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Political Action Committee Chair Report for BQSIMB 2018 Spring Meeting

1. 115th Congress (2017 - 2018)

1.1 H.R.5558 - Alternatives to Opioids Prescribing Act - Introduced in House (04/18/2018)

Sponsor: Rep. Buchanan, Vern [R-FL-16] (Introduced 04/18/2018)

Committees: House - Energy and Commerce; Ways and Means

Latest Action: House - 04/25/2018 Referred to the Subcommittee on Health.

This bill requires the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) to carry out a demonstration project to evaluate alternatives to the use of opioids to treat Medicare enrollees in hospital emergency departments. Under the project, the CMS must provide incentive payments to participating hospitals for decreasing the use of opioids and increasing the use of opioid alternatives.

<https://www.congress.gov/bill/115th-congress/house-bill/5558?q=%7B%22search%22%3A%5B%22hospital%22%5D%7D&r=3>

2. Updates from the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC):

2.1 March 27, 2018 - Reducing the Stress Associated With Electronic Health Records by Gregg Breining, special to AAMCNews

Physicians cite electronic health records (EHRs) as a leading contributor to burnout. ...

EHRs certainly can be beneficial. For example, they can make personal records more legible and, with some exceptions, instantly available. They provide alerts to potential problems such as drug interactions. They aid communication between physicians and the physicians' ability to follow up with patients. But they have also significantly increased the amount of time doctors sit in front of a screen. ...

Burnout has become an alarming problem for physicians. According to the National Academy of Medicine (NAM), more than 50% of physicians report symptoms of burnout, such as emotional exhaustion, depression, and a low sense of accomplishment. Consequences of burnout include reduced job performance, early retirement, fewer hours worked, medical errors, and even suicide.

To address physician burnout, the NAM launched the Action Collaborative on Clinician Well-Being, an initiative chaired by NAM President Victor J. Dzau, MD, and cochaired by AAMC President and CEO Darrell G. Kirch, MD, and ACGME CEO Thomas J. Nasca, MD.

... Too often, the computer becomes a physical barrier between doctor and patient, says Horvath. Even if it's off to the side, he notes, the physician needs to look at the screen and keyboard, not the patient.

In addition, some critics say that much of the data physicians input has little to do with providing quality care. The NAM paper notes that EHRs can grow so big and repetitive that finding pertinent information—a process clinicians call “foraging”—can be challenging. ...

A number of steps can help decrease EHRs' burdens and bolster their contribution to care, according to the NAM paper. ...

“Part of our call [is] for reinvention, reconceptualization, revolution of the whole way that we document. So we not only simplify, but we make the information relevant,” says Cipriano. “Caregivers are not reluctant to document, but they want it to be a very useful part of their work that takes advantage of the power of this digital era and doesn't just make the worker pay homage to the equipment,” she says. “Let the equipment work for us.”

<https://news.aamc.org/patient-care/article/reducing-stress-electronic-health-records/>

2.2 Inspiring the Next Generation of Academic Physicians **June 11, 2018, by Alicia Gallegos, special to AAMCNews**

Schools expose students to a range of possible career paths in academic medicine through specialized curricula and mentorship programs. ...

In recent years, concern over the looming physician shortage has dominated headlines. But an equally pressing concern has been the declining numbers of physicians who choose a career in academic medicine--as researchers, educators, or medical school administrators.

That's of tremendous concern to the academic medicine community, says Ross McKinney Jr., MD, AAMC chief scientific officer, who notes that supporting the next generation of physician-researchers and -educators is critical not only for the future of medical education, but for patient care and research. ...

Creating a more diverse academic medicine workforce

Meanwhile, Building the Next Generation of Academic Physicians (BNGAP), a novel initiative that includes more than 20 medical schools, is increasing the number of diverse medical students who pursue careers in academic medicine.

BNGAP conducts research and develops strategies to diversify the academic medicine workforce. Data show that only about 30% of faculty positions at academic medical institutions are held by women and minorities such as African Americans, Latinos, Alaskan Natives, and American Indians represent only 7% of faculty at U.S. medical schools.

Research by BNGAP and partnering associations found that many diverse medical students and residents felt they had no basic knowledge about academic medicine career options, nor had they received enough exposure to such career opportunities during training. ...

Based on the research, BNGAP leaders developed a 10-module curriculum centering on academic medicine career opportunities, which since 2015 has been implemented in 23 medical schools across the United States and Puerto Rico, Sanchez says. The modules have also been published within MedEdPORTAL. ...

<https://news.aamc.org/medical-education/article/inspiring-next-generation-academic-physicians/>

3. Updates from the ACGME (Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education)

3.1 ACGME a 'Game-Changer' for Addiction Medicine - Fellowships in addiction medicine open for all specialties, by MedPage Today Staff, April 17, 2018

This year marks the first time addiction medicine fellowship programs will operate under the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME). Nearly 50 fellowships were started under the Addiction Medicine Foundation, many of which are now in the first round of applicants for ACGME accreditation.

But with the projected need for physicians who specialize in addiction medicine, 75-80 new fellowships will need to be developed for accreditation. ...

<https://www.medpagetoday.com/meetingcoverage/asam/72392>

3.2 NEJM Resident360 discussion focuses on physician wellness

May 9, 2018 — Dink Jardine, MD, chair of the ACGME's Back to Bedside Advisory Work Group, recently participated in an engaging discussion on NEJM Resident360 about physician well-being and wellness with a focus on the resident and fellow experience and system-level interventions. Experts representing health care administrators, program directors, faculty members, residents/fellows, and recent graduates participated in the discussion.

In a summary post, Dr. Jardine highlights the following ways for residents and fellows to influence system-level change to improve their own and their colleagues' environment:

- Connecting to combat burnout
- Recognizing struggle in yourself and others (and getting help when needed)
- Engaging with leadership to implement innovation
- Focusing on developing opportunities for meaningful and purposeful work

See the NEJM Resident360 post here.

https://resident360.nejm.org/content_items/connection-and-meaning-resident-leadership-to-combat-burnout

3.3 ACGME Launches New Tools and Resources Web Page Dedicated to Physician Well-Being - Resources Compiled to Support Local Efforts to Improve Resident, Fellow, and Faculty Member Well-Being, Help Physicians in Distress

March 27, 2018 — The ACGME recently launched a new, comprehensive Tools and Resources page for institutions, programs, residents/fellows, and faculty members to support and promote well-being in the clinical learning environment.

"We have written requirements around this important dimension of the learning environment, but we have now taken the important step of providing our program directors, residents, faculty members, and institutional leaders with a range of tools and practices that can assist them in going beyond meeting minimum standards," said ACGME President and CEO Thomas J. Nasca, MD, MACP.

Read the full press release here:

http://acgme.org/Portals/0/PFAssets/NewsReleases/AFSPACGMEToolsResourcesPressRelease_2018_FINAL.pdf?ver=2018-03-27-100011-960

Respectfully submitted via email on June 25, 2018 by Rimma Perelman, Chair of Political Action Committee, BQSIMB.