

AAMC PEER REVIEWED EDUCATIONAL REFERENCE CENTER

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A recent report by the AAMC Institute for Improving Medical Education suggest that that medical education has been slow to respond to recent scientific advances, new disease management approaches, changes in the delivery of medicine, or changing societal expectations. One of the major barriers to reform is the fact that medical schools often work independently, without a common mechanism to coordinate and share curriculum reform projects. However, this barrier may be substantially reduced if schools shared instructional materials, planning resources, and strategic implementation advice.

The AAMC is planning an Educational Reference Center to fulfill this need. When fully implemented, this resource will be more than a collection of instructional materials; in addition, it will allow medical schools and faculty to publish and search for new ideas such as sophisticated virtual patients, innovative educational programs, and curriculum reform projects. A peer review process will ensure the quality and usefulness of materials contained within the Reference Center, allowing these educational resources to be recognized as legitimate scholarly products and promoting academic distinction for faculty. The review process will be powered by a peer review management system similar to that used by refereed journals.

To promote discovery of materials, items will eventually be cataloged using standardized objectives, outcomes, or competencies that many specialty societies have already created. Furthermore, items will also include links to specific course and session information within the AAMC Curriculum Management and Information Tool (CurrMIT).

The AAMC hopes that this resource will help medical schools share resources, solutions, and knowledge.