

Breakthrough Thinking at Medical Schools

[Website](#)[Calendar](#)[Videos](#)[Blog](#)[Resources](#)[About](#)

Dear Friend of BRI,

February 3, 2015

I was under no illusions about what the political climate would be at a major academic medical center in New York City when I arrived here in 2010. Still, it was surprising to hear that the previous year's official (and mandatory!) Health Policy Day for medical students featured a debate on Obamacare between **PNHP** (Physicians for a National Health Program), a group that outright supports single-payer healthcare, and **Commonwealth Fund**, a left-leaning organization that touts itself as "a private nonpartisan foundation ...". And these were considered diverse viewpoints! "The non-liberal think tanks are all too far away," the event organizers said, blissfully unaware of even the **Manhattan Institute** -- located, as we are, in Manhattan. Even my leftist friends and classmates found the environment too one-sided for their taste.



Sameer Lakha has been an exceptional and involved BRI Student Leader for many years, and as he moves on through the latter stages of his medical training remains an inspiration to BRI leadership.

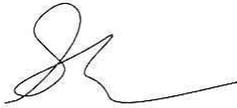
Three years later, I got an email from first-year students organizing the 2014 Health Policy Day. Could I recommend a conservative or libertarian speaker "different from what we normally hear about?" And so it was that Avik Roy from the Manhattan Institute spoke about market-based ACA reform to the entire first- and second-year classes at Icahn/Mt. Sinai.

What happened in those three intervening years? Benjamin Rush Institute. BRI provided the backing, the **resources**, and the support for us to demonstrate a credible alternative to the only other views most students here had encountered. It's hard to ignore professional events with high-quality speakers, and it only takes a few of those to earn a reputation as a "go-to" group for health policy questions on campus. With BRI, we've been able to broaden perspectives, expand conversations, and even change a few minds in ways that we never would be able to do as individual students.

[And yet . . . there's much work to be done. If you know medical student\(s\) who share free market views please forward this email to them and encourage their involvement.](#) Share this [video](#) on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#). *BRI Student Leaders: Sign up for the [BRI Leadership Conference](#) if you haven't already done so.*

Medical school is tough. Staying involved with extra-curricular pursuits (and, unfortunately, health policy often falls in that category) is also tough. To do so while not toeing what is overwhelmingly the ideological party line can be even tougher. Not only does BRI provide community for like-minded medical students, it helps us organize events that heighten the quality of debate and earn the respect of even those who disagree with us most ardently.

BRI's work is needed now more than ever. Thank you for your donations, membership and support.



Sameer Lakha
Fourth-Year Medical Student, Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai

Your Amazon purchases directly benefit BRI



We're excited to be AmazonSmile affiliates! You can now support BRI directly, just by shopping on Amazon. Sign up on AmazonSmile and select "Benjamin Rush Institute" as your charity of choice, and a percentage of all eligible purchases will directly support us. Please register now!

[Get Started](#)

Donations & Memberships



BRI
Donations &
Membership

Please support Benjamin Rush Institute's important work. BRI is supported completely by grants, donations and memberships. Please become a member or make an additional donation so that we can continue to reach medical students, and preserve freedom in our healthcare system. Thank you!

Benjamin Rush Institute
BenjaminRushInstitute@gmail.com
PO Box 3113
Half Moon Bay, CA 94019



[Join Our Mailing List](#)

[Forward to a Friend](#)