

October 2000

Dear Interested Party:

Despite increases in the percentage of minority physicians graduating from U.S. medical schools over the last half century, their representation in the physician workforce still lags behind that of the overall population. This is among the findings in a new report, *Minority Graduates of U.S. Medical Schools: Trends, 1950-1998*, developed by the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC) with support from the Kaiser Family Foundation and The Pew Charitable Trusts.

The report provides trends for the first time in the number of minority medical school graduates and minority physicians, as well as the current practice characteristics of minority physicians. It is the first product from a unique database developed from the archives of medical schools, the AAMC's own data sets, and files from the American Medical Association which, when combined, allow tracking of minority medical graduates and physicians. The main findings of the report include:

- By 1998, minority students represented just over a third of medical school graduates up from about 4% of all U.S. medical school graduates during the 1950s and 1960s;
- Nearly three-quarters of all minority physicians graduated after 1970 and almost half graduated since 1990;
- Despite efforts to increase minority representation in medicine, most minority groups remain underrepresented, in both medical school graduates and the total physician workforce. Blacks, Hispanics and Native Americans—approximately 25% of the US population—accounted for less than 15% of medical school graduates and less than 6% of practicing physicians in 1998.

Additional copies of this report can be obtained from the AAMC by contacting Vivian Harriday at (202) 828-0584. For more information on the Foundation's work in minority health, please contact Marsha Lillie-Blanton, vice president and director of the Access to Care for Vulnerable Populations program at (202) 347-5270. We hope you find this report useful in your work.

Sincerely,

Drew E. Altman, Ph.D.  
President