

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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**New Foundation Awards \$16 Million for Physician Education,
Patient Safety, and to Improve Health Care Quality**

(DALLAS) -- Patients with chronic illnesses will receive better health care, new technology will enhance patient safety and quality of care, and working, uninsured patients will receive timely, quality physician care at no cost, thanks to funding from a newly established foundation.

The Physicians' Foundation for Health Systems Excellence (PFHSE) proudly announces its first round of grants totaling \$16 million. The grantees are nonprofit organizations across the country dedicated to improving quality health care.

"This foundation was created for the sole purpose of helping practicing physicians improve the clinical care of their patients. I'm not sure that there is another foundation in this country with a similar mission," said Tim Norbeck, PFHSE president and executive director of the Connecticut State Medical Society.

The foundation is fueled by funds derived from a 2004 settlement in an antiracketeering class action lawsuit between physicians, medical societies, and Aetna, Inc.

"Without the courage and fortitude of our physician plaintiffs and other physician supporters and the signatory medical societies throughout this country, we would not have this wonderful and unprecedented opportunity to help physicians in their efforts to make this complex and confusing health care system a better one for all Americans," Norbeck said.

"The foundation is committed to helping practicing physicians, not just now, but for the long term," said Louis Goodman, PhD, CEO of the Texas Medical Association and chair of the foundation's Grants Committee. "Beginning with this year's grants of \$16 million, the foundation will forge ahead to support the very important work of small- and solo-practice physicians and to improve the quality of health care for all Americans."

Foundation board members reviewed 400 grant applications from nonprofits all over the nation to choose 26 grantees for 2005. They include a Dallas-based organization that will harness new technology to improve patient safety in Eastern Tennessee, and a California medical society project dedicated to enhancing the quality of care private physicians provide to patients with diabetes.

The one- to three-year grants announced today range in size from \$100,000 to \$1 million, depending on the size and scope of the organization and the project.

PFHSE is a grantmaking foundation with assets of \$98 million. PFHSE 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.

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The 2005 PFHSE grant recipients are:

American Academy of Family Physicians Foundation, Leawood, Kansas

Practice Enhancement Program – Awarded \$208,953 over one year

To expand the Practice Enhancement Program, a successful pilot program that teaches practice teams to carry out quality improvement for better patient care.

American Academy of Pediatrics, Elk Grove Village, Illinois

Safer for Kids Program: Pediatric Safety Web Resources – Awarded \$303,041 over three years

To improve pediatric patient safety through development and launch of an online program accessible to physicians and families.

American College of Physicians, Washington, DC

Center for Practice Innovation – Awarded \$996,000 over two years

To enhance patient care through new quality improvement techniques designed for small internal medicine practices.

American Medical Association Foundation, Chicago, Illinois

Cardio HIT – Awarded \$786,326 over two years

To demonstrate improvements in cardiovascular care through development of a program to assist physicians in integrating evidence-based, physician clinical performance measures into electronic health record systems.

Baylor Research Institute, Dallas, Texas

Engaging Physicians to Improve Patient Safety in Ambulatory Primary Care – Awarded \$123,384 over two years

To develop, evaluate, and improve the effectiveness of patient safety interventions in outpatient physician practices.

Bloomington Hospital Foundation, Bloomington, Indiana

Accelerating Adoption of Electronic Health Records: A Rural Community Approach – Awarded \$294,212 over two years

To support community-wide adoption of an electronic health record system through education and support to local physician practices.

Blue Hill Memorial Hospital, Blue Hill, Maine

Improved Patient Care for Patients with Chronic Conditions – Awarded \$219,172 over two years

To improve chronic disease prevention and management through practice improvement initiatives.

California Academy of Family Physicians Foundation, San Francisco, California

New Directions in Diabetes Care Initiative – Awarded \$500,000 over three years

To improve quality and cultural competence of diabetes care delivered in small family medicine and primary care practices through a statewide effort, in partnership with the California Medical Association Foundation.

California Medical Association Foundation, Sacramento, California

Extreme Makeover for the Solo and Small Group Practice – Awarded \$498,750 over one year

To demonstrate, in a pilot group of small practices, a series of work flow re-design steps leading to readiness for adoption of health information technology.

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Connecticut Center for Primary Care, Farmington, Connecticut

"CareConcepts" Integrating Payor-Sponsored Disease Management into Primary Care Practice – Awarded \$301,987 over three years

To improve outcomes for chronic disease patients by developing consensus that incorporates payor-sponsored disease management into primary care practice.

Dallas Academy of Medicine, Dallas, Texas

PracticeNet Solutions – Awarded \$986,529 over one year

To improve access and efficient care in counties surrounding Dallas and Austin, TX and Colorado Springs, CO by assisting physician practices in providing free care to working uninsured patients.

Foundation of the American Association of Medical Society Executives, Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Federation Initiative on Quality of Patient Care – Awarded \$209,500 over two years

To promote physician education through training on quality of patient care for medical society executives.

Genesee Valley Medical Foundation, Rochester, New York

Transforming Primary Care Office Practices – Awarded \$850,000 over two years

To develop and disseminate strategies for improving quality of care in small and solo office practices.

Hawaii Medical Foundation, Honolulu, Hawaii

Bridging the Adoption Gap – Awarded \$900,000 over three years

To study barriers to adoption of technology in small practices during introduction of electronic patient registries and chronic care management.

Institute of Medicine & Public Health of New Jersey, Lawrenceville, New Jersey

Electronic Feedback for Physician Management of Chronic Care – Awarded \$878,651 over two years

To improve quality of care through establishing claims-based chronic disease registries for small- to medium-sized practices.

Kaleida Health Women and Children's Hospital of Buffalo, Buffalo, New York

Improving Patient Safety – Awarded \$629,482 over two years

To demonstrate improvements in patient safety through development and testing of strategies to reduce adverse drug events.

Medical Association of Georgia Institute for Excellence in Medicine, Atlanta, Georgia

E-Technology Academy – Awarded \$652,200 over two years

To educate practicing physicians about adoption of health information technology.

Medical Care Development, Augusta, Maine

Improving Clinical Office Practices and Outcomes – Awarded \$758,493 over two years

To increase the use of evidence-based standards for chronic disease management through organizing regional collaboratives within five major physician-hospital organizations.

Medical Education & Scientific Foundation of New York, Lake Success, New York

Essentials of Pain Management and End-of-Life Care for Practicing Physicians – Awarded \$500,000 over two years

To educate physicians on pain management and end-of-life care using a variety of learning techniques.

Medical Society of Virginia Foundation, Fairfax, Virginia

Implementing the Electronic Medical Record in Physician Offices – Awarded \$113,900 over one year

To educate practicing physicians about the implementation of electronic medical records systems and other health information technology.

Middlesex Professional Services Foundation, Middletown, Connecticut

Clinical Integration Project – Awarded \$1,000,000 over two years

To improve care for patients with chronic diseases through development of a data system leading to clinical guidelines adherence and physician performance feedback.

North Carolina Medical Society Foundation, Raleigh, North Carolina

Sustainable Practice Management & Development Project – Awarded \$1,000,000 over three years

To enhance the sustainability of medical practice by offering technical assistance, practice education, and support to Community Practitioner Program participants in federally designated Health Professional Shortage Areas.

Patient Safety Institute, Plano, Texas

Real-Time Clinical Information for Physicians – Awarded \$985,000 over one year

To increase access and utility of real-time, patient-centric clinical information through initial development of a self-sustaining Regional Health Information Organization in Eastern Tennessee.

Texas Medical Association Special Funds Foundation, Austin, Texas

Ensuring Patient Safety through Health Information Technology – Awarded \$1,000,000 over two years

To improve patient safety through physician education and support leading to adoption of electronic health records.

Washington State Education and Research Foundation, Seattle, Washington

Washington State Support for Quality Project – Awarded \$1,000,000 over two years

To improve physician information and performance through a statewide program of best practice guidelines, disease registries, and data integrated across payors.

West Virginia Medical Foundation, Charleston, West Virginia

Center for Electronic Health Best Practices – Awarded \$186,500 over two years

To increase quality of patient care by developing an educational and advisory center to inform physicians and consumers about the mechanisms and benefits of electronic health records.