



E-Newsletter - Summer 2015



President's Corner

Building on the extraordinary dedication and accomplishments of my predecessor, Lou Goodman, PhD, I am truly excited to help lead the Physicians Foundation at a time when our work is so vital.

I believe it is more important than ever for the Foundation to continue its focus on elevating the voice of practicing physicians. Our work takes many forms, from grants on a range of critical

issues, to our Physician Leadership Academy, to comprehensive research studies and policy papers. Across all Foundation activities, we recognize the need to provide strong resources that address the profound changes occurring in the healthcare system. Consequently, we have developed a new strategic plan to ensure that the Foundation will maximize its impact over the next several years.

At the heart of our strategic plan is the guiding principle that the professionalism of medicine and the integrity of the patient-physician relationship are the essential elements of high-quality healthcare. I am heartened by the fact that 80 percent of practicing physicians cite the patient-physician relationship as the most satisfying aspect of practicing medicine, according to recent Foundation research. The preservation of this relationship, as well as our steadfast desire to ensure that patient care remains the cornerstone of the U.S. healthcare system, motivates the work of the Physicians Foundation.

This unwavering commitment will help us advance our work with the same level of passion and determination our nation's physicians demonstrate day in and day out for their patients. We invite you to review the Foundation's [new strategic plan](#), and hope you continue to visit our website for the latest news, insights and resources.

In The News

Given the Foundation's role as a leading voice for physicians, Board members are often interviewed by reporters to provide perspective on key physician issues. Below are three recent articles featuring commentary from a Foundation Board member.



[Healthline: Medical Community Praises Supreme Court Decision on ACA Subsidies \(June 25, 2015\)](#)

In the aftermath of the King v. Burwell ruling, influential figures in the medical community shared their reactions to the decision. Dr. Walker Ray, President of the Physicians Foundation, provided his thoughts on how the ruling could impact practicing physicians.



[Forbes: ICD-10: The Clock is Ticking \(June 5, 2015\)](#)

The latest article on the Physicians Foundation Forbes channel is focused on the impending ICD-10 transition. Dr. Walker Ray, President, and Tim Norbeck, CEO, discuss the burdensome transition to ICD-10 and the obstacles physicians' practices face on the road to implementation.



[Orlando Sentinel: Keeping Solo Practice More Difficult for Doctors \(May 18, 2015\)](#)

Dr. Ralph Nobo, Board member of the Physicians Foundation and president-elect of the Florida Medical Association, shares his experience as an independent practitioner in the changing healthcare landscape.

Grant Spotlight

Providing grants to support the advancement of practicing physicians is a vital part of the Physicians Foundation's mission. The Foundation has awarded nearly \$36 million in grants since the launch of its grantmaking program in 2005. Grants typically support the following areas: physician leadership, physician practice trends, physician shortage and health information technology (HIT).

For the last five years, the Physicians Foundation's hallmark grants program has been focused on physician leadership. Leadership grants are designed to support organizations by providing leadership skills development programs for physicians. Since the first leadership awards in 2010, the Foundation has awarded \$7.7 million through 54 physician leadership grants.

Is your organization interested in applying for a Physician Leadership grant from the Physicians Foundation?

- Eligible organizations that are tax exempt under Section 501(c)(3) are encouraged to register at our website now to save time before the next open funding opportunity. Click [here](#) to register. This is a new online grant submission protocol created to streamline the application process.
- New Physician Leadership Grants
 - Organizations without a previous Physician Leadership grant, or with a new project not previously funded, will be eligible to apply
 - Our next RFP will be released mid-January 2016
 - Deadline is mid-February 2016
 - Awards will be up to \$75,000 per year for 2 years
- Renewal of Physician Leadership Grants
 - Current physician leadership grantees are eligible to apply for renewed funding every June or November, if they have completed their previous grant

On occasion, the Physicians Foundation will develop a grants program to meet an emerging need. In the past, these initiatives have been awarded for the development of HIT toolkits, medical practice support needs and residency leadership curriculum development. These opportunities will be announced on the Foundation website and by email.

The Physicians Foundation awarded 10 grants at its recent Board meeting. [Click here](#) for a list of grantees.

For more information, including a portfolio of the grants the Foundation has previously awarded along with their results, visit Physiciansfoundation.org/healthcare-grants.

Focus on ICD-10

Between now and October, physicians' practices will spend an immense amount of time, money and other resources preparing for the [transition to ICD-10](#) – an increase of nearly 55,000 new codes with which to contend. This is an immense burden for medical practices to carry, in addition to the countless regulatory and administrative challenges already facing practicing physicians.

In our 2014 survey of physicians, 50 percent of respondents said this transition would create a severe administrative problem, and 75 percent agreed that it will unnecessarily complicate the coding process. As physicians and their staff contend with the time and resource commitment associated with this transition, they will also need to keep in mind how best to manage this process from a financial perspective.

A study commissioned by the AMA in 2014 assessed ICD-10 implementation costs for each practice size based on factors such as specialty, vendor and software. It estimated costs at:

- Small practice: \$56,639 to \$226,105
- Medium practice: \$213,364 to \$824,735
- Large practice: \$2,017,151 to \$8,018,364

To help with this difficult and costly transition, the Physicians Foundation recently began working with Parth Desai, a medical student and founder of ICD-10 Charts (www.icd10charts.com). As a result of working in his physician father's medical practice, Parth developed a set of completely free ICD-10 resources to help any medical practice prepare for the upcoming transition to ICD-10.

ICD-10 Charts allows any practice to make personalized ICD-9 to ICD-10 conversion templates, instantly. The templates can be printed, exported to an EMR, saved and updated to fit the needs of any practice. In addition, with the support of the Foundation, a new comprehensive ICD-10 training program will also be released. We invite you to visit www.icd10charts.com for more information.

The Foundation understands the challenges facing practicing physicians today, and is committed to enabling physicians to continue to deliver patient-centered medical care.