



January 22, 2009

Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, & Transgender (LGBT) Medical Education Research Group
Stanford University School of Medicine
300 Pasteur Drive
MSOB X3C01
Stanford, CA 94304-5404

Re: LGBT Medical Education Assessment Survey

To Whom It May Concern,

The Gay and Lesbian Medical Association (GLMA) is committed to working to ensure equality in healthcare for gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) individuals through patient and provider education, public policy advocacy, and the promotion of research.

LGBT populations experience pronounced health disparities. In addition to commonly known disparities, such as HIV/AIDS, LGBT individuals are also increased risk for certain cancers, substance abuse, violence and victimization, and are often reluctant to seek care or to “come out” to health providers.

Assessing what is taught in medical schools regarding LGBT health is one important step in expanding the ability of future physicians to recognize and appropriately meet the needs of LGBT individuals. In 2007, the AAMC’s Executive Committee approved a series of recommendations to address the needs of LGBT students and patients. Included was a recommendation that “[m]edical school curricula ensure that students master the knowledge, skills, and attitudes necessary to provide excellent, comprehensive care for GLBT patients.”

GLMA supports Stanford University School of Medicine’s LGBT Medical Education Assessment survey, which will help shed light on current practices about how LGBT health information is being presented in medical school curricula. GLMA encourages your institution to participate in this important project.

Sincerely,

Joel Ginsberg, JD, MBA
Executive Director