



## E-Newsletter - Summer 2017

### President's Corner



Walker Ray, MD

Empowering physicians to lead in the delivery of high-quality, cost-efficient healthcare is the fundamental mission of the Physicians Foundation. As physicians and healthcare professionals continue to navigate today's complex and ever-changing healthcare system, it is paramount to ensure the physician's voice is central to discussions around healthcare delivery and policy.

The Physicians Foundation has identified eight essential values that represent the core pillars we believe are critical to the future of healthcare delivery.

- **Physician-Patient Relationship.** Physicians and patients must have the ability to create and maintain a true partnership, as this epitomizes the most essential element of a quality healthcare system.
- **Autonomy.** Autonomy allows physicians to be both responsive to and responsible for patients' needs and concerns. It gives them the opportunity to be patient advocates, operate with judgmental independence and serve with the patient's best interest in mind.
- **Access.** In order for physicians to be effective patient advocates, there must be more support for the overall concept of "access." This includes greater transparency into payer decisions.
- **Quality.** Physicians must be the guardians of quality healthcare, participating in the discussions and playing a central role in the debate around healthcare reform.
- **Transparency.** All healthcare stakeholders must collaborate to address challenges that make the current system difficult to understand. This includes bringing greater transparency to areas such as costs, billing practices, narrowing networks, etc.
- **Social Determinants.** It is critical to recognize and create programs that address the pervasive, debilitating effects of poverty on healthcare costs, resource utilization and overall patient outcomes.
- **Physician Wellbeing.** Physicians require support from other healthcare professionals as burnout can have devastating effects on physicians' quality of life, as well as on cost, access and quality.
- **Physician Leadership.** As physicians increasingly face administrative and regulatory burdens, it is imperative that a greater emphasis is placed on building core business, management and leadership skills.

For more information about what the Foundation is doing to empower physicians and improve healthcare, visit [www.physiciansfoundation.org](http://www.physiciansfoundation.org) and the [Foundation's Forbes Channel](#).

[Walker Ray, MD](#), President, The Physicians Foundation

## Grant Spotlight

The Foundation continues to empower physicians by recently supporting the Physician Leadership Conference at Brandeis University. Jon Chilingirian, Ph.D., Program Director for the Brandeis Health Leadership Program, discusses how this program has partnered with the Physicians Foundation to provide academic and leadership growth for effective healthcare delivery on our [Grantee Perspective page](#).

The conference was designed to address the many organizational challenges physicians currently face:

- Managing the triple performance problem – achieving outstanding technical outcomes, providing a positive patient experience, and offering efficient care that is both affordable and equitable
- Securing a place at the table to have direct involvement in healthcare management decisions that improve overall organizational performance
- Understanding concepts and tools of healthcare management science as well as national and local health policies

This program offers physicians the concepts, tools and confidence they need to help their organizations address these challenges.

Click [here](#) to view the full Q&A with Dr. Chilingirian.

For more information on applying for grants or the portfolio of grants the Foundation has previously awarded, visit [Physiciansfoundation.org/healthcare-grants](https://Physiciansfoundation.org/healthcare-grants).

## Focus On: Direct Primary Care

America's current healthcare debate is plagued with confusion and misalignment. There is a diverse landscape of players and agendas where legislators, health insurance companies, hospital systems, the pharmaceutical industry, patient advocacy groups and organized medicine all take part in agreements that have replaced healthcare with a "qualified health insurance plan."

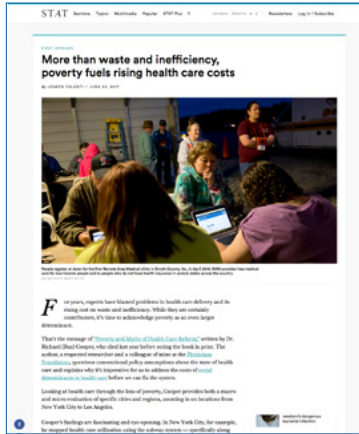
With Medicare's newest mandate – MACRA – critical concepts like quality and value are now defined by labor intensive metrics. As a result, most of a physician's time has shifted from patient care to administrative duties. This "corporatization" of medicine focuses on populations rather than individuals, where data is valued above patient wellness. Primary care needs new concepts, innovations and partnerships to fight the rising costs of healthcare under government mandated insurance. It needs a plan that does not have at its foundation the influence of huge power lobbyists.

Direct Primary Care (DPC) is a practical solution that supplants the craziness in the current debate and, in a simple way, provides a clear path for patients to beat all the rhetoric with something valuable, practical, coherent and concrete – the physician-patient relationship. To put it simply – it aligns the incentives of physicians and patients to 1) take care of the patient and 2) fund that care.

Read the [full article](#) on DPC contributed by [Ripley Hollister, MD](#), board member of the Physicians Foundation and a family medicine specialist, on the [Foundation's Forbes Channel](#).

## In The News

The Physicians Foundation continues to be a leading voice for physicians. Below are recent articles featuring commentary from Foundation board members or highlights of Foundation research.



### [STAT: More Than Waste And Inefficiency, Poverty Fuels Rising Health Care Costs \(June 22\)](#)

Physicians Foundation board member and board-certified obstetrician and gynecologist, Joseph Valenti, M.D., discusses social determinants' impact on increasing healthcare costs.



### [MACRA's Cure May Be Worse Than the Disease \(May 30\)](#)

Paul Harrington discusses how the passage of the Medicare Access and Chip Reauthorization Act (MACRA) in 2015 has created new problems for physicians.



### [Forbes: Bigger is Still Not Better \(April 24\)](#)

Walker Ray, MD, and Tim Norbeck discuss the potential impact on patient care if the largest U.S. health insurers merged.