

PENNSSTATE HERSHEY



Milton S. Hershey  
Medical Center

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John A. and Marian T. Waldhausen Professor of Surgery  
Chair, Department of Surgery

May 28, 2013

Kate Early, MA  
International Liaison and Scholarships Section  
633 North South Clair Street  
Chicago, IL 60611-3211

RE: 2012 Health Policy Scholars Report

Dear Ms. Early:

Thank you for the opportunity of being able to submit a final narrative report of my experiences in the past year as a 2012 Health Policy Scholar. I am truly indebted to the American College of Surgeons and the American Pediatric Surgical Association for the support of my position. I believe this is an extremely important and beneficial program and strongly advocate for its continued support within the College and the surgical specialties.

Having had a year to participate as a Health Policy Scholar, there are several aspects about the course and subsequent events that should be examined. There is no question that the course is outstanding. It is well structured, and the faculty are absolutely superlative in their dedication and commitment to the program. However, I would propose that consideration be given to modifying the course structure. While the course initially focused on health policy, there were a number of presentations that progressively deviated from that initial premise. There is no question that the ability to work with Stuart Altman and Jon Chilingirian was unique and truly delightful. However, there were several lectures that really did not pertain to health policy delivery. I would encourage the course designers to consider additional health policy lectures involving the leaders in the insurance field, political representatives, and hospital administrative experts. The course should also have a greater in-depth analysis of current health policy challenges and proposed solutions from the various political and interest group sectors. In short, I believe the course would benefit from a sharper focus on health policy challenges so that participants can become actively engaged in the health policy debate.

I found the recently concluded Advocacy and Leadership Summit in Washington interesting but also mildly disappointing. The initial part of the meeting was too focused on the College itself. While there were certainly a number of interesting presentations, there needed to be more in depth discussions regarding current healthcare policy status and the political challenges that face healthcare. For instance, while I thought the presentation by the senator's senior aid was interesting and enlightening, it did not lend itself to a discussion or analysis of current healthcare issues.



While I have focused my comments about the course as a "health policy" initiative, the course provided me with an incredible introduction that has allowed me to focus on healthcare delivery currently within our institution. This experience was the lecture by Dr. Jody Gittell-Hoffer on Relational Coordination. Since the course last spring, I have followed up personally with Dr. Gittell-Hoffer as well as several of her associates including a site visit from Dr. Gene Beyt from the Relational Coordination Research Collaborative. Her work has helped me to initiate a number of pilot projects in developing a patient centered culture at my institution. It has resulted in an abstract submission to the (Fall Conference) of the Association of Academic Health Centers as well as a GME Challenge Grant to the Gold Foundation.

Finally, I am most grateful for the scholarship funds that were provided to me. These funds covered the cost of the course at Brandeis as well as lodging, travel, and meals. Subsequent remaining funds were utilized for the Advocacy and Leadership Summit Meeting in Washington last month. Remaining funds were utilized to defray the costs of attending a conference in Hanover, New Hampshire, held by the Relational Coordination Research Collaborative.

I cannot stress enough how honored I am to have been named a 2012 Health Policy Scholar. The overall experience was incredibly enlightening and has given me the opportunity to develop new skills and expertise in healthcare delivery. It is my goal to build on this experience and be able to contribute it to both the institutional and national levels in solving the challenges of developing a patient centric healthcare delivery system. I would like to extend my deepest gratitude to the leadership of the American College of Surgeons and to the American Pediatric Surgical Association for their support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Peter W. Dillon", written over the word "Sincerely,".

Peter W. Dillon, M.D.