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State medical societies collaborate to impact healthcare disparities through utilization of health information exchange data

(September 11, 2018) Seven state medical societies announced the creation of the Health Equity Network for Change (HENC) which is focused on improving the health status of medically underserved populations. HENC employs a new data source, health information exchange data, and powerful analytic tools provided by KAMMCO. Medical societies in each of these states have engaged KAMMCO to build physician-led exchanges: Kansas, Georgia, South Carolina, Connecticut, New Jersey, Missouri, and Louisiana.

HENC chairman M. Natalie Achong, MD, MHL, FACOG shared, “Physicians across the nation are increasingly concerned about health disparities. To address this, HENC brings leading physicians together to examine trends in health disparity data. This will allow HENC to make data-driven recommendations for the establishment of population health priorities at regional, state and national levels aimed at improving health outcomes.”

“The Medical Society of New Jersey (MSNJ) and the state’s physician-led health information exchange, OneHealth New Jersey, are excited to participate in this new initiative,” said Larry Downs, Esq., and MSNJ CEO. “By working together to address universal healthcare issues such as healthcare disparities and population health, we can broaden our impact across the country.”

Laura McCrary, Ed.D, Senior Vice President of KAMMCO added, “Health information exchange data is an enormously valuable, rich set of clinical data aggregated across all exchange participating healthcare providers within a region, state or nation. This data provides key insights into healthcare patterns and utilization previously not available from static, outdated or geographically limited clinical data sets.”

HENC has tapped leading physicians with expertise in health disparities to include:

Soumen Samaddar, MD, representing the Medical Society of New Jersey. Dr. Samaddar is the Medical Director of Hunterdon Family & Sports Medicine at Hopewell Valley in Pennington, N.J., and is affiliated with Hunterdon Medical Center.

Chair: M. Natalie Achong, MD, MHL, FACOG, representing the Connecticut State Medical Society. Dr. Achong is board certified in Obstetrician and Gynecologist and has practiced medicine for over 15 years. She treats a diverse population of patients and families in Connecticut.

Amin Yehya, MD, representing the Medical Association of Georgia. Dr. Yehya is an Advanced Heart Failure and Heart Transplant Cardiologist, Clinical Researcher, and Educator at Piedmont Heart Institute, Athens, Ga.

Tracie Collins, MD, MPH, MHCDS, representing the Kansas Medical Society. Dr. Collins is board certified in General Internal Medicine and Vascular Medicine, practicing at the Robert J. Dole VA Medical Center in Wichita, Kan., and serves as Chair of Preventive Medicine and Public Health, University of Kansas School of Medicine-Wichita.

Donnie Batie, MD, ABFM, representing the Louisiana State Medical Society. Dr. Batie is board certified in Family Practice and Geriatrics and serves as the Medical Director of the Skilled Nursing Facility for General Health System and Bethesda Rehabilitation Hospital, Baton Rouge, La.

Kirsten Dunn, MD, FACP, representing the Missouri State Medical Association. Dr. Dunn is board certified in Internal Medicine and practices at Mercy Virtual in St. Louis, Mo.

Gerald Wilson, MD, representing the South Carolina Medical Association. Dr. Wilson, a retired general and peripheral vascular surgeon, serves as a clinical instructor in the University of South Carolina School of Medicine's Department of Surgery, Columbia, S.C.

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About Medical Society of New Jersey

MSNJ is the oldest professional medical society in the United States, with over 6,500 members. MSNJ is the leading advocate for physicians in the state of New Jersey, including physicians in every specialty and practice setting. Its mission is to promote the betterment of the public health and the science and art of medicine, to enlighten public opinion in regard to the problems of medicine, and to safeguard the rights of the practitioners of medicine.

About OneHealth New Jersey

OneHealth New Jersey, is a physician-led statewide health information exchange (HIE). OneHealth New Jersey, delivered in partnership with the Medical Society of New Jersey (MSNJ) and KAMMCO, offers a suite of health information technology tools that will allow connected physicians to share patient information while employing powerful analytic reports designed to help improve clinical outcomes, reduce inefficiencies, and positively impact patient safety. www.onehealthnewjersey.com

About KAMMCO

KAMMCO is a provider-led medical professional liability insurer affiliated with the Kansas Medical Society. KAMMCO's provider-led approach uniquely positions it to help physicians, other healthcare providers, integrated delivery networks, accountable care organizations, and others seeking to improve patient outcomes and adapt to new performance-based payment models through the use of data analytics and business intelligence tools. KAMMCO is now delivering analytics products and services in partnership with medical societies in six states beyond Kansas, including Georgia, South Carolina, Connecticut, New Jersey, Missouri, and Louisiana. For more information visit www.KAMMCO.com.

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