



E-Newsletter - Winter 2017

President's Corner



Walker Ray, MD

As we close out 2017, we at the Physicians Foundation have a lot to be thankful for despite the continuing uncertainty the healthcare industry faces. We are very proud of all we have accomplished this year. Most recently, we issued the findings from our second [Patient Survey](#), provided \$1,000,000 to help rebuild physician practices impacted by the record-breaking hurricane season and presented at a number of forums including the 2017 American Conference on Physician Health and Direct Primary Care Conference.

Looking toward the future, the Physicians Foundation responded to the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) recent request to provide recommendations on the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation's (CMMI) "new direction." As an organization representing physicians throughout the country and the patients they serve, we are grateful for this opportunity and applaud CMMI's continued commitment to advancing patient-centered care. It is crucial in this next era of CMMI that physician and patient voices remain at the center of the conversation, and central to the design and implementation of CMMI initiatives.

What we shared is very much in line with the Physicians Foundation's mission to empower physicians to lead in the delivery of high-quality, cost-efficient healthcare. By focusing on a broader notion of health, rather than just treating and managing illness, we believe that CMMI can achieve its goal of enabling quality care at reduced costs with improved outcomes. The proposal, which you can find on [our website](#), provides three specific recommendations:

1. Recognize the impact of poverty and other determinants on health by naming the need to address health-related social needs as a guiding principle
2. Improve care delivery and reduce burdens faced by physicians by simplifying and consolidating existing and future payment and care delivery models through an embedded focus on health-related social needs
3. Support state-level innovation that incorporates prospective financing and health-related social needs into payment and care delivery models

We look forward to learning more about CMMI's plans for the future and are honored to represent the voice of the physician on critical issues facing the country's medical care.

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

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

Grant Spotlight

The Physicians Foundation continues to support physician well-being and, most recently, through a research grant to the Mayo Clinic. The grant aims to address whether individualized professional coaching as a form of mentorship for mid-career primary care physicians is beneficial in reducing burnout, improving job satisfaction and increasing professional fulfillment. We connected with study lead Liselotte Dyrbye, MD, MHPE, Professor of Medicine and Medical Education at Mayo Clinic to learn more. Click [here](#) to read the full Q&A with Dr. Dyrbye.

Support from the Physicians Foundation ensures that the study is effective in developing innovative, evidence-based approaches to assist physicians in finding professional fulfillment and reducing the risk of burnout.

For more information on applying for grants or the portfolio of grants the Foundation has previously awarded, visit Physiciansfoundation.org/healthcare-grants.

Focus On: 2017 Patient Survey

The Physicians Foundation recently issued its second Patient Survey, to take the pulse on how Americans are feeling when they step out of the doctor's office. The survey, conducted by Regina Corso Consulting in June 2017, gathered responses from a national sample of 1,747 U.S. adults between the ages of 27 and 75 who had two visits with the same doctor in the past year.

A number of the questions from the survey corresponded to similar questions from the Foundation's 2016 Biennial Physician Survey, in order to compare patient and physician outlooks on the healthcare landscape. Topline findings include:

- 95 percent report satisfaction with their primary care physician
- 70 percent of consumers believe their physician has the ability to influence the healthcare system
 - However, 41 percent of physicians believe they have little ability to influence the healthcare system
 - 75 percent are concerned about their ability to pay for medical treatment should they get sick or injured (compared to 62 percent in 2016)
 - 69 percent believe insurance companies have the greatest influence in impacting treatment options
 - » Contradicts with whom consumers (87 percent) feel the true influencer should be, which is physicians

The results have generated numerous trade and top-tier media articles and more than 30 new followers to the Foundation's Twitter handle. As with the Physician Survey, we expect interest and coverage to continue through 2018 as reporters look for strong reference points to root their stories.

Forbes Channel

The Physicians Foundation Forbes channel continues to be a valuable platform as board members share their perspectives on some of the most important and relevant topics in the healthcare space. In November, Dr. Ray and Tim Norbeck posted [an article](#) to debunk the notion that high physician salaries are the cause of rising health care costs. To date, the post has garnered over 19,000 views! The success of this piece has prompted the Foundation to expand its efforts on a topic that has clearly piqued interest. We look forward to sharing the results of our additional media outreach in the coming months.

We have also covered timely topics and milestones recently thanks to Board members Dr. Gary Price and Lou Goodman, PhD. Below is a roundup of the most recent pieces featured:

- [Poverty Does Not Have to Equal High Healthcare Spending](#), by Walker Ray, MD and Tim Norbeck
- [Debunking Myths: Physicians' Incomes Are Too High and They Are the Cause of Rising Health Care Costs](#), by Walker Ray, MD and Tim Norbeck
- [America's Checkup - From the Patient's Perspective](#), by Gary Price, MD
- [During and After Harvey, Texas Physicians Respond and Rebuild](#), by Lou Goodman, PhD

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.



[AAFP: What Do Patients Think About U.S. Health Care System? \(October 17\)](#)

Physicians Foundation Board member, Gary Price, MD, discusses key takeaways from the 2017 Patient Survey, including patients' overall satisfaction with their physician and the growing patient sentiment that the leadership role of physicians is in danger.



[PBS: The Doctor Fix \(October 1\)](#)

Physicians Foundation Board member, Ripley Hollister, MD, discusses the pros and cons of independent practice in this PBS documentary.



[NJ Spotlight: Physicians Focus on the Links Between Poverty and Poor Health \(September 26\)](#)

Joseph Valenti, MD, and Larry Downs shed light on social determinants of healthcare and cite an example of poverty in Newark, NJ from the late Dr. Richard "Buz" Cooper's book, *Poverty and the Myths of Healthcare Reform*.