



Board Member Overview for Signatory Societies

About The Physicians Foundation

The Physicians Foundation is a nonprofit 501(c)(3), 509(a)(1) public foundation that seeks to empower physicians to lead in the delivery of high-quality, cost-efficient healthcare. As the U.S. healthcare system continues to evolve, the Physicians Foundation is steadfast in its determination to strengthen the physician-patient relationship, support physicians in sustaining their medical practices and help practicing physicians navigate the changing healthcare system.

The mission of the Physicians Foundation is to support and empower all physicians to provide high quality care and take a leadership role in shaping the future of healthcare. We act on our mission through research, education, and innovative grant making.

The Physicians Foundation believes that:

- The medical profession's central tenet is the primacy of physicians' duty to their patients.
- The profession of medicine and the integrity of the patient-physician relationship are essential elements of high-quality health care.
- The perspective of practicing physicians is critical to the ongoing discourse on how to improve health care delivery in our country.

Foundation History and Board Structure

The Foundation is the result of class action lawsuit settlements in 2003 involving Aetna and Cigna brought about by physicians, 19 state medical societies, two county medical societies, and one regional medical society. The settlements included required changes in the operation of the insurers and monetary reimbursement to physicians as well as the creation of two foundations. With the permission of Miami federal district court Judge Frederick Moreno, who has continuing jurisdiction over the foundation, the two foundations merged for efficiency purposes a few years later. The merger established The Physicians Foundation. By funding research, grants and educational programs and materials, The Physicians Foundation has become a leading voice for physicians across the United States.

The Foundation's Board of Directors is composed of individuals selected from each of the original signatory state, county, and regional societies. The Foundation acknowledges the value of maintaining an even balance of physicians and medical society executives in order to best serve physicians across the country.

The Foundation is a virtual organization that is supported by a staff of two, a CEO and a COO. For additional support, the Foundation currently contracts with GMA Foundations for grantmaking, meeting planning, and administrative services, and JPA Health for its communications and public relations work. The Foundation's accounting is conducted by the Texas Medical Association.

Board Member Considerations

The board is an active and collaborative group where each voice is valued and each board member works to support the Foundation's goals. Board members are expected to collaborate with their fellow board members to ensure that a thoughtful, collegial, and methodical approach to policy development, research, grants, and problem solving is achieved. Recognizing the importance of diversifying its board, the Foundation encourages medical societies to consider how they can add a new or underrepresented voice to the board.

History shows that the Foundation board experiences a low turnover rate; with this in mind, it is even more critical that societies contemplate appointing members with an eye towards inclusion.

A successfully diverse board should include a variety of perspectives, skills, ages, genders, cultural backgrounds and ethnicities. The Physicians Foundation would greatly appreciate your consideration of diversity in your next board appointment.

The board is able to productively work towards its mission when board members:

- Support the mission of the Foundation
- Consistently commit to board meeting and committee call attendance
- Participate in board discussions and respect the opinions of others
- Prepare for all meetings by reviewing materials provided in advance
- Work productively in teams with clear allegiance to the Foundation over other interests
- Promote the work of the Foundation within their society and through their professional networks
- Share their perspectives and expertise with the board
- Conduct business through technology, including video conferencing and digital board materials

Board Member Responsibilities

Physicians Foundation Board Members are appointed by their respective state, county, or regional medical society. While serving on the board, board members actively work together to serve the common mission and strategic plan of the Foundation and support grants and programs in the interests of all physicians in the United States. Board member responsibilities include:

- Serving for a three-year term, with possible renewal for two additional 3-year terms
- Attending quarterly board meetings
 - Board meetings take place over the course of 3 days, including a reception and dinner, full day of committee meetings, and half-day board meeting
 - Meetings take place from Thursday evening - Saturday afternoon, when possible, to accommodate work schedules and travel time
 - Meetings take place in different centrally-located cities, generally in a state where at least one board member resides
 - Meetings are currently being held in-person, with the option to attend virtually as a result of the pandemic
- Participating in committee phone and video meetings and tasks between board meetings, as assigned. Each board member is assigned to 1-5 committees, depending on areas of expertise and committee need. Current committees are:
 - Executive Committee
 - Governance Committee
 - Strategic Planning Committee
 - Finance Committee
 - Communications Committee
 - Grants Committee
 - Physician Leadership Committee
 - Physician Wellness Committee
 - Physicians Perspective on Practice Committee
 - Drivers of Health Committee
- Adhering to board policies, such as conflict of interest, confidentiality, and travel policy
- Understanding and abiding by the organization's founding documents
- Reading the organization's Form 990 tax return and reviewing regular financial statements
- Understanding the legal obligations of the board



- If elected by the Board of Trustees, serving as an Officer (President, Vice President, Treasurer, or Secretary) for a term of three years with possible renewal

Please be in touch if you wish to further discuss the goals of the Foundation and its board members.

Bob Seligson, CEO

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