



December 18, 2017

Dear Colleagues,

Last week, a report was issued that claimed officials at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention were instructed to refrain from using the phrases “evidence-based” and “science-based” in its 2018 budget documents. Whether this claim is completely accurate or not, it provides a tremendous window of opportunity to educate the public and policy makers on the importance of evidence-based healthcare. The United States spends more money on healthcare than any western world country, yet ranks 37th in health outcomes. One key reason for this ranking is that many healthcare systems and clinicians across the United States do not consistently use the evidence generated from science to implement evidence-based practice. Instead, care is often based on tradition (for example, “that’s the way we do it here”) or on outdated, non-science-based information. Findings from a strong body of research indicate that evidence-based or science-based healthcare enhances the quality and safety of care, reduces healthcare costs, and improves population health outcomes. However, it often takes years or even decades to translate findings from science into real-world clinical settings to improve outcomes. Embracing evidence-based practice cultures is long overdue in American healthcare. Healthcare environments are under enormous pressure. Medical errors, the third leading cause of death in the United States, are still too numerous resulting in 200,000 to 400,000 deaths every year. Healthcare costs continue to escalate and there is still a tendency to deliver too much care instead of the right evidence-based care. Eliminating “evidence-based” and “science-based” from our language will set us back decades and jeopardize the health of Americans. At the Helene Fuld Health Trust National Institute for Evidence-based Practice in Nursing and Healthcare at The Ohio State University, we will continue to use the best evidence from science

to advance evidence-based care and health policy to ensure the highest quality of safe care, which the people of our great country deserve.

Sincere regards,



Bernadette Melnyk, PhD, RN, FAANP, FNAP, FAAN  
Executive Director, Fuld National Institute for EBP  
Associate Vice President for Health Promotion  
University Chief Wellness Officer  
Dean and Professor, College of Nursing  
Professor of Pediatrics & Psychiatry, College of Medicine  
The Ohio State University  
melnyk.15@osu.edu



Lynn Gallagher-Ford, PhD, RN, DPNAP  
Senior Director, Fuld National Institute for EBP  
The Ohio State University  
College of Nursing  
gallagher-ford.1@osu.edu