

2025 Weinberg Award Winner Named

James “JP” Orlando, EdD, has been named the 2025 AIAMC Weinberg Award winner. JP was recognized with this esteemed honor at our awards dinner in New Orleans on Friday, March 21st. Dr. Orlando is the Chief GME Officer at St. Luke’s University Health Network in Pennsylvania. St. Luke’s sponsors more than 470 residents and fellows in 48 graduate medical education programs. JP has served on the AIAMC Board of Directors since 2019 and is currently Vice President/President Elect. He also served as Co-Chair of National Initiative IX *Addressing the Social and Moral Determinants of Health*. Orlando’s leadership outside of St. Luke’s and the AIAMC is also exemplary, as a member of the Institutional Review Committee (IRC) for the ACGME, and previously as Treasurer and Commissioner on the Accreditation Review Commission of Physician Assistant Schools. Victor Kolade, MD, IM



James “JP” Orlando, EdD

Clerkship Director at Guthrie Clinic, nominated Dr. Orlando and stated, “JP is the first member to be interviewed for our YouTube podcast series before being named Vice President/President-Elect. With over 70 views in 4 months, his discussion with Drs. Elliott and Singer is the second most-viewed offering on our YouTube page. This is another demonstration of JP’s ability to galvanize others to engage in a worthy cause.”



Congratulations, JP, and thank you for your exemplary service to the AIAMC!

AIAMC Awards Dinner

In addition to the Weinberg Award, numerous honors were bestowed at our Awards Dinner in New Orleans, including the Innovation Award and first-ever National Initiative Impact Awards. National Initiative IX teams were also recognized for the successful completion of their projects in addressing the social and moral determinants of health. See more photos on pages 2 and 4.



Dr. Orlando Accepting the 2025 Weinberg Award



(From L to R) AIAMC President Joe Portoghese, MD, and Executive Director Kimberly Pierce Burke present the 2025 Innovation Award to Drs. Joy Walton and Alexandra McKenna, OhioHealth Doctors Hospital

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 AIAMC.

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National Initiative News

The fourth and final meeting of National Initiative IX *Addressing the Social and Moral Determinants of Health* was held March 21st and 22nd in New Orleans. Teams presented their capstones and final posters were displayed.

At the conclusion of Meeting Four and the 2025 Annual Meeting, the theme for National Initiative X was announced. The Call for Applications for *Optimizing the Clinical Learning Environment of the Future* will be released in mid-April and are due to AIAMC Administrative Coordinator Mindi Apicella no later than Monday, June 2nd.

For the first time in over 20 years, the AIAMC has created a new award. The **National Initiative Impact Award** will be presented on an annual basis to an institutional member who completed a National Initiative project at least two years ago and has proven sustainability and outcomes.

Aurora Health Care was chosen for this honor based upon its groundbreaking work in NI VIII's "JEDI": *Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion – Creating an Inclusive Clinical Learning Environment*. Beginning in 2021, *Standing Up to Patient Microaggressions* was part of a larger project led by Aurora's Academic Affairs division with connections to **Advocate Health**. Having a colleague "stand up" (rather than stand by) to address microaggressions, even if it isn't always successful, demonstrates to the recipient that we don't accept this behavior and that they belong on the team. Five hundred participants have completed the workshop to date, resulting in 100% being committed to being an "upstander" against microaggressions and 97% recommending the workshop to colleagues.

OhioHealth was selected for this honor based upon its groundbreaking work in well-being. Starting with National Initiative III in 2011, Dr. Laurie Hommema, then Assistant Program Director of the Family Medicine Residency Program at OhioHealth's Riverside Methodist Hospital, led an effort to build awareness of how burnout impacted quality and patient safety and created ongoing monitoring of residents. In 2013 for NI IV, Dr. Steven Auciello, then resident physician and now Program Director in Family Medicine, applied the well-being lessons learned across the entire medical education environment. Today, the OhioHealth Well-Being Program is deeply integrated into organizational priorities, partnering with senior leaders to address systemwide goals. Last year, more than 7,000 individuals benefited from team and group interventions, and Dr. Hommema currently serves as Senior Medical Director, Well-Being.



AIAMC President Joe Portoghese, MD, and National Initiative IX Co-Chair JP Orlando, EdD, presented National Initiative plaques to 31 NI IX teams, including:



Nishita Jain, MD,
Cedars-Sinai Medical Center



Amir Elsamadisi, MD,
Hackensack Meridian Health—
Ocean Medical Center



AIAMC President Joe Portoghese, MD (L), and Executive Director Kimberly Pierce Burke (R) present the 2025 National Initiative Impact Award to Drs. Jake Bidwell and Deb Simpson, Aurora Health Care



AIAMC President Joe Portoghese, MD (L), and Executive Director Kimberly Pierce Burke (R) present the 2025 National Initiative Impact Award to Laurie Hommema, MD OhioHealth



Cheryl Goliath, PhD,
Cleveland Clinic Akron General



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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.

2025 Annual Meeting Photo Gallery



*This Is.....JEOPARDY
Led by Dr. Diana Singer and Caroline Diez (in blue)*



*And the red team wins!
Coach Dr. Joe Portoghesa*



*2nd annual service project making sneaky
stem necklaces in support of HandsOn NOLA*



Great networking at Thursday reception



*Who says learning can't be fun? Aurora
Health Care/Advocate Health presents
Innovative Climate & Health Education
Strategies – Let's Shark it!*



*And that's a wrap! The AiAMC meetings
team looks forward to seeing you
April 16-18, 2026 at the Omni La Costa
Resort and Spa in Carlsbad, California*

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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(AiAMC).*

*Please send news
submissions to Kimberly
Pierce Burke, Executive
Director, by e-mailing
kimberly@aiamc.org or by
calling 330.497.8332.*

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In our next issue:

- National Initiative X Call for Applications
- Meet New Board Directors
- Partner Profiles