



2017 Year in Review: Empowering Physicians to Lead

President's Corner



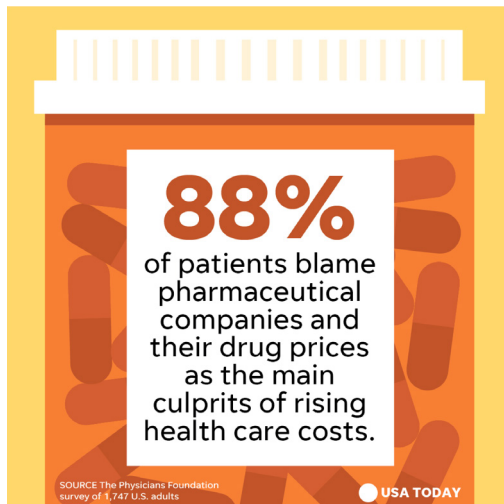
Walker Ray, MD

In 2017, the Physicians Foundation focused on increasing physician leadership skills while raising awareness about physician wellness. This support was needed more than ever as physicians were particularly strained this year. As predicted, 2017 brought many challenges to healthcare as a new administration took hold, tax and health reform were pushed to the forefront and the opioid epidemic raged on.

During this time, the Foundation, under the leadership of Walker Ray, MD, President, and Tim Norbeck, CEO, created a combination of research, grantmaking and education efforts to help practicing physicians have a seat at the table where the important decisions are being made.

Below is a snapshot of our work over the past year.

Patient Survey



The Physicians Foundation continued to produce research to better understand and address the unmet needs in the evolving healthcare industry. In 2017, the Foundation's second biennial Patient Survey gathered responses from nearly 1,800 U.S. adults to better understand how Americans are feeling when they step out of the doctor's office.

Our second biennial [Patient Survey](#) revealed that an overwhelming majority of patients (95 percent) report satisfaction with their primary care physician, but only 11 percent of patients and 14 percent of physicians report that they have all the time they need together. Furthermore, 89 percent of consumers said they were fearful that the rising cost of healthcare will adversely impact them in the future.

The findings were compelling. In fact, USA Today illustrated Snapshots of data (pictured above), the AAFP (pictured right) highlighted four key areas addressed in the survey (the physician-patient relationship, the cost of health care, social determinants of health and lifestyle issues) and Managed Healthcare Executive shared five ways healthcare executives can better support physicians.

Key survey findings were further analyzed in [this post](#) by board member [Gary Price](#), MD, on the Physicians Foundation [Forbes channel](#).

What Do Patients Think About U.S. Health Care System?

2017 Survey Provides Some Answers

Author Discussion: Physicians as Advocates

The survey covered a lot of territory, but from Price's perspective, one of the most significant takeaways is recognizing a growing patient sentiment that the overall leadership role of physicians is in danger.

Grantmaking Activities

The Physicians Foundation invested \$5.8 million in 2017 to support grants that empower physicians in their delivery of care. It funded diverse grants focused on physician leadership and wellness including hurricane disaster relief, Health Leads, Health Affairs, the New Jersey Healthcare Executive Leadership Academy and a host of other organizations highlighted on the Foundation's [Grantee Perspective](#) webpage.

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

Hurricane Disaster Relief

In the devastating aftermath of Hurricanes Harvey, Irma and Maria, the Physicians Foundation stepped into action to provide disaster relief funding amounting to \$1 million. The funding aided thousands of effected physicians in Texas, Florida and Puerto Rico rebuild practices and continue to care for patients.

Board member Lou Goodman, PhD, CAE, Executive Vice President and CEO of the Texas Medical Association, reflected on the record-breaking hurricane season's impact on Texas physicians in [this post](#) on the Physicians Foundation [Forbes channel](#).

Health Leads

The impact of poverty on the healthcare system is undeniable. For the past 20 years, [Health Leads](#), a social enterprise that envisions a healthcare system that addresses all patients' basic resource needs as a standard part of quality care, has been laser focused on designing and implementing social needs programs in clinical settings. In 2017, the Foundation's grant was used to pursue three physician-oriented projects within a larger strategy to make addressing all patients' social needs a standard part of quality care. These projects address elevating the physician voice, supporting physician-led research and equipping physicians with the needed tools that enable them to practice the kind of healthcare that they aspire to deliver.

Health Affairs

In partnering with like-minded organizations, The Physicians Foundation supported Health Affairs through funding its "Practice of Medicine" series. The series was launched with the intent of exploring important health policy issues affecting physicians. Areas of interest have included the organization of care, payment models and workplace conditions. In November 2017, Health Affairs convened a panel of distinguished physicians for a discussion of "The Practice of Medicine: Workplace Satisfaction In A Changing Environment" in Washington, D.C. where the Foundation was present and engaged in the dynamic conversation.

New Jersey Healthcare Executive Leadership Academy

The New Jersey Healthcare Executive Leadership Academy (NJHELA) received a grant from the Foundation to support collaborative leadership training to help resolve top healthcare issues in New Jersey. The program was developed by the Medical Society of New Jersey (MSNJ), the New Jersey Hospital Association (NJHA) and the New Jersey Association of Health Plans (AHP). In June 2017, the Physicians Foundation was recognized at the first-ever NJHELA Sponsors' Reception to showcase the projects that were developed by the inaugural class of NJHELA.

More information about the NJHELA program is available in the [Grantee Perspective](#) with Marlene M. Kalayilprampil, MHA, project director for the NJHELA.

Looking Ahead to 2018

As America continues to evaluate change in healthcare policy, the perspectives of practicing physicians and their patients must be heard – and addressed. The Physicians Foundation will continue to be a leading voice for practicing physicians to strengthen the physician-patient relationship, support physicians in sustaining their medical practices and help practicing physicians navigate the changing healthcare system. The year ahead will be vital.

In 2018, the Foundation will [field](#) and report its sixth biennial Physician Survey and utilize its new [website](#) for an improved grant-making process, among other core initiatives. All of these and more will ladder up to support physicians as they navigate the changing healthcare landscape.

We encourage you to visit our new [website](#), designed to make research and resources more accessible, to learn more about events in the new year. We look forward to sharing more exciting accomplishments in the months to come.

Thank you for your continued support of The Physicians Foundation.