

Florida Board of Governors

Workshop on Medical Education
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There is a general consensus both within the medical education community and among physician workforce analysts that the United States is facing a serious shortage of physicians. The federal Council on Graduate Medical Education (COGME) has recommended that the aggregate supply of physicians should be substantially increased during the next decade. And in order to achieve that goal, COGME has recommended that the number of graduates of U.S. medical schools be increased by 15%. In response, the Association of American Medical Colleges has adopted a policy calling upon its members (all of the country's allopathic medical schools) to increase enrollments by 15%. It is likely that the target figure will be increased to 30% during the year.

Against that backdrop, officials in the State of Florida are considering whether the state should take steps to increase the medical education capacity within the state, and if so, how that should be accomplished. The Florida Board of Governors has been studying these questions for several years. To assist the members of the board as they approach making a decision that will affect how the state will proceed, Dr. Michael Whitcomb has been invited to provide an overview of several key issues that are relevant to the questions now before the board.

Dr. Whitcomb will review data that provide several different rationales for the expansion of undergraduate medical education (UGME) capacity in the state. He will summarize the various strategic approaches that might be used to expand capacity and cite examples of how those strategies have been employed by specific medical schools across the country. He will then discuss issues that relate to the expansion of graduate medical education (GME) capacity in the state. He will explain the financial constraints that must be addressed to increase GME capacity and stress the importance of developing a strategic plan for addressing those constraints, which recognizes the critical importance of timing in the implementation of the plan. Finally, Dr. Whitcomb will discuss the potential effects that various strategies for increasing medical education capacity might have on the delivery of health care in the state and on the state's economy.