

Medical Students and Residents Lobby for Title VII Funding

Medical schools and residencies from the Washington, DC region joined together for the 2nd annual Health Policy Day on June 9, 2011. Medical students and residents lobbied in support of increased funding for Title VII primary care training and the National Health Service Corps. The event was coordinated by Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU) Family Medicine Assistant Professor and STFM member, Winston Liaw, MD.

Supported in this activity by the VCU-Fairfax Family Practice Residency, the VCU Department of Family Medicine, the Georgetown University Department of Family Medicine, and the Robert Graham Center, Dr Liaw invited students and residents from the Washington, DC area to spend a day learning about health policy and advocacy and putting their knowledge into practice with Capitol Hill offices of key District of Columbia and Virginia representatives and senators. Approximately 15 students and residents participated.

Presentations included an introduction to advocacy, health care reform update, the current state of primary care workforce and access, as well as primers on Title VII primary care training and the National Health Service Corps. Participants received lobbying tips and spent time developing visit plans. The training was followed by afternoon Hill visits.

Asked about the value of this program and why it's worth the effort entailed in organizing such an event, Dr Liaw responded, "It has been a great vehicle for teaching new physicians about health care costs and patient access. And simultaneously, we get to lobby for causes that benefit our specialty and patients."

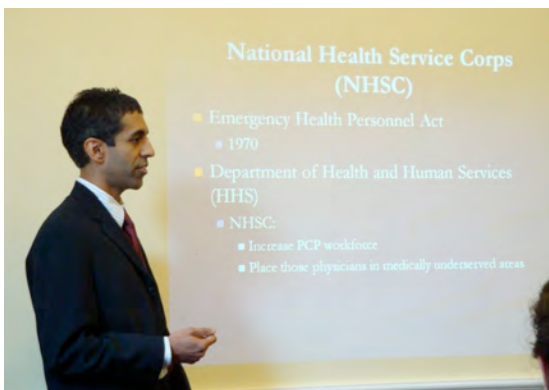
Health Policy Day was founded by Dr Liaw and his colleague, Matthew Burke, MD, during their health policy fellowship at the Robert Graham Center. Dr Burke is also a family physician and STFM member, now working at the federal Health Resources and Services Administration, (HRSA)



Winston Liaw, MD, VCU assistant professor, organized a Health Policy Day for family medicine residents and students



Health Policy Day participants Derek Yang, MD, and Michael Hartman, MD, are both VCU Fairfax residents



Health Policy Day Speaker Sachin Nagrani, MD, is a resident at VCU-Shenandoah FMR.



Many students and residents participated in Health Policy Day: Michael Gee, MD, Erin Mateer, Rachel Titerence, Maya Maliakkal, Todd Teigler, Owen Speer, DO, Lydia Barton, DO, and Jacob Fennessy.