

Diagnosing America's Health: From Prescription to Diagnosis

July 7, 2009 ♦ 4:00pm ♦ George Washington University Hospital

♦ *Opening Remarks*

- Joseph Giordano, MD; Chair, Department of Surgery; GWU Medical Center

♦ *Welcome by the Moderator*

- Peter E. Lavine, MD; MSDC President

♦ *Roundtable Discussion*

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| • Stuart F. Seides, MD;
MSDC Chairman | • Congressman John Fleming,
M.D. (LA-04) |
| • Joseph E. Gutierrez, MD;
MSDC Past President | • Congressman Phil Gingrey,
M.D. (GA-11) |
| • J. Desiree Pineda, MD;
MSDC Member | • Congressman Tim Murphy,
Ph.D. (PA-18) |
| • Congressman Charles
Boustany, M.D. (LA-07) | • Congressman Tom Price, M.D.
(GA-6) |
| • Congressman Michael
Burgess, M.D. (TX-26) | • Congressman Phil Roe, M.D.
(TN-01) |
| • Congressman Bill Cassidy,
M.D. (LA-06) | |

♦ *Town Hall/Audience Question & Answer*

- Peter E. Lavine, MD; MSDC President; Moderator

♦ *Closing Remarks*

- Stuart F. Seides, MD; MSDC Chairman

On behalf of the Medical Society's Board of Directors and our 1500 members, it's my pleasure to welcome you to **Reforming America's Health: From Diagnosis to Prescription**. Since 1817, the Medical Society of the District of Columbia has advocated on behalf of physicians and patients to improve the health of District residents. Now, with national health system reform on center stage a mere 23 blocks from this auditorium, it is equally fitting that the Society host this dialogue between caregivers and policymakers.

While high-quality medical care in the United States is second to none, there is a growing consensus that the status quo in terms of health care delivery is simply unsustainable. That consensus suggests that as a nation, we must expand access and improve health care delivery, while containing costs. Since last year's presidential campaign, the debate has focused on how we can attain those goals without losing all that is good about American medicine. All too frequently, policymakers debate and pass legislative proposals without fully considering the impact on all stakeholders – and in this case, the ultimate stakeholders are America's patients. During the next 90 minutes, you'll be part of a dialogue among local physician leaders, physician members of Congress, other care providers in Congress, and patients. The dialogue is designed to influence policymakers, both in Congress and the Administration, about the critical importance of real reform that actually benefits patients.

For centuries, physicians have ascribed to an oath which states, "*Primum non Nocere*" – "*First, do no harm.*" For truly effective reform, Congress must also follow this principle. The Society's goal with today's dialogue is to ensure that Congress and the Administration enact reform that benefits patients and preserves all that is great about the American health care system, while addressing the complexities of a health care delivery system that no longer works as effectively or as affordably as it should.

I would also like to thank George Washington University Hospital for hosting this town hall. To our members, we are especially grateful for the support you have shown over the years in making the District a better place in which to practice. To those of you yet to join with your colleagues in such a worthwhile endeavor, I encourage you to review the membership materials provided to you today and to visit us on the web at www.msdc.org.

Thank you for joining us in our audience this afternoon. We hope you enjoy the discussion and find it equally informative.

K. Edward Shanbaker
Executive Vice President

Panelists

Peter E. Lavine, M.D.

- Orthopaedic Surgery
- MSDC President

Stuart F. Seides, M.D.

- Cardiology
- MSDC Board Chairman

Joseph E. Gutierrez, M.D.

- Vascular Surgery
- MSDC, Immediate Past President

J. Desiree Pineda, M.D.

- Endocrinology
- MSDC Member

Rep. Charles Boustany, M.D.

- Cardio-Thoracic Surgery
- 3rd term, Louisiana-7th

Rep. Paul Broun, M.D.

- Family Medicine
- 2nd term, Georgia-10th

Rep. Michael Burgess, M.D.

- OB/GYN
- 4th term, Texas-26th

Rep. Bill Cassidy, M.D.

- Gastroenterology
- 1st term, Louisiana-6th

Rep. John Fleming, M.D.

- Family Medicine
- 1st term, Louisiana-4th

Rep. Phil Gingrey, M.D.

- OB/GYN
- 4th term, Georgia-11th

Rep. Tim Murphy, Ph.D.

- Clinical Psychology
- 4th term, Pennsylvania-18th

Rep. Tom Price, M.D.

- Orthopaedic Surgery
- 3rd term, Georgia-6th

Rep. Phil Roe, M.D.

- OB/GYN
- 1st term, Tennessee-1st

MSDC

MEDICAL SOCIETY OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Since 1817, the Medical Society of the District of Columbia is dedicated to the well being of physicians and their patients in metropolitan Washington. We advocate on behalf of our member physicians of diverse cultural and ethnic backgrounds; we promote high standards of character and professionalism; and we ensure that physicians are recognized as the primary professionals who define and guarantee high quality, appropriate, and cost-effective medical care. Above all, we aggressively defend the highest principle of all: the integrity of the physician-patient relationship.