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New Grant Advances Efforts to Improve Diagnosis and Eliminate Patient Harm

Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation awards $340,000 to support the Coalition to Improve Diagnosis

WASHINGTON, DC (Sept. 29, 2016) – The Society to Improve Diagnosis in Medicine (SIDM) announced its first-ever grant from the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation to explore addressing the issue of diagnostic error in medicine. The $340,000 award is part of the foundation’s Patient Care Program and will support the Coalition to Improve Diagnosis’ mission to bring much-needed attention, awareness and action to improve diagnosis and eliminate patient harm.

“Diagnostic error may be the nation’s most important patient safety problem,” said Paul Epner, MBA, MEd, executive vice president of the society and chair of the Coalition to Improve Diagnosis. “Through research, education and awareness, this grant will allow us to create the right tools and processes that will improve the quality of care for patients and families.”

Convened and led by the Society since August 2015, the Coalition is comprised of 25 member organizations, including medical societies, healthcare organizations, patient and consumer advocacy organizations, licensing organizations and government partners. Coalition members support shared principles, work to increase attention to this issue, commit to taking measurable action to improve diagnosis and raise awareness among their organization’s leadership and members.

Diagnosis is one of the most difficult and complex tasks in healthcare. There are more than 10,000 potential diagnoses, thousands of lab tests, and the problem that symptoms of each diagnosis vary from person to person. Error in diagnosis is a system-wide issue that has received little national attention, yet they affect an estimated one in 20 patients, roughly 12 million Americans each year.

Using the National Academies of Medicine report, Improving Diagnosis in Health Care, as its guide, the Coalition will collaboratively lead efforts help develop programs to make concrete changes in healthcare delivery.

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About the Society to Improve Diagnosis in Medicine (SIDM)
SIDM is a nonprofit organization whose members include clinicians, patients and every stakeholder in the diagnostic process. SIDM sponsors the annual Diagnostic Error in Medicine conference, held on November 6-8, 2016 in Los Angeles, and is the only organization focused solely on improving the quality and safety of medical diagnosis. Visit www.improvediagnosis.org to learn more.

About the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation
The Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation fosters path-breaking scientific discovery, environmental conservation, patient care improvements and the preservation of the special character of the Bay Area.
About the Coalition to Improve Diagnosis
The Coalition to Improve Diagnosis is a collaboration of leading healthcare organizations representing clinicians and other healthcare professionals, patients and families, employers, researchers, policymakers, and educators. Member organizations have committed to take measurable action to improve diagnosis through the collective actions of the Coalition, as well as opportunities available to and led by each member organization. Visit www.DxCoalition.org to learn more.