November 18, 2020

Watch the Academy 2020 Policy in Review video, which was shown during the Academy’s 2020 Policy Conference.

November 2: The Academy sent comments to the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services regarding the proposed rule to establish a Medicare coverage pathway to provide Medicare beneficiaries fast access to new, innovative medical devices designated as breakthrough by the Food and Drug Administration. Read more.

November 9: The Academy, along with other health organizations, signed onto a letter urging the Food and Drug Administration to grant the pending Citizen Petition Urging Prohibition of Menthol as Characterizing Flavor in Cigarettes. Read more.
Register to access the sessions from the Academy’s Virtual Policy Conference, including the three 2020 Policy Dialogues, and earn contact hours through the conference platform until December 31, 2020. If you attended or registered for the conference already, then you can log into the conference platform to view the 2020 Policy Dialogues.

FELLOW OPPORTUNITIES

American Nurses Association

- Resource: Nurse Suicide Prevention & Resilience Resource Site
  
  Research indicates that nurses are at a much higher risk of suicide than the general public. During this unprecedented time, nurses are struggling with mental health issues like fear, anxiety, depression, and post-traumatic stress as they respond to COVID-19 and continue to care for all patients. Effectively managing these mental health issues are essential in nurse suicide prevention.
The National Center for Complex Health & Social Needs

- **Request for Proposals:** [Community Ecosystems Learning Collaborative](#)
  The National Center, an initiative of the Camden Coalition, will be convening an action-oriented learning collaborative with support from RWJF. The Collaborative will support organizations as they develop and strengthen “ecosystem” approaches to addressing the root causes of individuals’ and populations’ complex health and social needs. At least five selected communities will receive 15 months of individualized technical assistance from National Center staff and participate in a learning collaborative consisting of all of the teams. **Application Deadline:** Friday, January 15, 2021.

Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF)

- **Funding Opportunity:** [Policies for Action: Public Policy Research to Advance Racial Equity and Racial Justice](#)
  RWJF’s commitment to advancing a Culture of Health by transforming policies to expand access and opportunities includes a bold research agenda to address the most complex health and policy issues. Achieving racial equity and justice in the United States requires a sustained, multipronged intersectional approach that addresses both the immediate social conditions leading to poor health outcomes as well as the long-standing structures fostering such conditions. The goal of the Policies for Action call for proposals is to build the evidence base about how national, state, and local policies can improve racial equity in health and well-being in the United States. **Application Deadline:** Tuesday, November 24, 2020.

National Academy of Medicine (NAM)

- **Commentary:** [Learning from the Global Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic: An Interprofessional Perspective on Health Professions Education](#)
  Health professional educators around the world have demonstrated their ability to respond creatively to challenges posed by the coronavirus pandemic. The pandemic forced many educators to redesign and replace traditional classrooms and teaching methods with minimal preparation time. The COVID-19 pandemic has brought health disparities into sharp focus and with it, the need for action on the social determinants of health. It is now the job of health professional educators to leverage opportunities stemming from COVID-19 for educating learners to understand the structural drivers and root causes of inequities related to health disparities. This new NAM Perspectives commentary outlines three global examples of how health professions educators worldwide creatively responded to the COVID-19 pandemic and pivoted their teaching to not only account for this new reality, but to address health disparities and the impacts of the social determinants of health head-on.

- **Discussion Paper:** [Organizational Evidence-Based and Promising Practices for Improving Clinician Well-Being](#)
  Now more than ever, health care organizations should advance their resiliency by 1) committing to workforce well-being as an organizational priority, 2) regularly assessing and reporting burnout, 3) sharing accountability across leadership roles, 4) periodically evaluating policies, 5) measuring and improving the efficiency of the work environment, and 6) creating a culture of connection and support for clinicians. Read this new NAM Perspectives discussion paper for evidence-based and promising practices shown to increase clinician well-being across these 6 domains.

- **Special Publication:** [Health Data Sharing to Support Better Outcomes: Building a Foundation of Stakeholder Trust](#)
  This publication outlines a number of potentially valuable policy changes and actions that will help drive toward effective, efficient, and ethical data sharing, including more compelling and widespread communication efforts to improve awareness, understanding, and participation in data sharing.
Proceedings: Caring for People with Mental Health and Substance Use Disorders in Primary Care Settings

In an effort to understand the challenges and opportunities of providing essential components of care for people with mental health and substance use disorders in primary care settings, the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine’s Forum on Mental Health and Substance Use Disorders convened three webinars held on June 3, July 29, and August 26, 2020. The webinars addressed efforts to define essential components of care for people with mental health and substance use disorders in the primary care setting for depression, alcohol use disorders, and opioid use disorders; opportunities to build the health care workforce and delivery models that incorporate those essential components of care; and financial incentives and payment structures to support the implementation of those care models, including value-based payment strategies and practice-level incentives. This publication summarizes the presentations and discussion of the webinars.

National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities (NIMHD)

Research Spotlight: Gene Regulation May Influence Racial Disparities in Breast Cancer Survival

Researchers have found that genetic markers expressed in breast tissue could potentially be used to predict breast cancer survival based on race. A study recently published in Clinical Cancer Research reveals that factors in the genetic pathway of breast tissue might play a role in the worse survival outcomes for African American than European American women with breast cancer. Survival may depend on other factors, such as access to and quality of care, but the results of this study highlight genetic markers that clinicians could use to predict breast cancer survival based on race.

Federal Register

Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)

Notice: The National Institutes of Health (NIH) Sexual & Gender Minority Research Listening Session

The National Institutes of Health (NIH) Sexual & Gender Minority Research Office (SGMRO) will be holding its second annual listening session with Sexual & Gender Minority (SGM)-focused organizations. The primary objective of the NIH’s listening session is to hear from community stakeholders about what issues are on their minds regarding SGM-related research and related activities at NIH.

Around the Administration

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

- The CDC released recommendations for celebrating the Thanksgiving holiday during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- The CDC released new guidelines regarding wearing masks on public transit.
- Please continue to check the website created by the CDC to provide day-to-day updates on the coronavirus pandemic in the United States.
Congressional Hearings

Based on previous positions taken by the Academy, the following scan is meant for informational purposes and does not directly translate to Academy endorsement. Links provided allow you to watch the recordings and read witness testimony.

House Ways & Means Committee

- October 20: Maximizing Coverage Enrollment Amidst Administration Sabotage
- November 12: Ways and Means Republicans recently released a framework for the future of health care.

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