

## From the President

# Physician Stewardship

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When our forefathers declared their independence from the British Crown in 1776, they assumed enormous responsibility for the American patriots.

As a prequel, it will be helpful to consider what has happened in our profession over time. Since Hippocrates wrote his Oath for physicians to recite and abide by as a standard of practice, life expectancies have dramatically improved. If we research the life expectancy of the average American in 1800, a brief internet search reveals that it was about 32 years. By 1900, it was 47.3 years. When the practice of medicine became more of a science in addition to an art, the life expectancy of the average American citizen rose to 68.2 years by 1950, 76.9 years by 2000, and 77.5 years in 2022, according to the CDC National Vital Statistics System.

The American Enterprise Institute reports that only 9% of the American citizenry had medical insurance in 1940, but by 1960, 75% of the nation's population had such insurance.

The number of community hospital beds in our country was 3.2/1,000 people in 1946. To address this shortage, President Truman signed the Hill-Burton Act, which provided grants to the states to build community, non-profit, short-stay hospitals with an established goal of 4.5 beds/1,000 people. By 1980, this goal was met. For a period of 20 years, an undefined "reasonable amount of free care" was to be given to indigent patients who utilized the hospitals as a payment to the federal government in return for providing the funds to build the medical facilities.

Once Medicare and Medicaid were established, this requirement was extended in perpetuity, and hospital compliance levels were defined. Medical costs increased significantly. Eventually, Congress passed the Prospective Payment System in the 1980s, which President Reagan signed. This decreased hospital inpatient days and consequently utilization rates. However, as an unintentional consequence, it eventually created a glut of hospital beds.

In the presidential campaign of 1972, the Democratic Party nominee, U.S. Senator George McGovern of Maine, promoted a complete federal government takeover of our nation's private medical system. He lost the race handily to

incumbent Republican President Richard Nixon.

Since then, many legislative battles have occurred in the state legislatures and in the U.S. Congress regarding the funding of government medical program benefits. In the 1990s, Hillary Clinton attempted another federal takeover of our country's medical system through legislation informally referred to as "Hillary Care." One of the government marketers for "Hillary Care" came to a medical staff meeting at my local hospital. While he was flipping charts during his presentation, he stated, "With 'Hillary Care,' if you're 'this old' (without defining the age), and you have 'this diagnosis' (without stating what the diagnosis is), you go home."

Through the efforts of AAPS in 1994, headed by the late Charles McDowell, M.D., and many dedicated others, this legislation was defeated.<sup>1</sup>

In 2000, I went on a mission trip to Kiev, Ukraine, where I was given the cross-cultural opportunity to treat patients in a Ukrainian socialized medicine government clinic. Only every other light fixture worked, exacerbating the dismal atmosphere.

I attended patients in the outpatient setting for 3 days. I took some medical supplies of my own to use if needed. The customs officials at Kiev airport almost confiscated them, but they eventually allowed me entry into the country. While examining one of the first assigned Ukrainian patients, I used one of the tongue depressors I had brought. Once I completed the patient's oral exam, I turned toward the trash can to throw away the used tongue depressor. The attending Ukrainian nurse promptly asked me to give it to her so that she could use it on another patient. I was also informed if a physician needs to use gloves for any exam, the patient is expected to furnish them to the physician. There were no gloves for the physicians to use in the clinic. This is the poignant, heart-wrenching fruit of socialized medicine.

While there, I was asked to see a humble, unassuming gentleman with an acute stroke. After my exam, I informed the physician in charge that the patient needed to be admitted to the hospital. He told me he would take care of the patient. The next day when I asked the Ukrainian nurse

how the stroke patient that I had seen the day before was doing, she held her head down and stated they sent him home because they had nothing available to treat him.

Socialized medicine may be low or no cost to the individual, but it has little value when you cannot receive even the simplest treatment.

As you know, the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA, ACA, or "Obamacare") was passed in 2010. Its reassurances of "if you like your doctor, you can keep your doctor" have reminded American citizens what a government boondoggle does to its victims.

U.S. military veteran patients who were promised "free" medical care for the rest of their lives in return for their courageous service to our country have come to the painful realization that to get their medical treatment, they frequently have to seek out private physicians at their own expense.

According to John Steele Gordon, more than 90% of medicine being practiced today did not exist in 1950.<sup>2</sup> But along with these advances, new philosophies have emerged, some treacherous, regarding how much intervention should be done in those who have a severe illness. According to [compassionandchoices.org](http://compassionandchoices.org), Medical Assistance in Dying (MAiD) laws have been passed in California, Colorado, Delaware, the District of Columbia, Hawaii, Illinois, Maine, Montana, New Mexico, New Jersey, Oregon, Vermont, New York, and Washington. Fifteen other states have legislation pending for support of this concept. These new laws mandate that physicians and hospitals refer patients to doctors who will actually administer medication(s) to cause the patient's premature death. If the physician or hospital refuses to assist the patient requesting this procedure, the practicing physician or hospital may be subject to loss of licensure as well as other severe consequences.

In China, one can actually schedule a heart transplant. The corruption has gotten to the point where "undesirables" in a Chinese prison can be taken involuntarily to a hospital where their heart and other organs can then be harvested from them for more "worthy" patients.<sup>3</sup> Communism at its evil core!

F. A. Hayek wrote, "Where there is one common all-overriding end, there is no room for any general morals or rules.... It is inevitable that occasionally cruelty may become a duty: that acts which revolt all our feeling, such as the shooting of hostages or the killing of the old or sick, should be treated as mere matters of expediency; ...or that suggestions like that of 'conscriptio[n] of woman for breeding purposes' can be seriously contemplated. There is always in the eyes of the collectivist a greater goal which these acts serve and which to him justifies them because the pursuit of the common end of society can know no limits in any rights or values of any individual."<sup>4</sup> Where are the Ludwig von Mises and Hayek of our day?

Our responsibility to our profession, our patients, our families, and our country requires us to be the physician stewards (the ones who actively direct affairs; the ones who carefully and responsibly manage that which has been entrusted to us) of our patients' medical care because we can provide the medical expertise to those whose very lives

depend on our actions.

When will the crisis in medicine be ameliorated so as to give our physicians and patients confidence in a system that is overwhelmed with perfidy?

Why have we even come to this point? Greed? Altruism? Narcissism? Hedonism? Chicanery? Physician stewards' inability or unwillingness to confront overwhelmingly difficult circumstances or issues? Is it possibly true that some physicians are already ethically compromised because they have signed a declaration of dependence?

Physician stewards must recognize that there are intentionally maleficent forces in this world. And there are those who would take away our freedoms as physicians and as patients!

In *Blueprint for World Conquest*<sup>5</sup> the author quotes from the official documents of the Communist International Headquarters in Moscow. In the text, the techniques to be used for communism to conquer the world are aptly described. The Soviet diplomatic record of broken treaties and obligations with other nations is characterized as part of the communists' modus operandi and is the same unimpeded cycle that we see continuing in our current day.

The communist strategy makes every effort to conceal their true objective with various forms of deceit and camouflage that are portrayed as essential to the pursuit of the goal of world revolution and the complete overthrow of all capitalist nations.<sup>5, p 8</sup> Committing treason and sabotage when the day of world conquest arrives is part of their ignoble plan.<sup>5, p 9</sup>

The communist has no security as long as capitalism exists. We as freedom-loving Americans must grasp that communists do not reason as we do. Communists have no tolerance. They will definitively remove all unreliable elements so as to control all factions of our everyday lives, not only verbally, but in reality also. Communists subordinate themselves to the Central Committee of the party. Each communist representative subjects his entire life and total activity to the interests of real revolutionary propaganda and relentless agitation. Is this beginning to sound familiar?

The first stage of communist revolution is to work for victory of socialism over capitalism.<sup>5, p 42</sup> This is accomplished by inspiring and leading the entire mass of workers and those "exploited by capitalism" to enlighten, organize, instruct, and disciple them during the bold and mercilessly firm struggle against the "exploiters." Also, the communists will instill in the population, by various resourceful means, confidence in the leading rulers of the communist party.<sup>5, p 43</sup> Further work involves neutralizing small owners and proprietors in agriculture, industry, and commerce, and corresponding layers of intellectuals, employers, and so on.<sup>5, p 43</sup>

Communists put into practice the slogan "Communists in closer contact with the masses."<sup>5, p 53</sup> They recognize powerful weapons to use for their support: the press, the schools, the legislatures, the churches, and the government apparatus. They recognize that they can do illegal activity in their revolutionary struggle.<sup>5, p 74</sup>

Communists demand that the newspapers, TV, and publications must be unconditionally subject to the party and its central committee.<sup>5, p 74</sup> They organize in every trade,

industrial union, cooperative association, factory, tenant's union, and every government institution everywhere. Whether legal or illegal, they will all be subject to the Central Communist Party Committee.<sup>5, p 84</sup> The communists promote class consciousness and class hostility toward the ruling class.<sup>5, p 86</sup> Unless of course, they are in the communist's ruling class!

Communists work through "storms and stress" through political and technical uprising to destroy the legal system of a nation.<sup>5, p 87</sup> They recognize civil war as war. The party will have political officers and political general staff with print-shop-ready signs to conduct operations during all the stages of the revolution. It is an all-consuming and well-thought-out class struggle, a mass struggle, which will grow more acute and eventually lead to uprising against the capitalist state.<sup>5, p 91</sup>

The communists will infiltrate government and cause it to collapse from within.<sup>5, p 92</sup> From within, the communists will substitute their own corrupt legal system for the current capitalist local governments in order to work toward destruction of the capitalist system. When possible, communists in their open revolutionary struggle will eventually boycott and interfere with elections and will immediately transition to an armed fight for power.<sup>5, p 94</sup>

We have enemies among us who have made quite considerable progress in their efforts to overthrow our private indemnity insurance system, which has historically provided excellent medical/surgical treatment.

As physician stewards, we all have the responsibility to recognize this imminent problem. We must acknowledge that we as individual physicians and citizens do not have time to be complacent. We can be effective in many areas of influence to educate others regarding the battles set before us and especially in our hometowns. We must appreciate that

we have the responsibility to warn others regarding socialism and communism and help them realize we must solve our own medical coverage problems in a manner that protects the freedoms we hold so dear! Our forefathers declared their independence and gave us the responsibilities of freedom to take control and safeguard. Will we remain vigilant?

Dinesh D'Souza sums up what we must do in his recent book *United States of Socialism*: "The left set out a generation ago to transform America.... They devoted themselves to teaching and organizing and activism.... The left has no intention of leaving us alone. They want us to submit to them. They want our children. And they want the country—they are ruthlessly dedicated to its takeover."<sup>6</sup>

President Reagan once said, "Freedom is never more than one generation from extinction." We can work together! We must work together! We have to win this fight!

See you at our annual meeting in Alpharetta, Georgia, in September! Please join us! Omnia Pro Aegroti!

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#### REFERENCES

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5. Chamberlain WH. *Blueprint for World Conquest, Outlined by the Communist International*. Literary Licensing; 2013. (Facsimile reprint; originally published 1946).
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## "INFORMATION HEALS"

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***hard to find and  
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*Misinformation is a disease.  
Information is a cure.*



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