

ALLIANCE *update*

May/June 2026 Issue

Connecting
education
to exceptional
patient care

Memorable Awards Dinner in Carlsbad

The AIAMC Annual Meeting was held April 16th—18th at the beautiful Omni La Costa Resort and Spa. Our Awards Dinner was held outside on property and brought gorgeous views, meaningful recognitions, and amazing networking. See page two for more photos of the conference!



*NI Impact Award Winner Runner Up
Aurora Health Care|Atrium Health
Care|Now part of Advocate Health*



*National Initiative Impact Award
Winner Runner Up St. Luke's
University Health Network*



*2026 AIAMC National Initiative
Impact Award Winner Kaiser
Permanente Northern California*



*2026 AIAMC Innovation Award
Winner JPS Health Network*



*2026 Weinberg Award Winner is
W. John Yost, MD, accepted by
Chanteau Ayers*



*Outgoing President
Joe Portoghese, MD, passes the
gavel to Incoming President
JP Orlando, EdD*

The AIAMC National Initiative Impact Award was established in 2025 and is presented to an institutional member who completed a National Initiative project at least two years ago and has proven sustainability and outcomes.

The AIAMC Innovation Award was established in 2006 and honors an institutional member who best exemplifies creative and innovation approaches to medical education and research.

The AIAMC Weinberg Award was established in 2005 and is presented to an individual member who best exemplifies the energy and commitment of our founder Dr. Ethel Weinberg.

To learn more and view prior winners, visit <https://aiamc.org/member-recognition>

Inside this issue

NI X Mtg 2.....	2
More Annual Mtg Photos...	2
Vendor Partners.....	3

National Initiative News

National Initiative X Meeting Two was held April 17th and 18th in conjunction with the Annual Meeting at the Omni La Costa Resort and Spa. Friday afternoon was devoted to storyboard presentations in cohort breakouts. On Saturday morning, the top presentation from each of the cohorts — as selected by National Advisory Council Members — shared their storyboards in the large ballroom to both Annual Meeting and National Initiative X audiences. The winners were as follows: **OhioHealth** *Enhancing the Clinical Learning Environment with D.U.E.T.: Dual User Evaluation and Training*; **Hackensack Meridian—Ocean** *Improving Clinical Competency Through Direct Observation in FM Residency*; **St. Luke’s University Health Network** *Clinic to Curb: Resident Physicians in Street Medicine*; and **Guthrie Robert Packer Hospital** *From Tradition to Transformation: Using Problem-Based Learning to Shape the Clinical Learning Environment in a Rural Academic Medical Center*. Congratulations!



National Initiative X winning presentation photos: (top) OhioHealth with National Advisory Council members (bottom from left): Hackensack Meridian-Ocean, St. Luke’s University Health Network, and Guthrie Robert Packer Hospital. All presentations were led by residents!



The 2026 AIAMC Annual Meeting featured four plenary sessions, ten peer-selected breakout sessions, a pre-conference workshop, book club, world café, and staffed poster displays.

The air buzzed with engagement, and the networking was like none other.

We look forward to seeing you April 8-10, 2027 at the Loews Ventana Canyon Resort in Tucson, Arizona!

More Photos from Carlsbad



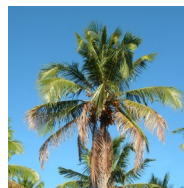
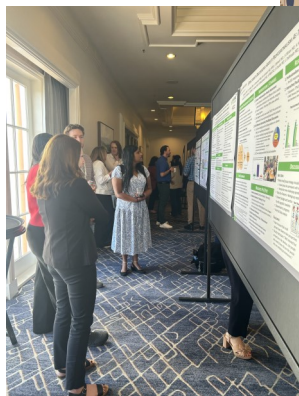
Keynote Speaker Stephanie Call, MD



30+ Posters on Display



Advocacy in Action Panel



AIAMC Meeting Staff



SPOTLIGHT ON OUR VENDOR PARTNERS

Kern National Network: Bronze Sponsor

Imagine a future where flourishing is a shared aim across the health ecosystem. The Kern National Network for Flourishing in Health (KNN) is a national movement catalyzing this vision.

We work with organizations across the health ecosystem to build flourishing-centered cultures and systems. Using a strengths-based approach, we provide a guiding framework, practical tools, deep expertise, and national collaboration to help address complex workforce challenges.

Our work is rooted in character, caring, and practical wisdom and designed to support transformation at every level: individual, organizational, and societal. Whether in classrooms, clinics, or communities, we help partners create environments where everyone who learns, works, leads, or receives care can flourish.

To learn more, visit <https://knncaringcharactermedicine.org/>.



KERN NATIONAL NETWORK
FOR FLOURISHING IN HEALTH
Character. Caring. Practical Wisdom.

Paradigm: Bronze Sponsor

Specialists in realistic OB/GYN and childbirth simulation. Providing class leading task trainers, hand-built using unique materials and designed for clinical fidelity to drive development of useful muscle memory. A proprietary flesh-like material is molded around functional skeletal systems to create a platform with remarkable tactile realism, enabling lifelike application of complex maneuvers alongside key micro-skills. Our most popular model, Sophie and Her Mum, pairs a fetal model that is birth weight (7.5 lbs) and has a fully articulated skeletal system with a maternal pelvic model containing a replica bony pelvis. The result is a highly precise simulation for skills ranging from basic hand placement to posterior arm retrieval. Our other models accommodate specific skillsets, such as OVD, pelvic exams, and cervical checks. Bring remarkable realism to common procedures alongside low-volume high-risk emergencies, improving outcomes for educators, providers, and patients alike. Experience the gold standard in women's healthcare simulation for yourself! To learn more, visit www.paradigmmedicalsyste.ms.com



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.



The stunning Valley Promenade at the Omni La Costa Resort & Spa, site of our awards dinner.



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 or by calling 330.497.8332.

Follow us on social media!



In our next issue

- Call for Proposals and Abstracts: '27 Annual Mtg
- NI X at Mid-Point
- Partner Profiles