



SEPTEMBER 2025

NEWSLETTER

Late-Breaking Updates

NADIO Effort on New Fellowship Start Date of July 7 or later

The National Associations of DIOs issued strong recommendations for all fellowship programs that start on July 1 to move their start date to July 7 or later starting July 2026. **NADIO and OPDA encourage all to advocate within their PD Association and Sponsoring Organization** and submit to NADIO a proposal on the process to do so. Read attached [NADIO letter](#).

DHS Proposed Rule on “Duration of Status”

On August 28, 2025, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) published a [proposed rule](#) that would replace admission for “duration of status” (D/S) with fixed periods of admission for certain nonimmigrant categories, including J-1 exchange visitors.

Under DHS’s proposal, J-1 exchange visitors (and their J-2 dependents), along with F-1 students and certain other categories, would be admitted only until the program end date listed on the DS-2019 not to exceed four years, plus a 30-day departure period. Individuals who need more time, such as to extend a program, transfer to another program, engage in a fellowship, or complete remediation, must file an extension of stay application with USCIS before their admission expires. This would replace current practice under which Intealth’s renewal of sponsorship extends status without a separate USCIS application.

Intealth believes the current D/S system for J-1 physicians is appropriate and has served medical education and patient care well. Intealth is taking concrete operational steps to mitigate potential disruptions. Intealth are preparing process changes that would allow us to issue Forms DS-2019 to cover multi-year periods where appropriate, and to implement efficient internal workflows to support programs and physicians in the event the rule is finalized in modified form. These steps are intended to reduce administrative friction for programs and trainees and to protect patient continuity of care.

DHS will accept public comments and may revise the text in response to feedback. **OPDA encourages all OPDA representatives to have their Program Director Associations submit a public response at [Federal Register](#)**. Intealth is happy to assist partners with their draft comment letter or talking points for outreach. Intealth plans to push out additional information and will share their own comment letter.

**REGISTRATION
OPEN Week of
Sept 8, 2025!**

OPDA Fall 2025

Meeting

Nov. 19, 2025

In-person

Hyatt Regency

Capitol Hill

Washington DC

[Register HERE!](#)

SAVE the dates!

OPDA Spring Virtual Meeting 2026

Specific date TBD,
occurring during
the CMSS Spring
Meeting

April 7-9, 2026

Registration will
be FREE so please
attend!



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OPDA-AAMC-AMA Program Directors Guide for Residency Applicants version 2.0 Live!

Thanks to all who submitted their updated PD Association Guide for 2025 application cycle 2025. Each guide is available for view on [OPDA website](#). For the societies who have not yet submitted their guide, feel free to reach out to OPDA Staff. This guide is an ongoing joint effort between OPDA, AAMC, and most recently AMA to provide program directors guidance on key specialty-specific application information and resources. Version 2.0 also includes a 2025-2026 OPDA PD Guide Spreadsheet Summary of All Specialty Guides which is customizable when reviewing. OPDA and AAMC ask that each OPDA liaison have your PD Association leadership post your specialty-specific PD Guide on your own Program Director Association website. Read the [AMA news article](#).

OAA Response on VA onboarding issues

For those PD associations with issues on the VA onboarding process, the VA Office of Academic Affiliations released the following response:

- Non-U.S. citizens will only be provided with 182-day PIV-I cards. This is not an OAA/VA requirement – it is a federal government requirement that will not change. Sites need to be proactive about tracking PIV expiration. In March, we rolled out a new report that our sites can use to track those dates more easily.
- VA will be rolling out Multi-Factor Authentication and Bring Your Own Device access to VA accounts without needing to be at the VA. These improvements will make maintaining access much easier, in addition to providing access to VA email on the HPT's personal device. (timing potentially next few months)
- Multiple improvements to our Account Provisioning / Deprovisioning system are being rolled out in a few weeks that will make program transfers and account provisioning much easier.
- OAA have an after-action review about the security vetting process beginning next month. Again, these are requirements placed upon us by the federal government and VA security leadership. We are doing our best to support these requirements, but we fully acknowledge that the process is not intuitive.

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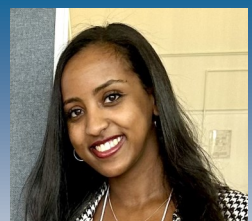
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In Case You Missed It

- The AAMC Electronic Residency Application Service® (ERAS®) program [updated website with latest end-of-season data from the 2025 ERAS year](#), including trends in residency and fellowship applications across specialties, as well as program signaling and interview data. This information offers valuable insight into applicant behaviors and program activity. This in addition to the Residency Explorer tool which added more program and specialty data to empower applicants to make personalized decisions. Through the [AAMC Thalamus collaboration](#), [Cortex is complimentary](#) for all ERAS-participating residency programs and fellowship programs to support holistic application review.
- The AAMC's [Residency Explorer™](#) tool is receiving significant updates in August 2025. New features will include updated GME Track Survey information, enhanced program data, and improved functionality to help both applicants and programs make more informed decisions.
- Residency programs in Internal Medicine, Pediatrics, and Vascular Surgery specialties should indicate their intent to participate (or not participate) in the [NRMP Voluntary Rank Order List Lock Pilot](#) **before September 5**. Log into the R3 system to make your changes. This pilot aims to reduce applicant stress and financial burden by making program lock status visible before site visits. Programs can lock their list any time after ranking opens February 2 and are encouraged to do so by February 9 or 24 hours before the first site visit. Once locked, the list cannot be changed, though this does not affect the final certification deadline. Participation is optional, but encouraged, especially as fewer than 6% of programs have currently enrolled.
- The American Medical Association launched its new AMA Transforming Lifelong Learning Through Precision Education portfolio to cultivate and promote democratization of the precision education ecosystem and offer individualized learning that aligns physician education with the needs of patients both now and in the future. Ten projects received funding of at least \$1.1 million distributed over four years. Projects start in December 2025. [Learn more](#) about AMA's work in precision education.



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In Case You Missed It

- The ACGME will remove the crosswalk documents from its website on September 12, 2025. To retain a copy of these documents, download them as located on the respective [Common Program Requirements](#), [Specialties](#), [Osteopathic Recognition](#), [Sponsoring Institution-Based Fellowships](#), [Non-Standard Training Recognition](#), [Combined Programs](#) and [Institutional Application and Requirements](#) pages of the website.
- ACGME is seeking stakeholder input on revised program requirements for the Transitional Year. [Complete the public survey](#) by September 9, 2025. The Transitional Year Writing Group seeks stakeholder input in several key areas for transitional year programs and programs in [specialties that require a fundamental clinical skill year](#).
- After a task force review of the [Clinical Learning Environment Review \(CLER\) Program](#), which launched in 2012, ACGME will wind down the CLER Program this fall. Participation in CLER site visits is no longer required as a condition of accreditation and no future CLER site visits will be scheduled.
- Over 500 organizations joined together in signing a *Research!America* letter to advocate for at least \$51.3 billion in NIH funding for FY 2026, pushing back against proposed deep cuts. [Read more here.](#)
- Over 67 Organizations signed a letter to the House of Representatives urging prompt reauthorization of the Health Resources and Services Administration's Title VII health professions and Title VIII nursing workforce development programs, which are set to expire at the end of fiscal year 2025. [Read more here.](#)

Volunteer Opportunity: Focus Group for Program Directors

African American Research Collaborative, an independent research firm, is seeking Program Directors from U.S. graduate medical education residency programs to participate in a focus group as part of a national study. This project seeks to understand PDs' perspectives on disciplinary practices and ways to transform the clinical learning environment by building structures to support the success of Black resident physicians. **More information about the study and how to participate will be shared soon.**



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Available & Upcoming Webinars

- To help programs maximize the Cortex tool, ERAS and Thalamus host a six-part virtual learning series. [All session recordings, along with other informational webinars, are available on ERAS website.](#)
- Visit the [CMSS Learning Center](#) for the latest webinars, on-demand session recordings, and other educational resources.
- Stay up-to-date with AAMC educational resources on [AAMC website](#).