



MARCH 2025

NEWSLETTER

Late-Breaking Updates

Suspension of Temporary Protected Status

One of the many new Federal directives related to health care include the cancellation of the Temporary Protected Status (TPS) visa extension that allowed non-U.S. trainees to be legally employed in the U.S. This will potentially impact 17 countries and others on a case-by-case basis, with Venezuela facing the immediate risk and receiving the most scrutiny. For more details, see the recent NY Times article [here](#). The net result of this order is yet unknown but may impact exposed medical trainees who are concerned about deportation and the inability to complete their training. The OPDA Executive Board is monitoring the situation closely and has reached out to Intealth to support a concerted advocacy effort on this issue. We will provide updates as we receive them.

NIH Sets 15% Ceiling for Indirect Cost Rate on NIH Grants

On February 7, 2025, [NIH announced](#) "a standard indirect rate of 15% across all NIH grants for indirect costs in lieu of a separately negotiated rate for indirect costs in every grant." In response, the AAMC released two statements regarding the proposed NIH cuts - one as an initial response to the NIH directive and one as a lawsuit led by the AAMC to halt this directive. The District Court heard arguments on a motion for a preliminary injunction on February 21, 2025.

- [AAMC Lawsuit Results in Nationwide Temporary Restraining Order on Proposed Drastic Cuts to NIH Funding](#). A federal judge grants a [nationwide temporary restraining order](#) after lawsuit led by the AAMC, challenging the legality of the administration's plan to make cuts to federally funded research.
- [AAMC Statement on Drastic Cuts to NIH-Funded Research](#). Drastic cuts to NIH-funded research will diminish the nation's research capacity, slow scientific progress, and deprive patients.

OPDA-AAMC GSA Program Directors Guide for Residency Applicants

This guide is a joint effort between OPDA and AAMC to provide program directors guidance on key specialty-specific application information and resources. The Workgroup met twice already on next steps for v2.0 and decided not to change any of the parameter questions but may streamline some of the questions. The plan is for each PD association to [update its PD Association Guide by May 1, 2025](#) for the 2025 application cycle.

SAVE the dates!

OPDA Spring Virtual Meeting 2025

April 17, 2025,
9 am – 3 pm CST

Registration is free and will open soon in February 2025.

OPDA Fall 2025 Meeting

November 21,
2025, In-person
The Grand Hyatt,
Washington DC



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In Case You Missed It

- The AAMC Electronic Residency Application Service® (ERAS®) program has recently launched the [updated specialty-specific ERAS data for the 2025 season](#) include insights on cross-applications, program signals, geographic preference, and interview data.
- AAMC hosted the webinar, “[Program Signaling and Interview Invitation Findings from the 2025 ERAS Season](#)” on February 17, 2025 for programs to learn more about the ERAS application trends, AAMC research on program signal to interview invitation data, and considerations for this upcoming 2026 ERAS season.
- The American Medical Association announced its next endeavor to improve the health of the nation through medical education. Part of the AMA ChangeMedEd® initiative, the new AMA Transforming Lifelong Learning Through Precision Education portfolio will cultivate and promote democratization of the precision education ecosystem to offer individualized learning that aligns physician education with the needs of patients both now and in the future. Ten projects will receive funding of at least \$1.1 million distributed over four years—with a total AMA investment of \$12 million

The formal application process for the precision education grant program will open on March 18. Single or partnering institutions interested in applying for a grant will submit a letter of intent by April 21. [Learn more](#) about the grant submission process and the AMA’s work in precision education.

- The AAMC Board of Directors is seeking nominations for a junior faculty member to serve a 2-year term, beginning November 2025. A junior faculty member is one who holds a faculty title, is engaged in education, research, or clinical practice at an AAMC-member medical school, and is within the first 10 years of initial faculty appointment. Self-nomination is welcomed from any faculty member who meets the criteria. The self-nomination form requests a cover letter, a CV, two references, and written responses to a few questions in the application form. The deadline for [nomination submissions](#) is March 5 at 11:59 p.m. ET.

Meet your OPDA Executive Board Leaders

Daniel Dent, MD,
Chair



Adena Rosenblatt,
MD, PhD,
Chair-Elect



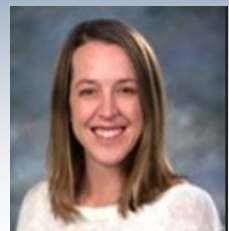
Margaret C. Lo, MD,
Secretary/Treasurer



Jim Anderson, MD,
Member At Large



Andrea Dutoit, MD,
Member At Large





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**Meet your CMSS
& OPDA Staff**

**Suzanne Pope,
MBA**
Senior Advisor



**Sarah Simmons,
MPH**
*Association
Management
Administrator*



In Case You Missed It

- Despite strong rebuttal statements from NADIO and OPDA to OAA and the U.S. Secretary of Veteran Affairs, OPDA has received notification from OAA that the new VA Onboarding process is currently active for any new residents who have not yet undergone VA onboarding. Read the OPDA letter on concerns of the negative consequences of these new VA onboarding process. The new VA onboarding requirements for Health Professional Trainees (HPT) involve:
 - US citizens in the country for 3+ years get Tier 1 background check and 3-year PIV card
 - Tier 1 background check requires fingerprints, online SF-85 questionnaire which VA staff has to agree to review. Trainees will get emails to self-complete online and enter their info directly on this new VA APS.
 - Record of arrest and prosecution background checks. Continuous FBI database checks
 - This process should not prevent residents from working at VA while securing clearances are ongoing in the background, but PDs need to have a plan on what to do if background checks are flagged.
 - Non-US citizens need Federal Record background check and PIV-I card security clearance which will be repeated every 180 days. This will be more resource- and time-intensive
 - They will need to provide info on their VISA, citizenship, appt type at VA, passport info which goes through Federal records check.
 - VA is trying to push this part out so at same time as Visa processing check.