

Memorandum of Understanding

Between

Thomas Jefferson University (Sidney Kimmel Medical College)

and

The State of Delaware

Effective Date: October 29, 2025

I. Purpose

This Memorandum of Understanding (“MOU”) establishes a collaboration between Thomas Jefferson University, on behalf of its Sidney Kimmel Medical College (“Sidney Kimmel” or “SKMC”), and the State of Delaware (“Delaware”) to expand medical education opportunities in Delaware (the “Collaboration”). The goal of this Collaboration is to establish a phased approach leading to the creation of a four-year medical school in Delaware, thereby addressing physician workforce needs, increasing access to care, and strengthening the state’s health care infrastructure. Furthermore, the Collaboration will explore innovative methods by which to address the future of medical education and the provision of healthcare in a longer-term, sustainable manner.

II. Guiding Principles

1. **Access and Quality** – Expanding medical education in Delaware is critical to increasing access to health care, especially in rural and underserved areas, and enhancing the overall quality of care by embedding medical students and graduate trainees into Delaware’s health systems.
2. **Pipeline Development** – Delaware students will continue to benefit from the Delaware Institute for Medical Education and Research (DIMER) program, while expanded opportunities will attract students from across the country to study and train in Delaware.
3. **Graduate Medical Education Linkages** – Undergraduate medical education will be intentionally linked with residency training in Delaware to maximize retention of physicians in the state.

4. **Financial Responsibility** – Delaware will provide the necessary financial resources to support this initiative. The financial burden of this expansion will not fall on Thomas Jefferson University.
5. **Shared Governance** – Both parties will engage in good faith collaboration and communication to ensure alignment with the Liaison Committee on Medical Education (LCME) requirements and project timelines.

III. Phased Approach

The parties agree to pursue the following phased development:

Phase 1: Enhancement of Existing Thomas Jefferson University's Sidney Kimmel Medical College Branch Campus in Delaware

- Codify the number of students placed in Delaware for clinical training by assessing clinical placement practices and admission acceptance process.
- Provide tuition support to students.
- Ensure the majority of clinical training occurs in Delaware.
- *Planning*: Begins immediately in 2025.
- *Target*: Incentivize SKMC 2026 Matriculants to select clinical placements in 2027 in Delaware to take place April 2028 through April 2029.

Phase 2: Establishment of a Four-Year Branch Campus of Sidney Kimmel Medical College in Delaware

- Develop the infrastructure and faculty capacity necessary for a full four-year medical education in Delaware.
- Emphasize training in **primary care** and **rural medicine**.
- *LCME Accreditation and Planning*: Begins immediately in 2025; *Target Cohort Start*: Fall 2027 to Fall 2028.

IV. Graduate Medical Education and Retention Initiatives

In parallel with the above phases, Delaware and Thomas Jefferson University's Sidney Kimmel Medical College will collaborate to:

- Create **Direct Linkage Pathways into Residency** programs to allow students completing their undergraduate medical education in Delaware to transition seamlessly into residency training in Delaware.

- Expand Graduate Medical Education (GME) capacity across the state.
- Develop and fund a **robust student loan repayment program** to encourage medical school graduates and residents to remain in Delaware for practice.

V. Roles and Responsibilities

Thomas Jefferson University, on behalf of Sidney Kimmel Medical College, agrees to:

- Provide academic leadership, curriculum development, and faculty oversight for the branch and expanded medical school programs. A model for an SKMC Delaware regional campus administration of Phase 1 of the JeffMD curriculum, inclusive of faculty recruitment and development, will be studied and developed pertaining to faculty oversight.
- Ensure compliance with LCME standards for medical education.
- Collaborate with Delaware health systems and educational institutions to establish training sites.
- Support biomedical research as a component of developing and retaining the ability of SKMC to conduct Phase 1 of the JeffMD curriculum in Delaware.

The State of Delaware agrees to:

- Provide all necessary and appropriate financial resources for the development, implementation, and sustainability of the branch campus.
- Lead infrastructure planning and development, in collaboration with existing health systems and higher education institutions.
- Establish and administer tuition support programs and student loan repayment programs to increase retention of physicians in Delaware.

VI. Implementation and Governance

1. After the parties execute this MOU, which will serve as the foundation for the Collaboration, they will negotiate subsequent agreements to outline specific financial, operational, and accreditation requirements.
2. Within 90 days of signing this MOU, the parties will:
 - a. Identify the **internal leadership teams** at both Thomas Jefferson University and the State of Delaware.
 - b. Engage **external consultants** to support planning, financial modeling, and accreditation preparation.

3. A joint steering committee will be established to oversee planning, implementation, and progress toward milestones.

VII. Notice of Parallel Collaborations and Public Statements

1. Delaware shall, in good faith, provide Thomas Jefferson University with prior written notice of its intent to enter a memorandum of understanding with another academic institution for the purpose of collaborating on the creation of a four-year medical school in Delaware.
2. The parties agree that written press releases and written media statements (collectively, "Public Statements") related to the Collaboration shall be mutually agreed upon in writing. The parties further agree that the use of a party's name, brand, or logo requires prior written approval by the other party. The parties agree that the requirements relative to Public Statements and use of names, brand, or logos are material and binding terms of this MOU.

VIII. Non-Binding Agreement

- This MOU shall take effect on the Effective Date set forth above.
- The parties agree to work in good faith to advance the principles of the collaboration.
- Either party may terminate this MOU upon written notice, sent via electronic mail and regular mail, to the following:

Upon Delaware:

Kevin Myers
Deputy Policy Director
Office of Governor Matt Meyer
820 N. French Street, Floor 12
Wilmington, DE 19801
Kevin.Myers@delaware.gov

Upon Thomas Jefferson University:

Susan C. Aldridge, PhD,
President
Thomas Jefferson University
1020 Walnut Street, Suite 643
Philadelphia, PA 19107
susan.aldridge@jefferson.edu

- This MOU is a statement of mutual intent and does not create binding legal obligations with the exception of the legally binding terms set forth in Article VII, Section 2. The parties' sole remedies for a breach of the obligations set forth in Article VII, Section 2 shall be limited to equitable or injunctive relief, and neither

party shall be entitled to monetary damages. Each party shall bear its own attorneys' fees and costs in connection with any dispute arising under this MOU.

By executing below, the parties memorialize their agreement to pursue the Collaboration as set forth in this Memorandum of Understanding.

THOMAS JEFFERSON UNIVERSITY

STATE OF DELAWARE

By: Susan C. Aldridge
Print Name: Susan C. Aldridge, PhD
Title: President
Date: October 29, 2025

By: 
Print Name: Matthew Meyer
Title: Governor
Date: 10/30/25

SIDNEY KIMMEL MEDICAL COLLEGE

DELAWARE HEALTHCARE COMMISSION

By: 
Print Name: Said A. Ibrahim, MD, MPH, MBA
Title: The Anthony F. and Gertrude M. DePalma Dean
Date: October 29, 2025

By: 
Print Name: Neil Hockstein, MD
Title: Chair
Date: October 29, 2025