

2026 Rural and Health Center National Graduate Medical Education (GME) Conference | 8.31-9.02.26

Location: Bethesda North Marriott Hotel & Conference Center, 5701 Marinelli Road, Rockville, MD, 20852-2785

Monday, August 31, 2026

TIME	LOCATION	SESSION	AUDIENCE
8:00 am - 5:00 pm	Lower-Level Registration	Registration Open	All
8:00 am – 9:00 am	Foyer D&E	Networking Breakfast	All
9:00 am - 9:15 am	Salon D&E	Opening Remarks Lori Rodefeld, MS	All
9:15 am – 9:30 am	Salon D&E	RRPD Grantee Testimonial Glenn Gookin, MD, PhD	All
9:30 am – 10:00 am	Salon D&E	State Levers Influencing Rural and Health Center GME Erin Fraher, PhD, MPP; Amy Paul, MD, MSHA; Lori Rodefeld, MS	All
10:00 am – 10:30 am	Salon D&E	Update from HRSA: Federal Office of Rural Health Policy Tom Morris, MPA	All
10:30 am – 11:00 am	Foyer D&E	Break	All
11:00 am – 12:00 pm	Salon D&E	Updates from Select Federal Agencies Ryan Scilla, MD; Heather Kovich, MD; Vijay Kannan, MD, MPH; Jason Steele, MPH; Elayne Heisler, PhD	All
12:00 pm – 1:30 pm	Foyer D&E	Networking Lunch	All
1:30 pm – 4:30 pm	White Oak A	Workshop: Getting Started in Program Development Alan Douglass, MD; Emily Cook, JD; Drew Keister, MD; Matthew Tobey MD, MPH; Dave Evans, MD; Daniel Elswick, MD; Ann O'Rourke, MD	All Medical Early-Stage
1:30 pm – 4:30 pm	Brookside C	Workshop: The Residents Have Started, Now What? Matthew Huff, MHA; Mary Alice Scott, PhD; Scott Geboy, JD; Chris Francazio, MBA; Felipe Perez, MD, FAAFP; Glenn Gookin, MD, PhD	All Medical Mid-Stage

TIME	LOCATION	SESSION	AUDIENCE
1:30 pm – 4:30 pm	Salon A	Workshop: Hands-On Point-of-Care Ultrasound Training <i>(pre-registration required)</i> Ryan Paulus, DO; Ameen Taleb, MD	All Medical
1:30 pm – 4:30 pm	Salon B	Workshop: State GME Community of Practice <i>(registration restricted to state officials and state technical assistance centers; pre-registration required)</i> Lori Rodefeld, MS; Emily Hawes, PharmD; Kelsie George, BA; Melissa Stevens, MA; Jim Wheaton	All Medical
1:30 pm – 4:30 pm	Salon C	Workshop: Program Vitality: Sustaining Healthy, High-Performing Programs Deb Clements, MD; Grace Wang, MD, MPH, FAAFP; Mallory McClester Brown, MD; Amanda Weidner, MPH; Greg Sanders, MD; Bethany Figg, DEdT, MLIS, MBA, AHIP, C-TAGME	All Medical Late-Stage
1:30 pm – 4:30 pm	White Oak B	Workshop: Residency Program Administrators and Coordinators: Bridging Mission and Management Shawnette Alford, C-TAGME; Kristoff Cohran, BS; Ashley McDonald, BA, C-TAGME; Jay Sharp, BA; Jennifer Crubel, BS; Billie McGarrah, MHI, C-TAGME; Emily Mainwaring, C-TAGME; Jennifer Mair, BS; Margarita Torres, BS	All Medical & Dental
1:30 pm – 4:30 pm	Linden Oak	Workshop: The Ins and Outs of Dental Program Development Chris Brendemuhl, DMD; Mark Koday, DDS; Kathryn Rothas, DDS, MPH	Dental Early-Stage
4:30 pm – 6:00 pm	Salon D&E	Poster Session and Rural and Health Center Awards Ceremony	All

Tuesday, September 1, 2026

TIME	LOCATION	SESSION	AUDIENCE
8:00 am – 5:00 pm	Lower-Level Registration	Registration Open	All
8:00 am – 9:00 am	Foyer D&E	Networking Breakfast	All
8:00 am – 5:00 pm	Strathmore A&B	Federal Office of Rural Health Policy 1:1 Meetings	Sign-up for 1:1 meetings
8:00 am – 5:00 pm	Glen Echo	ACGME 1:1 Meeting Room	Sign-up for 1:1 meetings
TBD	Linden Oak	Bureau of Health Workforce Group Meeting	Sign-up for 1:1 meetings

TIME	LOCATION	SESSION	AUDIENCE
9:00 am – 10:00 am	Salon D&E	Available Data to Help Inform Policy Mandar Jadhav, MD; Olivia Orndorff, DHSc, MSLIS; Laney McDougal, MS-HSM; Carrie Cochran-McClain, DrPH; Emily Hawes, PharmD	All
10:00 am – 10:30 am	Salon D&E	Update from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) Miechal Kriger	All
10:30 am – 11:00 am	Salon D&E	Update from the CMS Rural Health Transformation Program Kate Sapra, PhD	All
10:30 am – 11:00 am	Foyer D&E	Break	All
11:00 am – 12:00 pm	Salon A	A 12-Month Micro-Curriculum to Prepare Clinic Staff for a New Rural Family Medicine Residency Elizabeth Abbas, DO	Family Medicine Mid-Stage
11:00 am – 12:00 pm	Salon B	Building a Rural Community of Practice to Support Rural Programs Keri Bergeson, MD; Melissa Stevens, MA; Daniel Elswick, MD	All Medical Late-Stage
11:00 am – 12:00 pm	Salon C	Rural and Health Center GME: Policy, Legislative, Data, and Support Resources Michele Malloy, MALIS; Naomi Lelm, BS	All Medical Late-Stage
11:00 am – 12:00 pm	White Oak A	Medical Dental Integration: Curriculum, Patient Care, and Practice Russell Maier, MD; Hollis Russinof, MUPP; Kathryn Rothas, DDS, MPH; Mark Koday, DDS	Medical & Dental Late-Stage
11:00 am – 12:00 pm	White Oak B	A Guide to GME Program Development Lori Rodefeld, MS; James Clardy, MD; Laney McDougal, MS-HSM	All Medical Early-Stage
11:00 am – 12:00 pm	Brookside A&B	Communicating the Value of GME to Your C-Suite Alan Douglass, MD; Lorenzo Atkinson, BA, C-TAGME; Ted Epperly, MD	Medical & Dental All Stages
12:00 pm – 1:30 pm	Foyer D&E	Networking Lunch	All
1:30 pm – 2:30 pm	Salon A	Work Without Fear: Fostering Psychological Safety in High-Functioning Residency Teams Billie McGarrah, MHI, C-TAGME; Jennifer Crubel, BS	Medical & Dental All Stages
1:30 pm – 2:30 pm	Salon B	From Preparation to Accreditation: Navigating your CODA Site Visit Chris Brendemuhl, DMD; Sodabeh Etminan, DMD, MPH	Dental Early-Stage
1:30 pm – 2:30 pm	Salon C	The Inside Story: Lessons in Residency Program Development Alan Douglass, MD; Chris Francazio, MBA; Scott Geboy, JD; Keri Bergeson, MD	Medical & Dental All Stages

TIME	LOCATION	SESSION	AUDIENCE
1:30 pm – 2:30 pm	White Oak A	State GME Policy Lori Rodefeld, MS; Heidi Miller, MD; Katherine Restrepo Martin, MHA; Frank Powers, MD; Sarah Bemis, DNP, BA, RN	Medical & Dental All Stages
1:30 pm – 2:30 pm	White Oak B	Game Day: Getting Ready for the ACGME Site Visit Jennifer Mair; Glenn Gookin, MD, PhD; Cathy Nace, MD, FACOG	All Medical Mid-Stage
1:30 pm – 2:30 pm	Brookside A&B	From Vision to Viability: Building and Sustaining Rural GME Through Consortium Models and Community-Driven Leadership Kerrie Jordan, DHSc, FAOGME, C-TAGME; Kenneth Heiles, DO, FAOGME, FACOFP dist.; Alegneta Long, MPP; Matthew Huff, MHA	Medical Early-Stage
2:30 pm – 3:00 pm	Foyer D&E	Break	All
3:00 pm – 4:00 pm	Salon A	Using Scenarios for Strategic Planning: Facilitating Critical Decisions when Faced with Complex or Difficult Choices Judith Pauwels, MD; Alan Douglass, MD; Lori Rodefeld, MS	Medical & Dental All Stages
3:00 pm – 4:00 pm	Salon B	Family Medicine Residency Recruitment and Excellence: Empowering Residencies with AAFP Resources Karen Mitchell, MD, FAAFP; Amy Mulligan Kennedy	Family Medicine Late-Stage
3:00 pm – 4:00 pm	Salon C	The Art of Difficult Conversations in Residency Administration Shawnette Alford, C-TAGME; Emily Mainwaring, C-TAGME; Ashley McDonald, BS, C-TAGME; Jay Sharp, BA	Medical & Dental Administrators
3:00 pm – 4:00 pm	White Oak A	Navigating CODA Processes and Resources Taylor Weast, MEd	Dental Early-Stage
3:00 pm – 4:00 pm	White Oak B	Addressing Infant and Maternal Health through Graduate Medical Education Nicholas Weida, MD; John Waits, MD, FAAFP; Narges Farahi, MD	Family Medicine, Surgery, & OB/GYN All Stages
3:00 pm – 4:00 pm	Brookside A&B	Navigating ACGME Processes and Resources Laney McDougal, MS-HSM; Elisa Crouse, MD, MS, FACOG	All Medical Early-Stage
4:00 pm – 4:15 pm	Foyer D&E	Break	All
4:15 pm – 5:15 pm	Salon A	Addressing Substance Use Disorder in Graduate Medical Education Connor Brunson, MD; Emily Moore, DO; Daniel Elswick, MD	All Medical All Stages

TIME	LOCATION	SESSION	AUDIENCE
4:15 pm – 5:15 pm	Salon B	Integrating Food and Nutrition into Residency Training Kimberly Insel, MD, MPH; Aaron Rimmner-Cohen, MPP	All Medical All Stages
4:15 pm – 5:15 pm	Salon C	Incorporating Agricultural Health and Farm Medicine into a Residency Curriculum Laura Siegel, MA; Dawn Caviness, MD; Amanda Vaglia, DO	Medical & Dental Late-Stage
4:15 pm – 5:15 pm	White Oak A	Medical and Dental GME Finance 101 Alan Douglass, MD; Chris Francazio, MBA; Mukesh Adhikari, PhD, MPH	Medical & Dental Early-Stage
4:15 pm – 5:15 pm	White Oak B	Navigating the Role and Responsibilities of a Designated Institutional Official Carl Morris, MD; Kerrie Jordan, DHSc, FAOGME, C-TAGME; Paulette Wehner, MD	All Medical Early-Stage
4:15 pm – 5:15 pm	Brookside A&B	Relationships to Residency: Growing Programs from Existing Partnerships Frank Powers, MD; Kirsten Stoesser, MD; Michelle Hoffman, MD; Mike Rhodes, MD; Andrew Sorensen, DO	All Medical All Stage

DAY 3: Wednesday, September 2, 2026

TIME	LOCATION	SESSION	AUDIENCE
8:00 am – 12:00 pm	Lower-Level Registration	Registration Open	All
8:00 am – 9:00 pm	Foyer D&E	Networking Breakfast	All
9:00 am – 9:15 am	Salon D&E	Teaching Health Center Medical Grantee Testimonial TBN	All
9:15 am – 9:30 pm	Salon D&E	Teaching Health Center Dental Grantee Testimonial Khiara Drew, DDS	All
9:30 am – 10:00 am	Salon D&E	Update from HRSA: Bureau of Health Workforce TBN	All
10:00 am – 10:30am	Salon D&E	Update on ShepsGME Research & Resources Emily Hawes, PharmD; Shelby Rimmner-Cohen, MPH	All
10:30 am – 11:00 am	Foyer D&E	Break	All
11:00 am – 12:00 pm	Salon A	Working With Struggling Residents Scott Geboy, JD; Deb Clements, MD, FAAFP; Bryan Hodge, DO; Kevin Shannon, MD	All Medical Late-Stage

TIME	LOCATION	SESSION	AUDIENCE
11:00 am – 12:00 pm	Salon B	Growing the Workforce Where It's Needed Most: The Eastern Riverside and Imperial County Collaborative for Medical Education Conrado E. Bárzaga, MD; Hannah Laimer, DO; Omar Aziz, MD	All Medical Mid-Stage
11:00 am – 12:00 pm	Salon C	Expanding the Workforce Pipeline: Recruiting Veterans and Other Skilled Professionals into Residency Program Administration Shawnette Alford, C-TAGME; Amy Bailey, MBA, C-TAGME; Leona Caldemeyer, MS, C-TAGME; Tiffany Williams	All Medical All Stages
11:00 am – 12:00 pm	Glen Echo	Recruiting with Purpose: Strategies to Attract and Retain Dental Faculty and Residents Mandi Gingras; Huong Le, DDS, MA; Kathryn Rothas; DDS, MPH	Dental Late-Stage
11:00 am – 12:00 pm	White Oak A	Leveraging Rural Health Transformation to Support GME Bradley Cunningham, JD; Nitika Moibi, MPP; Brooke Mullen	All Medical All Stages
11:00 am – 12:00 pm	White Oak B	Development of General Surgery and OB/GYN Programs and Rotations Ann O'Rourke, MD; Mustafa Abid, MD; Ryan Spencer, MD	Surgery & OB/GYN All Stages

Rural and Health Center National Graduate Medical Education Conference Information on Continuing Medical Education and Continuing Dental Education

Continuing Medical Education

Accreditation Statement

The School of Medicine of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill is accredited by the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME) to provide continuing medical education for physicians.

Credit Statement

The School of Medicine of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill designates this live activity for a maximum of 13.5 AMA PRA Category 1 Credit(s)[™]. Physicians should claim only the credit commensurate with the extent of their participation in the activity.

Disclosure statement

This activity has been planned and implemented under the sole supervision of the Course Director, Emily Hawes, PharmD, in association with the UNC Office of Continuing Professional Development (CPD). The course director and CPD staff have no relevant financial relationships with ineligible companies as defined by the ACCME.

The presenters have no relevant financial relationships with ineligible companies as defined by the ACCME.

Continuing Dental Education

This continuing education activity has been planned and implemented in accordance with the standards of the ADA Continuing Education Recognition Program (ADA CERP) through joint efforts between the host organization and the National Network for Oral Health Access. Participants will be able to earn ADA CERP Continuing Dental Education credits.



The National Network for Oral Health Access (NNOHA) is an ADA CERP Recognized Provider. ADA CERP is a service of the American Dental Association to assist dental professionals in identifying quality providers of continuing dental education. ADA CERP does not approve or endorse individual courses or instructors, nor does it imply acceptance of credit hours by boards of dentistry. Concerns or complaints about a CE provider may be directed to the provider or to the Commission for Continuing Education Provider Recognition at ADA.org/CERP