



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

Phone: (304) 285-5749
Fax: (304) 285-5861

Public Health Service

Centers for Disease Control
and Prevention (CDC)
National Institute for Occupational
Safety and Health (NIOSH)
1095 Willowdale Road
Morgantown, WV 26505-2888

December 12, 2017

The National Academy of Medicine
500 Fifth Street NW
Washington, DC 20001
ClinicianWellBeing@nas.edu

Re: National Call for Organizational Commitment Statements – Combating Clinician Burnout and Improving Clinician Well-Being

The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) is the part of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) with a focus on making workers safer and healthier. Our mission is to develop new knowledge in the field of occupational safety and health and to transfer that knowledge into practice. We seek to achieve that mission by conducting research to reduce worker illness and injury and to advance worker well-being; by promoting safe and healthy workers through interventions, recommendations and capacity building; and by enhancing worker safety and health through global collaborations. Like many others in public health, we are deeply concerned about the challenges recently outlined in a 2016 collaborative statement by the American Association of Critical Care Nurses, the American College of Chest Physicians, the American Thoracic Society, and the Society of Critical Care Medicine addressing the challenge of burnout syndrome in critical care healthcare professionals. This statement reported prevalence of burnout syndrome of up to 45% in critical care physicians and a very high prevalence of 71% in pediatric critical care physicians. 25-33% of critical care nurses had severe burnout syndrome.

As outlined in the statement, the issue extends beyond the ICU, with burnout syndrome prevalence of more than 40% among physicians in family medicine, emergency medicine, and general internal medicine. This is consistent with findings by the American Nurses Association which, in a 2011 survey of members, found that 74% identified the acute and chronic effects of stress and overwork as among their top three health and safety concerns. Healthcare worker burnout doesn't only affect workers through outcomes such as stress, anxiety, depression and suicide, but can also potentially affect the outcomes of their patients.

NIOSH brings a unique perspective to addressing clinician burnout and well-being. For example, we have a strong focus on understanding the health impacts of how work is organized and how to prevent adverse health effects through interventions on aspects of work organization such as scheduling, workload, and management of stressful situations. NIOSH also has a strong focus on *Total Worker Health*[®] seeking to address the combination of factors at and away from work that can influence worker health. More information is available at the web links provided in response to the online questionnaire.

We thank the National Academy of Medicine for providing the opportunity to be a Network organization working with others to address this important problem.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "David N. Weissman".

David N. Weissman, MD

Director, Respiratory Health Division

Manager, Healthcare and Social Assistance Sector Program

National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention