



BRI News

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 1

BENJAMIN RUSH INSTITUTE

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Feb 13 Debate
Medical College of Wisconsin:
Medicare
- Feb 28—Mar 02
Annual Student Leadership Conference
- Mar 02 Debate
Anschutz Medical Campus, CO:
IPAB
- April 15 Debate
@ George Washington U.

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Benjamin Rush Institute—It's Official

In 2009, Sally Pipes created the Benjamin Rush Society (BRS) as a project of the [Pacific Research Institute](#) (PRI). Modeled after the Federalist Society, BRS brings conservative and libertarian points of view to American medical schools. BRS champions the freedom of choice for patients and physicians and promotes a doctor-patient relationship free of government interference.

This past August, after four years of support and guidance, PRI successfully launched BRS as an independent 501c3 non-profit organization.

BRS has grown to nearly 20 chapters on medical school campuses across the country. These chapters host lunchtime speakers and debates on a wide variety of topics in health policy and medi-

cal ethics.

When BRS submitted its name and logo for trademark registration, it was challenged by Rush University Medical Center. In order to avoid costly litigation, BRS opted to change its name to Benjamin Rush Institute.

On February 4th, 2014, after two years of negotiation, a settlement agreement was signed. Over the next several months, BRS will transition completely to BRI.

In anticipation of this agreement, we already changed our website ([www.BenjaminRushInstitute.org](#)) Facebook page ([www.facebook.com/BenjaminRushInstitute](#)), Twitter



Sally Pipes talking with physicians and BRI student leader Holly Volz at UT-San Antonio.

(@BenRushInst) and YouTube Channel ([www.youtube.com/user/BenjaminRushInst](#)).

Chapters are asked to change their official name as soon as they are able, but no later than September 1st, 2014.

Fall Debate Videos Posted

Check out the full-length videos of two of the four debates BRI sponsored this fall, [now posted](#) on the BRI website. A third will be added shortly as an audio-only MP3 file.

On October 22 at Icahn School of Medicine in NYC, a panel of four experts debated in front of an audience of almost 100 students and faculty on the merits of alternative malpractice sys-

tems. Caps on compensation, contract liability, no-fault health courts, and preservation of a patient's right to a day in court were all discussed. Panelists included two MD/JDs, Cato Institute's Michael Cannon, and economics professor Shirley Svorny.

The next day at Rowan University School of Osteopathic Medicine in NJ, five physicians presented their cases for "US Health

Care: Do We Need to Reform the Reform?" Viewpoints included the role of private charity, free market solutions, a call for a single-payer system, a defense of the reforms embodied in the ACA and an attempt to find a compromise between them all. Over 100 students, faculty and local physicians attended live, while another 48 watched the debate via internet streaming.

Fall Events Double Over Last Year



Attendance grows as BRI gains a reputation for quality events.

Since inception, BRI has steadily grown, gradually increasing the number of chapters and events. This past fall, we took a giant leap forward. In just one semester, BRI chapters held 24 events —as many as the entire preceding school year.

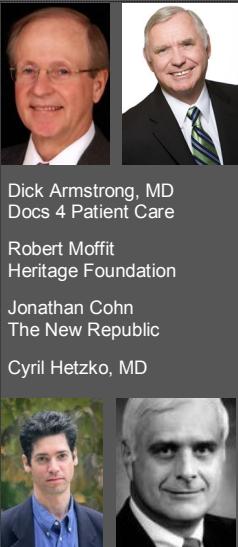
Matt Zeiderman, BRI chapter leader at the University of Louisville, opened the year by hosting Kentucky Senator, Rand Paul MD. Other notable fall events included Sally Pipes, Chair of BRI, and CEO and President of the [PRI](#) speaking to the Medical College of Wis-

consin. George Washington University hosted Dr. Marty Makary, author of [*Unaccountable: What Hospitals Won't Tell You and How Transparency Can Revolutionize Health Care*](#).

Ohio State University held a symposium on Direct Primary Care (DPC), while Dr. Lee Gross introduced his [*Epiphany Health*](#) DPC free market alternative to an auditorium full of medical students at the [*American Medical Student Association*](#)'s national conference. Other speakers addressed topics on medical ethics, health

care reform, the future of private practice and how to make sure patients come first.

BRI also sponsored four formal debates exploring the pros and cons of health care reform, markets in medicine, legal challenges to the Affordable Care Act, and the U.S. malpractice system. All of these BRI events were well-attended and received Our reputation for delivering high-quality, educational events is growing, all thanks to our Student Leaders on medical campuses throughout the country.



Dick Armstrong, MD
Docs 4 Patient Care

Robert Moffit
Heritage Foundation

Jonathan Cohn
The New Republic

Cyril Hetzko, MD

Medicare Debate 2/13 in Milwaukee

Be It Resolved:

"Defined-Contribution Reforms (Premium Support) are Required to Sustain Medicare."

Next week in Milwaukee at the Medical College of Wisconsin, Robert Moffit, Senior Fellow at the Heritage Foundation, joins BRI Board member and COO of Docs-4-Patient-Care, Dr. Richard Armstrong, MD, to debate New Republic journalist

Jonathan Cohn, and Dr. Cyril Hetzko, MD, a private practice physician who has held leadership positions in the AMA.

With trillions of dollars in unfunded liability, Medicare is headed for insolvency. One solution involves changing Medicare from a blank-check style defined-benefit to a defined-contribution program, much as private businesses

have shifted from offering pensions to contributing to employee 401K retirement accounts.

No one is saying that changes in Medicare aren't necessary—the disagreements are over how best to rein in spending without leaving seniors unable to access needed medical care. More info and registration at tinyurl.com/BRI-Debate-MCW

Meet Charlotte Monte

**BRI's
"Girl
Monday-
thru-
Friday"**



Those of you coming to the BRI Student Leadership Conference are in for a real treat. You'll get to meet Charlotte Monte, an essential part of the BRI team. Experienced in high-tech marketing administration and professional blogging, Charlotte and her husband, Paul, homeschooled her 3 kids (now all in college) where she gained a deep appreciation of

our country's history and founding principles.

"It was through learning alongside my kids that I discovered the truth and beauty of free markets and freedom...I am extremely honored to be contributing in the area of healthcare and policy. Freedom is something we must never, ever take for granted, and we must fight for medical profes-

sionals to deliver the best medicine in the best manner possible."

In addition to working out the logistics of the annual conference, Charlotte is helping BRI expand its reach through social media, promotional marketing and effective messaging. It's a joy and a relief to have her on board.

Heading To Denver - BRI Leadership Conference



**Students
enjoying
2013
BRI-LC
in Philly**

chapter leaders from across the U.S. are gathering in Denver to formulate the 2014 game plan.

**Fri. Feb 28—Sun.
March 2, 2014**

Based on the feedback we received following last year's conference, this year will focus more on networking and chapter building. We kick off Friday evening with a reception and brief chapter reports. Saturday is a full workday, mixing large group discussions with work-

shop breakouts and brainstorming. We also have planned three formal lectures: Saturday keynote speaker, Natasha Martin of G.R.A.C.E., one of our adopted philanthropies (see below) and Dr. Todd Fredricks, DO on the future of private practice. The evening is capped by the UC-Anschutz sponsored debate on the IPAB (see below.)

Sunday, Dr. Beth, Haynes, MD, BRI's executive director, presents on the history of government in U.S. medicine before the Conference adjourns at noon.

**"Medicine
without
principles is
a degrading
occupation"**

**Benjamin Rush
1811**



IPAB Debate Sat. March 1

"Is the Independent Payment Advisory Board the way to control Medicare spending?"

In an attempt to explore fundamental issues while avoiding the adversarial rhetoric of "death panels," the University of Colorado BRI chapter is hosting a debate on the PPACA's major mechanism to control Medicare spending, the Independent Advisory Payment Board

(IPAB). We have invited four physicians to tackle the topic, asking them to answer the questions: "Is it good for patients? Is it good for physicians? Is it good for innovation? Is it right for our country?"

Debaters include Dr. Todd Fredricks, DO, BRI faculty advisor at Ohio University along with local Colorado physicians Dr. Jill Vecchio, MD, Dr. Gary VanderArk, MD, and

Dr. Michael Victoroff, MD, moderated by Colorado Medical Society president, Dr. John Bender, MD.

Festivities begin with a 6:00pm reception followed by the debate from 6:30pm-8:00pm. The venue is Education I, Lecture Hall 1500 Anschutz Medical Campus, Aurora CO. The event is free, but please register online at tinyurl.com/BRI-Debate-IPAB.

Health Education with G.R.A.C.E.

Consistent with our principle of voluntary solutions to life's challenges, BRI partners with two philanthropic organizations: [AlignMD Foundation](#), a sponsor of medical missions in impoverished areas of the world, and the Grassroots Alliance for Community Education ([G.R.A.C.E.](#)) Natasha Martin, founder of G.R.A.C.E., will be Saturday's keynote speaker at the BRI Student

Leadership Conference in Denver. In the tradition of "Teach a man to fish and he eats for a life time," G.R.A.C.E. takes it a step further and asks communities: 'What do you need to learn in order to thrive?' and then helps them grow and achieve their own goals. Projects include early childhood education, training community based healthcare workers to educate

communities and support victims of HIV-AIDS, and support of Orphans and Vulnerable Children.

G.R.A.C.E.'s Vision: "A vibrant, healthy, resourceful self-sustaining grassroots community."

G.R.A.C.E.'s mission: "To build the capacity of community based organizations to implement self-determined, high impact and sustainable initiatives



Natasha Martin

for better health and development..."

Come to Denver, meet this remarkable woman and learn how you can share in her work.



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Statement of Principles

Purpose:

Fully unleash the power of medicine to maximize human flourishing.

Mission:

Champion the sanctity of the doctor-patient relationship, while honoring the morality and nobility of medicine as a business.

Provide students in the healthcare professions with the understanding necessary to appreciate the morality and practicality of free enterprise guarded by a properly limited government.

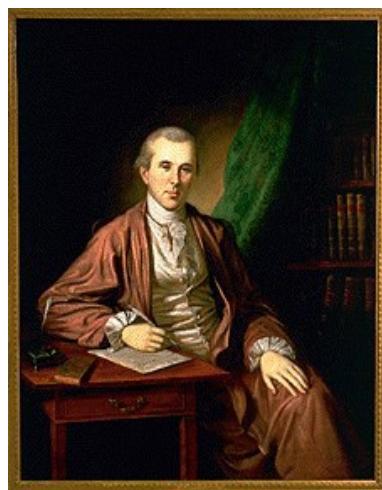
Vision:

Worldwide, affordable, quality healthcare in an age of accelerating medical innovation and excellence.

Who was Benjamin Rush?

Dr. Benjamin Rush was a prominent physician during the time of our country's founding. In addition to caring for patients, he involved himself in the political and social issues of his time.

Rush was an active member of the Sons of Liberty, attended the Continental Congress in 1776, and was one of five physicians to sign the Declaration of Independence. During the Revolutionary War, he cared for the Pennsylvania militia on the battlefield, and briefly served as surgeon-general to a division of the Continental Army. Disagreements with other medical officers and remarks critical of General George Washington led to his resignation. After the war, Rush was part of the Pennsylvania convention that voted in 1788 to adopt the new U.S. Constitution. Later, he served as treasurer to the U.S. Mint.



Dr. Benjamin Rush, painted by Charles Wilson Peale, 1783

Born in 1746 to Quaker parents, Rush staunchly condemned capital punishment and slavery and ultimately

served as a leader in the abolitionist movement. Rush also advocated for education of the general public, including women.

Rush founded Dickinson College, was a professor of medicine at the University of Pennsylvania, and authored texts on chemistry and psychiatry.

Although forward thinking in many areas, often risking his own reputation and friendships, he also was a man of his time. Rush believed in blood letting and that mental illness was a circulatory dysfunction. Although his theory of mental illness was incorrect, it was a vast improvement over the belief in demonic possession. In addition to advocating for treating the mentally ill humanely, Rush promoted public medical clinics for the poor.

Aligned with Rush's devotion to liberty, we proudly are the Benjamin Rush Institute.