

President's Message : Co-creating the Future of CPD Through Research-Practice Partnerships

By Linda Caples, PhD, Medical College of Wisconsin



One of the unique qualities of SACME is the coming together of researchers and practitioners in CPD, giving us a home to meaningfully engage in implementation science. Implementation Science as a field can be defined as “the study of methods to support the application of evidence and research findings in health and social care policy and practice.”¹ This bridge between research and practice empowers us to move beyond theoretical concepts and ensure we are implementing evidence-based approaches into real-world settings. So, how does SACME strike a balance between research and practice? In a conversation with Dr. Jerry Maniate, we discussed this intersection and what it means for our field.

Dr. Maniate describes the ideal dynamic between researchers and practitioners as “truly bi-directional.” Researchers, when isolated, risk pursuing questions that are intellectually stimulating but may lack real-world relevance and applicability. Conversely, practitioners who operate without research may fall into habitual practices that hinder innovation and improvement, resulting in stagnation and even harmful outcomes. The solution lies in creating spaces, like SACME, where both groups dialogue, persuade, and inform each other—ensuring that research questions are grounded in the realities of practice and that practical applications are evidence-based or evidence-informed.

One of the key insights from Dr. Maniate is the importance of engaging a diverse range of professionals—not just those in academic health science centers, but also clinicians and CPD professionals in community hospitals, rural clinics, and underserved areas. These voices offer perspectives that are often missing in research conducted within academic medical centers. I would add that specialty societies, local government agencies like municipal

departments of health, and other community organizations should all be welcome to the table of CPD. Including them ensures that CPD initiatives reflect the realities of where most care is delivered.

Dr. Maniate advocates for a values-based approach to CPD research and implementation—one rooted in humility, curiosity, listening, and reflection. This model encourages critical dialogue and mutual respect, allowing team members to share perspectives openly and learn

IN THIS ISSUE

President's Message : Co-creating the Future of CPD Through Research-Practice Partnerships...	1
SACME 2026: CPD for All.....	2
SACME 2026 Workshops at a Glance.....	3
Things to Do in Lexington During SACME 2026 .	4
TECPD Committee Update, October 2025.....	6
Building Research and Program Evaluation Capacity in CPD: Introducing the Virtual Research Roundtable Series.....	7
Updates from the AAMC.....	9
Communications and Marketing Committee Report	11
Manning Award: Call for Proposals	11
Updates from ACCME	12
Membership Committee Update.....	13
SACME CPD Scholarship Program: The Participant View	13
Updates from the ABMS	14
Why (and Why Not) Join a SACME Committee – Insights from My Experience as Chair of the Scholarship Committee.....	16

from each other. It moves beyond rigid theoretical frameworks and embraces the complexity of human behavior and healthcare systems. For those entering the field, Dr. Maniate's advice is clear: "Do it together." Collaboration leads to deeper insights, more impactful interventions, and sustainable change. Ultimately, the future of CPD lies in active engagement, not just passive consumption. We need to shift from CPD being merely informative to transformative.

Finally, our conversation also touched on the role of SACME in fostering co-creation between researchers and practitioners. By supporting implementation science and knowledge mobilization, SACME is the link between theory and practice. This involves creating environments

where "messy conversations" can lead to innovative questions and actionable solutions. SACME is well positioned to engage in this work and to foster meaningful conversations around what new knowledge, skills, and connections will CPD professionals need to acquire to do this work effectively. Researchers and practitioners must move out of our comfort zones and recognize that we are working towards the same goal. Together in SACME, we can transform CPD into a dynamic, responsive, and impactful force for professional growth and improved patient care.

1. NIHR ARC South London. An Introduction to Implementation Science: online module. NIHR Applied Research Collaboration South London website. <https://arc-sl.nihr.ac.uk/imp-sci-module>. Accessed September 30, 2025.



2026 SACME Annual Meeting | Lexington, Kentucky | March 22–25

SACME 2026: CPD for All

By Jennifer Alessi, MA, CHCP, SACME Program Committee Chair
Senior CME Manager, St. Jude Children's Research Hospital

The 2026 SACME Annual Meeting will take place in Lexington, Kentucky, March 22–25 and will have a fully hybrid option. The meeting marks a momentous milestone—SACME's 50th anniversary!—and our theme is "CPD for All." We are working on a program that will celebrate the past, present, and future of CME/CPD and look forward to welcoming you, either in person or virtually.

Preconference workshops kick things off on Sunday, March 22. As usual, a variety of topics will be addressed. As a follow-up to their workshop last year on using generative AI to build multimedia learning, Heather MacNeill and Sofia Valanci Aroesty will work with participants on ways to responsibly and effectively use generative AI to enhance their CPD scholarship. Martin Tremblay and

Linda Caples are planning a workshop on program evaluation and ways to measure the effectiveness of CME/CPD interventions. The SACME Academy of Fellows will also present a faculty development workshop on "Flourishing as a CPD Educator."

The SACME Technology-Enhanced CPD Committee has been working on a HyFlex Workbook and are looking forward to launching it during the 2026 Annual Meeting. "HyFlex" education combines the best of synchronous (in person and virtual) and asynchronous modalities. *The HyFlex in CPD Workbook* is a practical resource developed through systematic review and expert consultation. The workbook offers actionable strategies, checklists, and adaptable frameworks to support educators

implementing HyFlex approaches in CPD across diverse contexts. Their session will combine the official launch with a hands-on workshop that will allow attendees to explore and apply the workbook's tools to their own teaching and professional settings.

We listened to your feedback and have incorporated more interactivity into the regular meeting program in addition to the HyFlex workshop. After a panel discussion on *CPD Past, Present, and Future*, attendees will spend time brainstorming and collaborating with their tablemates to explore how the past can inform the future of CPD, and time during the meeting is also set aside for a workshop on updating the SACME strategic plan.

Your feedback also informed the Program Committee that you want more time during all the oral abstract sessions for Q&A and discussion. So, in addition to the return of the *Ideas in Action* breakouts, the other abstract breakouts will also have time for discussion built in.

The Fun Committee is working hard to make sure we have time to connect with old friends and make new ones as we celebrate our 50th anniversary—they are cooking up some exciting ways for the celebration. Watch your email and SACME announcements for more surprises leading up to the meeting!

For those of you who have not visited Lexington, KY, it is nestled in the bluegrass region of the state and is gorgeous. Known as the horse capital of the world and for its bourbon, Lexington also offers a vibrant arts and culture scene, history, music, art, and a growing food scene. Check out [VisitLex.com](https://www.visitlex.com) for more information about the city. And if you are a college basketball fan, you'll be interested to know that our hotel, the Hilton Lexington Downtown, is across the street from the University of Kentucky's Rupp Arena.

Registration opens soon—see you in Lexington!

SACME 2026 Workshops at a Glance

Advancing Scholarship with Generative AI

Drs. Sofia Valance and Heather MacNeil

This hands-on workshop invites participants to actively explore how generative AI can enhance scholarly work in medical education. Through guided activities and small-group exercises, attendees will experiment with GenAI tools to brainstorm research ideas, draft scholarly products, and identify ethical and effective uses of AI in academic work. Participants will leave with practical strategies and resources to integrate GenAI into their own scholarship.

From Learning to Action— Assessing the Impact of Healthcare Continuing Education

Martin Tremblay, PhD, and
Linda Caples, PhD

Demonstrating the relevance and effectiveness of CPD educational interventions is essential to advancing the Quintuple Aim of healthcare: enhancing the patient experience, improving

population health, reducing costs, supporting care team well-being, and promoting health equity. However, assessing outcomes can be challenging, as many changes occur in clinical practice. This workshop will introduce participants to CPD-REACTION, a reliable and validated tool designed to measure healthcare professionals' behavioral intentions following an educational intervention. Grounded in Godin's integrated theoretical framework, this 12-item instrument can be easily integrated into your evaluation strategy to assess behavioral intention and the socio-cognitive factors that influence it. Through real-world case studies, you'll explore how to implement this instrument and analyze the results effectively. By the end of the session, you will be equipped to design a tailored program evaluation plan to better capture and understand the impact of your educational initiatives.

*This workshop will
introduce you to
CPD-REACTION, a
reliable and validated
tool designed to
measure healthcare
professionals'
behavioral intentions
following an educa-
tional intervention.*



Things to Do in Lexington During SACME 2026

By Kimberly Northrip, MD, University of Kentucky Healthcare CECentral

I'm excited to welcome my fellow SACME members to join me in Lexington, Kentucky, for the 2026 Annual Meeting. The Board invited me to write a brief Intercom article about what there is to do here. Lexington is the heart of the Bluegrass — a region known for natural beauty, history (ask David Wiljer about a tour with a somewhat local expert), horses, bourbon, and a music scene that goes well beyond Bluegrass. Lexington is a vibrant mid-sized city with multiple universities, health systems, and tech industries (Lexmark was named for the town). The culture is a mix of Southern hospitality and Midwestern warmth — and yes, random strangers will try to strike up a conversation. There are lots of things to do both in town and the surrounding countryside.

Horses

Lexington proudly calls itself the Horse Capital of the World. A visit to Keeneland Racecourse is a must — enjoy a tour, catch morning workouts, or, if you extend your trip into April, experience live racing in season. The Kentucky Horse Park showcases equine history and culture through a museum, interactive exhibits, and live horse demonstrations. If you want to get out of town, consider a horse farm tour or take a scenic drive through the countryside of Versailles and Midway past rolling pastures, stone fences, and elegant barns.

Bourbon

No trip to Kentucky would be complete without a bourbon tasting. Visit the Distillery District in town for several small craft distilleries. If

you're willing to venture out of the city, the Bourbon Trail is a fun day trip featuring well-known distilleries like Woodford Reserve, Buffalo Trace, Four Roses, Wild Turkey, and Heaven Hill. Woodford Reserve is the closest stop on the trail at about 30 minutes from the hotel.

Arts, Culture & History

The Mary Todd Lincoln House and Ashland, The Henry Clay Estate provide glimpses into the lives of two of Kentucky's most notable historical figures. The Lexington Opera House, built in the 19th century, offers a full calendar of performances. There are also multiple small art galleries downtown (including a glass art studio with a speakeasy in the back). A gallery hop typically takes place on the 3rd Friday of March, right before

the conference. For a unique day trip (about an hour away), Berea is a fun place for artisan shops, antiques, and crafts. If you are extending your stay, Louisville is just over an hour's drive and home to the Louisville Slugger Museum and Churchill Downs.

Outdoors

For local hiking with gorgeous views of the Kentucky River Palisades, visit the Raven Run Nature Sanctuary. The Red River Gorge and Natural Bridge State Park are about 75 minutes from Lexington and make a great daytrip for hiking or some of the best rock climbing on the east coast. For a longer trip, Mammoth Cave National Park, the world's longest known cave system, is 2 hours away. If you'd rather watch people exercise than do it yourself, there are both university and minor league sports teams.

Dining

Lexington's dining scene is home to a wide variety of cuisines with many excellent options walking distance from the hotel. The distillery district is a long walk/short drive from the hotel and is also a great option for

nearby restaurants and bars. I'll be happy to make recommendations if you ask. If you'd like to sample traditional Kentucky fare, try hot browns, burgoo, beer cheese, derby pie, bourbon balls, or drink an Ale 8 (not my favorite but go for it). I would recommend trying the local ice cream from Crank and Boom. For a scenic country drive, the town of Midway (about 20 minutes away) is a quaint little town with multiple dining options including the Holly Hill Inn.

Music & Nightlife

This is Lexington, there's music and bourbon everywhere. Plenty of bars are within walking distance of the hotel. We also have some excellent breweries and wine bars. Music fans should check out The Burl, a favorite venue housed in a converted train depot, or Manchester Music Hall, which draws both national and local acts. Bigger acts can be found at the Lexington Opera House or Rupp Arena. If bars and music aren't your thing, LEXLive, a giant entertainment complex just down the street from the hotel, offers a movie theater, arcade, and bowling.

Getting Here

Lexington's Blue Grass Airport (LEX) is small, friendly, and easy to navigate. Delta, American, United, and Allegiant fly through LEX. There are direct flights to about 20 cities, so you'll probably have to connect. Another option is to fly into one of the larger airports like Cincinnati & Northern Kentucky International Airport (CVG) or Louisville (SDF) and drive to Lexington (75-90 minutes). Our conference hotel, the downtown Hilton, offers both a shuttle to LEX and free parking for our guests, so you're set whichever option you choose.

I'm looking forward to seeing you in Lexington this March to celebrate our 50th anniversary. There is plenty more to do in the region. I'm happy to give specific recommendations – just ask.



TECPD Committee Update, October 2025

By Vjeko Hlede, PhD, DVM, CHCP, Sofia Valanci Aroesty, PHD, MD

This article was crafted with the assistance of AI, which helped organize ideas and streamline the writing process. However, the authors guided every decision, review, and final touch.

Over the past three months, the Technology-Enhanced CPD (TECPD) Committee has been busy advancing three major initiatives: finalizing the AMS selection, planning listserv research, and launching a new AI in CPD workgroup.

AMS Selection: NoviAMS Approved

In collaboration with SACME's CMG (Custom Management Group), the Committee reviewed four association management systems: iMIS, GlueUp, GrowthZone, and NoviAMS. After careful analysis, we recommended NoviAMS, which the SACME Board has now approved. Contracting is underway.

The migration timeline remains flexible, with a likely transition following the Annual Meeting to minimize disruption. Importantly, SACME will explore the integration of community software to enhance collaborative engagement. Members should note that abstract management is not included in NoviAMS by default, and alternative solutions will be considered for this function.

Why NoviAMS?

NoviAMS embraces a philosophy of flexibility and modularity, combining robust core AMS functionality with powerful integration capabilities. Unlike all-in-one platforms that often deliver "average" performance across multiple areas, NoviAMS empowers organizations to integrate best-in-class tools for:

- Email communication
- Online community engagement
- Analytics and reporting
- Event management
- Learning management systems

This approach ensures SACME can strategically extend functionality while maintaining quality, user experience, and alignment with organizational goals and budget.

Listserv Research: Call for Participation

The SACME listserv—home to nearly 6,500 posts from 2002 to 2025—is a living archive of CME/CPD dialogue and scholarship. With preliminary approval from the SACME Board, the TECPD Committee is launching

a research study on the evolution of discussion themes over the past two decades.

We invite all SACME members to join this initiative.

This is an excellent opportunity for both new and experienced researchers to join as co-authors. New members will gain mentorship and hands-on research experience, while seasoned scholars can contribute analytic depth and leadership. All that, while learning about SACME and CME/CPD history.

Preliminary analysis shows three thematic eras: 2004–2010 (compliance, funding, independence from industry), 2011–2019 (quality improvement, interprofessional education, institutional alignment), and 2020–2025 (pandemic adaptation, equity and well-being, AI and technology).

To move forward, we will need final approval from the SACME Board of Directors and the IRB. For IRB review, it is important that we demonstrate that members who have been using the Listserv support this research and that their privacy will be protected.

If you want to join this research initiative or if you have any suggestions or concerns about this project, please contact tecpd@sacme.org.

AI in CPD Workgroup: Scanning the Field

Recognizing the rapid rise of artificial intelligence in healthcare education, we have launched a new *AI in CPD Workgroup*. Its first task is to scan what others in CPD are already doing with AI, so that our group's activities build on lessons learned and inform SACME's broader strategy.

Shaping the Future Together

The TECPD Committee's recent work reflects SACME's commitment to balancing infrastructure, scholarship, and innovation. With NoviAMS set to strengthen our operations, listserv research poised to generate new scholarly insights, and the AI workgroup scanning the horizon, we are laying the groundwork for SACME's next chapter. We encourage members to engage with these initiatives—by joining a workgroup, sharing their perspectives, or shaping the research agenda—so that we can continue to advance the Technology-enhanced CPD field together.



Building Research and Program Evaluation Capacity in CPD: Introducing the Virtual Research Roundtable Series

By Martin Tremblay PhD, Scholarship Committee

For many SACME members, the desire to engage in CPD scholarship is strong—but knowing where to begin can be daunting. Questions around research design, evaluation methods, and identifying the right collaborators often create barriers to getting started. In response to this growing need for accessible, practice-focused guidance, the SACME Scholarship Committee proudly launched the *Virtual Research Roundtable (VRR)* series earlier this year.

This new initiative aims to build and strengthen CPD scholarship capacity among our members, while fostering a supportive platform where seasoned researchers and aspiring scholars alike can connect, exchange ideas, and explore potential collaborations. Unlike our Annual Meeting sessions, which typically highlight completed research or exemplary programs, or our popular Virtual Journal Clubs that focus on discussing key publications, the VRR series offers something distinct: practical, interactive conversations on how to conduct research and program evaluation in our field.

The VRR series also serves as a valuable complement to SACME's **CPD Scholarship Program**, launched during the 2025 Annual Meeting (<https://sacme-cpdscholarship.org/>). For those unfamiliar with this initiative, the year-long program is designed to build foundational and advanced competencies in CPD research and program evaluation. Its core objectives are to:

- Provide a strong grounding in research and evaluation methodologies relevant to CPD
- Develop practical skills in data collection, analysis, presentation, and publication
- Support participants in developing their own CPD research or evaluation projects

Together, the CPD Scholarship Program and the VRR series form a cohesive effort to enhance the scholarly capacity of our membership and promote excellence in CPD scholarship. Our inaugural lineup started with *AI: Friend or Foe in CPD Research?* In July, and featured Eleftherios Soleas,

Assistant Adjunct Professor and Director of Continuing Professional Development at Queen's University, which explored the evolving role of artificial intelligence in research design, data analysis, and ethical considerations unique to CPD context. This was followed in September by Getting Started with Qualitative Research Methods in which Nicolas Fernandez, Associate Professor in the Department of Family Medicine and Emergency Medicine at the Faculty of Medicine, Université de Montréal, provided guidance on research design, data collection, and navigating methodological decisions in CPD settings. Upcoming sessions to watch out for include:

- **Tips and Tricks to Submit a Research Grant**
Morag Paton and Mahan Kulasegaram
Wednesday, November 5, noon–1 pm ET
Learn the essentials of preparing a competitive research grant proposal, from articulating research aims to budget planning, avoiding pitfalls, and assembling a strong team.
- **Where Do I Start? Meaningful Inclusion of People with Lived Experience in CPD Research**
Edeline Mitton, Holly Harris, and Sophie Soklaridis
Wednesday, December 10, noon–1 pm ET
This session will explore how to authentically involve patients, learners, and other stakeholders in CPD research to enhance its relevance and impact.

- **CPD Meets QI: Opportunities for Research Alignments and Synergies**

Joanne Goldman and Sharisse Arnold

Thursday, January 22, 2026, noon–1 pm ET

Discover how CPD and quality improvement can intersect to generate collaborative, systems-focused research with practical implications.

Importantly, participation in VRR sessions counts toward **SACME's Certification of Recognition** program (<https://www.sacme.org/certificate>), which acknowledges members' ongoing commitment to professional development and scholarly engagement.

Whether you're just beginning your research journey or seeking to deepen your skills and expand your network, we invite you to join us in these sessions. The Virtual Research Roundtable series is more than just an educational offering, it's meant to be a community-driven space for learning, mentorship, and inspiration in CPD scholarship.



Updates from the AAMC

By Lisa Howley, MEd, PhD Senior Director, Transforming Medical Education
lhowley@aamc.org @LisaDHowley

Health misinformation and disinformation continue to erode public trust and complicate clinical decision-making. Vaccine misinformation and unfounded claims about treatments, underscore the urgent need for clinicians to engage patients in open, evidence-based conversations about prevention and care. Last year, the AAMC, in partnership with the CDC, concluded a multi-institutional initiative designed to mitigate health misinformation through medical education.

While the project has ended, the curricular resources it produced remain highly relevant. For the CME/CPD community, these materials offer timely, evidence-informed strategies to strengthen clinician communication skills, support patient education, and foster trust in prevention measures. Integrating these tools into continuing education can help ensure clinicians are prepared to address misinformation confidently and competently. Explore the resources here: [AAMC Mitigating Health Misinformation Resources](#) and then please share your feedback about their use in your local educational programs!

Below are several updates that are relevant to our colleagues in continuing medical education and continuing professional development. Feel free to reach out with questions or suggestions to cme@aamc.org or lhowley@aamc.org

Select AAMC Offerings, Initiatives, and Resources

MedEdPORTAL Celebrates 20 Years as the AAMC's Journal of Teaching and Learning Resources

Since its inception in 2005, MedEdPORTAL has published more than 3,000 peer-reviewed teaching and learning resources. *MedEdPORTAL* publications are stand-alone, complete modules that have been implemented and evaluated with physician trainees or practitioners. A MEDLINE-indexed journal, *MedEdPORTAL* is searchable in PubMed and Scopus, and there are no fees to submit, publish, read, or download. The Author Development Program offers free expert coaching to

help authors prepare submissions. Learn more at med-edportal.org, and follow @MedEdPORTAL on X (formerly Twitter) and @mededportal.bsky.social on Bluesky to stay up to date on the latest from the journal.

Learn from Experts and Engage with Colleagues: Artificial Intelligence (AI) Offerings

The landscape of AI is quickly evolving. Advances in this technology have led to new opportunities across academic medicine as well as questions and challenges around best practices and ethical use. The AAMC has several upcoming opportunities for learning and networking as well as new resources to guide your use of AI, including a [webinar series](#), a [virtual community](#), a [collection of practical tools and resources](#), and recently updated guiding principles for the use of AI [in medical education](#) and [in medical school and residency selection](#). [Learn more about what else is happening at the AAMC.](#)

New Resources on Nutrition Education for Medical Schools

According to a recent survey, 100% of responding U.S. and Canadian medical schools include nutrition in their required curricula—up from 89% five years ago. A [new AAMC data snapshot](#) illustrates an increased emphasis on teaching medical students about the role of diet in preventing and treating chronic disease, with full integration across all four years on the horizon. In addition to this new report, the AAMC created a [resource bundle](#) that offers a range of curated tools and resources to help medical educators further strengthen nutrition curricula.

StandPoint™ Surveys data highlight opportunities to support women faculty

Recent AAMC StandPoint™ Surveys data show that women faculty often report different experiences than



their colleagues. Women faculty were more likely to report burnout, dissatisfaction with advancement opportunities, concerns about promotion fairness, and higher rates of harassment and disrespect compared with their colleagues. These findings highlight challenges as well as opportunities; by sharing their perspectives, women faculty provide a road map for medical schools to strengthen career development opportunities, expand mentoring support, and foster a healthier workplace culture. The most recent State of Medical School Faculty Engagement report further explores these insights and how schools are using StandPoint Surveys to drive meaningful change. [Read More](#)

Advance Your Career as a Medical Education Researcher and Scholar

The AAMC's Scholar Development Pathway guides you through each stage of your scholarly journey, from building essential skills as an author and reviewer to leading at the national level. This flexible framework allows you to progress step by step or to focus on specific areas that match your career goals. [Explore the pathway and discover resources to support your growth.](#)

Learn Serve Lead 2026: The AAMC Annual Meeting Call for Submissions in Medical Education

Deadline: December 1, 2025, at 11:59 PM PT
The AAMC is accepting submissions for Learn Serve Lead 2026: The AAMC Annual Meeting, to be held November 6-10, 2026, in Anaheim, California. Learn Serve Lead (LSL) is open to all those engaged in advancing academic medicine and brings together our medical school and teaching hospital community from across campuses, across disciplines, and across missions. The call for medical education submissions consists of three types: 1. Sessions on Medical Education 2. Medical Education Innovation Abstracts 3. Medical Education Research Abstracts

- [Submission Guidelines](#)
- [Submission Portal](#)

2026 Call for Research in Medical Education (RIME) Papers

Deadline: December 1, 2025, at 11:59 PM PT
The 2026 Call for Research in Medical Education (RIME) Papers consists of two types: (1) Research Papers and (2) Review Papers. Accepted papers will be presented at Learn Serve Lead 2026 and published in

Academic Medicine. The Submission Portal will open on October 20, 2025. Work focused on a wide variety of themes incorporating a broad representation of topics, institutions, and presenters will be selected. Please email educationalaffairs@aamc.org with any questions.

- [Submission Guidelines](#)
- The Submission Portal will open on October 20, 2025.

Save the Date for the “2026 Emerging Technologies for Teaching and Learning: Digital Demonstrations Virtual Conference”

February 4-5, 2026 | Virtual

We received excellent feedback to last year's inaugural Digital Demonstrations Virtual Conference, so we are bringing it back for Feb. 4-5, 2026! Save the date on your calendars. Stay tuned - the Call for Proposals is opening soon! [Save the Date](#)

Join the GEA Virtual Community - Connect with your Med Ed Peers Online!

The Group on Educational Affairs is now on the [AAMC Virtual Communities](#). Request an account and join the group to ask questions, access resources, and learn about new opportunities to engage with faculty and staff across UME, GME, and CPD. [Click here](#) to request an account, and join the GEA when your account is activated. You do not need to be at an AAMC member organization to join the GEA Virtual Community.



**Association of
American Medical Colleges**
655 K Street, N.W., Suite 100, Washington, D.C. 20001-2399
T 202 828 0400
www.aamc.org

Communications and Marketing Committee Report

By Cindy Juarez, Managing Director, Office of Continuing Professional Education
Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center El Paso

The fall season is upon us, and we are entering that wonderful period where leaves are changing and nature is getting ready for its dormant season. This period of transition mimics the transitional period many of us in academic institutions experience as we move past the excitement of the semester's start and settle into the heart of the academic year — a time of reflection, adjustment, and renewed focus.

We in the Communications and Marketing Committee are also coming to a time of change and opportunity. Much like the academic calendar, this season marks a period of evaluation and recalibration for the committee - a chance to pause, assess where we are, and plan for what's ahead. In that spirit, we are seeking feedback from our SACME membership as we look to reset, update, and reinvigorate our publications to ensure they continue to meet the evolving needs of our community.

We have launched a quick survey to obtain your feedback about our publications, and we very much would

like to hear from you. Please take a moment to [fill out the survey](#) to share your thoughts and ideas - your input will help guide our efforts to refresh, strengthen, and better align our communications with the needs of our SACME community.

Finally, I encourage all members to take an active role within SACME by joining one of our standing committees - Communications & Marketing, Finance, Program, Scholarship, or Strategic Affairs. Our organization thrives because of your enthusiasm and commitment. Sharing your feedback through the survey is a wonderful way to get involved and help shape the future of our publications, but there are also many other opportunities to contribute your time and talents. As the season continues to unfold, the Communications and Marketing Committee is excited to grow, collaborate, and embrace new opportunities within SACME.

Manning Award: Call for Proposals

The Society for Continuing Medical Education (SACME) is announcing the call for proposals for the Phil R. Manning Research Award in Continuing Professional Development. Made in the name of Phil R. Manning, MD, the founding president of SACME, the grant provides funding up to \$50,000 (USD) available over two years for projects that support scientific research for the advancement of any of the following fields: Continuing Medical Education, Continuing Professional Development, Interprofessional Education, Faculty Development, Patient Safety, Knowledge Translation, and/or Quality Improvement.

There is a two-step application process. **Letters of intent are due December 1, 2025, at 11:59 EST.** After an initial review process, selected applicants will be invited to submit a full proposal due in April or May of 2026. For more information, application criteria, and submission instructions, please [click here](#).

Updates from ACCME

Registration Open For Fall 2025 Cohort Of The ACCME Certificate Programs

Registration for ACCME's Certificate Program Fall 2025 cohort is open through Friday, October 17, 2025. The fall cohort begins Monday, November 10, 2025. If you're a continuing education (CE) professional looking to deepen your expertise and drive operational excellence, this is your chance to join a dynamic learning experience designed specifically to support your growth, and that of your organization.

The two certificate programs being offered are:

- **Certificate in Data Management for Accredited CE:** Strengthen your ability to use the Program and Activity Reporting System (PARS), enhance data quality, and streamline reporting processes.
- **Certificate in Implementing the Standards for Integrity and Independence in Accredited CE:** Gain practical tools and strategies to protect learners, maintain independence, and ensure alignment with accreditation expectations.

Each program features 15 hours of self-paced learning on ACCME Academy, plus two support webinars and a remote-proctored final assessment, all crafted to deliver real-world skills you can apply immediately. Upon completion, you'll earn an official ACCME certificate, validating your competence and supporting your career advancement.

For complete program details and updates, visit the [ACCME Certificate Program website](#).

If you have questions, contact education@accme.org.

Podcasts



[Coffee with Graham —Trust, Verified: What Boards and CME Must Deliver](#)

Furman McDonald, MD, MPH, President and CEO of the American Board of Internal Medicine (ABIM), joins ACCME President and CEO, Graham McMahon, MD, MMSc, to reflect on 10 years of collaboration between ACCME and ABIM. [Listen in](#) as they articulate the distinct and complementary roles of certification and accredited CME, and make the case for rigorous, trusted systems of physician accountability and lifelong learning.

[Almanac Spotlight: Accreditation Myths That Limit Innovation](#)

In this episode of the Alliance for Continuing Education in the Health Professions Podcast, Alliance Podcast Task Force Member Andrea Zimmerman, EdD, CHCP, chats with

ACCME Vice President of Accreditation and Recognition Dion Richetti. [Listen in](#) as they discuss accreditation myths and misconceptions that can hinder creativity and diversity in continuing education and how accreditation bodies can avoid these pitfalls.

Important Dates

Healthcare Continuing Education Professionals Day

Start planning now for Healthcare Continuing Education Professionals Day, a day to recognize and show our appreciation for CE professionals. On January 23, 2026, organizations will join together in celebrating professionals who keep healthcare providers at the forefront of medical knowledge and patient care.



Learn to Thrive 2026

[ACCME's Learn to Thrive 2026](#) is set for May 6-8 at the Hyatt Regency Chicago. Learn to Thrive is an essential professional development opportunity to help you discover actionable strategies that will optimize your role in helping clinicians deliver quality patient care.

Membership Committee Update

By Liane Giles LeBlanc, Membership Committee Chair, OHSU School of Medicine

As we continue to grow our vibrant community of continuing medical education professionals, I'm excited to share an important update that reflects SACME's commitment to global inclusivity and equity.

Beginning this quarter, SACME is proud to introduce a **membership discount for individuals residing in Lower Middle Income Countries (LMICs)**, as defined by the World Bank. This initiative is designed to reduce barriers to participation and foster a more diverse and representative membership. We believe that expanding access to SACME's resources, networking opportunities, and professional development offerings will enrich our collective work and strengthen the global impact of continuing professional development.

This new LMIC discount aligns with SACME's strategic goals of promoting international collaboration and supporting educators and leaders in all regions. We encourage current members to share this opportunity with colleagues and partners abroad who may benefit from joining our community.

For more details on eligibility and how to apply, please visit the SACME membership page or reach out to our Membership Committee directly.

Thank you for your continued engagement and support. Together, we are building a more inclusive and impactful future for medical education.

SACME CPD Scholarship Program: The Participant View

A Conversation with Rose Desilets, Mass General Brigham, Part II

From first article:

The SACME CPD Scholarship program, *Advancing Research and Evaluation in Health Professional Education*, kicked off at our 2025 meeting in Washington D.C. and is now almost halfway through its first iteration. The program consists of a series of sessions designed to enhance skills in CPD evaluation and research. We've checked in with one participant – Rose Desilets, a SACME member who works in the office of Continuing Professional Development at Mass General Brigham, to learn more about the program from the participant's side.

A significant part of the program is development of an individual research project to help participants apply the skills conveyed in the program. Rose had a question about activity evaluations. Specifically, she wondered if evaluations miss anything that we could learn about the learners themselves. "We do a lot of different types of activities...and we tend to evaluate them all in a similar way", she explained, but pondered, "is there meaning for the learner? Over time, have our programs helped learners in their jobs and careers?"

So, Rose has set out a plan to explore how learners might become more involved in the evaluation process and ultimately make the process more meaningful for both planners and participants. She's starting with a series of conversations with learners and course directors to see

(a) how they actually use evaluation data, and (b) if the standard evaluation process misses anything that's important for the learner to provide feedback on.

"There's a lot of different roles coming together in some of our activities – interventionists and no-interventionists, ambulatory and in-patient care workers...they're not all there for the exact same reason". Rose recognizes the difficulty in creating targeted evaluations that aren't so exhaustive that they hinder response but feels that it's worth investigating the possibilities and more feedback from both sides of the process can't hurt.

She plans to conduct these discussions with learners, course directors, and various medical professionals over the next few months to understand their perspectives and needs regarding evaluation timing and content. The goal is to balance mandatory accreditation requirements with additional feedback opportunities that won't burden participants. As she puts it, "if you're asking the wrong questions of people, then the data you get back are not going to be as useful as they could have been."

On the program itself, she adds "my job isn't research-focused, so I haven't picked up anything that has directly impacted my day-to-day, but I've learned a new way of thinking and approaching problems." Next time we'll check in to see what Rose learned from her interviews and get some reflections as the program draws to a close.



Updates from the ABMS

By Greg Ogrinc, MD, MS

Senior Vice President, Certification Standards and Programs



As the leading organization for physician board certification, the American Board of Medical Specialties (ABMS) provides the expertise, insights, and support to elevate the discipline of specialty medicine. Given that much of our work intersects with continuing medical education and continuing professional development, we are providing the following relevant updates.

ABMS REF Announces Recipients of 2025 Research Grants

The ABMS Research and Education Foundation (REF) recently announced the recipients of its 2025 research grants. In its second year, the program awarded two-year grants representing \$300,000 in funding.

The grant program represents a continued commitment by the ABMS REF to support research into the process of achieving and maintaining high certification standards. The independent investigators will look at the effects of board certification on patient care and the specific role that continuing certification plays. The results of their work, expected to be presented at ABMS Conference 2027, will help inform further enhancements to the ABMS Member Boards' programs and their efforts

to improve the quality of health care through professional standards.

Recipients of this year's grants are:

- Jenny X. Chen, MD, EdM, Assistant Professor, Johns Hopkins School of Medicine – *Developing and Validating a Professionalism Instrument for Otolaryngology - Head and Neck Surgery*
- Alison N. Huffstetler, MD, Assistant Professor, Virginia Commonwealth University – *Morbidity and Mortality for Birthing Individuals: Understanding the Impact of Family Medicine Perinatal and Obstetric Fellowships on Perinatal Care in the US*
- Brenessa M. Lindeman, MD, MEHP, Associate Professor of Surgery and Medical Education, Assistant Dean for Graduate Medical Education, University of Alabama at Birmingham – *Entrustable Professional Activities to Inform Competency-Based Board Admissibility in Surgery*

- Yoon Soo Park, PhD, Ilene Harris Professor and Department Head of Medical Education, University of Illinois College of Medicine – *Enhancing Residency-Fellowship Transition: Exploring the Role of Board Certification and Milestones Competency Ratings as Feedback for Learner Preparedness*

ABMS Announces Record Number of ABMS Scholars for 2025-2026 Cohort

ABMS has selected 18 outstanding individuals to participate in its 2025-2026 [Scholars Program](#)TM.

Established in 2014, this one-year, part-time program supports early-career physicians and researchers in scholarship and leadership development focusing on initial and continuing board certification. This year, each ABMS Scholar receives a \$15,000 financial award for research in artificial intelligence, competency-based evaluation, patient outcomes, and diagnostic excellence, among other proposed research topics relevant to the ABMS mission and the certification community.

Program participants remain at their home institutions; collaborate with self-selected mentors; and participate in monthly virtual sessions with research project-in-progress updates to peers, mentors, subject matter experts, and ABMS Scholar alumni.

This ABMS Scholars cohort began in September 2025, and the Scholars' term will culminate at ABMS Conference 2026, where they will present their research before a national audience. [Read who the 2025-2026 ABMS Scholars are and the focus of their research projects.](#)

ABMS Announces New BOD, Executive Committee Members

ABMS recently announced the transition of J. Brantley Thrasher, MD, FACS, to Chair of its [Board of Directors](#) (BOD).

Dr. Thrasher succeeds Rebecca L. Johnson, MD, who served as Board Chair from 2023 to 2025. Dr. Johnson will now serve as Immediate Past Chair.

Dr. Thrasher has served on the ABMS BOD since 2019. He is the William L. Valk Distinguished Professor, former Chair of the Department of Urology, and the Co-Director of Operative Services at the University of

Kansas Medical Center in Kansas City. Board certified by the American Board of Urology, he went on to become its Vice President and now serves as its Executive Director. Dr. Thrasher is a Past-President of the American Urological Association, the Society of Urology Chairpersons and Program Directors, and the Society of Urologic Oncology, as well as a previous member of the Residency Review Committee for Urology. In addition to giving more than 400 presentations at local, national, and international meetings, he has written 200-plus manuscripts, book chapters, and monographs in the field of urology.

In addition to Drs. Thrasher and Johnson, the BOD elected the following officers to new roles in 2025:

- Chair-Elect: Susan M. Ramin, MD, former Associate Executive Director, American Board of Obstetrics and Gynecology
- Secretary-Treasurer: Warren P. Newton, MD, MPH, President and Chief Executive Officer, American Board of Family Medicine

The BOD also welcomed the following new board members:

- Azra Ligon, PhD, FACMG, Chief Executive Officer, American Board of Medical Genetics and Genomics (February 2025)
- Furman McDonald, MD, MPH, President and Chief Executive Officer, American Board of Internal Medicine (September 2024)

SAVE THE DATE: ABMS Conference 2026

ABMS Conference 2026 will be held Sept. 16-18 at the Loews Chicago O'Hare in Rosemont, Ill. To be notified about speakers, registration, and other information, [sign up for ABMS Conference updates.](#)

Why (and Why Not) Join a SACME Committee – Insights from My Experience as Chair of the Scholarship Committee

By Martin Tremblay, PhD, Chair, Scholarship Committee

As I come to the end of my mandate as Chair of the Scholarship Committee at SACME, I find myself reflecting on the past four years with a mix of pride, gratitude, and perspective. The opportunity to lead a group of dedicated and inspiring colleagues through an exciting, sometimes challenging, and ultimately rewarding journey has been one of the most enriching experiences of my professional life.

The Privilege of Collaboration

At the heart of this experience has been the privilege of working with the incredible members of the Scholarship Committee. I want to particularly acknowledge the tireless contributions of Jessica Walter, our Vice Chair, whose leadership, insight, and reliability have been invaluable. Alongside her, our subcommittee chairs and vice chairs over the years (Helena Felipe, Tanya Horsley, Asha Maharaj, Morag Paton, Janine Shapiro, Nikhita Singhal, Sanjeev Sockalingam, Sophie Socklaridis, and Nathaniel Williams) have brought a level of expertise and passion that made everything possible. I am grateful to each member for the Scholarship Committee for their time, ideas, and camaraderie.

From Challenge to Opportunity

When I accepted the role of Chair, the committee was facing some structural and engagement challenges. Like many academic groups, we had talented individuals around the (virtual) table, but we needed to reimagine how we organized ourselves and how we could better engage members. Together, we reviewed our structure, clarified roles, and streamlined communication channels to better support our mission.

Accomplishments That Make Me Proud

What we have achieved together over the past four years is something I take great pride in. We maintained the continuity of several core activities that are fundamental to our Society:

- **Virtual Journal Clubs** that facilitate scholarly discussion and promote evidence-informed practice in CPD.
- **Annual Meeting** support, including abstract review, presentation ratings, and ensuring rigorous scholarship representation.
- Our steady involvement in the **Manning grant process**, the flagship CPD grant of our Society.

At the same time, we took the time to explore new ideas. I am especially proud of the **Virtual Research Roundtables**, designed to enhance members' skills in research and program evaluation. The development of the **CPD Scholarship Program** with Joyce Fried and David Wiljer was another significant step forward, offering structured education and mentorship for members who want to grow their research capacity.

In collaboration with Janine Shapiro, I had the pleasure of helping to launch the **Certificate of Recognition**, an initiative designed to acknowledge individuals who have actively engaged with SACME's CPD scholarship education offerings.

Additionally, our committee regularly supported the **Program Committee** by suggesting potential themes for the Annual Meeting, an activity that kept us attuned to emerging trends and ensured CPD scholarship was meaningfully represented across SACME programming.

We also took time to conduct **brainstorming sessions with scholars** to identify hot topics and emerging trends to guide our work in supporting the community. These sessions fostered vibrant discussions and led to important insights about where our discipline is heading.

In 2026, we will be launching **SACME SPARKS – Summaries of Peer-recommended Articles on Research and Knowledge for Scholars**. SACME SPARKS is a series of short, AI-powered audio summaries of key articles in CPD recommended by peers. The goal is to pro-

vide a fun and accessible entry point to key literature, encouraging members to explore and read the full articles themselves.

Finally, our committee has served as a key resource to the **SACME Board of Directors**, offering guidance on any questions or initiatives related to CPD scholarship. This connection with leadership has reinforced the importance of our work and allowed us to contribute to our Society's mission.

So Why Join a SACME Committee?

Looking back, I want to offer some encouragement to any of you who are considering joining a SACME committee or are on the fence about taking on a leadership role. It is a time commitment. It *does* require effort. But in return, you gain so much more than you give.

Personally, and professionally, I can't overstate the value I have found in this experience:

- I had the chance to **improve my own research skills** through meaningful collaboration with key leaders in CPD.
- I refined my skills to **lead complex initiatives**, often in partnership with chairs of other SACME committees across the continent.
- I met a wonderful group of **friendly, thoughtful, knowledgeable colleagues** who have now become collaborators and friends.
- **My professional network** expanded in ways I did not anticipate, both within SACME and beyond.

- The connections I made have led to **collaborative projects** that have directly benefited my own institution.
- And perhaps most importantly, I have the feeling that I had the opportunity to shape the dialogue and to **advocate for scholarship in CPD**.

...And Why Not?

I titled this piece "Why (and Why Not)" join a committee because it is fair to acknowledge some downsides. If you are overcommitted, maybe it's not the time, yet. If you are thinking of a passive role, it might not be the best fit for you. Committee work, especially at SACME, thrives on active participation. But if you have a small spark of interest (and time), follow it! The return on time investment is tremendous.

Final Thoughts

As I pass the torch to the next Chair of the Scholarship Committee in March 2026, I do so with immense gratitude. To the SACME leadership who trusted me, to the committee members who inspired me, and to the broader community who engaged with our work, thank you!

If you are considering getting involved, don't hesitate. SACME needs your voice, your ideas, your energy. And you might just find, as I did, that it becomes a meaningful part of your professional (and personal) journey.

Disclosure: I used generative AI to help draft this article.





INTERCOM

INTERCOM is published three times a year by the Society for Academic Continuing Medical Education, Executive Director Office, 35 East Wacker, Suite 850, Chicago, Illinois 60601-2106; Telephone (312) 224-2522; Fax (312) 644-8557 Email info@sacme.org.

The views expressed in the INTERCOM are those of the authors and are not intended to represent the views of SACME or its members.

EDITORS

Ronan O'Beirne, EdD – Editor

Cindie Garza – Co-Editor

Laura Fisher - Graphic Designer

SACME BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Linda Caples, PhD – President

Suzan Schneeweiss, MD, MEd, FRCPC– President-Elect

Lori Deitte, MD – Vice President

Kimberly Northrip MD, MPH – Past President

Jennifer Reino, CHCP – Treasurer

Natalie Sanfratello, MPH– Secretary

Jerry Maniate, MD, MEd, FRCPC, FACP, CCPE,
CPC(HC) – Canada Representative

Barbara Anderson, MS – Central Representative Linda

Baer, MPH, CHCP – Northeastern Representative

Adrienne Ross, MEd, CHCP – Southern Representative

Jessica Walter, Ed.D, M.A. – Western Representative

Cynthia Juarez, M.A., M.Sc – Communications and
Marketing Committee Chair

Liane Giles LeBlanc. BS, MS-HCA – Membership
Committee Chair

Jennifer Alessi, MA, CHCP – Program Committee Chair

Martin Tremblay – Scholarship Committee Chair

Vjekoslav Hlede, PhD, DVM, CHCP - Technology-
Enhanced CPD Committee Chair

David Wiljer, PhD – Strategic Affairs Committee Chair

Joyce Fried – Special Advisor to the Board

Tri-Group Representatives (ACEHP, AHME, SACME)

Linda Caples, Suzan Schneeweiss, Joyce Fried