

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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PFHSE Awards \$5.6 million for Projects to Improve Quality of Care Delivered in Physician Practices

(BOSTON) – Physicians' Foundation for Health Systems Excellence (PFHSE) announced today over \$5.6 million in grants for its 2006 Excellence in Practice grant program. Selected from over 200 applicants, the 15 grantees will be working on various projects to improve quality of care, patient safety, and physician education. Grants range in size from \$100,000 up to \$500,000 for up to three years.

Tim Norbeck, Executive Director of PFHSE said today, "Medical practice as we know it is under stress. Physicians are dealing today with many complex issues such as technological innovation, reimbursement changes, and information overload. The foundation's grants work toward helping practicing physicians meet some of these contemporary realities while delivering safe, effective medical care."

Examples include a project by the New York Chapter of the American College of Physicians to address issues that lead to physician stress and burnout through a project called *Mindful Communication: Bringing Intention, Attention, and Reflection to Clinical Practice*. This project will teach groups of physicians the techniques of mindfulness and reflection, and measure the impact on physicians' happiness with their work, and on the quality and efficiency of the patient care they provide. And in Nebraska, a project by the Nebraska Medical Foundation will facilitate steps towards adoption of health information technology by physicians to improve patient safety and enhance quality and efficiency within that state's healthcare system. This project will implement statewide outreach and education activities and will collect baseline data for tracking penetration of health information technology in clinical practices.

PFHSE, a grantmaking foundation with assets of \$98 million, devotes its resources to helping practicing physicians improve the care they deliver to their patients. The foundation provides grants to nonprofit organizations for practice-based, innovative projects that provide physician education or address quality of care or patient safety issues. PFHSE is fueled by funds derived from the 2003 settlement in a class action lawsuit between physicians, 19 state medical societies and Aetna, Inc. For more information visit: www.physiciansfoundations.org.

Physicians' Foundations

2006 Grant Recipients

Boston Medical Center

Boston, Massachusetts

Solving the Adoption of Innovation Dilemma for Solo and Small-Group Practices

To carry out distance learning for professional development and practice-based learning with solo and small practices.

Awarded \$396,025 over three years.

Center for Medical Simulation

Cambridge, Massachusetts

Teaching Disclosure of Medical Errors in a High-Fidelity Simulation

To train physicians to communicate and process adverse medical events and medical errors through simulations.

Awarded \$249,572 over two years.

Dana Farber Cancer Institute

Boston, Massachusetts

Improving Patient Safety in Ambulatory Care through Electronic Prescribing

To reduce medication errors and adverse drug events by examining the use of electronic prescribing among primary care physicians. Awarded \$195,959 over one year.

Emory University

Atlanta, Georgia

Chronic Care Unit for Arthritis - A Model of Care for a Public Hospital

To develop and evaluate a chronic care unit for rheumatoid arthritis. Awarded \$455,430 over three years.

Fund for Public Health in New York

New York, New York

Clinician's Toolbox and Self-Management Training Program

To increase the capacity of physician practices to provide effective self-management support for their patients.

Awarded \$499,997 over three years.

Louisiana State Medical Society Education & Research Foundation

Baton Rouge, Louisiana

Louisiana Disasters: Health Care Lessons Learned

To provide physicians, patients, and state medical societies with lessons learned following Hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

Awarded \$254,000 over one and a half years

Massachusetts Health Quality Partners

Watertown, Massachusetts

An Integrated Program to Improve the Clinical Quality and Experience of Care

To develop an integrated approach to improving clinical quality and patient experience in the physician office practice.

Awarded \$499,733 over two years.

Nebraska Medical Foundation

Lincoln, Nebraska

Enhancing Clinical Practices through the Adoption of Health Information Technology

To facilitate the adoption of electronic medical records by Nebraska physicians to improve patient safety and enhance quality and efficiency within the healthcare system. Awarded \$499,604 over two years.

Physicians' Foundations

New York Chapter of the American College of Physicians

Albany, New York

Mindful Communication: Bringing Intention, Attention, and Reflection to Clinical Practice

To implement systematic training for primary care physicians on skills of mindfulness and narrative reflection, and to measure the impact of such changes. *Awarded \$462,302 over three years.*

Philadelphia Health Management Corporation

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Philadelphia e-Quality

To create an organization to provide steeply discounted electronic medical record products to primary care providers, using funds paid by other stakeholders that benefit from those systems. *Awarded \$377,506 over one year.*

South Carolina Medical Association Foundation

Columbia, South Carolina

Targeting Racial Disparities in Treatment of Type II Diabetes

To enhance the capacity of physician practices to care for African-American diabetic patients by developing physician-directed case management services. *Awarded \$500,000 over two years*

Tennessee Foundation for Quality Patient Healthcare

Nashville, Tennessee

CURB-IT: Controlling Utilization Rates by Informing and Teaching

To develop a multi-faceted program to help reduce the volume of unnecessary controlled drug prescriptions and improve the utilization rates among patients in Tennessee. *Awarded \$449,193 over two years.*

Texas Academy of Family Physicians Foundation

Austin, Texas

Improving Diabetes Care through Implementation of Health Information Technology in Solo & Small Family Physician Practice

To assist rural family physicians in the screening and management of patients with diabetes through the use of health information technology. *Awarded \$305,608 over two years.*

University of Louisville

Louisville, Kentucky

Exportation of Applied Expertise: An Intra-State Mechanism to Improve Quality & Safety in Specialty Surgery

To improve the safety of elective surgery. *Awarded \$141,768 over two years.*

University of North Dakota

Grand Forks, North Dakota

NORTHSTAR: A Rural Primary Network for Quality Improvement

To establish a practice-based research network in North Dakota. *Awarded \$370,453 over three years.*