From Bryan Bohman, MD
Chair, Physician Wellness Committee

SUPPORT AFTER ADVERSE EVENTS

Our newsletter from October 2013 outlined plans to create a peer support program for our medical staff who are involved in unexpected adverse events. After extensive planning, we are delighted to be able to begin the program in mid-March with a group of newly trained physician volunteers from a variety of departments.

Since Risk Management is notified of adverse events throughout the medical center, this will be the usual initiation point, with Dana Welle DO, JD [co-chair of our SCPSS (Wellness) Committee] as the acting director. She will provide only the contact information of the involved physician to a designated peer supporter, who will make contact within 24 hours to offer support.

The involved physician can choose whether to have a phone conversation with the peer supporter. A resource sheet will also be offered to explain common feelings and behaviors after an adverse event, suggestions for positive coping, red flags of when to seek further help, and contact information for various support services.

This is a Medical Staff sponsored program and thus any conversations are protected against legal discovery. The peer supporters are there to listen as colleagues who can understand what the involved physician is experiencing. Details about the conversation are completely confidential, and nothing will subsequently be shared with Risk Management (or anybody else) other than basic statistical data.

These events can have a profound effect on involved physicians. In a non-intrusive and convenient manner, peer support can help to counteract common feelings of fear, anxiety, shame and isolation after an adverse event. We believe that this collegial support is foundational in building a healthy medical community, which in turn will improve the quality of care at Stanford. A related support program is also being developed for house staff.

Calendar:

For details of these and more events/classes, plus CME wellness courses, see WellMD Calendar

3/4 – Grief Discussion Group
3/4 – Physician Writing Workshop
3/5 – The Impact of Armed Conflict on Health
3/6 – The Science of Willpower
3/8 – Stanford Chamber Chorale
3/8 – Stanford Treathlon
3/9 – Daylight Savings Time begins
3/11 – Stanford flute Ensemble
3/12 – Stanford Early Music Singers
3/12 – Summer Activities Fair
3/12 – LGBT Rights and Public Health
3/12 – Cultures, Minds and Medicine
3/12 – Reading by Physician Writer Dr. Paulus Hochgatterer
3/13 – Communication of Affection and Physical health
3/17 – Harnessing the Power of Food
3/18 – Developing Strength without Weights
3/20 – First Day of Spring
3/25 – Conservatorship Q & A
3/27 – Getting to 50/50: How Working Parents Can Have it All
3/27 – Healthful Properties of Spices
3/30 – Stanford Woodwind Quintet

Spring quarter registration:
Stanford Cont. Studies – 2/24
Rec Classes – 3/31
HIP Classes – late March

News Item:

Stanford undergrad and future filmmaker Tayo Amos was one of six students chosen nationally to hand out statuettes at the Academy Awards Sun March 2nd.

Recent Research:


Of 108 residents and faculty at an academic tertiary care center, 79% experienced either a serious adverse patient event and/or a traumatic personal event within the preceding year. Barriers to seeking help included lack of time, difficult access, concerns about confidentiality and stigma. The most popular source of potential support was physician colleagues (88%).


From an anonymous survey of 1622 medical students and residents with a 55% response rate, training on how to respond to errors had the largest positive influence on attitude. Negative role-modeling was significantly associated with less transparent behaviors in trainees.