

The 24th Annual Dr. Raymond C. Grandon Lecture: “Building a Culture of Health in America”



This year's Grandon Lecture featured Dr. Risa Lavizzo-Mourey, president and CEO of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) since 2003. RWJF is the largest philanthropy in the U.S. solely dedicated to healthcare. Dr. Lavizzo-Mourey is a specialist in geriatrics and previously served as the Sylvan Eisman Professor of Medicine and Health Care Systems at the University of Pennsylvania. She also directed Penn's Institute on Aging and was chief of geriatric medicine. She has served as deputy administrator of what is now the Agency for Health Care Research and Quality (AHRQ), and worked on the White House Health Care Reform Task-Force.

Dr. Lavizzo-Mourey's Grandon presentation, "Building a Culture of Health in America," offered a broad perspective on how to improve health in the U.S. Lavizzo-Mourey envisions a culture of health that empowers communities to live healthy. RWJF is particularly focused on childhood obesity, health care coverage, and costs, quality and value of health care.

Lavizzo-Mourey shared examples of initiatives throughout the U.S. that have implemented measures to promote

change and increase opportunities for communities to engage in healthier behaviors. For example, Philadelphia has shown a decline in childhood obesity among African American boys and Latinas. This was accomplished through changes in school wellness policies and incentives for new grocery stores in lower-income neighborhoods. Additionally, Philadelphia now requires all chain restaurants to post calorie information.

She challenged the audience to think about action areas including: ways to make health a shared value; fostering cross-sector collaborations to improve well-being; creating healthier and more equitable communities; and strengthening the integration of health-services and systems.

After the lecture, Dr. Lavizzo-Mourey was joined by Jefferson's CEO, Dr. Stephen Klasko, for an engaging question and answer segment at a special session for Grandon Society members.

To access slides and listen to the podcast for the Grandon Lecture, [click here](#).