



Student Osteopathic Medical Association

Commitment to Osteopathic Pride and Excellence

Dear osteopathic medical student:

The Student Osteopathic Medical Association (SOMA) considers the Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender Medical Education Assessment (LGBT-MEA) to be an effective research tool to assess LGBT-related medical topics in medical schools across Canada and the United States. **We encourage you to participate in this important research survey.**

Studies demonstrate that LGBT people are at disproportionately higher risk for many medical and mental health conditions. Expanding education in this area may improve the ability of future physicians to recognize and respond to the needs of LGBT people, which in turn can help to eliminate health disparities. However, little is known about how DO and MD medical schools currently cover LGBT-related content.

The LGBT-MEA is a response to the need for knowledge regarding the state of LGBT-related medical school topics. This survey will assess the breadth, depth, and efficacy of LGBT-related content taught in medical schools in Canada and the United States.

Developed by the Stanford University School of Medicine LGBT Medical Education Research Group (LGBT MERG), the LGBT-MEA will enable development of tools that medical schools can use to evaluate and improve their curricula. In addition, the LGBT-MEA will assist with needs assessments toward the design of LGBT-related medical school curricula. In this way, the LGBT-MEA will 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).

The Student Osteopathic Medical Association is aiding in the distribution of this survey to medical students because we are dedicated to improving lines of communication among the healthcare providers to improve the quality of healthcare. **We encourage medical students from all medical schools in Canada and the United States, regardless of sex, gender identity, gender expression, sexual orientation, personal beliefs, or subject knowledge, to participate in this study designed to improve patient care.**

For more information about SOMA, please visit <http://www.studentdo.com>.

Questions and comments regarding the LGBT-MEA can be directed to the Stanford University School of Medicine LGBT MERG at lgbt@med.stanford.edu. You may also visit their website at <http://med.stanford.edu/lgbt/>.

Thank you for your participation in this important study.

Sincerely,

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National SOMA President

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