



Morehouse School of Medicine Ranks Number One in Newly Released Study on Producing Primary Care Physicians

Morehouse School of Medicine ranks number one in first-ever study of all U.S. Medical Schools' in producing primary care physicians.

The study, funded with a grant from the Josiah Macy, Jr. Foundation, appears in the June 15 *Annals of Internal Medicine* and examines the record of the nation's medical schools in graduating physicians to meet this new public need. The study, the first to score all U.S. medical schools on their ability to meet a social mission, shows wide variations among institutions in their production of physicians who practice primary care, work in underserved areas, and are minorities.

"Primary care is where it all begins and we know this to be true at Morehouse School of Medicine," said Sandra Harris-Hooker, interim dean and senior vice president for Academic Affairs, vice president and senior associate dean for Research. "Morehouse School of Medicine was established to recruit and train minority and other individuals from disadvantaged backgrounds, regardless of race or ethnicity, as physicians committed to the primary health care needs of the underserved. This study shows the importance of what we do every day at MSM to meet the health-care needs of America and the world."

Meharry Medical College in Nashville, Tenn. and Howard University in Washington, D.C., also historically black schools, ranked second and third, respectively.

"Where doctors choose to work, and what specialty they select, are heavily influenced by medical school," says lead author Fitzhugh Mullan, M.D., a professor of health policy at George Washington University. "By recruiting minority students and prioritizing the training of primary care physicians and promoting practice in underserved areas, medical schools will help deliver the health care that Americans desperately need."

Mullan and his team studied physicians in practice after the completion of all training and national obligations (such as military service or National Health Service Corps placements). The researchers examined data from medical school graduates from 1999 to 2001 and developed a metric called the social mission score to evaluate medical school output. The measurements used were the percentage of graduates who practice primary care, work in health professional shortage areas, and are underrepresented minorities then combined into a composite social mission score.

Previous analyses have used data from the initial residency selection or reported specialty preference of students. However, this study provides the actual career selections of medical school graduates and the health care they currently provide.

The 10 schools with the highest social mission scores (ranked from highest to lowest):

1. Morehouse School of Medicine
2. Meharry Medical College
3. Howard University
4. Wright State University Boonshoft School of Medicine
5. University of Kansas
6. Michigan State University
7. East Carolina University Brody School of Medicine
8. University of South Alabama, Ponce Medical College
9. University of Iowa Carver College of Medicine
10. Oregon Health & Sciences University

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About Morehouse School of Medicine

Morehouse School of Medicine (MSM) recruits and trains minority and other students as physicians, biomedical scientists and public health professionals committed to improving the health and well-being of communities. MSM is a member of the largest consortium of Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) in the world — the Atlanta University Center (AUC). For more information about Morehouse School of Medicine, visit us online at www.msm.edu.