**Resolution:**

**Subject:** PROTECTION OF RESIDENCY PLACEMENT SECURITY AFTER PROGRAM CLOSURE

1. **WHEREAS**, in 2013, 11 resident physicians (three postgraduate year 1 (PGY-1)
2. residents (interns), three PGY-2 residents, three PGY-3 residents, and two PGY-4

3. residents, collectively known as trainees) at the Bronx St Barnabas Radiology residency

4. training program had their residency training positions eliminated by a hospital

5. administrative decision, which also entailed reassigning federal Medicare Graduate

6. Medical Education (GME) funds towards primary care programs and away from the

7. radiology residency programi and

8. **WHEREAS**, as made clear in a statement released at the time, this decision was not

9. made because of dire financial need, but in the interest of maximizing profitability by

10. removing less desirable programs and adding more profitable programs within the

11. hospitalii and

12. **WHEREAS**, the AOA already mandates a requirement in “THE BASIC DOCUMENTS

13. FOR POSTDOCTORAL TRAINING” Section V, Subsection A, Article 5.3iii outlining

14. imperatives to a residency program to make all attempts at maintaining the program for 15. currently employed trainees, and

16. **WHEREAS**, many existent residency programs are capable of accepting a small

17. number of additional residents without requiring significant additional program

18. infrastructure, and

19. **WHEREAS**, without GME funding, a trainee is limited to finding another institution willing

20. to run a residency program at its own expense and without federal assistance, or to

21. apply to a new program through the National Resident Matching Program, and

22. **WHEREAS**, with limited positions nationwide, the number of GME funded

23. positions remaining unchanged for many years, and the anticipated shortage of

24. physicians, finding a new position for a resident already partially through their training is

25. extremely difficult, which the Student Osteopathic Medical Association (SOMA) finds to

26. be an unreasonable burden for a qualified trainee in otherwise good standing, therefore

27. be it

28. **RESOLVED**, that SOMA shall advocate for policy supporting GME funding portability or

29. guarantee placement of residents before funds can be redirected to new programs

30. except in the cases of fair and lawful dismissal or termination, be it further

31. **RESOLVED**, that SOMA recommends the AOA to create new wording in Article 5.3 of

32. the AOA Basic Standards Document that shall read:

33. If a training institution closes a program and any displaced trainee is unable to

34. find placement with an AOA-approved program, the federal GME funding

35. must be transferred with the displaced trainee to a program of the same specialty

36. that has successfully applied for a temporary increase position but otherwise

37. lacks federal GME funding for that position. The federal GME funding may return

38. to the original hospital after the trainee has completed their program.

*The goal of this resolution is to create a financial incentive for residency programs and hospitals to prevent the immediate closing of residency programs by creating the portability of GME funding for displaced residents whose original hospitals have not closed.*

**Submitted by:**

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**Action Taken:**

**Date:**

 **Effective Time Period: Immediately**

i Job Prospects Are Dimming for Radiology Trainees, New York Times, [http://www.nytimes.com/2013/03/28/health/trainees-in-radiology-and-other-specialties-see-dream-jobs-disappearing.html?pagewanted=all](http://www.nytimes.com/2013/03/28/health/trainees-in-radiology-and-other-specialties-see-dream-jobs-disappearing.html?pagewanted=all&pagewanted=print) (posted March 27, 2013)

ii NY hospital to shutter radiology residency program, AuntMinnie.com, <http://www.auntminnie.com/index.aspx?sec=ser&sub=def&pag=dis&ItemID=102467> (posted Feb 13, 2013)

iii AOA Basic Document for Postdoctoral Training, <http://www.osteopathic.org/inside-aoa/accreditation/postdoctoral-training-approval/postdoctoral-training-standards/Documents/aoa-basic-document-for-postdoctoral-training.pdf>

Article 5.3: “If a training institution anticipates a program closure or decrease in program positions every attempt shall be made to permit the current trainees to complete their training prior to such an action.”

iv NY hospital relents, promising another year of residency, AuntMinnie.com, <http://www.auntminnie.com/index.aspx?sec=nws&sub=rad&pag=dis&itemId=102975> (posted March 28, 2013)

v NY Times highlights St. Barnabas, resident jobs decline, AuntMinnie.com, <http://www.auntminnie.com/index.aspx?sec=sup&sub=res&pag=dis&ItemID=102986>(posted March 29, 2013)