Fall ’21 BOG Resolutions: Business Meeting Recommendations to the Board of Regents

Resolution 3-F20. Readdressing the Issue of Hospital Patient Status

RESOLVED, that the Board of Regents advocates for support of decreased complexity of inpatient and observation status, and recommends a transparent, consistent reimbursement of appropriate care; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Board of Regents advocates for the development of clinical standards for assigning inpatient and observation status that are based on best available evidence.

The Board of Governors recommends that the Board of Regents adopt Resolution 3-F20 as amended.

Resolution 4-F20. Advocating for Coverage of Mental Health Counselor and Marriage and Family Therapist Services under Medicare

RESOLVED, that the Board of Regents advocates for the passage of federal regulation and/or legislation to mandate Medicare coverage of licensed mental health counselor and marriage and family therapist services.

The Board of Governors recommends that the Board of Regents adopt Resolution 4-F20 as amended.

Resolution 10-F20. Seeking Federal Protection for Those that Administer Vaccines

RESOLVED, that the Board of Regents work with other medical, non-physician clinician, and public health organizations to seek federal protection for physicians, other clinicians, public health professionals, and associated team members who educate on, administer or distribute vaccines, which includes but is not limited to seeking similar legislation to the Freedom of Access to Clinic Entrances Act for vaccine providers.

The Board of Governors recommends that the Board of Regents adopt Resolution 10-F20 as amended.

Resolution 11-F20. Formalizing the Residency Program Closure Process and Preventing Hardships for Trainees

RESOLVED, that the Board of Regents work with the ACGME, CMS, and other relevant stakeholders to create a formal and transparent residency program closure process, delineating a hospital’s responsibility to prevent hardships for trainees including, but not limited to, a reasonable amount of notice to trainees, attempts to relocate trainees prior to closure, allowing trainees to start work at their accepting institution at a reasonable time before the day of closing, and assistance in filing for visa extensions.

The Board of Governors recommends that the Board of Regents adopt Resolution 11-F20 as amended.

Resolution 1-F21. Collaborating to Determine Optimal Ways to Incorporate Training in Physician Leadership and Public Policy Advocacy into Internal Medicine Curricula
RESOLVED, that ACP collaborate with the Alliance for Academic Internal Medicine and the Association of Program Directors in Internal Medicine to determine optimal ways to incorporate training in physician leadership and public policy advocacy into internal medicine curricula and that ACP uses its expertise to assist in developing this advocacy curriculum.

The Board of Governors recommends that the Board of Regents adopt Resolution 1-F21 as a substitute resolution.

Resolution 2-F21. Advocating for Inclusion of Antimicrobial Resistance and Stewardship Education in Medical School Curriculum and Internal Medicine Residency

RESOLVED, that the Board of Regents collaborate with the Association of American Medical Colleges, the American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine, the Liaison Committee on Medical Education, the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education, the Infectious Diseases Society of America, American College of Clinical Pharmacy, and other pertinent stakeholders, to continue to promote and advocate for education on antimicrobial resistance and stewardship as an enhanced component of the curriculum for medical students and internal medicine residents.

The Board of Governors recommends that the Board of Regents adopt Resolution 2-F21 as amended.

Resolution 4-F21. Supporting a Policy to Avoid Conflicts of Interest for Physician Solicitation of Financial Contributions from Patients

RESOLVED, that the Board of Regents support the creation of a policy, and more detailed guidance in the ACP Ethics Manual, regarding physician involvement in fundraising from patients, which limits any real or perceived conflict of interest with patient care including, but not limited, to a) prohibiting physician financial incentives and b) ensuring that physician participation is voluntary and without repercussions.

The Board of Governors recommends that the Board of Regents adopt Resolution 4-F21.

Resolution 5-F21. Addressing Concerns about Private Equity Firms and Their Effect on Medical Care

RESOLVED, that the Board of Regents work actively on developing specific policies for encouraging the collection of data on the scope of private equity group purchases of medical entities, including but not limited to:

1. Contacting other relevant medical organizations such as the American Medical Association and the American Academy of Family Physicians regarding ways to work together to encourage collection of relevant data.
2. Asking ACP chapters to contact their membership using a methodology developed by national ACP to better understand how the purchase of medical practices and organizations by private equity groups affects our members, patient care, and healthcare access, equity and costs.

The Board of Governors recommends that the Board of Regents adopt Resolution 5-F21 as amended.
Resolution 6-F21. Facilitating Research and Treatment of Individuals with Post-Acute Covid-19 Syndrome (PACS)

RESOLVED, that the Board of Regents take the following actions to facilitate research and treatment of individuals with Post-Acute Covid-19 Syndrome (PACS):

1. Commend the NIH on its plan to fund comprehensive and coordinated basic research into the prolonged health consequences of SARS-Cov-2 infection, and strongly encourage the NIH to proceed as fast as is considered scientifically appropriate with the funding of well-designed treatment trials, including community-based sites, in light of the anticipated widespread amount of human suffering expected from this condition.

The Board of Governors recommends that the Board of Regents adopt Resolution 6-F21 as amended.

Resolution 7-F21. Advocating for Pan Asian/Asian American Racial/Ethnicity Data Inclusion and Representation to Promote Health Equity

RESOLVED, that the Board of Regents advocates, in collaboration with other stakeholders (including but not limited to the National Academies of Science, Engineering, and Medicine [NASEM], and other organized medicine societies), for the collection and inclusion of the Pan Asian/Asian American communities’ disaggregated racial/ethnic data in health systems, health surveys, public health and medical studies, whenever such surveys and studies provide data on other communities of color. This advocacy can also include requests for major funders of scientific studies to set standards for data collection ensuring inclusion of Pan Asian/Asian American communities’ disaggregated racial/ethnic data.

The Board of Governors recommends that the Board of Regents adopt Resolution 7-F21.

Resolution 9-F21. Providing Educational Material to Physicians on the Changes to the “Stark Law” as Announced by CMS in November 2020

RESOLVED, that the Board of Regents prepare educational material for ACP members which explain the changes in the Stark Law, as well as to provide examples of how these changes may enable ACP members to increase quality and comprehensiveness of care.

The Board of Governors recommends that the Board of Regents adopt Resolution 9-F21 as amended.

Resolution 12-F21. Providing Support for Lactating Physicians

RESOLVED, that the Board of Regents develop a position statement that highlights the importance of supporting physicians in achieving their breastfeeding goals, including encouraging hospitals and clinics to develop policies that provide private lactation spaces in close proximity of workspaces and equipped with a phone and computer to address productivity goals, and to offer physicians protected time for lactation without affecting income.

The Board of Governors recommends that the Board of Regents adopt Resolution 12-F21 as amended.
Fall 2020 Resolutions Referred for Study and Report Back to the Board of Governors:

Resolution 3-F21. Removing Criteria that Disqualifies Applicants for Invited Fellowship for Lapsed Payment of Dues

RESOLVED, that the Board of Regents redact the lapsed dues payment exclusion criteria from the Invited Fellowship application process and consider payment of dues at the time of advancement to fellowship to be instituted as new policy.

The Board of Governors recommends that Resolution 3-F21 be referred for study.

Resolution 8-F21. Facilitating Physicians in Providing Medical Care to Their Out-of-State Patients Without Imposing Undue Burdens or Compromising Doctor-Patient Relationships

RESOLVED, that the Board of Regents investigate current initiatives being pursued, such as the “Interstate Medical Licensure Compact” program, and provide recommendations that address how initiatives can be developed that allow physicians to provide medical care to their patients when they are out of state through a system which is not onerous but still protective of the doctor-patient relationship.

The Board of Governors recommends that the Board of Regents refer Resolution 8-F21 for study.

Resolution 10-F21. Promoting Policy Standards for Reporting Diagnostic Errors of Hospitalized and Ambulatory Patients

RESOLVED, that the Board of Regents:

- Advocate for automated use of health information technology (HIT) to securely report diagnostic errors in healthcare organizations (HCO).
- Promote engagement and support of the organizations’ leadership and stakeholders at all levels.
- Promote continuous analysis of the reported diagnostic errors, understand how diagnostic errors occur and subsequently create system fixes that can prevent them from happening again; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Board of Regents:

- Promote a safety culture around patient safety events related to diagnostic errors.
- Promote proper education and training on diagnostic errors reporting systems as part of organizations’ safety culture.
- Promote medical education around diagnostic errors as part of medical schools and internal medicine residency programs curriculum.

The Board of Governors recommends that Resolution 10-F21 be referred for study.