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2008-09 HEALTH POLICY SCHOLAR FINAL REPORT

I have the opportunity to spend the last year as a Health Policy Scholar under the sponsorship of the American College of Surgeons and the American Pediatric Surgical Association. It has been a distinct honor, privilege, and pleasure for me to represent these two organizations as a Health Policy Scholar. In June, 2008, the Health Policy Scholars spent a week at the Heller School at Brandeis University. This was a unique and extremely informative time spent at a school which is interested in health policy. Dr. Jon Chillingierin was a truly motivational and engaging speaker who sparked everyone's interest. Dr. Stuart Altman, who has been a Health Policy Advisor for every President since Richard Nixon, was also a key faculty member and predicted many of the actions of the current Congress. He was also President Obama's Health Policy Advisor during the campaign. A copy of my report from this course is attached.

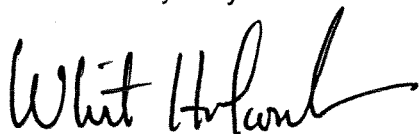
During the fall, not much changed in our country's health policy because of the election. There is not a lot of work accomplished in Washington in the fall of an election year because all of the Senators and Representatives are campaigning. Therefore, this was a quiet time in the health policy arena.

Late in 2008, the Institute of Medicine (IOM) submitted its report which had been requested by Congress on resident education and training. Although the focus of the report to physicians in academic medicine who deal with resident education was thought to be solely on duty hours, it actually covered a number of other important topics. Among other concerns raised by the IOM was the process of "hand-overs" between teams caring for patients, the level of supervision by senior residents and faculty over junior residents (especially interns), a limit on moonlighting, and, finally, the appropriate time that a resident can work and not become

fatigued so that patients do not suffer. Following the recommendations by the IOM, the ACGME was given 48 months to make changes and resolve the issues and concerns which were raised. The ACGME then convened a conference in Dallas, March 4-5, 2009 with representatives from all medical disciplines to discuss these IOM recommendations. Some of my funds from my health policy scholarship were spent toward my registration, travel, and attendance at this meeting which was two full days. My report on this meeting is also attached.

Finally, later in March, I participated in the Joint Surgical Advocacy Conference, March 22-24, 2009, in Washington, D.C. This conference was held to impress upon surgeons the need to become involved with and understand the political process and to understand that our goals will not be realized unless we become active. Specifically, contributions to the various PACs were emphasized because that is the nature of the political process and the PACs are then able to subsidize spokesmen to lobby on behalf of the surgeons. This was a very informative 2½ day meeting and a report which I submitted to the American Pediatric Surgical Association on this meeting is attached.

As mentioned previously, it has been an honor and pleasure to have been one of the 2008-09 Health Policy Scholars. I have enjoyed the opportunity to gain insight into the health policies of our country as well as the political process and I would be pleased to help in the future in any way.



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