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RAND Policy Expert Delivers 9th Annual Paul C. Brucker, MD, Lecture

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RAND Policy Expert Delivers 9th Annual Paul C. Brucker, MD, Lecture

Barbara O. Wynn, Senior Health Policy Analyst at the RAND Corporation presented the 9th Annual Paul. C. Brucker, MD, Lecture on April 20, 2001 at the Bluemle Life Sciences Building.

The Lecture, entitled "Financing Graduate Medical Education: Issues and Options," was extremely well received by the audience of Jefferson faculty and staff.

Ms. Wynn, a highly respected health care analyst, worked at the federal Health Care Financing Agency (HCFA) for 24 years prior to joining RAND. At HCFA she was responsible for helping to develop many Medicare policies and also had extensive involvement with financing issues related to academic health centers, including those directly related to financing graduate medical education (GME), i.e. residency programs. At RAND, Ms. Wynn was the principal investigator for the study that formed the basis for the Council on Graduate Medical Education's (COGME) recent 15th Report to Congress: Financing GME in the Changing Health Care Environment.

Ms. Wynn's presentation began by providing a policy context for graduate medical education financing reform, including commonly accepted physician workforce goals. She then presented an overview of the current financing of GME, of which approximately \$7 billion per year comes from the Medicare Trust Fund, and discussed issues related to the current health care environment. The lecture next focused on key policy options and proposals to change GME funding which are currently being discussed in Washington. And finally, she presented potential future scenarios for this important issue, including those that might occur if the entire Medicare program is restructured. After the lecture, Ms. Wynn answered a number of provocative questions from the audience, and the entire event was followed by a reception in the lobby of the Bluemle Building.

The Brucker Lecture was created in 1991 to honor Dr. Paul Brucker's accomplishments at Jefferson and in American medicine. It was funded by Dr. Brucker's former family medicine resident and fellowship graduates, the family medicine faculty at Jefferson and its affiliated hospitals, and the private office family practice preceptors who teach Jefferson students. Previous Brucker lecturers have included: Steven A. Schroeder, MD, President of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation; Jerome P. Kassirer, MD, former Editor-in-Chief of the *New England Journal of Medicine*; and Jack M. Colwill, MD, Professor of Family and Community Medicine, former Chair and former Dean, University of Missouri-Columbia School of Medicine.

About the Author

Howard K. Rabinowitz, MD, is a Professor of Family Medicine at Jefferson Medical College, Thomas Jefferson University.