



Beyond Flexner Alliance Annual Report, 2018

Beyond Flexner Alliance

Beyond Flexner Alliance (BFA) is a national movement, focused on health equity and training health professionals as agents of more equitable health care. This movement takes us beyond centuries-old conventions in health professions education to train providers prepared to build a system that is not only better, but fairer.

The Beyond Flexner Alliance movement started with a 2012 conference in Tulsa, Oklahoma, that brought national attention to medical schools with strong social mission commitment, created a forum for collaboration and shared innovations, and legitimized the important role of medical education in addressing social inequities. We are now the Beyond Flexner Alliance.

What is social mission?

The social mission of a health professions school is the contribution of the school in its mission, programs, and the performance of its graduates, faculty and leadership in advancing health equity and addressing the health disparities of the society in which it exists.

Vision

Health professions education in which social mission is present, prominent, and valued to drive health equity and improved health for individuals, communities, and nations.

Mission

The Beyond Flexner Alliance aims to promote social mission in health professions education by networking learners, teachers, community leaders, health policy makers and their organizations to advance equity in education, research, service, policy, and practice.

Beyond Flexner Alliance Impact

BFA activities have continued to grow since 2012. The BFA has held four national conferences, introduced a social mission award program, expanded BFA communications, and continued to increase the BFA network and partnerships.



Beyond Flexner Conferences

Four Beyond Flexner conferences have been held since 2012 and each conference has been increasingly interprofessional and seen increasing attendance. All conferences are cohosted with a local health professions school. The first meeting was cohosted by the University of Oklahoma School of Community Medicine and included 200 attendees. The 2018 meeting was cohosted by both the Morehouse School of Medicine and Emory University School of Nursing and drew nearly 500 attendees, 91 abstract submissions, and two pre-conference meetings – one of the Atlantic Fellows for Health Equity and another of the HRSA-funded Academic Units, a group of 6 national centers focused on research, dissemination, and community of practice for enhanced primary care training.

The 2018 Beyond Flexner conference featured keynote presentations by Sir Michael Marmot, Chair of the World Health Organization Commission on Social Determinants of Health, and the Honorable Andrew Young, civil right leader and former US Ambassador to the United Nations.

Funders for the 2018 meeting included the Aetna Foundation, Harvard Center for Primary Care (through HRSA support), Kaiser Permanente, Milbank Memorial Fund, and United Health Group, as well as a number of local university and health care organizations.



Beyond Flexner Alliance Awards

In 2016, the BFA awards recognizing lifetime achievement and individual, program, and institutional excellence were established through the support of the Josiah Macy, Jr. Foundation. Two rounds of awards have been presented at the national conference. The 2018 BFA Awardees included:

- Dr. Loretta Ford, an internationally known nurse leader who established the first nurse practitioner program in the U.S., received the Lifetime Achievement Award.
- Dr. Neal Demby, a vision leader who created dental residency programs in which residents are placed in one of 340 health centers in 26 U.S. states and the Caribbean, received the Individual Excellence Award.
- The Residency Program in Social Medicine at Montefiore Medical Center/Albert Einstein College of Medicine, which has graduated 813 primary care physicians, two-thirds of whom practice in community health centers and underserved areas, received the Program Excellence Award.
- Southern Illinois University School of Medicine received the Institutional Excellence Award for its dedication to a social mission, pursuit of health equity, unwavering commitment to the residents of central and southern Illinois, and continued success in educating caring, compassionate, socially responsible leaders in medicine and health sciences.

Communications

In 2018, the BFA revitalized the website, newsletter, blog series, and social media campaign to increase community engagement and impact, particularly with the group of “Young Flexnerians.” The blog posts feature programs and leaders in social mission and health equity, and are distributed through the newsletter to 8,583 health professions educators, policy makers, and students. The social media campaign includes active engagement on Facebook and Twitter.

Beyond Flexner Alliance Social Media Impact



Outreach

An ongoing activity of the BFA is outreach to increase the reach and impact of the network and to strategically expand the activities of the BFA through partnerships and funding. The BFA is developing an “Allies” initiative to allow organizations to identify as BFA Allies who agree with and commit to the BFA vision, mission, and principles.

Research

In 2018, the BFA launched a Research Committee. Ten members – experienced and developing leaders in social mission research - were recruited to develop BFA activities to advance social mission research.

Beyond Flexner Alliance Organization

The Board meets monthly by conference call and board members provide some staff functions, particularly in regard to leading and participating in committees. Currently the Board of Directors has the following active sub-committees:

- 1. Governance
- 2. Conference Site Selection
- 3. Research
- 4. Outreach
- 5. Communications

BFA bylaws have been drafted and are awaiting final approval by the Board. Following bylaw approval, we will initiate incorporation in the District of Columbia and start an application for tax exempt [501(c)(3)] status.

Beyond Flexner Alliance Organizational Chart

