



April 17, 2009

Dear Medical School Dean or Designee:

The American Medical Association (AMA) Advisory Committee on Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, & Transgender (GLBT) Issues reviewed the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, & Transgender Medical Education Assessment (LGBT-MEA) and has identified this as a productive tool to assist in analyzing the current state of medical education on GLBT related health topics in the United States.

Studies indicate that GLBT people are disproportionately at-risk for a variety of medical and mental health conditions. Expanding the ability of future physicians to recognize and appropriately meet the needs of GLBT people will help eliminate these health disparities. Currently, the state of GLBT-related content in both allopathic and osteopathic medical schools is largely unknown. Survey instruments, such as this tool developed by the Stanford University School of Medicine LGBT Medical Education Research Group, will help in serving as a needs assessment when designing future GLBT related medical school curricula.

The LGBT-MEA will assess the breadth and depth of medical education with respect to caring for GLBT people. This research will foster development of practical tools that medical schools can use to evaluate and improve their curricula. It will also help realize the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC) recommendation that all schools “ensure that students master the knowledge, skills, and attitudes necessary to provide excellent, comprehensive care for GLBT patients” (AAMC Recommendations for GLBT Students and Patients, 2007).

**We would encourage medical school administrators from all institutions across the nation to participate in this nationwide study designed to improve patient care.**

For questions or information about the AMA Advisory Committee on GLBT Issues, visit [www.ama-assn.org/go/glbtc](http://www.ama-assn.org/go/glbtc). Questions and comments about the LGBT-MEA can be directed to the Stanford University School of Medicine LGBT Medical Education Research Group at [lgbt@med.stanford.edu](mailto:lgbt@med.stanford.edu).

Thank you for your participation in this important study.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Rebecca Allison, MD".

Rebecca Allison, MD  
Chair, AMA Advisory Committee on GLBT Issues  
American Medical Association