

1 **VERMONT MEDICAL SOCIETY RESOLUTION**

2 **Supporting Funding and Positions for Graduate Medical Education in Vermont**

3 *Adopted October 25, 2014*

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7 Whereas, the presence of an academic medical center that trains physicians in Vermont benefits the
8 health care delivery system, the economy, and scientific research, and enables Vermont to offer cutting
9 edge care; and

10 Whereas, the UVM College of Medicine accesses millions of dollars in research funding due to its
11 association with the academic medical center, Fletcher Allen Health Care (FAHC), research funding that
12 not only directly supports research jobs, but also generally benefits the Vermont economy; and

13 Whereas, a top-ranked medical school affiliated with a top-ten academic medical center that provides
14 outstanding high quality tertiary patient care to the region, supports a high-quality, stable health care
15 delivery system statewide, helps to attract businesses to Vermont, and assures employers that their
16 employees will be able to access cutting edge care, and,

17 Whereas, the academic medical center raises the knowledge base of all practitioners in Vermont,
18 through professional collaboration, patient consultations, preceptorship programs, and CME programs
19 available to all community physicians; and

20 Whereas, physicians who train in Vermont are more likely to remain in Vermont to practice¹, and the
21 physician workforce in Vermont is aging, with about 38% of the physicians in Vermont age 55 or over
22 as of 2010;² and

23 Whereas, Medicare provides the bulk of graduate medical education (GME) funding in Vermont, with
24 FAHC providing the remainder, while Medicaid and commercial payers in Vermont do not currently
25 support GME; and

26 Whereas, as Vermont seeks to design a universal access health care system, it will become the
27 responsibility of all citizens to support medical education and graduate medical education to ensure a
28 stable and high quality health care workforce for the health care delivery system; and

29 Whereas, community hospitals and physicians play an important role in educating future physicians and
30 encouraging them to practice in all areas of Vermont, by teaching and mentoring medical students and
31 residents;

32 Whereas, in August of 2014, the Institute of Medicine released a report on the governance and
33 financing of Graduate Medical Education: *Graduate Medical Education That Meets the Nation's Health*
34 *Needs*, (IOM Report);³ and

35 Whereas, the IOM Report articulated six goals for the future of GME including (1) Encouraging
36 production of a physician workforce prepared to lead and improve an evolving health care system that
37 provides better individual care, population health, and lower cost; (2) Encouraging innovation in the
38 design of GME programs to improve the health care delivery system; (3) Providing transparency and
39 accountability of GME programs; (4) Clarifying public policy and oversight of GME; (5) Ensuring

¹ Department of Health, Physician Survey 2010, Statistical Report, at page 22
<http://healthvermont.gov/research/HlthCarePrvSrvys/documents/phys10bk.PDF>

² Department of Health Physician Survey 2010, Statistical Report, at page 16
<http://healthvermont.gov/research/HlthCarePrvSrvys/documents/phys10bk.PDF>

³IOM Report Brief, *Graduate Medical Education that Meets the Nation's Health Needs*.
<http://www.iom.edu/~media/Files/Report%20Files/2014/GME/GME-RB.pdf>

1 efficient and effective use of public funds for GME; and (6) Mitigating unintended negative effects of
2 transition from the current GME funding system to a future system; and

3 Whereas, the Council on Graduate Medical Education (COGME)⁴ recommends that any increase in
4 GME funding should be directed towards high-priority specialties, including family medicine, geriatrics,
5 general internal medicine, general surgery, high priority pediatric subspecialties and psychiatry; now
6 therefore be it

7 **RESOLVED, that VMS will work with Fletcher Allen Health Care (FAHC) and the UVM College**
8 **of Medicine to maintain and strategically manage GME positions and GME funding in Vermont**
9 **based on outcomes data and meeting performance standards; and be it further**

10 **RESOLVED, that VMS will work with the Department of Vermont Health Access (DVHA), the**
11 **Vermont Congressional Delegation, private insurers, and the Green Mountain Care Board to**
12 **ensure that all payers support graduate medical education in Vermont; and be it further**

13 **RESOLVED, that VMS will work with Fletcher Allen Health Care (FAHC), the Vermont**
14 **Department of Health, and the UVM College of Medicine to ensure that training programs**
15 **reflect the physician workforce requirements in a reformed health care delivery system, with**
16 **medical education and GME curriculum addressing population health, new models of care**
17 **delivery, quality improvement, and patient safety; and be it further**

18 **RESOLVED, that VMS will work with Fletcher Allen Health Care (FAHC), the UVM College of**
19 **Medicine, the Vermont Association of Hospitals and Health Systems, Vermont hospitals and**
20 **other stakeholders to research the value of expanding residency positions in community**
21 **hospitals, Veterans' Administration programs, and HRSA programs such as, Teaching Health**
22 **Centers, Primary Care Residency Expansion, Children's Hospitals' GME, Preventive Medicine**
23 **Residencies, and the Integrative Medicine Program;⁵ and be it further**

24 **RESOLVED, that VMS will encourage Vermont hospitals and physicians to continue to**
25 **participate in opportunities to teach and act as preceptors for medical students and residents.**

⁴ COGME Twenty-First Report *improving Value in Graduate Medical Education*, August 2013:
<http://www.hrsa.gov/advisorycommittees/bhpradvisory/cogme/Reports/twentyfirstreport.pdf>

⁵ Spero, Fraher, et al, *GME in the United States, a Review of State Initiatives*, September 2013
http://www.shepscenter.unc.edu/wp-content/uploads/2013/09/GMEstateReview_Sept2013.pdf?utm_source=GME%20in%20the%20United%20States%3A%20A%20Review%20of%20State%20Initiatives%20&utm_campaign=GME%20in%20the%20US%3A%20%20A%20Review%20of%20State%20Initiatives&utm_medium=email