

The American Medical Association (AMA) Initiative to Establish a Learning Laboratory Across the Continuum of Education, Training and Professional Development

The University of Texas Medical School at Houston has just been awarded a planning grant for the upcoming academic year from the AMA to help establish a life-long learning laboratory. Four medical schools in Texas have joined together to create the Republic of Texas Consortium, including the University of Texas Medical Branch in Galveston, Baylor College of Medicine, the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center at Dallas, and UTMSH as the lead school. Dr. Eugene Boisauhin is the Senior-Co-PI of the four school consortium. Included in the twenty-eight selected schools are Johns Hopkins, Harvard, Michigan, University of Pennsylvania, and the University of Washington. The first of two national meetings concluded one week ago in Atlanta, and five top potential research agendas were created; including promoting mindfulness and self-reflection among practitioners, improving communication skills and defining and measuring professionalism across the continuum. The rest of the year will be spent first creating a white paper for publication of the conceptual framework of medical professionalism. In addition, several specific research areas will be further developed, including the possible creation of more permanent Life-Long Learning Laboratories across the country, as well as connection to and hopefully support from major funding agencies.