
The Physicians Foundation

As always, I am delighted to report to the LSMS Board on this year's activities of the Physicians Foundation (PF). To this end, and since my last formal report to you, the PF has supported and been actively engaged in the following activities:

Research

The Research Committee recently completed its analysis of the 2018 Physicians Foundation Survey. This has been a biennial survey of the nation's physicians since 2008. It was released in September. Some of the more pertinent findings include:

- 77.8 percent of physician respondents reported that they sometimes, often, or always experience burnout.
- Very relevant to the serious burnout issue were the findings regarding what factors physicians found least satisfying about their medical practices. Namely that:
 - 39.2 percent named the EHR design and interoperability problem (compared to 26.8 in 2016)
 - 37.6 percent listed regulatory/insurance requirements
 - 37 percent noted the loss of clinical autonomy
 - 30 percent deemed professional liability/malpractice as troublesome
- Another significant finding emanating from the PF survey was that 87 percent of physicians reported that either all, many, or some of their patients were affected by social conditions (determinants) such as poverty, unemployment, lack of education, or drug (or other) addiction. Only 1.6 percent reported that none of their patients were so afflicted.
- 56.8 percent of physicians who received value-based compensation tied to metrics such as EHR use, cost control and patient satisfaction, etc. did not believe that such metrics improved the quality of care or reduce costs.
- Only 2.5 percent felt that physicians had a great deal of influence on the healthcare system
- 62.5 percent believed that physicians had very little or little ability to influence the system

I would encourage you to visit the Physicians Foundation website at www.physiciansfoundation.org to see the entire summary of the survey, to review PF white papers, research findings and blogs.

Grants and Sponsorships

The PF Grants Committee has presided over the review of grants and sponsorships given in 2018. These have predominantly focused in several areas.

- Grants have been awarded to support physician leadership academies and the development of physician wellbeing programs.
- Sponsorships were approved for a number of conferences addressing physician burnout and wellbeing, including the International Conference on Physician Health and the Physician Wellness Summit. Sponsorships were also approved for conferences relating to social determinants and their impact on health and healthcare delivery. In addition, the PF also

supported OSMAP meetings, including making presentations about PF activities during those meetings.

- Now in its 9th year, the Physician Leadership Academy for the current presidents and chief executive officers of state medical societies was hosted in September at Brandeis University.

As you know, I am Chair of the PF Private Practice Committee. The Physicians Foundation helped to sponsor a Direct Patient Care Conference in Orlando in early November. The PF also helped to sponsor their meeting last year, where physicians from 41 states attended. This year's meeting has sold out and many physicians (who cannot attend themselves) wish to send their practice managers. This is being considered for next year's meeting.

Other PF Activities over the past year have included:

- Support of the 'Practice of Medicine' series in *Health Affairs*. It features articles and papers exploring important health policy issues affecting physician practice trends in the current hostile regulatory environment, as well as to provide insight into the impact of health policy decisions on physicians and their patients
- Founding the Physicians Foundation Center for the Study of Physician Practice and Leadership (CPPL) in collaboration with Weill Cornell Medical College
- Maintaining an active Forbes channel with articles relating to physician trends and the changing healthcare landscape. Dr. Ray Walker authored two recent articles entitled, 'U.S. Health Outcomes Compared to Other Countries are Misleading', and 'Debunking Myths: Physician Incomes are too High and They are the Cause of Rising Healthcare Costs'
- Formalizing a collaboration with The Health Institute. This work will help elevate the physician voice in the national discussion around the social determinants of health and will build on the PF's previous work with Health Leads

At the final board meeting of the year in New Orleans, we established a fund for the Health Information Exchange to be administered by the KAMMICO Foundation from which private practice physicians can receive funds to purchase interfaces for their EMRs to work more efficiently.

We also approved partnering with Regina Corso for the 2019 biannual patient survey and also approved four renewal leadership grants.

The board also approved two requests for hurricane relief support for North Carolina Medical Society Foundation for Healthy Floridians. In addition, a task force was appointed to develop a process for providing future disaster support to organizations that help physicians and their patients in response to disasters.

I am pleased and feel honored to represent LSMS on the Board of the Physicians Foundation. As you know, it is a working board and requires a significant amount of our time, but I remain proud to serve on the Executive Committee as Vice President and also as Chair of the Private Practice Committee.

Respectfully submitted,

Lawrence Braud, MD

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