberg created the Alliance of Independent Academic Medical Centers in 1989 while serving as VP for Academic Affairs at [Baystate Medical Center](#). She died of melanoma at age 83 on March 4, 2020. Many thanks to AIAMC member [Bob Ficalora, MD](#), Internal Medicine Program Director at [Ascension St. Vincent Hospital](#) for finding this gem of an old publication. Bob was Baystate's APD for IM in 1991.



Message from the Vice President for Academic Affairs

The problem with most graduate medical education brochures is that although they might serve as a fine compilation of statistics, conference schedules, lists of faculty and so on, they tend not to give much of a feel for the flavor of an institution. What is it really like?

The picture of our main campus on the wraparound cover of this brochure and its related legend give some hint about flavor. Baystate feels like its

picture—a large, growing, active institution. There is a vitality that comes with having opened a major new hospital building, a new medical office building, a new parking garage, and a nearby Ronald McDonald House, all in the past five years. An infants' and women's building is now under construction. All of these new buildings house a rapidly growing faculty of full time and community based physicians and an impressive array of programs.

Of course, they also house patients. At Baystate, we care for patients who have a full range of problems and who come from a broad spectrum of cultural and economic backgrounds. From the homeless man to the wealthy suburbanite, from the healthy mother and newborn to the ICU patient in need of high-tech care—we see them all.

The picture hints at some other things as well. There are trees right on our campus, a welcome relief for those of us from urban medical schools. Barely visible in the central parking area is a helicopter pad which signals BMC's role as the only tertiary referral center for a large portion of western New England.

In the background are hills, mountains and beautiful countryside. For many, western Massachusetts is vacationland with activities ranging from skiing and backpacking to internationally known music, dance and theater.

What is not shown in the picture is our sense of self. Many describe Baystate as a hybrid. As the Western Campus of Tufts University School of Medicine with many hundreds of faculty, residents and medical students, we seem very much like a university hospital. But there is an ambience here—a concern for quality of life and amenities—that reminds us of our origins and role as a community hospital.

I hope that this message will help to give you some feel for the flavor of our institution. Needless to say, the best thing to do is to come and visit. We will welcome you.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ethel Weinberg".

Ethel Weinberg, M.D.
Vice President for Academic Affairs

March, 1991

The Alliance of Independent
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*Please send news
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Director, by e-mailing
kimberly@aiamc.org or by
calling 330.497.8332.*

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In our next issue (May)

- Annual Meeting Reflections
- National Initiative X Mid-Point Report
- Partner Profiles