

The Buck Stops Here!

So the world concedes America currently has the finest physicians and medical facilities available; however, we could be terminal unless we doctors – not our lobbyists – can educate colleagues, patients, and politicians right now!

We as a team have been divided and we could be conquered. Hectic schedules, the advent of hospitalists that eliminate our meeting while doing rounds or visiting in the lounge. Professional isolation has become a reality for us all.

The socialist movement in American medicine will fail just as Europe and Canada are failing today. Canada is just now opening up private practices in select cities as their medical services are flawed, slow and only works because the well-to-do come to America for treatment.

The third party payors are raising premiums, thereby increasing their profits, while these same payors are reducing your reimbursements.

Internists in Florida pay \$74,885 a year for liability coverage while their counterparts in Wisconsin pay \$5,147. The difference is that Wisconsin has a \$250,000 cap on non-economic damages. Can you share this story?

Our societies have good lobbyists; however, you the doctor have the integrity and confidence of all the people. If you share the truth, you will be believed more than any other source in the world. Change for the better will occur only if you are bold for fair market pricing. As it is, Tucson is down to only one trauma center due to lawsuit exposure. Who is next?

Please share the truth of the failures of medicine in Europe and Canada. I am not being dramatic and I am not angry, but we doctors are in a war in which only we will make the difference. The time is now, tell your story.

You cannot refer this case doctor, you alone will make the difference whether the system we have now survives or is terminal. The buck stops here! I pray each of you will fight for our patient's wellbeing by speaking out!

Barbara A. Berry, M.D.
President