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Leaders in Hospital Medicine Bring Insight to the White House

The future of healthcare in the United States is still taking shape, but hospitalists will be at the forefront of the change.

That's the message that President Obama's executive staff received in a meeting with SHM's CEO Larry Wellikson, FHM, MD, Cogent Healthcare Chief Medical Officer Ron Greeno, FHM, MD, and the president of Sound Inpatient Physicians, Rob Bessler, FHM, MD.

Together, they sat down with Kavita Patel, MD, Director of Policy for the White House Office of Public Engagement, to talk about the role that hospitalists and hospital medicine can play in transforming the country's healthcare system and improving patient care in hospitals.

"This was another critical conversation in the national dialogue about how to provide the best care possible in hospitals," said Wellikson. "Hospitalists are already systematically improving quality of care in thousands of hospitals across the country. It makes sense that we work constructively with all organizations who share that goal, including the White House."

Dr. Patel remains open to feedback from hospitalists and applauded the specialty's efforts in quality improvement and patient safety.

"Everyone at the table agreed that SHM and hospitalists will be an important force in changing healthcare for the better," Wellikson continued.

And they weren't the only ones.

Just a few days later, a number of hospitalists joined other physicians and President Obama at an event at the White House Rose Garden. There, the president asked for their help in explaining the need for healthcare reform.

"Nobody has more credibility with the American people on this issue than you do," the president told the physicians.

Want to make your voice heard in Washington? Ten minutes of your time could help shape healthcare policy for years to come. Visit [SHM's Legislative Action Center](#) to get the most up-to-date information on healthcare reform and hospital medicine and contact your members of Congress.