

Liaison Committee on Medical Education (LCME)
Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC)
655 K Street, NW, Suite 100
Washington, DC, 20001-2399

Liaison Committee on Medical Education (LCME)
American Medical Association (AMA)
330 North Wabash Ave
Chicago, IL 60611

October 8, 2018

Dear members of the LCME:

The Health is for Everyone: Action Team (HEAT), led by the Association of University of Centers on Disabilities (AUCD), works to build awareness of Developmental Disability at physician practice and training levels. As a result of HEAT's efforts, the American Medical Association now has Resolution 315 on the inclusion of Developmental Disability (DD) in undergraduate, graduate and continuing medical education of physicians (May 2017: <https://www.ama-assn.org/sites/default/files/media-browser/public/hod/a17-315.pdf>). Given this Resolution, it is timely to include DD in undergraduate medical education training. This letter is to request that the Liaison Committee on Medical Education formally integrate a requirement for content on DD into Element 7.2 of the Functions and Structure of a Medical School, Standards for Accreditation of Medical Education Programs Leading to the MD Degree.

HEAT and the undersigned organizations urge the Liaison Committee on Medical Education to maintain this momentum toward inclusion of DD in medical education by more fully utilizing Element 7.2. Although 1 in 6 adults have a DD,¹ there is currently no training requirement on DD at the undergraduate medical education level. DD's are a group of conditions due to an impairment in physical, learning, language, or behavior areas and include intellectual disability, autism spectrum disorder, hearing loss, cerebral palsy, learning disability, ADHD, vision impairment, and other developmental delays. These conditions occur among all racial, ethnic, and socioeconomic groups. The health care needs of people with a DD largely remain unserved or underserved.²⁻⁵

AUCD connects partners through its multidisciplinary network of university-based training and service centers and programs in every state and territory. Importantly, AUCD and HEAT stand ready to partner with medical education settings to assist in development of curricula or provide curricula resources to help medical educators include DD in their training sessions. Integration of DD curricula resources into existing medical education efforts addresses inclusion of DD in a systematic way that

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can make a meaningful impact while using existing resources.

Focus on integrating DD into Element 7.2

DD is a life-long condition. People who have DDs are present in all age groups, all socioeconomic backgrounds, and every community in the U.S. These individuals will receive care from providers in every specialty. Medical students need content and clinical experiences to support the continuum of care needed for all – including the large population of people with DDs. Integrating DD into Element 7.2 would allow medical schools to link DD content to this standard, prompting documentation of learning objectives around the unique needs of this group, while creating a better prepared physician workforce that is able to serve the communities and settings in which they will eventually practice.

Formally integrating DD into Element 7.2 will not only affect physicians' ability to serve this population effectively but will also lead to better health outcomes for the growing number of people with DD; thus, reducing health disparities and overall healthcare costs. We urge the LCME to include DD to Element 7.2 and require medical schools to show the achievement of related learning objectives through the current Data Collection Instrument.

AUCD and its national network strive to support the critical role that physicians play in serving everyone in the community - including people who have a developmental disability (DD). Formally integrating DD into Element 7.2 would be a powerful tool toward making this a reality. AUCD and its undersigned partners thank you in advance for your timely consideration of this request. For further information, please contact Dr. Adriane Griffen, AUCD's Senior Director of Public Health and Leadership, at agriffen@aucd.org or 240-821-9374.

Sincerely,

Health is for Everyone Action Team:

Association of University Centers on Disabilities – convener of *Health is for Everyone Action Team*
Family Voices
American Academy of Developmental Medicine and Dentistry
Alliance for Disability in Health Care Education
American Association on Health and Disability

Undersigned organizations:

AADMD at the University of Michigan Medical School
Abilities Resource, Inc.
Advocates Building Lasting Equality in New Hampshire
Albert Einstein College of Medicine
Alliance for Disability in Health Care Education
American Academy of Family Physicians
American Academy of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation (AAPM&R)
American Association on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities
Autism Society of America
Boone County Family Resources
Bronx Developmental Disabilities Council
Center for Development and Disability, UNM
Center for Developmental Disabilities Evaluation and Research (CDDER), E.K. Shriver Center,
University of Massachusetts Medical School

Child Neurology Foundation
Colorado Developmental Disabilities Council
Deborah Fisher and Associates
Department of Family and Community Medicine, College of Medicine Tucson
Developmental Disability Services Nurses Organization
Disability and Abuse Project of Spectrum Institute
disABILITY Resource Center of Southeast Kentucky
Down Syndrome Association of Connecticut, Inc
Emory Autism Center
Exceptional Parent Magazine
Family Support Coalition of New Jersey
Family Voices of California
Famy Resource Network
Far Northern Regional Center
Friends of CDC's National Center on Birth Defects and Developmental Disabilities
Georgia Options, Inc.
Inclusion innovations
Inland Regional Center, Association of Regional Center Agencies
Institute on Disability and Human Development, University of Illinois at Chicago
JBS International
Lester Rosenzweig
LifeConnect Health LLC
LSI Disability Curriculum Initiative at OSUCOM
Mailman Center for Child Development
Michigan Developmental Disabilities Institute, Wayne State University (Michigan's UCEDD & LEND)
NADD
National Alliance to Advance Adolescent Health
National Birth Defects Prevention Network
National CMV Foundation
National Down Syndrome Society
National Organization of Nurses with Disabilities (NOND)
Nebraska Medicine
Parent Advisory Council Inc.
PTI Nebraska
Raising Special Kids, Arizona
Renaissance Nutrition Center, Inc
Special Olympics International
Spina Bifida Association
Strader Christian Counseling Services
Susan Danberg OD PC
Tarjan Center at UCLA
Tennessee Council on Developmental Disabilities
The Arc Carroll County
The Arc Connecticut
The Arc Otsego
The Boggs Center on Developmental Disabilities, Rutgers Robert Wood Johnson Medical School
The National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO)
The Orange Grove Center
Tri-Counties Regional Center
United Ability

University of Arizona Sonoran UCED
University of California, San Francisco
University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus
University of Connecticut A.J. Pappanikou Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities
Education, Research, and Service and the Connecticut Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental
Disabilities
University of Iowa Center for Disabilities and Development
University of Tennessee Health Science Center
University of Tennessee Health Science Center, Boling Center
Va-LEND/Partnership for People with Disabilities at VCU

Undersigned individuals:

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References:

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