

Danny Mou, M.D.

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8th Annual Resident Advocate Leadership Essay Competition

In our rapidly changing health care system, surgeons should play a central role in developing policies and regulations. I plan to pursue a surgery career with a focus in quality outcomes and hospital management. I am currently a Brigham and Women's Hospital (BWH) PGY3 general surgery resident in my first year of research. As a Torchiana Fellow in Health Policy and Management, I work with the CEO and CMO of the Massachusetts General Hospital Physician Organization to develop patient-reported outcomes measures (PROMs). I regularly attend MGH leadership meetings, which has given me insight into hospital strategy and operations.

I see clearly in my PROMS work how important it is for surgeons to have a voice. Insurance companies are using pre-operative and post-operative PROMs (e.g., patient-reported pain, nausea, etc.) to devise payment tiers based on the delta. Surgeons should have a central voice in this process. We need to inform the stakeholders about the complexities and nuances of surgery so that they are measuring and incentivizing appropriate and meaningful endpoints.

I have worked in multiple fields within health care. After graduating from Harvard College, I worked for 2 years at a strategy consulting firm where I specialized in pharmaceuticals and medical devices. I attended Emory Medical School, where I did a Howard Hughes Medical Institute (HHMI) research fellowship in transplant immunology, during which I published 3 basic science manuscripts. I have been deeply involved with patient outcomes work during my residency. I have experienced health care from business, research, and clinical angles. I plan to leverage this unique perspective to pursue a career in hospital leadership, and to give surgeons a stronger voice. Attending the ACS Leadership and Advocacy Summit would significantly help me develop the critical skills to achieve this. Thank you for your time and consideration.