

A publication of the Physician's Health Program of the Tennessee Medical Foundation

Fall 2011

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Leonard A. Brabson, Sr., M.D. **TMF** President

Smoky Mountain's National Park in the month of October alone.

Soon after Fall, we enter the season of thankfulness and then after all the leaves have gone, we go right into the season of giving, and almost immediately we enter the New Year and the season of rebirth, renewal, and starting over. I consider myself lucky to live in Tennessee where these seasons play out in such a beautiful manner.

I also consider myself very lucky to be a physician practicing in Tennessee for over 35 years. Not only has this state been my home, but it has allowed me to practice medicine and participate in over 10,000 births. During this time I have enjoyed good mental and physical health - but that is not the case with all of our physician colleagues. For this reason our state is fortunate to have the Tennessee Medical Foundation (TMF). More about the seasons of thankfulness, giving, and renewal a little bit later, but now I will say a few words about the mission of the TMF and its Physician's Health Program (PHP).

The mission of the PHP is "to protect patients" through identification, intervention, rehabilitation and the provision of advocacy for physicians

Message from the President

I think Fall is the most dramatic. In my part of Tennessee, the leaves put on such a beautiful display that people come from far and wide to see. One million people visit the

Of all the seasons, impaired by addictive disease, mental or emotional illness". Both parts of this mission have been highly successful. As a result of this two pronged effort, the citizens of Tennessee have enjoyed a much safer and a higher quality of medical care. At the same time, Tennessee physicians with addiction, mental, or emotional illness who have participated in the PHP have enjoyed one of the highest success rates of any state in the country.

> Most recently, the mission has been extended to medical students and residents at the training institutions of this state. The treatment of those doctors in training who are affected by addiction, mental, or emotional illness has been added to the role of the TMF. In addition, our Medical Director, Dr. Roland Gray has developed a curriculum on physician health that he presents regularly to the Medical Schools and Residency programs in Tennessee.

> Now, back to the seasons. Because the TMF has been so successful, many physicians have been able to experience a season of rebirth, renewal, and starting over. Because the TMF has been so successful, the physicians and citizens of this state should experience a season of thankfulness. Because the TMF needs to continue to be successful, I call on you to help us celebrate a season of giving. Please remember the TMF as a recipient for your charitable donations this year.

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Leonard A. Brabson, Sr., M.D. President, Tennessee Medical Foundation Board of Directors

THE MISSION OF THE PHYSICIAN'S HEALTH PROGRAM (PHP) IS TO PROTECT PATIENTS THROUGH IDENTIFICATON, INTERVENTION, REHABILITATION, AND THE PROVISION OF ADVO-CACY FOR PHYSICIANS IMPAIRED BY ADDICTIVE DISEASE. MENTAL OR EMOTIONAL ILLNESS.

PHYSICIAN'S HEALTH MEDICAL DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE



Roland Gray, M.D. TMF Medical Director

One of the most important and gratifying aspects of my job is the opportunity to work with Tennessee medical students, interns and residents. Their vitality, eagerness and finely honed skill sets inspire me and bode well for future patient care.

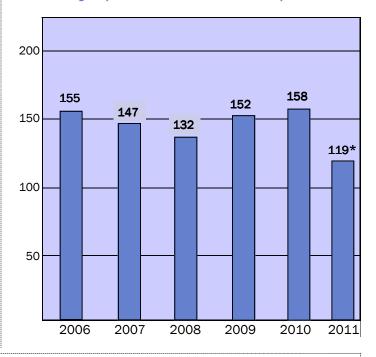
This year, as a piece of my overall medical education activities, I launched a two-

hour lecture series entitled "Things You Should Have Been Taught in Medical School...but Probably Weren't" for residents insured by State Volunteer Mutual Insurance Company. At campuses in Chattanooga, Knoxville, Johnson City and Memphis, I explored several pertinent issues. Among them was the disruptive physician, or as I prefer to view them "the distressed physician". I recounted the role perfectionism and compulsivity play in undermining a culture of patient safety and offered preventive measures professionals may take to prevent these traits from derailing their careers. In this talk, I also stressed the importance of establishing and maintaining professional boundaries, and the consequences which occur when they are crossed or violated. Finally, and of crucial importance in today's medicine, I discussed proper prescribing and current best practices designed to keep physicians out of hot water.

In 2012, I hope to see many of you as I participate in State Volunteer Medical Insurance Company's annual Risk Management Seminars conducted at nearly a dozen sites statewide. Next year's program will focus on malpractice stress and promises to be helpful to anyone who has ever been or might be sued, which of course means practically every doctor!

Like most, my thoughts turn to gratitude this time of year. Were it not for you and many others, the Tennessee Medical Foundation would be unable to fulfill its mission begun 33 years ago. To all our financial supporters, our participants and former participants, our Caduceus leaders, everyone who serves on the Board of Directors and Peer Review Committee, and the staff of the Physician's Health Program, I extend my warmest wishes and abundant gratitude.

Physician Referrals to the TMF



January 1, 2006 - October 31, 2011*

Dr. Gray has served as Medical Director of the Tennessee Medical Foundation's Physician's Health Program since January 2002. Prior to this, he served as a TMF Board member and long-time volunteer for the Physician's Health Program. Certified in Addiction Medicine in 1987, Dr. Gray has treated more than 10,000 patients for addiction diseases, and serves as a Special Government Employee and Consultant to the FDA Subcommittee on Drug Abuse. A practicing pediatrician from 1976 through 2001, Dr. Gray is a Fellow of the American Academy of Pediatrics as well as a Fellow of the American Society of Addiction Medicine. Dr. Gray is also a member of the clinical faculty at Vanderbilt University.

SAVING LIVES...SAVING CAREERS

N o one is immune from illness or stress, even physicians. We at the Tennessee Medical Foundation (TMF) Physician's Health Program (PHP) should know. We have been in the business of helping doctors since 1978. During this time, we have assisted over 3,000 physicians and their families.

We understand that doctors with physical, emotional or mental health problems, including substance abuse, have always been part of the medical landscape. When it comes to having problems, holding a medical license confers no immunity. Unfortunately, like many of us, physicians often resist seeking help. They are more adept providing help than asking for it. In fact, experts have observed, *"the last thing most physicians want to be is a patient"*. As their problems go untreated, discomfort and suffering mount and patients may be deprived the expert care they deserve.

Physicians often believe that problems like depression, burnout or stress should not affect them. After all, how could so much medical training not enable them to take care of themselves? In truth, many of the problems physicians encounter have always been there, but their practice environment provides the right circumstances for them to surface. For instance, changes in the healthcare environment over the past two decades have weighed heavily on many physicians. Threats of malpractice, inadequate reimbursement, overly long work hours and intense oversight by government agencies contribute to a fertile environment for problems to fester.

As a society we expect much from physicians. They are under constant scrutiny and immense pressure to perform. When making decisions that affect the health and well-being of patients, there is no room for error. In this environment, stress becomes a constant companion. Like anyone else, physicians can reach a breaking point. The difference is if a physician collapses under the weight of problems, not only is a career in jeopardy, patient safety is also compromised. Hence, part of the mission of the Physician's Health Program is to protect patients. Their safety is paramount. To do this, the program has developed a sophisticated and confidential process to ensure that patient safety is preserved and a highly trained, valuable physician is rehabilitated. It has worked well for over thirty years, to the benefit of physicians, patients and the citizens of Tennessee. To head off potential clients, the PHP also works closely with all of Tennessee's medical schools to develop courses to address the rules of prescribing, avoiding

disruptive behavior, maintaining proper boundaries and educating students and residents about the resources available to them.

In the early days almost all the physicians the PHP assisted had an alcohol or drug use disorder. Today, our scope has broadened to include not only alcohol and drug disorders but also stress, burnout, misprescribing, boundary issues, and an array of physical and mental health problems while simultaneously addressing problems not encountered in the past, such as meeting the needs of the increasing number of women and minorities entering the profession.

Referrals to the Physician's Health Program originate from hospitals, medical groups, concerned colleagues, family members and the Tennessee Health Related Boards. Many physicians now come through self-referral which we especially welcome. Experience has shown that getting help from the TMF is not complicated or difficult. In fact, help is a phone call away. (615) 467-6411.

The TMF Physician's Health Program stands ready to assist. The following are some of the problems physicians encounter for which support and resources are available:

- Substance abuse
- Behavioral issues
- Psychiatric and emotional problems
- Professional boundary issues
- Stress and burnout
- Prescribing issues
- Work life balance
- Malpractice stress and legal problems
- Family and relationship problems
- Grief and loss
- Work, career and retirement concerns
- Cognitive concerns
- Chronic Pain
- Eating disorders
- Physical Problems

PHYSICIAN'S HEALTH CADUCEUS RETREAT NEWS

Farewell Lee Lipsenthal



We pause to remember fondly Lee Lipsenthal, M.D. We are saddened by his passing but grateful for the extraordinary workshop he led at the 2010 TMF Annual Caduceus Retreat.

Dr. Lipsenthal died at 54 in San Anselmo, California on September 19, 2011 after a two-year battle with untreatable esophageal cancer. He is

survived by his internist wife, Dr. Kathy Chang, and two children, Will and Cheryl.

Lee Lipsenthal spent his early career developing prevention and treatment programs for patients at-risk for heart disease. Later he devoted himself to teaching health care professionals to lead balanced and healthy lifestyles.

In 2007 he published *"Finding Balance in a Medical Life"*. His latest book *"Enjoy Every Sandwich: Living Each Day As If It Were Your Last"* was published posthumously on November 8, 2011 by Crown Books. In it, he describes his journey after his cancer diagnosis.

Thankfully, Dr. Lipsenthal's work lives on in the many physicians he touched through his books, workshops and clinical work. His legacy resides in the improved health and well-being of thousands of physicians. He challenged them to balance their lives by confronting their demons and dependencies such as workaholism with a program of stress management, healthy communication, positive relationships and love—a regime he advocated and lived by.

"Instead of being mad at the hand of fate, I am focused on what is going on—mentally, physically, and emotionally—with myself and those I love. In spiritual language I am aware. " Lee Lipsenthal, M.D., 2011

An inspiring video clip about Dr. Lipsenthal entitled *"Enjoy Every Sandwich Book Trailer"* can be viewed at <u>www.youtube.com</u>.

Note: Article title used with permission of Noetic.org.

2011 Caduceus Retreat





Miles Adcock, M.S., Bill Lokey, M.A., Roland Gray, M.D.

Bill Lokey, M.A.

The year's Caduceus Retreat featured a day long Saturday workshop led by Bill Lokey, M.A., Clinical Director of ONSITE and Miles Adcock, M.S., CEO of ONSITE. They provided a framework for healing to couples grappling with intimacy, trust, and communication in recovery. Sunday's closing sessions by Richard LaMadeleine, M.A., of Talbott Recovery Center drew a receptive audience for his message on forgiveness and gratitude in recovery. We extend our heartfelt appreciation for their time, words of wisdom, and insights into recovery.

2012 Caduceus Retreat



We are delighted to announce that Terence T. Gorski, internationally renowned authority on substance abuse, mental health, violence and crime, will be the speaker for the TMF Caduceus Retreat to be held at Montgomery Bell State Park June 22-24, 2012. Perhaps best known for his contributions to relapse prevention, his GORSKI-CENAPS Model has been recognized by the National Institute of

Terence T. Gorski

Drug Abuse as among the three "best known and respected treatment approaches in the United States" along with the Hazelden Foundation and the Betty Ford Center. A prolific author and speaker, Mr. Gorski has significantly shaped the history of behavioral health care for decades with his pioneering work in substance abuse treatment and relapse prevention. More about him and his work can be found at **www.tgorski.com**. The Caduceus Retreat is for past & present participants along with their spouses and significant others. Retreat reservations may be made by calling (615) 467-6411. Room reservations may be made by calling Montgomery Bell State Park (615) 797-3101.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS



Does the Tennessee Medical Foundation only work with alcohol problems?

No. In its early days, the Physician's Health Program mainly dealt with substance abuse, predominantly alcoholism. Today only 50% of our referrals have alcohol or drug problems. The remainder present with a myriad of personal, relationship, work and behavioral health issues.

Does the Tennessee Medical Foundation provide treatment?

No. The Medical Director makes referrals for assessments and treatment. Participants are responsible for assuming these costs.

What happens when participants complete their contract?

Participants are encouraged to continue attending Caduceus meetings and the annual Caduceus Retreat on a volunteer basis. Some voluntarily elect to continue urine monitoring to support their recovery. Former participants are invited to support the TMF financially and to volunteer in other capacities.

Calendar of Events



Caduceus Retreat June 22-24, 2012 Montgomery Bell State Park

FSPHP 2012 Annual Meeting & Conference April 23-26, 2012 Fort Worth, Texas

ASAM's Annual Conference April 19-22, 2012 Atlanta, Georgia

IDAA Annual Meeting August 1-5, 2012 Orlando, Florida

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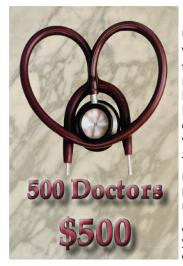
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DEVELOPMENT REPORT



With autumn comes Thanksgiving and the beginning of the Holiday season. We find ourselves with much to be thankful for and many reasons to celebrate.

We are indeed grateful for the hundreds of donations from Tennessee physicians, health care facilities and corporations. We are particularly appreciative to members of our Board of Directors and Peer Review Committee, along with our staunch allies and benefactors at The Memorial Foundation, Inc., HCA Foundation, Tennessee Medical Association, Tennessee Department of Health Board of Medical Examiners and State Volunteer Mutual Insurance Company. Without this support, we simply could not carry out our crucial work of saving the lives and careers of Tennessee physicians in need of our services.

This year we launched our Annual Giving Campaign entitled **500 Doctors . . . \$500.** The goal is to raise \$250,000 by having 500 doctors donate at least \$500.00. So far over 120 physicians and supporters have generously contributed \$500.00 or more to this campaign. We are grateful for each donation.

As we approach the Holiday season, we remind you of our need for financial support and again invite you to participate in the **500 Doctors . . . \$500** campaign. Your gift is an endorsement of our vital cause to help good but troubled physicians become better doctors.

At year's end, we will celebrate 33 years of advancing the health, hope and healing of Tennessee physicians. We cannot accomplish this work alone. We need you. Your gift will be used well and wisely to help physicians heal.

May you and your family enjoy all of life's good things throughout Thanksgiving and the Holiday season.

Vince Parrish, LCSW, Development Director Michael Todd, Administrator

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