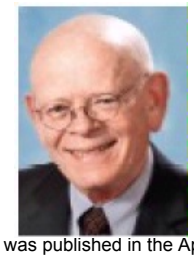
Roy Young, MD



Eisenhower Medical Center Internal Medicine physician, Roy Young, MD was published in the April 21 issue of JAMA®, The Journal of the American Medical Association.

The article “The Primary Care Physician and Health Care Reform” discusses the current and future role of the internal medicine physician in the face of changing health care legislation, insurance coverage and an increasingly aging society.Young co-authored the commentary article with colleague Robert H. Brook,MD, ScD.

The article notes the difficulty encouraging new medical graduates to choose primary care as a career path due to the role and salary differential.“The decline in number of physicians applying for primary care positions both in family medicine and internal medicine has been tragic,” says Young.“If carried out to its logical end, without any change, the country will be absent of any primary care physicians in the next 20 or 30 years. Something creative needed to be proposed that would alter the equation sufficiently in order to attract the best and the brightest into primary care again.”

Dr.Young has been recruited by Eisenhower Medical Center to create and oversee a Primary Care/Internal Medicine Residency in an attempt to increase the number of primary physicians who are trained locally and will hopefully stay to practice in the Coachella Valley.

“Patients need a primary care physician, a quarterback if you will, who coordinates care and helps the patient wind their way through the complexities of the medical care system. This is particularly acute in places like Greater Palm Springs.”

The article proposes interim solutions such as the Eisenhower Primary Care 365 Program. According to Young, these are intermediary fixes.“The ultimate solution is for primary care to be appropriately reimbursed.”

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