

Welcome to the First Annual Primary Care Summit hosted by the Connecticut Center for Primary Care.

We have organized this meeting to highlight issues that have taken a back seat in the sputtering debate on health care reform. The American College of Physicians recently warned that “primary care, the backbone of the nation’s health care system, is at grave risk of collapse.” Fixing primary care requires actions on the part of the primary care practices and the larger health care system. A collaboration and joint venture is needed between those who deliver primary care and those who pay for health care.

Moreover, the perspective of patients often is lost whenever the different stakeholders debate the status of health care. Some might liken becoming a patient in the American health care system to embarking on a journey on the Los Angeles freeways. LA freeways, if you have had the pleasure of driving them, are a labyrinth network of intersecting and parallel roads built over time with no clear design, no center, and no ultimate destination, forcing the driver to engage in fits and starts of smooth riding or traffic jams with no clear rationale and no ultimate guidance. We have similarly burdened the American patient population with maneuvering through a multi-layered, often incomprehensible, Kafka maze of disconnected health care roadways and roadblocks.

Recognizing this discoordination, in 2002, ProHealth Physicians, the largest primary care health care group in the state, founded the Connecticut Center of Primary Care in order to bring to light and hopefully to improve this system. The solution inherent in CCPC’S creation was rooted in the concept that primary care physicians, practicing preventive, rather than reactive medicine, dealing with both individual patients and patient populations in aggregate were the natural vehicles on which to help navigate the care of our patients.

By organizing this conference, we hope this day will provide an educational and action-oriented forum to investigate and develop consensus around these issues, focusing most on:

- Physician Workforce Capacity
- Patient Access and the Uninsured
- Infrastructure/Information Systems Innovation
- Models of Care Reform/The Medical Home
- Primary Care Reimbursement Reform

We hope that, by illuminating these problems and bringing together committed players in the debate, we will spur all to invest their time and energies to working toward a solution.

Sincerely,



Jonathan Rosen, MD
Chairman, Connecticut Center for Primary Care
Medical Director, ProHealth Physicians