

AACOM plays role in future of medical education

The American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine (AACOM) was recently awarded the contract "Undergraduate Medical Education for the 21st Century: A Demonstration of Curriculum Innovations to Keep Pace with A Changing Health Care Environment (UME-21)." A 5-year project, UME-21's purpose is to demonstrate that allopathic and osteopathic schools of medicine can design and implement effective curricular innovations that will provide medical students with the knowledge, skills, attitudes, and values needed to practice effective and efficient healthcare in the 21st century.

The contract award is the culmination of more than 2 years' work by AACOM with the medical community and with the Health Resources and Services Administration of the Department of Health and Human Services on the issue of the future of physician education. Our earlier efforts had consisted of an exploration of the education of undergraduate medical students for managed care practice.

The UME-21 project will solicit proposals from both osteopathic and allopathic medical schools to produce innovative curricula designs focusing on the clinical (third and fourth) years of medical school. Eight medical schools will be selected. Each will receive \$125,000 annually for each of the 3 years of the demonstration. Part of the project's aim of producing material change in medical education entails a national evaluation plan that will be developed to integrate the success and findings of the entire demonstration program.

To the best of our knowledge, no other osteopathic medical group has been awarded a contract of this size and scope. Thus, we feel this is a significant event in the history of the osteopathic medical profession. It affords us an opportunity to demonstrate our capabilities to the larger medical education and healthcare communities. It also allows us an opportunity to promote our educational system and our profession. We are excited about the role AACOM will play in changing the future of medical education. ♦

Douglas L. Wood, DO, PhD

President
American Association of Colleges
of Osteopathic Medicine
Chevy Chase, Md



Moving?

Don't forget the JAOA

Attach your current mailing label,
print your new address in the space
provided, and mail this form to:

Circulation Department
American Osteopathic Association
142 E Ontario St
Chicago, IL 60611-2864

New address:

Name _____

AOA number _____

Address _____

City _____

State/Zip code _____

AFFIX LABEL HERE

Allow eight weeks for delivery.