



# LEXINGTON MEDICAL SOCIETY

*Physicians caring for the community since 1799*

October 2017

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Robert P. Granacher, Jr., MD, MBA

## President's Message:

Our country's political interests have recently been galvanized by the attempts of the Republican dominated Congress to pass a health care bill. As I hear the pundits on television and health care colleagues speak, I am concerned about a misuse of terms that I think we, as health care practitioners, should correct. It is often stated that our "health care system is broken."

In my judgment, what the Congress is attempting to correct is payor models or payor methods not an attempt to manage a health care system. Our health care system is made up of hospitals, laboratories, outpatient clinics, varied medical specialties and practice models, nurses, various forms of physical and occupational therapists, psychologists, etc. In my opinion, it is not broken, but it may be fragmented. Our health care system is not equivalent to the payor models that are being discussed and argued in Washington DC.

As physicians, I believe we should be very clear when talking to our patients when they ask questions about the Affordable Care Act of President Obama or the current attempts to repeal and replace that act with some other form of payor model. We should carefully explain to our patients that these political attempts are all directed to payor models, not the health care system in general.

Obviously, payor methods and payor models can have a direct impact upon health care delivery and the health care system in general, but that is not what is being discussed politically by the US Congress.

Unfortunately, we as physicians have been reduced to a limited voice in the congressional actions of payor models. That is our own fault. We in organized medicine are increasingly taking a backseat or not asking for a seat at the table when these discussions are made. When the Affordable Care Act was passed, I believe I am correct that there was not a single physician involved in that process, with the exception of Dr. Emmanuel, a political insider. However, even with recent legislative actions and significant input from Dr. Price, Dr. Barrasso, and other physician members of both the House and the Senate, we as a profession have had limited impact on current legislative arguments.

Maybe it will be necessary for us as a profession to stick to our expertise, which is taking care of patients within the various health care system models throughout the

## Upcoming Events:

**October 10**

**LMS General Mtg  
Hilary J. Boone Ctr  
Speaker:**

**Dr. Dale Toney**

**October 13-14**

**LMS Bourbon Chase  
Team raises money for  
the American  
Cancer Soc**

**November 14**

**LMS General Mtg  
Hilary J. Boone Ctr  
Speaker:**

**Dr. Ralph Alvarado**

United States. As a profession, we have no expertise in health care policy, health care financing, or payor models anyway. What, if anything, will happen with the current attempts to develop a congressional solution to the Affordable Care Act is certainly not foreseeable at this point. We must remember to focus on the task at hand in caring for our patients. Unfortunately, arguments about payor models, while legislatively necessary, are not helpful to our practice of medicine.

*Robert P. Granacher, Jr., M.D., MBA*



## Lexington Medical Society & KMA 10<sup>th</sup> District Dinner Meeting Including LMS Past Presidents



### Our Guest Speaker

Dale Toney, M.D.  
KMA Board Chair &  
10 District Trustee

**Tuesday, October 10, 2017**

6pm Registration/Social  
6:30pm Dinner  
7:15pm Program

Hilary J. Boone Center, 500 Rose St.

Free to LMS members & spouses  
\$30 for non-member guests.

To Register go to  
[www.LexingtonDoctors.org](http://www.LexingtonDoctors.org), email [cmadison@lexingtondoctors.org](mailto:cmadison@lexingtondoctors.org) or call (859) 278-0569.

**\*Deadline to register/cancel is 10/5/17.**

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*The Lexington Medical Society is the principal voice & resource for Central Kentucky physicians to enhance their professional lives & improve the health of the community.*

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