
The Physicians Foundation

2017 Annual Report to Louisiana State Medical Society

From: Lawrence L. Braud, M.D., Vice President, Physicians Foundation

As always, I am happy to report to you on the numerous and varied activities of the Physicians Foundation (PF). I continue to serve as Vice President of the Physicians Foundation and remain on the five-member Executive Committee. In addition, I am also serving as the Chair of the sub-committee on Private Practice.

Since my last annual report to your, the Physicians Foundation has been actively involved in and supported:

- Ongoing grant administration in the areas of physician leadership and physician wellbeing, as well as projects centered around primary care initiatives and addressing the social determinants of health.
- Planning the preliminary phases of our biennial national physician survey (2018).
- Our 2017 patient survey, which examined the physician-patient relationship, factors according to patients which account for rising healthcare costs, and patient perceptions of organizations (health insurers, pharmaceutical manufacturers, etc.) and other groups who influence treatment options. Some of the findings included:
 - Over 9 of 10 patients are 'satisfied' with their primary care physician, with nearly two-thirds being 'very satisfied'.
 - Almost all patients (over 90 percent) believe that physicians should advocate for their patients.
 - 75 percent of patients are concerned about their ability to pay for medical treatment should they get sick or injured (a substantial increase from the 62 percent expressed in the 2015 patient survey).
- By September 2017, the PF has approved of 27 grants totaling \$3,939,978.
 - Uses of these funds have gone to support a number of conferences on physician wellbeing, alternative practice models, and helping physicians to adjust their practices in an evolving healthcare environment. These include an *International Conference on Physician Health* (in conjunction with the AMA); a conference – *Challenges to Professionalism in a Time of Change*, which was a collaboration between the state medical societies of Maine, New Hampshire and Vermont; and sponsorship of the OSMAP Proceedings at the AMA meeting.
 - I am also happy to report that the PF awarded a grant for almost \$150,000 to the Louisiana State Medical Society Educational and Research Foundation to support its Physician leadership Academy.
- Recently approved to support the creation of the Physicians Foundation Weill Cornell Center for the Study of Physician Practice and Leadership (*exact name still to be determined*), to be led by Larry Casalino, MD, PhD, to begin in 2018. The Center will develop key research to inform the conversation around the ever changing healthcare system. A report will be released in the fall

by Dr. Casalino on research related to how physicians spend their time (doing clinical work, administrative tasks, etc.)

- The Foundation has supported the establishment of a new featured series in Health Affairs, *The Practice of Medicine*. It features a range of articles and papers to explore important health policy issues affecting physician practice trends in the current regulatory environment. The series will provide insight into the human consequences of policy decisions for the audience of health care decision makers, government policy makers and individuals interested in health care issues and how they impact physicians and their patients.

The Physicians Foundation held its quarterly meeting November 10 and 11 in Puako, Hawaii.

- The Board reviewed its strategic plan to ensure its continued alignment with the Foundation's priority areas. The Foundation continues to track progress towards its strategic goals with review of each committee's activities.
- The board approved the proposed 2018 budget.

Research:

- The results of the 2017 national patient survey were released and have been picked up by a number of outlets, including USA Today and HealthLeaders.
- The Foundation approved a proposal from Merritt Hawkins to develop and disseminate its national biennial physician survey in 2018.
- A task force was established to draft and submit a letter in response to the Request for Information issued by the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation, in collaboration with long time partner, Health Leads.

Grantmaking:

- The Foundation reviewed and approved updates to its renewal grant procedures. The task force will continue meeting to further fine tune the process.
- 6 grants for renewed physician leadership support were awarded totaling \$790,000.
- The foundation totally ratified 2 grants of a substantial nature to support hurricane relief efforts.
- The Foundation approved up to \$100,000 to support physician practices devastated by the hurricane in Puerto Rico.
- A request for proposals focused on Women Physician Wellness has been released, and proposals will be considered at the January 2018 quarterly meeting.

Medical Practice:

- The Foundation has begun work towards formalizing its collaboration with Weil Cornell Medical College for a center to study physician practice and leadership, with research to be led by Lawrence Casalino, MD, PH.D. Work at the center will begin early 2018.

Physician Leadership:

- The Foundation hosted its 2017 Physician Leadership Academy for state medical society executives and the current president with Brandeis University in September. Attendance at the program was at capacity. Preliminary feedback shows that the program was well attended

I am pleased to represent LSMS on the Board of the Physicians Foundation and certainly take that responsibility very seriously. The workload does tend to be greater each year – although I believe that is due to the number of significantly important contributions the PF is making to help physicians in their practices. Although time consuming and at times intensive, it is also very rewarding. As I mentioned earlier in the report, I am also proud to be on the Executive Committee of the Board, to have been elected Vice President, and to chair an important committee which strives to help physicians remain in private practice.

I would encourage you to visit the Physicians Foundation website at www.physiciansfoundation.org to learn more about the activities, review the ‘white papers’, research findings and blogs that have been produced.

If anyone has any questions whatsoever about the Physicians Foundation, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve you, LSMS members and the Physicians Foundation.

Respectfully submitted,
January 2018
Lawrence Braud, MD