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An ex-Navy Surgeon's Views on BRI's Leadership Conference and the future of medicine;

PLUS:
Three new articles tying it all together.

Greetings!

May 19, 2016

By Richard Armstrong, MD

***"This organization has not only changed my life . . .
it has changed my career plans!"***



These powerful words are from a third year medical student at BRI's 4th Annual Student Leadership Conference held this past April in Washington DC. Over 50 students attended from across the nation, including three from Nigeria.

There's good reason for this student to feel empowered. The **American Enterprise Institute** hosted a healthcare policy day for BRI, including a **Keynote address** by President Arthur C. Brooks, whose inspirational message and book, *The Conservative Heart*, resonated with the audience. Students were left with his overarching message of how capitalism, free trade, entrepreneurship and the rule of law have been responsible for more people rising out of poverty

worldwide than at any other period in human history.



AEI President, Dr. Arthur C. Brooks

Several physicians also speaking at AEI evoked a theme central to the medical profession's core: love. In a time when oppressive cynicism pervades medical practice, a positive message of hope for physicians in this century was warmly received by the students.



Dr. Venu Julapalli, "Death of Eros: The Real Crisis in Medicine"

Perhaps the most energizing and enduring effect of the Leadership Conferences are medical students' presentations to fellow conference attendees. Their breadth of interests, enthusiasm for the profession, and organizational skills are more than impressive--they overwhelm--and paint a wholly optimistic future, in contrast to the **despair so many practicing physicians face today**. These young medical professionals are on fire with passion for learning and with hope to have freedom to design their own paths, practices, and more--molding medicine's future in this century and beyond.



Dr. Richard Armstrong,
"Medicine as a Career: Why do we do it?"

"BRI medical students are a marvelous gift for all of us and enrich our lives just by being together, sharing and learning from one another." ~Richard Armstrong, MD



As you know, Dr. Beth Haynes is BRI's Executive Director. What you might not know is the enormity of her nurturing heart, which was on full display at the conference--indeed, at *all* BRI events. The students obviously love and respect her abundantly, and she them. Last year, Dr. Haynes told me that she wanted to dedicate her life to human flourishing. She has succeeded, and then some. I have been privileged to serve on BRI's board since Beth took the helm. It is magnificent to watch this organization grow and thrive.

"The Docs 4 Patient Care Foundation welcomes Dr. Haynes as the newest member of our Board of Directors, and the Benjamin Rush Institute as a partner in the quest to change the American medical "system" for the medical profession and for the patients our doctors serve." ~Dr. Lee Gross, President, Docs 4 Patient Care Foundation

Thank you for all you do to support America's next generation of doctors.

Richard A. Armstrong M.D.

[Ed. Note: Dr. Richard Armstrong is a BRI Board Member and Docs 4 Patient Care Foundation Treasurer. This article was adapted from his blog post, [The Benjamin Rush Institute: Antidote for Physician Despair](#). We thank Dr. Armstrong for being a strong, compassionate voice of mentorship for the next generation of physicians.]

SEE MORE CONFERENCE VIDEOS!



THREE INSPIRING ARTICLES

The "Medical" Drought:

One student's stand for the medical profession.

By **Gavin Mills**, Loma Linda University School of Medicine: "Though I have great aspirations to serve my country and community wherever I end up working, I refute the idea that all doctors are ethically obligated to provide some amount of altruist service to their community more than any other service providing career field."

"That's Why You're a Doctor!" by Judith Thompson, MD

Some kinds of care can't be checked off in a box, as HHS seeks to do. "His eyes dropped, and his wife replied, "We lost our daughter." The man looked up at me and said, "I was a sniper in the Vietnam war. I could handle the circumstances of my life until I lost my daughter. Now I need help."



Dr. Judith Thompson, Surgeon

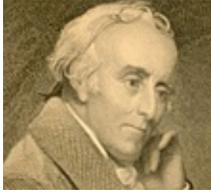
What Is
Direct Primary
CARE?

What is Direct Primary Care?

By **Trevor Bouck**, medical student at University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio. "The basic principles behind DPC are enticing me to consider primary care as my primary choice in the field of medicine." Trevor answers fundamental questions about DPC, including how it best serves the poor.

READ MORE

If you're moved by these stories of hope and



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common sense,

PLEASE JOIN BRI.

It's super simple for anyone -- even busy med students! -- to support BRI's work. With student memberships for as little as \$25, and other memberships as low as \$50, you can promote BRI's success financially, as well as by sharing these BRI newsletters, BRI Events, and blog posts with your friends and colleagues.

To give you an idea of what \$25 can do (\$50 doubles these results!):

- Provide lunch for 5 or 6 attendees at a noontime lecture
- Publish and promote a student-authored blog post that touches many readers
- Cover mailing a Chapter-in-a-Box to a new chapter, with money left over
- ... and much more.

Thank you. We accept donations any time, and memberships run through August 31, 2016.

Join or Donate Today



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