

February 27, 2025

Dr. John Dalrymple  
Dean and CEO  
Kaiser Permanente Bernard J. Tyson School of Medicine  
98 S. Los Robles Avenue  
Pasadena, CA 91101

Dear Dr. Dalrymple:

This letter serves as formal notification and official record of action taken concerning Kaiser Permanente Bernard J. Tyson School of Medicine (KPSM) by the WASC Senior College and University Commission (WSCUC) at its meeting February 14, 2025. This action was taken after consideration of the report of the review team that conducted the Seeking Accreditation Visit 2 to Kaiser Permanente Bernard J. Tyson School of Medicine November 19-22, 2024 using the 2013 Standards of Accreditation. The Commission also reviewed the institutional report and exhibits submitted by Kaiser Permanente Bernard J Tyson School of Medicine prior to the Seeking Accreditation Visit 2. The Commission appreciated the opportunity to discuss the visit with you. Your comments were very helpful in informing the Commission's deliberations. The date of this action constitutes the effective date of the institution's new status with WSCUC.

### **Actions**

1. Receive the Seeking Accreditation Visit 2 team report
2. Grant Initial Accreditation for a period of six years
3. Allow the date of Initial Accreditation to be applied retroactively to May 13, 2024
4. Schedule the next reaffirmation review with the Offsite Review in spring 2030 and the Accreditation Visit in fall 2030
5. Schedule an Interim Report to be submitted by March 1, 2028 to address all areas for development in this Commission Action Letter

### **Commendations**

The Commission commends the institution for:

1. Exemplary commitment to and alignment with the mission, vision, and values of KPSM by the boards, school leadership, faculty, staff, and students.
2. Ongoing commitment to an innovative curriculum that emphasizes equity, service-learning, scholarly projects, and population health with clear passion for these educational approaches demonstrated by leadership, faculty, staff and students along with a commitment to ongoing iterations based on feedback.
3. Ongoing, institutionally initiated commitment to equity, inclusion and diversity (EID) that is central to its mission and inculcated throughout all parts of the

organization, including strategic planning, admissions, curriculum, assessment, and program evaluation.

4. Strong financial resources, especially the continuing commitment from KFH, which are used to advance all aspects of the mission, including student support and faculty.

5. Strong ethos of continuous quality improvement across the institution through systematic use of student learning and success assessment to optimize student achievement.

6. Impressive student success outcomes with strong performance on national licensing exams and match rates.

### **Areas for Development**

The Commission requires the institution to respond to the following areas for development:

1. Complete and launch the new strategic plan and associated business plan, including the plans for advancement (CFR 4.6).
2. Continue to use student learning assessment findings to enhance and redesign curriculum and student supports, including longitudinal trends, MD-PhD, and residency preparation and placement data (CFRs 2.6 and 2.10).
3. Expand and grow KPSM's research identity, strategy, and infrastructure to achieve intended goals (CFR 2.8).
4. Focus on leadership, staff, and faculty development, including filling interim positions, developing succession plans, providing expanded personal and professional development opportunities, fostering cross-department knowledge, and considering the establishment of a staff assembly (CFRs 3.2, 3.3, 3.6, and 4.1).

In taking this action to grant Initial Accreditation, the Commission confirmed that Kaiser Permanente Bernard J. Tyson School of Medicine completed the institutional review process for Initial Accreditation conducted under the 2013 Standards of Accreditation. In keeping with WSCUC values, KPSM should strive for ongoing improvement with adherence to all Standards of Accreditation and their associated CFRs to foster a learning environment that continuously strives for educational excellence and operational effectiveness.

Kaiser Permanente Bernard J. Tyson School of Medicine must use the following statement if it wishes to describe its accreditation status publicly:

*Kaiser Permanente Bernard J. Tyson School of Medicine is accredited by the WASC Senior College and University Commission (WSCUC), 1080 Marina Village Parkway, Suite 500, Alameda, CA 94501, 510.748.9001.*

Federal law requires that the WSCUC address and phone number appear in your catalog.

The accredited status of a program should not be misrepresented. The accreditation granted by WSCUC refers to the quality of the institution as a whole. Because institutional accreditation does not imply specific accreditation of any particular program at the institution, statements such as “this program is accredited” or “this degree is accredited” are incorrect and misleading. The phrase “fully accredited” is also to be avoided, since no partial accreditation is possible.

The Commission stipulated that this action encompassed the degrees offered by Kaiser Permanente Bernard J. Tyson School of Medicine at the time of this action, as listed at the end of this letter as the Consolidated List of Currently Offered Degrees. Any proposed new degree programs, off-campus sites, online offerings, and/or changes in governance or ownership require review and approval through the Substantive Change process. Degree programs reviewed and included under this action may be extended to other currently approved campuses of the institution without prior Substantive Change action. Offerings at new locations may need to go through Substantive Change approval, in accordance with the requirements stated in the Substantive Change manual.

In accordance with Commission policy, a copy of this letter is being sent to the chair of Kaiser Permanente Bernard J. Tyson School of Medicine’s governing board. The Commission expects that the team report and this action letter will be posted in a readily accessible location on KPSM’s website and widely distributed throughout the institution to promote further engagement and improvement and to support the institution's response to the specific issues identified in these documents. The team report and the Commission’s action letter will also be posted on the WSCUC website. If the institution wishes to respond to the Commission action on its own website, WSCUC will post a link to that response on the WSCUC website.

Finally, the Commission wishes to express its appreciation for the extensive work that Kaiser Permanente Bernard J. Tyson School of Medicine undertook in preparing for and supporting this accreditation review. WSCUC is committed to an accreditation process that adds value to institutions while contributing to public accountability, and we thank you for your continued support of this process. Please contact me if you have any questions about this letter or the action of the Commission.

Sincerely,



Christopher N. Oberg, PhD  
Interim President

Cc: Tracy Poon Tambascia, Commission Chair  
Wanda Nitsch, Interim ALO  
Holly Humphrey, Board Chair  
Members of the Seeking Accreditation Visit [2](#) Team

Consolidated List of Currently Offered Degrees

Doctor of Medicine (MD)