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Optimizing the Health Care Needs of the Patient

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by Darrin D'Agostino, DO

This edition of *Missouri Medicine* highlights the amazing work pre-doctoral educators are performing every day in the United States. Medical education has taken on a burden the last two decades and has struggled to optimize its role in the health care needs of the patient.

Medical education has historically been segregated into pre-doctoral and postgraduate education. Additionally, due to the need to continually learn and improve, physicians have traditionally taken Continuing Medical Education, based on a set of standards generated by their specialty colleges to maintain certification. Although an extremely sensitive topic these days, it, along with the separation of medical school and residency education, highlights the lack of integration between our learning systems. Creating a culturally sensitive and interprofessional foundation for health care learning can create opportunities to improve health care and the outcomes of the services and interventions we provide to our patients.

The articles we present include information and tools that can be used to improve a strained system. In this edition we highlight the wonderful and innovative programs at Kansas City University, and some the changes that are happening all around us as we prepare the next generation of physicians.



KCU's future Center for Medical Education Innovation will provide new opportunities for advanced medical education for KCU students as well as local and regional health care professionals.



At the center of the Joplin campus, an indoor/outdoor quad provides students with a communal social and study space.



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