



E-Newsletter - Winter 2016

President's Corner



With a new administration waiting in the wings, the Physicians Foundation is hopeful that future healthcare policies better address the challenges practicing physicians are facing in today's healthcare system. The Foundation's goal is to ensure a more supportive and flexible environment to sustain medical practice.

Our latest data sets the stage. The [2016 Biennial Physician Survey](#) of more than 17,000 physicians across the U.S. demonstrates the added pressure on medical practice from issues such as increased regulatory burdens, diminished time with patients, the shrinking physician workforce and difficulties with access and reimbursement. Thus, it is critical that the new administration engage with and listen to physicians to begin course correcting our strained healthcare system.

U.S. physicians continue to struggle to maintain morale levels, adapt to changing delivery and payment models, and provide patients with reasonable access to care. Key findings from our survey highlight the many issues that must be addressed.

- 80 percent of physicians report being overextended or at capacity, with no time to see additional patients
- 54 percent rate their morale as somewhat or very negative, with 49 percent saying they are either often or always feeling burnt out
- 3 percent gave the Affordable Care Act an "A" rating while 48 percent gave it a "D" or "F"
- Only 20 percent are familiar with the new physician payment model, Medicare Access and CHIP Reauthorization Act (MACRA)
- 60 percent indicate that electronic health records (EHRs) have detracted from patient interaction

As Inauguration Day approaches, the Federation of Medicine must work together to ensure the physician's voice remains at the center of the healthcare debate. We believe that through our steadfast efforts we can and will continue to positively impact physician practice and improve the delivery of healthcare for all Americans.

For additional commentary about the survey, read [this](#) article from Tim Norbeck and me on the [Foundation's Forbes Channel](#).

Grant Spotlight

As the physician shortage discussion continues, the Foundation's support of the UNC [FutureDocs Forecasting Tool](#), an interactive, user-friendly, web-based model that forecasts the supply of physicians, is more important than ever. Erin Fraher, PhD, Assistant Professor, UNC Family Medicine, discusses how this organization has partnered with the Foundation on our [Grantee Perspective page](#).

FutureDocs is a critical tool for health systems, hospitals, physician offices, specialty societies and policymakers to find up-to-date, evidence-based forecasts about which types of health services will face shortages in particular geographies. Armed with this information, stakeholders are using the model to determine which service lines should be expanded and what types of physicians to recruit to meet forecasted shortages.

Funding from the Foundation has advanced the science of health workforce planning through the development of this groundbreaking tool.

Click [here](#) to view the full Q&A with Dr. Fraher, Assistant Professor, UNC Family Medicine.

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

Focus On: Poverty and the Myths of Health Care Reform

This fall, the Physicians Foundation announced the release of [Poverty and the Myths of Health Care Reform](#), a thought-provoking and data-rich book that documents the impact of social determinants on healthcare costs. A video highlighting the book's findings and featuring commentary from Dr. Joe Valenti, a Foundation Board Member, as well as other colleagues can be viewed [here](#).

Authored by the late Richard (Buz) Cooper, M.D., the book draws on decades of health research and economic data to demonstrate the pervasive, debilitating effects of poverty on healthcare costs, resource utilization and overall patient outcomes. The book, now available, is published by [Johns Hopkins University Press](#).

Dr. Cooper's book was commissioned by the Physicians Foundation, as it aligns with our mission to empower physicians to lead in the delivery of high-quality, cost-efficient healthcare. We aim to generate a discussion among healthcare stakeholders about this issue and collaborate with universities to encourage professors to add the book to their healthcare policy courses.

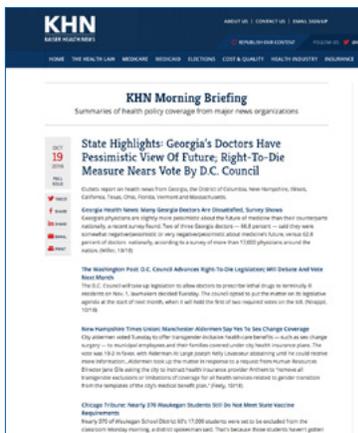
In The News

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.



[Forbes: More Doctors To Retire As MACRA And Value-Based Pay Hit \(Sept. 21, 2016\)](#)

The nation's doctors, facing a tsunami of changes in how they are paid, plan to retire in droves as value-based pay replaces fee-for-service medicine and they are forced to implement more new regulations, according to a new report.



[Kaiser Health News: State Highlights: Georgia's Doctors Have Pessimistic View Of Future \(Oct. 19, 2016\)](#)

Georgia's physicians are slightly more pessimistic about the future of medicine than their counterparts nationally, a recent survey found. The original article appeared in Georgia Health News.



[Modern Healthcare: Most physicians report low morale, burden from new payment models \(Sept. 22, 2016\)](#)

A majority of physicians look negatively at their profession and are increasingly burdened by new reimbursement models, according to the Physicians Foundation's 2016 survey.