

Stony Brook University Survey on Graduate Medical Education

Stony Brook University Survey on Graduate Medical Education

Dear Colleague,

This is a time of great uncertainty in Graduate Medical Education (GME) largely due to the looming prospect of a decrease in federal support, despite the fact that most observers are predicting an increasing shortage of physicians. In contemplating potential change for funding of GME, we think it is critical to consult institutional leaders.

Accordingly, we are asking you or your designee to participate in a brief but important survey concerning the financing of GME. By way of introduction, I was a medical school Dean and Vice President for health sciences for almost 20 years. Our group has completed previous surveys about GME which have been presented at national meetings and are under review for publication.

This survey has several parts. We will ask you general questions about funding of GME, as well as questions about the potential impact of the reduction of funding upon your institution.

Please know that all responses will be kept strictly confidential and individual institutions will not be identified in any report, in accordance with our Institutional Review Board.

The following procedures will be used in order to keep your responses confidential: Data collected will remain anonymous. To ensure that this research activity is being conducted properly, Stony Brook University's (SBU) Committee on Research Involving Human Subjects and/or applicable officials of SBU, Office for Human Research Protections (OHRP), have the right to review study records, but confidentiality will be maintained as allowed by law. Data will be analyzed without any institutional identifiers and will be reported by relatively large groupings such as hospital size, general geographic location (urban, rural) etc.

It is very important for us to hear from your institution. If you agree to participate, it should take no more than a few minutes of your time. There are no costs to you for participating in this study, and you will not be paid for your participation.

You can leave the program at any point and return at a later time, if you have not completed the survey.

Your participation is valuable, but is completely voluntary. Thank you for your participation in this survey.

If you have any questions about the study, you may contact the Principal Investigator Dr. Norman Edelman, at Norman.Edelman@stonybrook.edu.

Norman H Edelman MD
Professor, Preventive and Internal Medicine
Stony Brook University

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Part 1: Please tell us about your institution

Please indicate your position:

- ☐ Director of Medical Education or equivalent
- ☐ Other (please specify)

Which of the following describes your institution regarding Graduate Medical Education?

- ☐ Sponsor ACGME or AOA residency program
- ☐ Do not sponsor a residency program, but have residents from a sponsoring program
- ☐ There are no residents in this hospital

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Part 1: Please tell us about your institution (Continued)

Does your institution only serve one medical specialty?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

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Part 1: Please tell us about your institution (Continued)

Please indicate in which state is your institution located:

State

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How do you categorize your institution:

- ☐ Urban
- ☐ Suburban
- ☐ Rural

The financial position of your institution is:

- ☐ Dire
- ☐ Unstable
- ☐ Stable

Are you a primary teaching affiliate of a medical school:

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

Are you a secondary teaching affiliate of a medical school:

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

What is your bed capacity?

- ☐ 0-249
- ☐ 250-499
- ☐ 500-750
- ☐ over 750

How many core (first certification) residencies do you have?

- ☐ 1-5
- ☐ 6-10
- ☐ 11-15
- ☐ 16-20
- ☐ over 20

What percentage of your patients are covered by Medicare?

- ☐ Up to 10%
- ☐ 10 to 20%
- ☐ 20 to 30%
- ☐ 30 to 40%
- ☐ Over 40%
- ☐ Don't know

What percentage of your patients are covered by Medicaid?

- ☐ Up to 10%
- ☐ 10 to 20%
- ☐ 20 to 30%
- ☐ 30 to 40%
- ☐ Over 40%
- ☐ Don't know

What percentage of your patients are self-paid?

- ☐ Up to 10%
- ☐ 10 to 20%
- ☐ 20 to 30%
- ☐ 30 to 40%
- ☐ Over 40%
- ☐ Don't know

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Part 2: How can GME be sustained

Despite the almost certain substantial increase in demand for healthcare in the future, all current federal deficit reduction proposals include reductions of support for GME.

Which of the following do you feel are generating unnecessary costs and work. Please check ALL that apply:

- ☐ None, I am satisfied with all the regulations currently in place
- ☐ Mandating significant research time during specialty or subspecialty residency
- ☐ Overly structured work hour rules
- ☐ Unnecessary transitional years
- ☐ Unnecessary requirements of teaching faculty (example: extensive research)
- ☐ Excessive emphasis on documentation of milestones and achievements of competencies
- ☐ Other (please specify)

If there is a reduction of federal funding, which of the following actions would you support to preserve GME programs in the future? Please check ALL that apply:

- ☐ No opinion at the present time
- ☐ An all-payer system (example: mandated allocation for GME from private insurers which are outside of negotiated rates)
- ☐ In view of unequal payments per resident among institutions, redistribution of some Medicare INDIRECT GME reimbursements among hospitals to expand DIRECT reimbursement in order to increase the number of residents trained (example: set a cap on per resident Indirect reimbursement)
- ☐ Redistribution of DIRECT GME reimbursements in order to increase the number of residents trained (example: set a single per resident reimbursement rate from Medicare adjusted only by regional cost of living)
- ☐ Rely more on the trainers to fund residents (example: ask high-end specialists such as cardiologists and radiologists to fund their subspecialty residents)
- ☐ Change governance standards to allow for unpaid residents
- ☐ Given the great attention being paid by lawmakers to reduce support for Medicare, it is no longer a stable way to fund GME. I would favor direct support from the federal government, similar to the system currently in place that supports pediatric residencies in Children's Hospitals
- ☐ None
- ☐ Other comments on financing of GME

Has your institution created a strategic plan to deal with the probability of reduced support for Graduate Medical Education?

- ☒ Yes
- ☐ No

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Part 3: What would your institution do if support for GME were decreased

The following questions are designed to determine what may be the impact of reduced support of GME nationwide. Although we will ask questions pertaining to your institution, please be assured that the data will only be presented in aggregate form without reference to specific institutions or locations.

Current budget proposals for Medicare call for reduction of support of GME by reducing the indirect portion ranging from 10 to 50 percent. At what level of reduction of indirect GME reimbursement would your institution begin to downsize its GME program.

- ☐ 5%
- ☐ 10%
- ☐ 20%
- ☐ 30%
- ☐ 40%
- ☐ 50%
- ☐ None, we would continue our current program even if only direct GME reimbursement were available.

Other (Please Specify)

If you HAD to reduce support, please indicate the order in which you would take the following steps:

	Reduce general support across the board (example: faculty salaries, administrative costs)	Reduce general support for specific programs	Decrease the number of residents you support across the board	Decrease the number of residents you support for specific programs	Eliminate a program
First step	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Second step	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Third step	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Fourth step	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Fifth step	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Other actions you would consider (please specify)

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Part 3: What would your institution do if support for GME were decreased (c...

If you HAD to reduce support for GME and if you chose to reduce support for SPECIFIC residencies, please indicate which of the following actions you would consider taking for the CORE specialties. Please skip ONLY the ones you do not have at your institution:

	None	Reduce general support	Reduce the number of residents	Eliminate the program
Anesthesiology	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Colon and Rectal Surgery	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Dermatology	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Emergency Medicine	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Family Medicine	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Internal Medicine	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Neurological Surgery	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Neurology	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Nuclear Medicine	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Obstetrics and Gynecology	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Ophthalmology	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Orthopedic Surgery	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Otolaryngology	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Pathology- Anatomic and Clinical	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Pediatrics	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Plastic Surgery	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Preventive Medicine	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Psychiatry	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Radiology Diagnostic	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Radiation Oncology	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Surgery	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Thoracic Surgery	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Urology	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Other				

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Part 3: What would your institution do if support for GME were decreased (c...

Would you reduce support for subspecialty programs?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

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Part 3: What would your institution do if support for GME were decreased (c...

If you would choose to reduce support for subspecialty programs, please indicate which of the subspecialties would you reduce support for:

*Please note we have only listed specialties with a relatively large number of subspecialties. In the "Other" box, please list other programs for which you would consider reducing support.

**Please scroll horizontally, to consider all specialties and use the drop down list to identify the subspecialties.

	Anesthesiology	Internal Medicine	Neurology	Orthopedic Surgery	Pathology- Anatomic and Clinical	Pediatrics	Psychiatry	Radiology- Diagnostic
1	<div></div>	<div></div>	<div></div>	<div></div>	<div></div>	<div></div>	<div></div>	<div></div>
2	<div></div>	<div></div>	<div></div>	<div></div>	<div></div>	<div></div>	<div></div>	<div></div>
3	<div></div>	<div></div>	<div></div>	<div></div>	<div></div>	<div></div>	<div></div>	<div></div>
4	<div></div>	<div></div>	<div></div>	<div></div>	<div></div>	<div></div>	<div></div>	<div></div>
Other (please specify)								
<div></div>								

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Part 4: What is the relative value of core programs to your institution (Co...

Please indicate the importance of the following core programs to your institution from an OPERATIONAL and FINANCIAL point of view. Please skip ONLY the ones you do not have at your institution:

	Very low	Low	Moderate	High	Very high
Anesthesiology	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Colon and Rectal Surgery	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Dermatology	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Emergency Medicine	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Family Medicine	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Internal Medicine	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Neurological Surgery	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Neurology	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Nuclear Medicine	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Obstetrics and Gynecology	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Ophthalmology	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Orthopedic Surgery	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Otolaryngology	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Pathology- Anatomic and Clinical	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Pediatrics	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Plastic Surgery	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Preventive Medicine	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Psychiatry	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Radiology Diagnostic	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Radiation Oncology	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Surgery	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Thoracic Surgery	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Urology	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

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Part 4: What is the relative value of core programs to your institution

Please indicate the importance of the following **CORE** programs to your institution from an **EDUCATIONAL** and **PUBLIC SERVICE** point of view. Please skip **ONLY** the ones you do not have at your institution:

	Very low	Low	Moderate	High	Very high
Anesthesiology	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Colon and Rectal Surgery	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Dermatology	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Emergency Medicine	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Family Medicine	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Internal Medicine	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Neurological Surgery	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Neurology	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Nuclear Medicine	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Obstetrics and Gynecology	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Ophthalmology	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Orthopedic Surgery	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Otolaryngology	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Pathology- Anatomic and Clinical	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Pediatrics	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Plastic Surgery	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Preventive Medicine	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Psychiatry	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Radiology Diagnostic	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Radiation Oncology	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Surgery	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Thoracic Surgery	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Urology	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

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Part 5: What would you do if federal support for GME increased

The remaining set of questions contemplate a different scenario.

This survey has been designed in response to the potential reduction of support for Graduate Medical Education. However, there is always a possibility of an increase in funding. The following set of questions focus on how you would propose to deploy these additional funds.

Medicare and Medicaid (where applicable) caps should be raised so that all specialties can expand:

Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly agree
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Medicare and Medicaid (where applicable) caps should be raised only in specialties of public need (example: adult primary care, general surgery, psychiatry)

Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly agree
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Reimbursement per resident should be increased in general to provide enhanced incentives for institutions to support programs:

Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly agree
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Reimbursement per resident should be increased differentially to provide incentives for institutions to support programs which have value to society but are the greatest net cost to hospitals (example: Family Medicine) :

Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly agree
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Please specify which specialties

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End of Survey

We thank you for your participation. The results of the study will be forwarded to you as soon as they are available.

If you would like to receive more information regarding the survey, please contact the Principal Investigator: Norman Edelman, MD, Norman.Edelman@stonybrook.edu.

Please indicate any comments that you may have regarding the survey.