

Information



**Association of
American Medical Colleges**
2450 N Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20037-1127
T 202 828 0400 F 202 828 1125
www.aamc.org

Memorandum #13-05

Date: July 1, 2013

To: Board of Directors
Council of Deans
Council of Teaching Hospitals and Health Systems
Council of Faculty and Academic Societies
Medical Center Leaders Caucus
Advisory Panel on Research
Chief Medical Officers Group
Government Relations Representatives
Group on Business Affairs Principal Business Officers
Group on Educational Affairs Research in Medical
Education Representatives
Group on Faculty Affairs
Group on Research Advancement and Development

From: Darrell G. Kirch, M.D., President and CEO

Subject: AAMC Initiative on Research Evaluation; New Resource Released

The current political and economic climate is marked by downward pressures on government spending and rising calls for accountability. Federal investments in biomedical research have not escaped this trend, with policy makers and other stakeholders taking a hard look at returns on investment and seeking assurances that resources are being used efficiently. Pressures to communicate the quality, productivity, and appropriateness of research investments are likely to intensify as budget pressures increase. In this environment, institutional leaders must be able to demonstrate the value of their research portfolio.

To support our member institutions as they consider how to respond, the AAMC, under the leadership of Ann Bonham, Ph.D., AAMC chief scientific officer, commissioned RAND Europe to conduct a systematic review of existing approaches to research evaluation. This report, entitled "[Measuring Research: A Guide to Research Evaluation Frameworks and Tools](#)," summarizes current conceptual models for how biomedical research translates into academic, health, social, and economic impacts, and profiles 14 robust research evaluation initiatives already in use.

This new report is intended to buttress existing respected and credible academic metrics and serve as a starting point for considering a breadth of measures to capture the full value of research and ultimately account for investments in the medical research enterprise. The tools outlined in the report may be useful for advocacy, accountability, analysis, and internal allocation purposes. I believe such tools will be particularly valuable in assessing new and emerging areas of research, as well as in describing how fundamental basic discovery ultimately contributes to advances in patient outcomes.

To build on the report, we've formed two expert panels of key research leaders and knowledgeable stakeholders to discuss how the evaluation tools could be tailored to work within a variety of institutional structures, research missions, and disciplines. We have engaged the team from RAND Europe to facilitate workshops for each expert panel this fall, which will result in a set of research self-evaluation tools and frameworks that will serve as additional resources for the broader AAMC community.

More information on the panels and their rosters, along with the RAND Europe report, an executive summary and a related research brief, is available here: www.aamc.org/researchevaluation. Dr. Bonham welcomes comments on the project and the RAND Europe report, and may be reached at evaluation@aamc.org. Dr. Bonham recently penned a [commentary](#) which outlines the need for this initiative in greater detail, addressing both the challenges and opportunities.

Dr. Bonham also will be leading a Webinar on the project and the new RAND Europe report on Monday, July 8 from 10:00-11:00 a.m. EDT. You can register for the free Webinar at: <http://tinyurl.com/Evaluation-AAMC>.

We hope the tools and frameworks that emerge from this initiative will serve as resources to medical schools, teaching hospitals, and their faculty as they strive to respond to the calls for public accountability for biomedical research investments.