

MILESTONES



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A N N U A L
R E P O R T



FEDERATION OF STATE MEDICAL BOARDS

To protect the public from the unprofessional, improper, unlawful or incompetent practice of medicine, each of the states and territories making up the United States defines the practice of medicine within their borders and delegates the authority to enforce the law to a regulatory board.

The FSMB represents the 71 medical and osteopathic boards — commonly referred to as state medical boards — within the United States, including its territories and the District of Columbia.

It assists these boards as they go about their mandate of protecting the public's health, safety and welfare through proper licensing and disciplining of physicians, physician assistants and, in some jurisdictions, other health care professionals.





On the journey to success, our goals keep us focused and moving forward. Along the way, we achieve **MILESTONES**: Points in time that signal major progress and achievement. These reference points are valuable, providing confirmation that we are on the right track — and the opportunity to appreciate what we have accomplished. Highlighted in this annual report are noteworthy milestones the FSMB and its partners in medical regulation have achieved over the last year on our shared path toward a single, overarching goal: **PROTECTING THE PUBLIC AND ENSURING THE SAFE, COMPETENT PRACTICE OF MEDICINE.**

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“We firmly believe that the crisis before us has brought out the best in our organization and the boards that we represent.”

TO OUR STAKEHOLDERS

Faced with the COVID-19 pandemic earlier this year, we placed production of the FSMB's Annual Report on hold — along with our annual meeting and many other activities — in order to focus on the urgent needs of the regulatory community.

We bring the Annual Report to you now, later in the year — at a time when it may be helpful for medical regulators to look back at 2019-2020 and remember that, despite the recent challenges of COVID-19, there is still much to be optimistic about.

As we contemplated the theme for this year's report in early 2020, ultimately arriving at “**Milestones**,” we couldn't have foreseen that among the milestones to be included would be the worst U.S. public health crisis in more than a century.

COVID-19 has presented medical regulators with the greatest challenge of their professional lifetimes — demanding of them urgent action, heightened vigilance and the ability to innovate in dire circumstances.

As we write these words, there have been more than 20 million cases of COVID-19 worldwide, with more than 5 million of these, including nearly 200,000 deaths, occurring in the United States. The impact of the pandemic on health care — and medical regulation — has been profound.

Accordingly, we have included a special two-page section in this year's report, starting on page 4, highlighting steps the medical regulatory community has taken this year as the pandemic hit and how we are preparing for the future.

The rest of our report summarizes a productive and historically significant year for the FSMB — one that was marked by advances in key initiatives. As you will see, the unique milestones we achieved over the year are measured in a variety of ways, but ultimately they reflect a single value: Our ongoing commitment to excellence as we serve our member boards and the public.

In each of the five major sections of our report, each representing an operational activity center of the FSMB, you can learn more about our progress in 2019-2020:

Advocacy: More than half the nation is now participating in the Interstate Medical Licensure Compact (IMLC), a milestone achieved in mid-2019 when Kentucky became the 26th state to join. The Compact, which the FSMB helped develop and has long supported, continues to grow, and has received renewed national visibility as a resource to expedite much-needed physician licensing during the COVID-19 crisis. Another important initiative, Veterans Administration (VA) reform, took a major step forward when both houses of Congress passed FSMB-supported legislation tightening

VA provider-accountability rules. Our Washington, D.C., based advocacy team had a busy year, including organizing and hosting our first-ever Congressional briefing, focused on the topic of digital credentialing. *Please see page 6.*

Education and Policy: The FSMB's Continuing Medical Education (CME) service, which accredits CME programming for a growing list of organizations, logged its 10,000th learner in 2019 — helping ensure that health-care providers are up to speed on issues that matter to state medical boards. Our 2019 Annual Meeting featured new innovations, such as our first Spotlight Poster Hall, offering expanded poster-content and an in-person poster session for exhibitors. Our fourth biennial Tri-Regulator Symposium explored topics that impact medical, nursing and pharmacy regulators, and the FSMB's House of Delegates adopted important new policies — including sweeping new guidelines on physician sexual misconduct. *Please see page 10.*

Data, Research and Assessment: After extensive national dialogue with multiple stakeholders, the FSMB and the National Board of Medical Examiners (NBME) instituted historic changes to the United States Medical Licensing Examination in 2020. These changes reflect the need for adaptability as the environment for testing evolves in the United States, and they mirror the FSMB's forward-looking approach to data-related products and services. Our DocInfo.org physician-information service, now entirely free for consumers, moved to a new, more robust online platform in 2019 and has achieved record-breaking page-views. Other achievements included the distribution of a national report on digital credentialing, publication of our fifth Census of Licensed Physicians, and a variety of improvements to our Federation Credentials Verification Service (FCVS). *Please see page 14.*

Communications: The FSMB's flagship publication, the *Journal of Medical Regulation (JMR)*, has published 40 issues since it was renamed and redesigned in 2010. It continued its expansion over the last year, including the introduction of several new content-categories, a quarterly podcast and transition to a new, more user-friendly website. Our media team engaged with major national news outlets over the year and won recognition from *PRNEWS* for the quality of a national public-awareness campaign we launched to promote consumer use of DocInfo.org. *Please see page 18.*

FSMB Foundation: A decade after its relaunch with a new governance structure and strategic plan, the FSMB Foundation, under the leadership of President Janelle A. Rhyne, MD, MACP, continued its upward trajectory in 2019-2020 — including the launch of a generous new grant-funding initiative for research about the impact of COVID-19 on medical regulation. The Foundation has

distributed hundreds of thousands of dollars in funding over the decade, supporting nearly 50 initiatives of importance to state medical boards. *Please see page 20.*

We observed many other milestones during this noteworthy year, including the 130th anniversary of our precursor organization, the National Confederation of State Medical Licensing and Examining Boards, and the addition, for the first time in many years, of a new board to our roster of member boards. The Medical Licensure Commission of Alabama joined us in early 2020, bringing the total number of FSMB member boards to 71.

While we are proud of the achievements highlighted in this report of our 2019-2020 activities, we recognize that none of them could have occurred without the dedication and passion of the many men and women who devote their time and energy each year to the FSMB. As always, we salute the contributions of our elected leaders, our taskforce and committee volunteers and our hardworking FSMB staff, and we thank them for their efforts. You can learn more about them starting on page 23.

The nation's state medical boards have risen to face an enormous challenge in these recent months, and we are extremely grateful for their cooperation and participation in FSMB initiatives during trying times. We firmly believe that the crisis before us has brought out the best in our organization and the boards that we represent.

The COVID-19 pandemic, compounded as it has been by recent national social upheaval and racial unrest, will undoubtedly lead to profound societal changes in the future — and there is no doubt that state medical boards will experience change as well.

But we are confident that, thanks to our long tradition of collective response, shared resources and abiding dedication to the public interest, the medical regulatory community will emerge stronger than ever — and well-prepared for the milestones ahead.



Scott A. Steingard, DO
2019-2020 Chair, Board of Directors



Humayun J. Chaudhry, DO, MACP, MACOI
President and CEO

SPECIAL REPORT

COVID-19

Confronting the challenges of
a global pandemic

In a momentous and groundbreaking year for the FSMB, nothing was as impactful as the arrival of the COVID-19 pandemic — the most consequential event for U.S. medical regulators in a century.

Waves of infection spread globally in early 2020, hobbling national economies, forcing billions of people around the world to shelter at home and overwhelming health systems.

To date, the pandemic has infected more than 5 million individuals and claimed nearly 200,000 lives in the United States, more cases and deaths than any other country in the world. Along the way, medical regulators have grappled with a host of new emergency-response challenges as they seek to fulfill their core mission of public protection.



Health care workers, often lacking personal protective equipment (PPE) and other basic resources for care delivery, have labored in extremely dangerous conditions — where long hours, uncertainty and increased stress have added an emotional toll in addition to their physical vulnerability. In their care are thousands of equally vulnerable COVID-19 patients, who are often cut-off through quarantine measures from the support of their families — one of the essential pillars of patient safety.

U.S. physicians, physician assistants and others have offered to provide care where they are desperately needed — but in many cases, their offers of service have fallen outside their previously licensed jurisdiction and beyond their typical scope of practice. This has created new challenges, as state medical boards seek to help health systems meet surges in demand for service, while exercising their traditional duties of oversight.

Many additional issues have emerged for the regulatory community — ranging from rapid change in the demand for and provision of telemedicine services to pandemic-related impacts on the training and testing of the nation's medical students.

In this environment, the need for robust and well-functioning medical regulation has never been greater, and the FSMB and its member boards have responded on multiple levels.

Mobilizing for Action

As COVID-19 started to spread in early 2020, the FSMB began closely monitoring and mobilizing for action. In February, FSMB 2019-2020 Chair **Scott Steingard, DO**, approved the creation of an FSMB Ad Hoc Task Force on Pandemic Preparedness, inviting leaders of the **National Council of State Boards of Nursing (NCSBN)** and the **National Association of Boards of Pharmacy (NABP)** to work together to consider impacts of the pandemic on state regulatory boards for the health professions.

In early March, the Task Force, chaired by FSMB President and CEO **Humayun J. Chaudhry, DO, MACP**, began regular conference calls, and the FSMB took a number of important steps — including cancelling its in-person Annual Meeting in San Diego, launching a COVID-19 webpage on the FSMB's website, moving formal activities of its House of Delegates online and offering assistance as needed to the **President's Coronavirus Task Force**. Working with its partner, the **National Board of Medical Examiners (NBME)**, the FSMB announced that elements of the United States Medical Licensing Examination (USMLE) would be suspended.

As the pandemic progressed during the spring and early summer, the FSMB took additional steps, including widening free access to its Physician Data Center in order to help facilitate credentialing and deployment of much-needed health providers. It also worked closely with state boards and the federal government to create flexibility in guidelines for physicians, physician assistants and others wishing to practice medicine across state lines.

When it became clear that prescribers were beginning to hoard or improperly prescribe medications such as hydroxychloroquine, the FSMB partnered with the NABP and NCSBN to issue public alerts imploring prescribers to authorize only medications for specific patients for clinically indicated situations.

In May, the FSMB transitioned its Task Force into an expanded **Workgroup on Emergency Preparedness and Response**,



chaired by FSMB 2020-2021 Chair **Cheryl Walker-McGill, MD, MBA**. The Workgroup has continued to meet regularly, providing leadership as the pandemic brings new challenges.

Responding to a Crisis

Since the outset of the COVID-19 crisis, major action steps by the FSMB and its member boards have included:

MODIFIED LICENSURE REGULATIONS: In an unprecedented move, nearly every state medical board has modified its regulations to allow physicians licensed in other states to practice in their jurisdiction. Forty-five state boards have done the same for telemedicine. To help physicians, hospitals and health systems keep track of changing regulations, the FSMB has provided updates with tables, maps and online links on its website (www.fsmb.org).

PROMOTING USE OF THE IMLC: State medical boards have enabled thousands of physicians to practice medicine, in person or by telemedicine, in multiple states through the **Interstate Medical Licensure Compact (IMLC)** — an enormously valuable resource during the pandemic that streamlines licensure for physicians who wish to practice across state lines. The FSMB is actively encouraging its increased use as a tool to help facilitate needed care.

EXPANDING ACCESS TO DATA: The FSMB has worked to ensure that verified credentialing information in its database of U.S. physicians and physician assistants is widely accessible, working closely with individual states to review their lists of volunteers and assist with the screening of credentials. The FSMB has also received a \$2.5 million grant from the **U.S. Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA)** to develop a technology platform that will streamline credentialing for physicians and others who want to volunteer during emergencies such as COVID-19.

BROADENING THE WORKFORCE: State medical boards worked with medical schools to allow qualified final-year medical students to graduate early in order to join the health care workforce and supported efforts to permit residency training programs to temporarily shift duties of trainees in response to pandemic needs. Thirty-nine state boards have modified their regulations to welcome retired or inactive physicians back into the workforce. In some states, training requirements for international medical graduates have been



eased, and more than 30 states have adjusted continuing medical education requirements for licensure renewal — all in an effort to facilitate the addition of much needed medical staff.

PROTECTIONS AND STANDARDS FOR MEDICAL

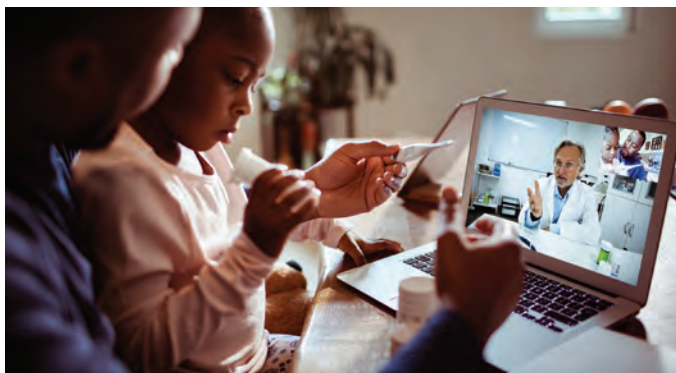
WORKERS: The FSMB has partnered with the **Coalition for Physician Accountability (CPA)** in issuing recommendations to U.S. medical schools to protect medical students, including ensuring there is sufficient personal protective equipment (PPE). The group also made recommendations to protect applicants to domestic and international residency programs from exposure to the virus via travel. The CPA has issued several other recommendations, co-authored by Dr. Walker-McGill, calling for the maintenance of quality standards — including a consensus statement that urged the nation's elected leaders and officials to be “guided by science and evidence-based principles when making decisions” related to the pandemic.

USMLE SAFETY: The FSMB has continued to work with the NBME to ensure safety in the administration of the USMLE, exploring options ranging from the use of accredited medical schools as testing sites to remote proctoring. The Step 2 Clinical Skills component of the USMLE, administered at six testing centers in five U.S. cities using standardized patients, was suspended for 12-18 months to protect examinees and staff while a modified version of the test is explored.

PHYSICIAN RESILIENCE AND OPIOID ABUSE: The FSMB is providing active support and partnership with the **National Academy of Medicine (NAM)** on two of its action collaboratives, one focused on clinician well-being and resilience and the other looking at ways to counter the U.S. opioid epidemic. Both issues have taken on added urgency during the pandemic, with reports of increased drug overdoses and high levels of physician burnout across the United States.

EDUCATION AND RESEARCH: The **FSMB Foundation** has announced the launch of generous grant-funding for research projects to study the impact of COVID-19 on medical regulation, and the FSMB is helping to facilitate new educational efforts — including a recent COVID-19 webinar series for global medical regulators by the **International Association of Medical Regulatory Authorities (IAMRA)**.

As the world awaits a vaccine that is safe, effective and affordable, as well as the development and distribution of therapeutics, the FSMB and its member boards remain committed to taking all steps necessary to protect the safety of the public.



MILESTONE

29 States

More than half of the nation is now participating in the Interstate Medical Licensure Compact

Just five years after the first state joined the Interstate Medical Licensure Compact (IMLC), this historic effort by state medical boards crossed an important threshold in 2019: With 29 states, Guam and the District of Columbia participating — more than half the nation — the IMLC has achieved critical momentum and is gaining new interest and support. Launched as a way

to significantly streamline licensing for physicians and increase access to health care, the IMLC reached



another key milestone in early 2020 when the 10,000th medical license was issued using its process. A large percentage of physicians who use the IMLC for licensing purposes now receive their licenses three weeks or less after they apply, making the Compact a welcome tool for physicians who wish to practice in multiple states — especially those who practice telemedicine. During the 2020 legislative session, legislation to adopt the IMLC was introduced in Florida, Louisiana, Missouri, New Jersey, New York, Rhode Island and South Carolina — and additional states have expressed interest. The FSMB, which has been an ardent supporter of the IMLC, continues to provide assistance: In 2019 it was awarded a five-year grant of \$250,000 annually from the U.S. Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) to help strengthen the IMLC's technology platform and promote use of the IMLC to improve access to care using telemedicine across state lines.



2013

IMLC concept proposed by state boards

2015

Wyoming becomes first state to adopt IMLC

2017

Colorado issues first license using IMLC process

2020

10,000th license issued



“The FSMB has been a steadfast partner to the Interstate Medical Licensure Compact Commission (IMLCC). Most importantly, it has been the FSMB staff and their exceptional support — providing time and expertise about physician licensure — that continues to be the greatest contribution to our success.”

— Marschall Smith, Executive Director, IMLCC

Advocacy

Historic Legislation and Other Advances Make 2019-2020 a Banner Year for FSMB

The FSMB's Washington, D.C., Advocacy Office continues to serve as a strong voice for state medical and osteopathic boards — developing important relationships with governmental agencies, monitoring state and federal policies and promoting public protection.

VA Reform Bills Passed by Congress

In a year of major milestones for the FSMB, one of the most notable came in late 2019, when both chambers of the U.S. Congress passed federal legislation aimed at reforming provider-accountability rules in the U.S. Veterans Administration (VA). This marked the first time in the FSMB's history that major legislation it strongly advocated for and helped advance was adopted by both houses of Congress — including by unanimous consent in the U.S. Senate.

The House of Representatives passed the **Improving Confidence in Veterans' Care Act (H.R. 3530)** on December 17, 2019, and just a few days later the Senate passed the **Department of Veterans Affairs Provider Accountability Act (S. 221)**.

The bills call for state boards to receive more timely alerts about disciplinary issues among physicians and other health professionals practicing within the VA system — an issue that has previously put patient safety at risk.

The FSMB's longstanding and persistent effort to tighten requirements for the reporting of adverse VA actions has ranged from direct testimony to Congress and meetings with legislators to participation in public forums and VA outreach.

In the current political environment in Washington, D.C., the advancement of strongly bipartisan legislation is notable, and medical regulators can take satisfaction that Congress has recognized and validated their position on this issue.

Antitrust Remains a Top FSMB Priority

The FSMB continues to make antitrust damage-liability reform one of its highest priorities — including protecting state boards from the chilling effect of treble damages.

After leading the **Professional Licensing Coalition** in an effort to introduce federal antitrust reform bills in Congress in 2018, the FSMB's advocacy team made strong progress over the last year in moving forward suggested revisions to the **Occupational Licensing Board Antitrust Damages Relief and Reform Act of 2018**.

Speaking with One Voice for State Boards



The FSMB's annual Hill Day continues to be an effective tool in advancing legislative priorities. FSMB Board member Anna Z. Hayden, DO, visited U.S. Rep. Ted Deutch (D-FL) in 2019.

Legislative Outreach: Hill Day

In addition to its ongoing liaison with the offices of Members of Congress, the FSMB organizes its "Hill Day" each year — during which FSMB representatives visit Capitol Hill to advance various regulatory causes. In addition to members of the FSMB Board of Directors, participants in the June 5, 2019, event included, for the first time, several executive directors, staff and board members from FSMB member boards. Engagement with more than 50 Congressional offices played an important role in securing support for various FSMB priorities, including its VA-reform efforts.

Ensuring Safety and Access in Telehealth

The FSMB continued to promote safe practices in the growth of telehealth in 2019-2020, including endorsing the CONNECT for Health Act (S. 2741/H.R. 4932), a bipartisan bill with provisions strengthening access to mental health services and emergency care.

The FSMB also supported efforts aimed directly at COVID-19, including the EDOT Act (H.R. 7078), the KEEP Act (H.R. 7233 and S. 4216) and H.R. 7255, providing mental health services for frontline COVID-19 workers.

Artificial Intelligence

The groundswell of growth in the use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in health care continues, and the FSMB responded in 2019 with the creation of the Artificial Intelligence Taskforce, under the leadership of Chair **Sarvam P. TerKonda, MD**, which is highlighting trends and developments of importance to the regulatory community.



FSMB President and CEO Humayun J. Chaudhry, DO, MACP, left, looked on as U.S. Rep. Bill Foster (D-IL), gave remarks during the FSMB's Digital Credentials briefing.

Congressional Briefing is an FSMB First

The FSMB held its first-ever Congressional briefing on July 23, 2019, demonstrating to lawmakers and legislative staff how the FSMB and state medical boards are harnessing the power of data and new technologies to improve trust and transparency in the nation's health care system.

The Capitol Hill briefing featured updates on improvements to the FSMB's DocInfo service and a presentation on how state boards are using digital technology to build efficiency in medical regulation. The FSMB's white paper, "Healthcare and Digital Credentials: Technical, Legal and Regulatory Considerations," was distributed to attendees at the well-attended event. Future briefings are now being planned.

Coalitions and Strategic Partnerships

Much of the FSMB's advocacy success in recent years has been the result of working in collaboration with other organizations on goals of mutual benefit.

Just a small sampling of national organizations the FSMB engaged with during 2019-2020 includes:

Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education	Bipartisan Policy Center
Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education	Coalition for Physician Accountability
America's Health Insurance Plans	Council of Medical Specialty Societies
American Academy of Physician Assistants	Council of State Governments
American Board of Medical Specialties	Health Resources and Services Administration
American College of Physicians	Federation of State Physician Health Programs
American Hospital Association	National Academy of Medicine
American Medical Association	National Commission on Certification of Physician Assistants
American Osteopathic Association	National Medical Association
American Telemedicine Association	
Association of American Medical Colleges	

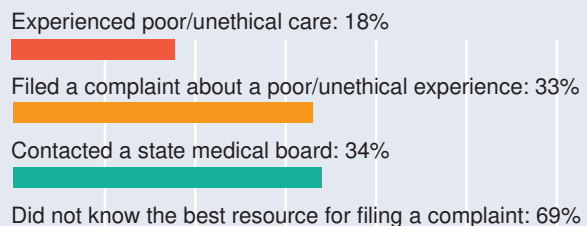
National Survey Indicates Majority of Physician Misconduct Goes Unreported

In an effort to better understand Americans' awareness of how to file complaints about the medical care they receive, the FSMB commissioned a nationwide Harris Poll in 2019. The results showed that nearly one in five Americans have had an interaction with a physician who they believe was acting unethically, unprofessionally, or provided substandard care — but only one-third reported the misconduct or filed a complaint. Among those who filed a complaint, only 34% took their complaint to a state medical board, and nearly 7 in 10 Americans do not know that a state medical board is the best resource to contact first with a complaint about a physician's competence or conduct.



The findings support the need for more public education about state medical boards and how consumers can utilize them to help ensure they receive safe and quality health services. The FSMB shared the results with the medical regulatory community and is using the data to help develop new tools for raising awareness.

Reporting a Poor Medical Experience



One Board Stronger

The unified voices of the FSMB's member boards grew by one in 2019, with the addition of the **Medical Licensure Commission of Alabama** — another milestone in a year of significant events. Now representing 71 boards, the FSMB remains committed to strong advocacy in both the public and private sectors on behalf of its members.

Licensure Portability for Physician Assistants

The nation's Physician Assistants (PAs) continue to play an important role in health care delivery. Building on its successful work with the Interstate Medical Licensure Compact, the FSMB hosted a historic meeting of regulators and policy experts in Washington, D.C., in November 2019 to discuss the development of a licensure compact for PAs. The FSMB has received a federal grant to explore potential models.



Connecting Medical Regulators Globally



As health care issues continue to increasingly intersect at a global level, impacting U.S. medical regulators, the FSMB and its member boards are adapting — with strategic engagement to stay ahead of world developments.

At the core of that effort is the FSMB's role as Secretariat of the **International Association of Medical Regulatory Authorities (IAMRA)**. Membership in IAMRA now stands at 118 member organizations in 48 countries — including nine FSMB member boards and a wide range of U.S. health organizations.

IAMRA held its fifth international symposium, focused on continued competency, in September 2019 in Chicago — during which U.S. perspectives on this important and evolving topic were offered by FSMB speakers and others.

Beyond its direct involvement in IAMRA, the FSMB continued to facilitate connection between U.S. and global regulators in 2019-2020 in a variety of settings, including:

AFRICA: The FSMB assisted as the Association of Medical Councils of Africa (AMCOA) formally implemented credentials-equivalency rules for DO and MD physicians that will streamline the ability of osteopathic physicians to be able to provide care on the African continent.

CHINA: The World Health Organization invited the FSMB to participate in an international seminar on medical licensure, education and training, during which Chinese regulators expressed interest in U.S. regulatory tools, such as the Interstate Medical Licensure Compact.

CANADA: The FSMB was well-represented at conferences of the Federation of Medical Regulatory Authorities of Canada (FMRAC) and the Medical Council of Canada (MCC), where U.S. and Canadian regulators discussed artificial intelligence, sexual boundary violations and other topics of mutual interest.

Among other settings for international engagement over the last year were conferences and meetings in **Austria, Germany, South Korea** and **Turkey**.

SERVING STATE MEDICAL BOARDS



Chair Scott Steingard, DO, highlighted FSMB activities during a visit with the Wyoming Board of Medicine in 2019.

Focusing on Front-Line Issues

In addition to its work at the federal level, the FSMB had a very active year assisting FSMB member boards with state-related issues and initiatives, including:

State Board Liaison Program: With the goal of facilitating communication with its member boards, the FSMB sends teams to the boards for direct, onsite visits each year. During 2019, FSMB teams visited 20 boards, where they learned about key issues and offered tools and resources for assistance.

Legislative Tracking: The FSMB's advocacy team tracked legislative and regulatory developments, including more than 4,500 legislative bills in 2019 alone. Among the topics: occupational licensing, continuing medical education, scope of practice, pain management and many others.

Policy Development: FSMB state legislative and policy staff worked with member boards to shape state-level policy on a variety of topics impacting regulators in 2019-2020, producing legislative summaries, conducting research and creating policy drafts.

Grassroots Advocacy: At the request of boards in **Florida, Louisiana, Maryland, Minnesota, Mississippi, New Hampshire, New Jersey, North Dakota, Ohio, South Carolina** and **West Virginia** over the last year, the FSMB's state advocacy team provided testimony, letters to state legislators and other assistance.



MILESTONE

10,000 Learners

FSMB's Continuing Medical Education (CME)
Program continues to grow

Since achieving ACCME-accreditation in 2017, the FSMB's CME Program has steadily built a platform for education that benefits not only medical regulators, but a wider audience of health care professionals as well. In late 2019, the program reached a key goal when it issued a CME certificate to the 10,000th participant in an FSMB-accredited course. The FSMB



has accredited more than 60 CME activities since it began, offering a total of 222 hours of instruction to nearly 11,000 physician and non-physician learners. The program accelerated rapidly in 2019, with a 55% increase in CME hours offered compared to 2018. The program's educational content

has often been aimed at issues of great importance to the future of medical regulation, ranging from physician wellness to the nation's opioid abuse epidemic. A recent example is the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration's Practitioner Diversion Awareness Conferences — a series of 19 nationwide education sessions on preventing drug diversion. The FSMB partnered with the DEA in this educational effort, which reached thousands of physicians and other health care professionals and helped raise awareness about the issue. More and more state medical boards are taking advantage of the FSMB's free CME-accreditation services — including, over the last year, boards in Idaho, Kansas, North Carolina and Washington.



2016

CME Program
launched

2017

FSMB becomes
accredited

2018

FSMB CME
partnership
with DEA

2019

10,000th learner
completes an FSMB-
accredited event



“**The Washington Medical Commission is tasked** with protecting the public by ensuring quality health care. Our educational programs are fundamental to this effort and the FSMB provides a vital accrediting service that helps attract and engage our licensees in continuing education. Together, we promote the safety of medicine and the quality of care provided.”

— **Jimi Bush, MPA**, Director of Quality and Engagement, Washington Medical Commission

Education

FSMB Keeps Medical Regulators Ahead of Fast-Changing Health Care Developments

Today's health care environment is dynamic, requiring both health care providers and regulatory boards to be in a continuous mode of learning and adaptation. As a part of its strategic mission, the FSMB provides educational tools and resources — including its Annual Meeting, considered its premier event. 2019-2020 was a strong year for FSMB educational efforts on many fronts.

107th Annual Meeting Offers Fresh Directions

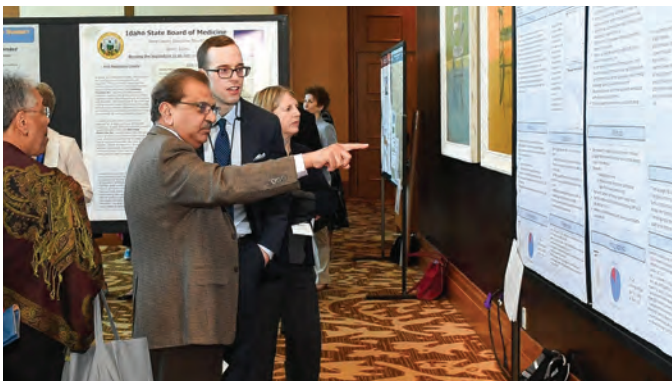
The FSMB's 107th Annual Meeting, held in April 2019 in Fort Worth, Texas, attracted a diverse mix of medical regulators and other stakeholders in health care — with a total attendance of 420.

Keynote speakers included **Zubin Austin, PhD**, of the University of Toronto, who discussed the measurement of physician competence, and **Joseph Kvedar, MD**, of Partners HealthCare, who examined innovative new models for health care delivery.

Several new features and enhancements distinguished the 2019 meeting, including the use of educational "tracks" organized by subject area — which allowed for significant expansion of educational offerings and more flexibility for meeting attendees. In a survey of participants taken after the meeting, more than 90% of attendees rated the meeting either "excellent" or "very good."

FSMB/AIM Spotlight Poster Hall Debuts

Partnering with **Administrators in Medicine (AIM)**, the FSMB launched its first-ever Spotlight Poster Hall at the 2019 Annual Meeting, featuring highlights of initiatives and policies from 16 state medical boards and other health care organizations. A well-attended poster session during the meeting allowed presenters to discuss their projects directly with attendees.



LEARNING FROM EACH OTHER: The Spotlight Poster Hall featured 20 poster displays from 16 organizations on a wide range of issues of interest to FSMB member boards.

2019 Annual Meeting Highlights



CONFRONTING A SERIOUS ISSUE: The FSMB's 2019 Annual Meeting kicked off with "Sexual Boundary Violations: What State Medical Boards Need to Know" — a panel discussion on a serious issue that has received increasing media attention in recent years.

Webcast Reaches New Heights: The FSMB's webcast of the 2019 Annual Meeting's Opening Session had its highest response to date, with 229 registrants, an increase of 21% over the previous year. Representatives from state medical and osteopathic boards made up the highest concentration of remote viewers, followed by representatives from various stakeholder organizations, including other regulatory boards, several medical specialty boards and state medical societies, patient advocacy/patient safety groups and members of the media.

FSMB Leaders Elected: During the 2019 Annual Meeting, **Scott A. Steingard, DO**, of Arizona was sworn in as the 98th Chair of the FSMB Board of Directors. **Cheryl Walker-McGill, MD, MBA**, of North Carolina, was elected as Chair-elect. Other newly-elected Board members elected to three-year terms in 2019 included:

- **Jone Geimer-Flanders, DO** (Hawaii)
- **Shawn Parker, JD** (North Carolina)
- **Joseph Willett, DO** (Minnesota)

Networking Luncheon Hosted: In an effort to facilitate new relationships and connection among members of state medical and osteopathic boards, the FSMB launched its first-ever Networking Luncheon in 2019. Several hundred attendees collaborated in small groups at lunch tables, sharing ideas and opinions that were later summarized and shared by designated speakers.

FORUMS FOR LEARNING

Workshops and Training Sessions Help Medical Regulators Succeed

In addition to its Annual Meeting, the FSMB offers a variety of other yearly educational opportunities for its member boards. Highlights in 2019-2020 included:

New Directors and New Executive Directors Orientation:

On June 23-24, 2019, the FSMB held its annual New Directors and New Executive Directors Orientation in Euless, Texas.

This yearly event was established to provide newly employed state medical board executive directors and newly elected directors of the FSMB an opportunity to learn more about the organization's structure, activities, and operations, enhancing their understanding of how the FSMB fulfills membership needs and how they can be effective leaders in their respective roles.

Twelve new executive directors and/or medical board staff attended this year's event, along with FSMB elected leaders.



The Board Attorneys Workshop provides opportunities for learning and networking.

Board Attorneys Workshop:

The FSMB held its 13th annual fall Board Attorneys Workshop on November 7-8, 2019, in New Orleans, Louisiana. The event, which offers updates and information for state medical board attorneys, drew 72 attendees from 28 different states. Among the many topics covered during the workshop were sessions on the corporate practice of medicine, trends in drug testing and addiction, ethical dilemmas for board attorneys, and how to respond to litigation involving board suits.

Supplementing face-to-face meetings, the FSMB provided

a variety of other educational resources over the last year, including its monthly **Roundtable Webinars** and online content developed by its **Workgroup on Education on Medical Regulation**.



Michael P. Dugan, MBA, the FSMB's Chief Operating Officer, discussed the use of data during a session at the Tri-Regulator Symposium.

2019 Tri-Regulator Symposium Focuses on Team-Based Regulation

The FSMB continued to work closely over the last year with its peer organizations in health care regulation — the **National Association of Boards of Pharmacy (NABP)** and the **National Council of State Boards of Nursing (NCSBN)** — which, together, make up the Tri-Regulator Collaborative. The three organizations collectively represent the various state member boards regulating a combined five million physicians, pharmacists and nurses in the United States.

In September 2019, the FSMB played host to the fourth in a series of Tri-Regulator Collaborative symposia — intended to help regulators serve the public more effectively by marshalling their efforts across disciplines.

The theme of the 2019 symposium, held in Frisco, Texas, was "Proactive Regulation as a Team-based Collaborative" — focusing on trends in the increasingly team-oriented health care environment in the United States. Throughout two days, attendees engaged in discussions that ranged from artificial intelligence and its impact on state regulatory boards to the use of data and the concept of risk-based regulation. More than 120 representatives from the medical, nursing and pharmacy professions attended.

New features introduced at this year's symposium included a working luncheon that highlighted research opportunities aimed at strengthening understanding of the merits of state-based regulation, and the first-ever webcast of the event.

The NABP honored the FSMB in 2019 with its annual **Henry Cade Memorial Award**, recognizing the assistance that the FSMB has provided to state boards of pharmacy in protecting the public's health.

BEST Workgroup Launches New Online Modules

The FSMB's Workgroup on Board Education, Service and Training (BEST) introduced two new online educational modules in 2019-2020, aimed at helping members of state medical and osteopathic boards better understand the roles and responsibilities associated with their service.



POLICY DEVELOPMENT

FSMB Adopts Sweeping New Policy on Physician Sexual Misconduct

The FSMB made a major contribution to the national effort to curb sex abuse when it adopted a sweeping new policy on physician sexual misconduct in 2020 — culminating an intensive, two-year effort by its Workgroup on Physician Sexual Misconduct.

Chaired by Past FSMB Chair **Patricia A. King, MD, PhD**, the Workgroup included representatives of state medical boards and leading health care organizations, who were given the task of revamping the FSMB's former policy on addressing sexual boundaries, adopted in 2006.

Beginning in 2018, the Workgroup conducted extensive research on the topic; hosted meetings, symposia and focus groups; interviewed experts in the field and survivors of sexual abuse at the hands of physicians; and sought input from a wide range of organizations with the ability to effect change in medical education and practice.

The Workgroup's report, including 38 recommendations for action, was formally adopted by the FSMB's House of Delegates on May 2, 2020.

Since its adoption, the policy has been widely distributed and has received positive attention in the media and from organizations with an interest in this critical area of public protection.

Fighting Opioid Abuse, Physician Burnout

The FSMB continued its work on two important policy issues impacting both patients and physicians in 2019-2020:

CURBING OPIOID ABUSE: The FSMB began a review of its *Model Policy on DATA 2000* and *Treatment of Opioid Addiction in the Medical Office* in 2019. The goal: update key provisions and adapt to new issues and needs in the opioid epidemic. Proposed updates will be circulated to FSMB member boards for input later in 2020. In addition, the FSMB continued to play a strong leadership role as a formal member of the National Academy of Medicine's Action Collaborative on Countering the U.S. Opioid Epidemic.

PROMOTING PHYSICIAN WELLNESS: The FSMB's multi-year effort to address the issue of physician wellness and burnout continued to gain ground in 2019-2020, as more states adopted new regulations aimed at lowering stigma and encouraging physicians to seek treatment for potentially impairing mental health issues. More than 25 states are considering or have made changes — many built directly from guidelines established in the FSMB's physician wellness and burnout policy, adopted in 2018. The FSMB also played a leadership role as a formal member of the National Academy of Medicine's Action Collaborative on Clinician Well-Being and Resilience.



FSMB 2019-2020 Chair-elect Cheryl Walker-McGill, MD, MBA, led a session of the Special Committee on Strategic Planning in August 2019 — one of many groups shaping FSMB policy.

Committees and Workgroups Drive a Productive Year

For decades, the FSMB's various workgroups and committees have served as the engine for policy development, establishing guidelines and recommendations that can have a profound impact on U.S. health care. Over the last year, several committees and workgroups moved forward key initiatives for the FSMB. Among them:

Ethics and Professionalism Committee: In 2019, under the leadership of Chair-elect **Cheryl Walker-McGill, MD, MBA**, the Committee completed its work in updating the FSMB's policy on Social Media and Electronic Communications. The current Committee is advancing several initiatives, including development of a position statement on physician treatment of self and family members and has finalized guidance on the compounding of medications by physicians.

Workgroup to Study Risk and Support Factors Affecting Physician Performance: Chaired by **Mohammed Arsiwala, MD**, this new Workgroup is collecting and evaluating data and research on factors affecting physician performance and the ability to practice medicine safely, including determining best practices in the use of regulatory data for identifying physicians at risk for poor performance.

Workgroup on Physician Impairment: Chaired by **Danny M. Takanishi, Jr., MD**, this new Workgroup is reviewing the FSMB Policy on Physician Impairment in cooperation with the Federation of State Physician Health Programs (FSPHP), and making recommendations to revise the policy in light of new and emerging issues. A draft report will be distributed to state medical boards for comment in the summer of 2020.

Special Committee on Strategic Planning: Led by 2019-2020 Chair-elect **Cheryl Walker-McGill, MD, MBA**, the Committee created a new strategic roadmap for the FSMB that was adopted by the House of Delegates in May 2020 and will be implemented across FSMB divisions beginning this year.

MILESTONE

2 Million Page-Views

An ambitious national campaign lifts DocInfo to a new level of public use

One of the FSMB's major success stories in 2019 was the redesign and relaunch of a new and improved DocInfo.org service for consumers. Introduced in 2001, DocInfo offers the nation's most up-to-date, publicly available repository of core information about physicians, including educational background, disciplinary history and other details important to patients and

families. Starting in 2018, the FSMB's communications and information technology teams collaborated on a top-to-bottom



effort to make it easier for consumers to find and use DocInfo. New features were added to the site, including a more robust search function, adding more disciplinary details to physician profiles and adding a new section that provides information on how to file a complaint with a state medical board. In 2019 a promotional campaign was launched, which included outreach to the media, lawmakers and the public; advertising on social media; and the use of an animated video to target key demographics and encourage them to visit the site. Result: DocInfo.org traffic increased by 1.8 million page-views in 2019, and surpassed 2 million page-views in the first months of 2020. The campaign to promote DocInfo.org and raise awareness about the importance of state medical boards was recognized by *PRNEWS* as one of the top "social good" campaigns of 2019. Most importantly, consumer use of DocInfo continues to grow.



2001

DocInfo launched

2015

Service offered free for consumers

2019

DocInfo redesigned and relaunched

2020

2 million page-views reached



“The FSMB is an immense resource for our board, particularly in terms of its data capabilities. FCVS, for example, has sped up our licensing process, which helps improve access to care for patients in our state and is beneficial to physicians. FSMB policy has been helpful, too — the policy on Physician Wellness and Burnout helped us completely change our application questions regarding mental health.”

— W. Reeves Johnson, Jr., MD, President, Tennessee Board of Medical Examiners

Data, Research and Assessment

FSMB Adapts to a Changing Environment for Information Use

The FSMB's data-sharing, research and assessment capabilities ensure that state medical boards, health care organizations and the public have access to information vital for safe, quality health care. 2019-2020 was a year of change, growth and progress on key initiatives.

Major Change to USMLE Scoring Approved

For nearly three decades, the FSMB and the National Board of Medical Examiners (NBME) have worked in formal partnership to develop and administer the **United States Medical Licensing Examination (USMLE)** — which U.S. medical students take as a key requirement in the process of becoming a licensed physician.

Over that time, the FSMB and the NBME have continually worked to improve the test and ensure it meets the needs of the health care system. In February 2020, the two organizations made the historic decision to approve changing the score reporting for USMLE Step 1 from a three-digit numeric score to reporting only a pass/fail outcome, while retaining a numeric score on Step 2 Clinical Knowledge (CK).

This action follows an extensive national dialogue over the past few years among multiple stakeholders — including educators, regulators and medical students — on potential updates that could be made to the current USMLE numeric score reporting system. This major change to the USMLE will be phased in gradually, no earlier than January 2022.

Another change, effective July 1, 2021, includes lowering the maximum number of attempts on a USMLE Step from six to four.

The Step 1 decision by the FSMB and the NBME has been well-received as a positive first step toward broader system-wide changes to enhance the transition of students from medical school to residency training.

Improvements Made to Post-Licensure Testing

The FSMB's **Special Purpose Examination (SPEX) and Post-Licensure Assessment System (PLAS)** — administered in partnership with the NBME — continued to provide essential tools and testing to ensure that licensed physicians are qualified to continue in medical practice. In an effort to better accommodate examinees' busy practice schedules, an updated SPEX exam was implemented in January 2019 that is 2.5 hours shorter than the previous version. Other improvements included an update to test questions and formatting.

An Ongoing Effort to Connect and Engage



The Invitational Conference on USMLE Scoring (InCUS), held in March 2019, culminated in a report and recommendations that helped drive momentous changes to the USMLE in 2020.

The USMLE continues to benefit from a wide range of ongoing efforts to engage in dialogue and communicate with stakeholders. During 2019-2020 these included:

InCUS Summit: In March 2019, the FSMB co-hosted an Invitational Conference on USMLE Scoring (InCUS) with co-sponsors the NBME, the Educational Commission for Foreign Medical Graduates (ECFMG), the American Medical Association and the Association of American Medical Colleges. The summit provided critically needed input for the historic changes that were subsequently made to the USMLE.

Trilateral Meeting: The FSMB leadership met with their counterparts from the NBME, the ECFMG and the Foundation for Advancement of International Medical Education and Research (FAIMER) in a joint session in August 2019. Known as the "Trilateral Meeting," this event occurs periodically to ensure a mutual understanding of the key areas in which the organizations collaborate — including on the USMLE.

State Board Input: On an ongoing basis, FSMB member boards provide valuable input on various aspects of the USMLE. In 2019 37 individuals, from 26 boards, served on a USMLE committee, task force, advisory or standard-setting panel.

Online Efforts: The USMLE offered a variety of online tools over the last year — including a video series and a new podcast — intended to help students and others navigate the USMLE.



FSMB and NBME leaders are featured in online videos and other resources intended to help users understand the USMLE.

PHYSICIAN DATA CENTER

Report Highlights Impact of Digital Credentialing on Medical Regulation

Recognizing that digital technology is increasingly replacing longstanding administrative procedures for health care organizations, the FSMB partnered with technology leader **Learning Machine** in 2019 to produce a major survey and report of the impact of these new trends on medical regulation. Distributed nationally and introduced during a Congressional

Briefing in Washington, D.C., “**Healthcare and Digital Credentials: Technical, Legal, and Regulatory Considerations**” highlights the FSMB’s use of digital technologies and its efforts to alleviate administrative burdens for health organizations involved in the credentialing process.

The report highlights several emerging technologies, including digital signatures, that have the potential to dramatically

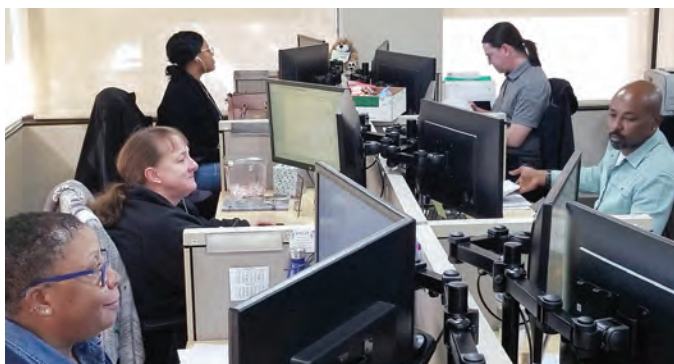
improve efficiency and quality in credentialing, benefiting FSMB member boards and the public.



FSMB Saves Hahnemann Records

The FSMB’s **Closed Residency Programs Service** provides ongoing storage of training records for residency programs that no longer exist — an essential service for physicians who trained in those programs and for medical regulators. In 2019, the FSMB stepped in to preserve training records from Philadelphia’s **Hahnemann University Hospital** when the financially troubled hospital closed permanently, ensuring that 39 years of vital physician-records were kept safe. The FSMB now maintains files for more than 300 closed programs.

In another development, the FSMB announced its new **Lifetime Credentials** service in early 2020 that makes it possible for physicians to request a secure, digitally signed lifetime verification of their records from a closed residency program.



CRUNCHING DATA: The FSMB’s credentials verification staff ensures that thousands of records are accurately processed.



FCVS: Growth and Quality Improvements Continue During 2019-2020

The FSMB’s **Physician Data Center (PDC)** is one of the nation’s deepest repositories of health-provider data, with multiple layers of demographic information for more than 1 million physicians and physician assistants. One of the PDC’s key features is the **Federation Credentials Verification Service (FCVS)** — which provides physicians and physician assistants with permanent storage of their primary-source verified credentials. FCVS continued its steady record of growth and improvement in 2019-2020, with new features and achievements that included:

NPDB Continuous Query Reports: The FSMB’s advocacy for increased reporting of data about physicians from the National Practitioner Data Bank (NPDB) achieved a significant milestone with a new service that allows more efficient access to NPDB information, using the FCVS profile system. Twenty state medical boards now use the FSMB’s NPDB data linkage, and feedback has been strongly positive.

Live Chat Services: In an effort to enhance the customer experience, FCVS introduced Live Chat in 2019 — allowing instant connection for online help for FCVS users. By early 2020, the volume of chat sessions had grown to nearly 50 per day as more and more users took advantage of this service.

Record-Setting Customer Service Ratings: FCVS customer satisfaction levels averaged 90% last year, with a record-setting 97% level achieved in September 2019.

Growing Volume, Improved Cycle Times: FCVS delivered more than 55,000 profiles to organizations in 2019, and cycle times dropped from 19 days to 17 days from the previous year.

New States Requiring FCVS: The trend towards state adoption of FCVS as a licensure requirement continued, with Massachusetts becoming the 15th state to require FCVS services in early 2020.

UA Promotes License Portability

The FSMB’s **Uniform Application (UA)** continued its long-term effort to streamline licensure for physicians, physician assistants (PAs) and resident applicants in 2019-2020, with 27 state medical boards now participating. A variety of enhancements were made to the service over the last year, responding to direct input from the FSMB’s UA User Group.

RESEARCH SERVICES

FSMB Researchers Provide Value

In a busy and productive year, the FSMB's data and research team helped leverage data from the FSMB's PDC to benefit both state medical boards and partner organizations — including projects with results that were featured in academic journals. Just a few examples of 2019-2020 projects include:

ACCME Pilot Project: Provided data for the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME) Program and Activity Reporting System (PARS), a unified system state medical boards can use in verifying CME participation for their licensees.

NBME Physician Wellness Study: Collaborated with staff at the National Board of Medical Examiners to study the impact of the USMLE on physician wellness.

ABS Disciplinary Study: Working with the American Board of Surgery, investigated the rate of disciplinary actions taken against board-certified vs. non-board-certified surgeons.

IMLC License Cycle Times: Completed a comprehensive analysis of application and licensing cycle times for the Interstate Medical Licensure Compact Commission.

Physician Burnout in New York: Partnered with the Medical Society of the State of New York in a study of physician burnout and reporting barriers to receiving mental health care.

In addition, the team provided direct data-gathering and data analysis to FSMB member boards in **Maine, Massachusetts, Montana, Oregon, Washington** and others. The data it collected from state boards during the year played a key role in helping support the work of the FSMB's **Special Committee on Strategic Planning**.

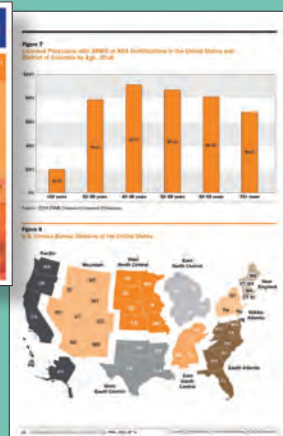
BACE Project Yields Results

A project to bring more consistency to the system for categorizing disciplinary actions taken against physicians culminated in early 2020 with the report of the **Board Action Content Evaluation (BACE) Internal Workgroup**. After reviewing thousands of disciplinary actions, the group found wide variations in the way state boards reported actions. It responded by developing an additional process for coding actions that allows for more detailed information to be gathered.

The result: Improved coding for research purposes, resulting in a more accurate nationwide representation of the reasons physicians are disciplined. As next steps, the FSMB will work with other health-related regulatory organizations to develop options for similar standardizations across professional sectors and explore options for a pilot project to translate what FSMB has learned into practice at state boards.



The FSMB's census of licensed physicians was published in a special issue of the Journal of Medical Regulation in 2019.



FSMB's Latest U.S. Physician Census Shows Key Demographic Trends

The FSMB published its fifth biennial **Census of Licensed Physicians in the United States** in 2019 — highlighting key characteristics of the nation's physician workforce. Since its first publication in 2011, the Census has become the most complete repository of physician demographic data available, used widely by policy makers and researchers.

Among the highlights from the latest Census:

- The workforce has grown to include 985,026 licensed physicians in the United States.
- International Medical Graduates continue to make up roughly a quarter of the physician workforce.
- The mean age of licensed physicians is now 51.5 years, with 30% of these physicians 60 years of age or older.
- The physician population has grown more diverse, with the percentage of women physicians continuing to grow. Just over 35% of the workforce is now composed of women physicians.
- Though there are significantly more MD than DO physicians in the United States, the percentage of physicians with a DO degree is growing faster than physicians with an MD degree.

National Survey Ranks Topics Most Important to FSMB Member Board Leaders

In a national survey of state medical board executive directors conducted by the FSMB's data and research team, boards ranked what they considered the three most important topics to the regulatory community in 2019.

Opioid prescribing/addiction treatment was the most frequently cited topic, followed by physician impairment and physician wellness and burnout.

The survey also ranked the most common topics of the media inquiries that boards receive. The most common media inquiry was related to disciplinary actions (96%), followed by opioid prescribing (63%), licensure (50%) and sexual misconduct (50%).

MILESTONE

40 Issues

A decade after its name change and redesign, the *Journal of Medical Regulation* continues to innovate

First published in 1913 as the *Quarterly of the Federation of State Boards of the United States*, the *Journal of Medical Regulation* (*JMR*) plays a central role in the FSMB's mission of keeping state medical boards informed on trends and developments in medical regulation. *JMR*'s name and format have changed several times over its more than a century of



service, with the most recent update coming in 2010 — featuring a more relevant title; contemporary, reader-friendly design; and expanded content categories. Ten years — and 40 issues — later, *JMR* is thriving. Over the last several years, it has expanded its team of peer reviewers, begun publishing special single-topic issues offering continuing medical education (CME) credit, increased its volume of scholarly articles and introduced a wide range of new features. The latest, introduced over the last year, are “State Medical Board Practices,” offering highlights of successful state board initiatives; and “Resources for Regulators,” providing tools to help state board members and professional staff increase their effectiveness. In 2019, *JMR* also launched a new spin-off product — “*JMR* Podcasts” — to raise the publication’s visibility and improve its accessibility to both readers and researchers. The podcasts, available on Spotify and other platforms, feature interviews with *JMR* authors, discussing their work. As a part of its 10-year anniversary, *JMR* introduced a redesigned website in 2020, with new interactive features and easy-to-navigate content.



1913

FSMB Quarterly
launched

1921

Federation
Bulletin

2010

Journal of
Medical
Regulation

2019

JMR's
tenth year

“Beyond being an excellent source of trends and developments in medical regulation for our board members, we have also distributed editions of *JMR* to legislators and policy makers in our state to help them better understand the valuable work that state medical boards do.”

— Lyle Kelsey, MBA, CMBE, Executive Director, Oklahoma State Board of Medical Licensure and Supervision



Communications

The FSMB Provides a Unified Voice, Raising Visibility for State Medical Boards

In today's 24/7 news environment, organizations must communicate quickly and effectively with their stakeholders, using multiple channels. Over the last year, the FSMB expanded its communication capabilities, using new tools to reach internal audiences and national media.

DocInfo Campaign Earns National Recognition

In 2019, the FSMB launched a new and improved version of its free physician search-tool for consumers, DocInfo.org. To raise awareness of the new site, FSMB's communications team in Washington, D.C., launched a multi-media campaign, which was nominated for *PRNEWS*' "Nonprofit Social Good/Responsibility Campaign of the Year." The FSMB was one of seven finalists for the award.

Since the inception of the campaign, the new DocInfo website has logged major increases in visits and page views.

eNews Bulletins: A Staple for Internal Audiences

The FSMB's e-mail bulletin — *eNews* — is now in its tenth year. Over 2019-2020, it was distributed twice weekly to more than 5,000 individuals in the medical regulatory community, government and affiliated organizations, with information about FSMB events and initiatives, state medical board news and relevant health care news. Survey results consistently show high satisfaction with *eNews* content.

Engaging with National Media Outlets

An integral part of the FSMB's ongoing communications strategy is to build strong relationships with national media. Sample highlights of engagement in 2019-2020 include:

Associated Press

Atlanta Journal-Constitution

The Atlantic

Bloomberg News

Boston Globe

CBS

CNBC

Detroit News

The DO

Frontline/MD Edge

Kansas City Star

Los Angeles Times

Medpage Today

Medscape

Men's Health

NBC

New York Post

New York Times

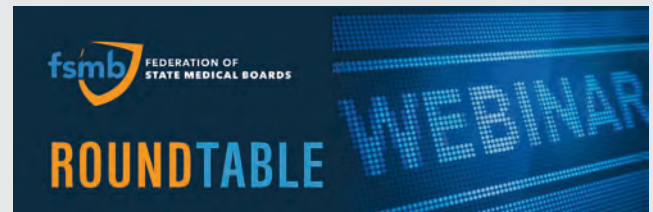
Politico

Portland Business Journal

Wall Street Journal

Washington Examiner

Using a Variety of Tools to Stay Connected



FSMB Roundtable Webinar Series: 18th Year of Presentations for Regulators

Since 2002, FSMB's monthly Roundtable Webinars have addressed issues impacting the state medical board community, providing regulators with an ongoing opportunity to learn from experts and engage with one another in a virtual setting.

Topics covered during the last year included the Interstate Medical Licensure Compact; new rules from the Massachusetts and Maine boards on informed consent and physician-patient communications; technology updates from the FSMB's Physician Data Center and FCVS; ECFMG's 2023 Medical School Accreditation System; the new Single GME Accreditation System; an overview of emergency management resources available for state medical boards and much more.

News Releases and Social Media Ensure Day by Day Distribution of Content

Over the last several years, the FSMB has significantly increased its distribution of news releases and social media posts on behalf of state boards and the medical regulatory community. Its Twitter account, @TheFSMB, has grown to include more than 4,000 followers and it maintains an active Facebook page.

During 2019-2020, Washington, D.C., staff distributed news releases to a network of thousands of media outlets on a wide range of topics — from physician sexual misconduct to the use of digital credentials in health care and the growth of the Interstate Medical Licensure Compact.

MILESTONE

10 Years

Since its formal relaunch in 2009, the FSMB Foundation is flourishing

In 2008, the FSMB launched an effort to completely reorganize its charitable arm, the FSMB Foundation — with the goal of increasing its impact as an asset for both the medical regulatory community and the public. In addition to making a significant contribution of funding to the Foundation, the FSMB helped organize an interim action-



team that spearheaded an overhaul of the Foundation's governance and operations, fiscal

policies, goals and objectives. In 2009, the newly reconfigured organization was launched, with a new Board of Directors and strategic plan. In the ten years that followed, the Foundation has steadily built its endowment through proactive fundraising, allowing it to disperse a higher volume of grants, in larger amounts, than ever before. Over the decade, it has distributed hundreds of thousands of dollars in support to nearly 50 initiatives, with grants of up to \$30,000 — including projects with more than 25 different state medical and osteopathic boards. Most recently, it has helped fund efforts to expand the Interstate Medical Licensure Compact, promote public membership on state boards, address physician wellness and burnout and study the impact of COVID-19 on medical regulation.



2009

FSMB Foundation
relaunched

2013

First annual
fundraising-
luncheon

2016

Mini-Grant
program
introduced

2020

COVID-19 grants
announced



“**Administrators in Medicine (AIM)** was thrilled to receive an FSMB Foundation grant to support AIM’s first Certified Medical Board Licensure Training Program. This grant enabled state boards to send licensing staff to learn best practices and share information with their colleagues. We had the largest number of attendees ever for a first-time training event and are already planning a second training for our member states.”

— **Anne K. Lawler, JD, RN**, AIM President and Executive Director, Idaho State Board of Medicine

FSMB Foundation

Momentum of Recent Years Continues as FSMB's Philanthropic Arm Grows

The FSMB Foundation continued its longstanding mission of strengthening the future of medical regulation in 2019-2020, welcoming its latest grant recipients and launching several new projects. As the FSMB's forward-looking philanthropic arm, the Foundation is helping today's medical regulators prepare for tomorrow's challenges.

Expanded Grantmaking Capabilities Help FSMB Foundation Increase Impact

Since the most recent update of its strategic plan in 2017, the FSMB Foundation has expanded its grantmaking capabilities, supporting new projects nationwide that will ultimately benefit medical regulation and public protection. Using a new, more flexible grant structure, the Foundation awarded funding in 2019-2020 to state medical boards and other organizations that are conducting research, developing educational materials and increasing awareness about topics of importance to medical regulators.

The latest examples of Foundation grants include:

Administrators in Medicine (AIM): The Foundation provided a \$23,791 grant to AIM to help fund its first-ever Certified Medical Board Licensure Training Program (CMBL), which was held in July 2019. During this two-day event, attendees were given opportunities for sharing best practices by licensing staff and discovering new and innovative ways to efficiently manage the licensing process. The program attracted 44 participants and included representation from half of AIM's member states.

Louisiana State Board of Medical Examiners: The Louisiana Board received a \$3,745 grant from the Foundation to assist in a research project aimed at examining physician mortality in Louisiana and the relationship between premature mortality and disciplinary and remediation efforts of the board.

COVID-19 Grants: The Foundation began development in early 2020 of a new grant opportunity to help state medical boards and other health care organizations study state responses to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The long-term goal of the program is to encourage the development of sustainable models and policies to help states prepare for and respond to similar emergencies in the future, as well as strengthen their capacity for recovery planning. Grants of up to \$25,000 will be distributed beginning in early 2021.

Raising Awareness, Building Capacity

2019 Foundation Luncheon Features Nic Scheff

The Seventh Annual FSMB Foundation Luncheon, held April 26, 2019, during the FSMB's Annual Meeting in Fort Worth, Texas, helped raise funds to support Foundation programs while highlighting the issue of substance abuse disorder.

Sponsored by the Educational Commission for Foreign Medical Graduates (ECFMG), the event featured **Nic Scheff**, the best-selling author of two memoirs about his personal struggles with addiction and the subject of the 2018 film "Beautiful Boy." Representatives of state medical boards and a variety of health care organizations engaged in discussion with Mr. Scheff during a question-and-answer session.

Since it debuted in 2013, the annual luncheon has raised thousands of dollars to support Foundation activities — including its long-term efforts to address the nation's opioid epidemic.



*Best-selling author **Nic Scheff** discussed his personal struggles with addiction during the 2019 FSMB Foundation Luncheon.*

Supporting the IMLC

The FSMB Foundation's commitment of support for the **Interstate Medical Licensure Compact (IMLC)** continued in 2019-2020, with grant-funding available to assist states interested in joining the IMLC as well as those that are already participating.

Funding from the Foundation is intended to support a variety of activities, including stakeholder education and operational improvements in current IMLC member-states.

Updated Grant-Application Process to Launch

The Foundation began an update of its grant-application process in early 2020, with the goal of creating new system efficiencies, consistency and ease of use for grant applicants. New guidelines and processes are expected to be in place by the end of 2020.

The Federation of State Medical Boards: Partners in Protecting the Public

Alabama Board of Medical Examiners	Nevada State Board of Osteopathic Medicine
Medical Licensure Commission of Alabama	New Hampshire Board of Medicine
Alaska State Medical Board	New Jersey State Board of Medical Examiners*
Arizona Medical Board	New Mexico Medical Board
Arizona Board of Osteopathic Examiners in Medicine and Surgery	New Mexico Board of Osteopathic Medical Examiners
Arkansas State Medical Board*	New York State Board for Medicine*
Medical Board of California	New York State Office of Professional Medical Conduct
Osteopathic Medical Board of California	North Carolina Medical Board
Colorado Medical Board	North Dakota Board of Medicine
Connecticut Medical Examining Board	Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands Health Care Professions Licensing Board
Delaware Board of Medical Licensure and Discipline	State Medical Board of Ohio*
District of Columbia Board of Medicine	Oklahoma Board of Medical Licensure and Supervision*
Florida Board of Medicine	Oklahoma State Board of Osteopathic Examiners
Florida Board of Osteopathic Medicine	Oregon Medical Board*
Georgia Composite Medical Board	Pennsylvania State Board of Medicine*
Guam Board of Medical Examiners	Pennsylvania State Board of Osteopathic Medicine
Hawaii Medical Board	Puerto Rico Board of Medical Licensure and Discipline
Idaho Board of Medicine	Rhode Island Board of Medical Licensure and Discipline*
Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation: Division of Professional Regulation*	South Carolina Board of Medical Examiners*
Medical Licensing Board of Indiana	South Dakota Board of Medical and Osteopathic Examiners
Iowa Board of Medicine	Tennessee Board of Medical Examiners
Kansas State Board of Healing Arts	Tennessee Board of Osteopathic Examination
Kentucky Board of Medical Licensure	Texas Medical Board
Louisiana State Board of Medical Examiners*	Utah Physicians and Surgeons Licensing Board*
Maine Board of Licensure in Medicine	Utah Osteopathic Physicians and Surgeons Licensing Board
Maine Board of Osteopathic Licensure	Vermont Board of Medical Practice*
Maryland Board of Physicians*	Vermont Board of Osteopathic Physicians and Surgeons
Massachusetts Board of Registration in Medicine*	Virgin Islands Board of Medical Examiners
Michigan Board of Medicine*	Virginia Board of Medicine*
Michigan Board of Osteopathic Medicine and Surgery	Washington Medical Commission
Minnesota Board of Medical Practice*	Washington Board of Osteopathic Medicine and Surgery
Mississippi State Board of Medical Licensure	West Virginia Board of Medicine
Missouri Board of Registration for the Healing Arts	West Virginia Board of Osteopathic Medicine
Montana Board of Medical Examiners*	Wisconsin Medical Examining Board*
Nebraska Board of Medicine and Surgery	Wyoming Board of Medicine
Nevada State Board of Medical Examiners	

*Original 1912 charter member board of the FSMB



The FSMB 2019-2020 Board of Directors

The Federation of State Medical Boards represents a community of dedicated public servants, spread throughout the United States. Their commitment to protecting the public and ensuring the highest standards of medical quality is the key to the successful operation of the nation's medical regulatory system. In this section of our annual report, we acknowledge the work of the many individuals who make up our committees, councils and boards. We thank them for their important contributions.

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*Frank Meyers was appointed to the FSMB Board in July 2019, replacing Kathleen Selzler Lippert.

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Lisa Robin, Mark Staz

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Marie Bounheuangvilay

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FSMB Joint Committees with Other Organizations

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FSMB Support Staff:
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Marie Bounheuangvilay

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Crystal Gyiraszin
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FSMB Support Staff:
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FSMB Support Staff:
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FSMB Support Staff:
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Individual Member (Young Physician)

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Ohio State University

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Hawaii

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FSMB Chair-elect
North Carolina

FSMB Support Staff:
Mark Staz

Workgroups, Taskforces and Special Committees

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USPHS

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Idaho and AIM

L. Blanton Marchese
Virginia

Frank B. Meyers, JD
(Alternate)
District of Columbia

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Katherine A. Thomas, MN, RN, FAAN
TX Board of Nursing and NCSBN

Jacqueline A. Watson, DO, MBA
District of Columbia Dept of Health

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FSMB Support Staff:
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New Mexico Medical

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Wisconsin

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Oregon and AIM

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Georgia

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Alabama

Varnell McDonald-Fletcher, PA-C, EdD
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North Carolina

Louis J. Prues, DMin, MBA
Michigan Medical

Daniel F. Saad, MD
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Arizona Osteopathic

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Texas

Mark A. Eggen, MD
Minnesota

Leonard B. Green
Rhode Island

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Ronald H. Lewis, MD
California Medical

Thomas W. Mansfield, JD
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Rhode Island

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Ronald V. Uva, MD
New York State

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Minnesota

P. Bradley Hall, MD
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Mark Staz

Workgroup to Study Risk and Support Factors Affecting Physician Performance

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FSPHP

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New Hampshire

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Washington Medical

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Professional Renewal Center

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North Carolina

George W. Abraham, MD, MPH
Massachusetts

Ronald E. Domen, MD
Pennsylvania Medical

Continued on next page

FSMB AUTHOR HIGHLIGHTS

Each year, FSMB staff and board members help advance knowledge and understanding of medical regulation through authorship in journals and other publications. A sampling of recent publishing includes:

K Arnhart, MR Privitera, E Fish, A Young, AS Hengerer, HJ Chaudhry, F Dowling, C Gomez-DiCesare, F Atallah, M Staz. "Physician Burnout and Barriers to Care on Professional Applications," *Journal of Legal Medicine*, Vol. 39, No. 3, 2019.

DA Johnson, KL Arnhart, HJ Chaudhry, DH Johnson, GT McMahon. "The Role and Value of Public Members in Health Care Regulatory Governance," *Academic Medicine*, Vol. 94, No. 2, 2019.

MR Peabody, A Young, LE Peterson, TR O'Neill, X Pei, K Arnhart, HJ Chaudhry, JC Puffer. "The Relationship Between Board Certification and Disciplinary Actions Against Board-Eligible Family Physicians," *Academic Medicine*, Vol. 94, No. 6, 2019.

A Young, HJ Chaudhry, X Pei, K Arnhart, M Dugan, SA Steingard. "A Census of Licensed Physicians in the United States, 2018," *Journal of Medical Regulation*, Vol. 105, No. 2, 2019.

DA Johnson, "An Underworld in Education: The Demise of Missouri's Medical Diploma Mills," *Social History of Medicine*, February 2020.

E Krupat, JL Dienstag, SL Padrino, JE Mayer Jr, MF Shore, A Young, HJ Chaudhry, SR Pelletier, BY Reis. "Do Professionalism Lapses in Medical School Predict Problems in Residency and Clinical Practice?" *Academic Medicine*, Vol. 95, No. 6, 2020.

WL Roberts, GA Gross, JR Gimpel, LL Smith, K Arnhart, X Pei, A Young. "An Investigation of the Relationship Between COMLEX-USA Licensure Examination Performance and State Licensing Board Disciplinary Actions," *Academic Medicine*, Vol. 95, No. 6, 2020.

DA Johnson, "Diploma Mill: The Rise and Fall of Dr. John Buchanan and the Eclectic Medical College of Pennsylvania." (Kent State Univ. Press, 2018).

Special Committee on Strategic Planning

Continued

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Alabama

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Vermont Medical

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Oklahoma Medical

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Virginia

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Facilitator:
Paul W. Larson, MS
Paul Larson Communications

FSMB Support Staff:
Lisa Robin, Pat McCarty

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State Medical Board of Ohio

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West Virginia Board of Medicine



Warren B. Howe, MD
Washington Medical Commission

AWARDS OF MERIT



Michael L. Farrell, JD
Washington Medical Commission



Vladimir Lozovski, JD, RN
Illinois Department of Financial
and Professional Regulation



Amelia Boyd
Washington Medical Commission

Journal of Medical Regulation (JMR) Honors

RAY L. CASTERLINE, MD AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN WRITING



Sindy M. Paul, MD, MPH, FACPM
New Jersey State
Board of Medical Examiners

FSMB AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN EDITORIAL WRITING



Catherine V. Caldicott, MD, FACP
Professional Boundaries, Inc.



ABOUT THE FSMB

The Federation of State Medical Boards represents the 71 state medical and osteopathic regulatory boards — commonly referred to as state medical boards — within the United States, its territories and the District of Columbia. It supports its member boards as they fulfill their mandate of protecting the public's health, safety and welfare through the proper licensing, disciplining, and regulation of physicians and, in most jurisdictions, other health care professionals.

VISION

The FSMB supports state medical boards as they protect the public and promote quality health care, partnering and innovating with them to shape the future of medical regulation.

MISSION

The FSMB serves as a national voice for state medical boards, supporting them through education, assessment, data, research and advocacy while providing services and initiatives that promote patient safety, quality health care and regulatory best practices.

STRATEGIC GOALS

State Medical Board Support: *Serve state medical boards by promoting best practices and providing policies, advocacy, and other resources that add to their effectiveness.*

Advocacy and Policy Leadership: *Strengthen the impact of state medical regulation in a dynamic, interconnected health care environment.*

Collaboration: *Build participation and engagement among state medical boards and expand collaborative relationships with state, national and international organizations and government entities.*

Communications and Education: *Raise public awareness of the vital role of state medical boards while providing educational tools and resources that enhance the quality and effectiveness of medical regulation.*

Technology and Data: *Provide leadership in the use of emerging health care technology that impacts medical regulation, and expand the FSMB's data integration and research capabilities to share valuable information with stakeholders.*

Organizational Strength and Excellence: *Enhance the FSMB's organizational efficiency, effectiveness and adaptability in an environment of change and strengthen its resources in support of its mission.*



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