Dear Colleagues:

We need you to engage in an important project of significance to osteopathic medical education!

In response to interest on the part of health professional schools and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, The George Washington University Health Workforce Institute (GWHWI) has recently launched the Social Mission Metrics Initiative (SMMI). This project aims to provide medical, dental, and nursing school leaders across the country with insights into the social missions of their own schools through the process of self-assessment.

As you know, osteopathic medical education has experienced unprecedented growth in the last decade without graduates being recognized for providing quality care, especially in areas of need. One of our distinguishing features is our presence in our local communities. And, as we frequently point out, many of our colleges have missions that focus on serving rural and underserved populations. This initiative examines existing school capacity for advancing health equity and addressing health disparities for the communities we serve, and the results should serve as a useful benchmark for your college, the osteopathic medical education system, and our nation’s health professions education system overall.

In February, all deans should have received an invitation to participate in this confidential self-assessment. For those who have already started or completed the survey, I applaud your commitment to this important work. For those who have not yet started or considered participating, I encourage you to you to do so. I believe the initiative is reflective of our strategic priorities to support osteopathic medical educators in their efforts to develop and deliver high-quality educational programs and to prepare our future physicians to meet the US health care needs.

The assessment is designed to be in depth, comprehensive, and to provide a valid measure of what is going in the nations MD/DO medical schools, dental schools, and nursing schools. As a result, it is expected to take 3-6 hours to complete. After the initial survey period closes, schools will receive a confidential feedback report on their own social mission. A lot of additional information on the project and principles involved can be found on the SMMI website and by reaching out to eh project team through Julie Orban.

My best,

**Stephen C. Shannon, D.O., MPH**

President/CEO