

The Annenberg Physician Training Program in Addiction Medicine

Speaker

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Like geriatricians, there are not enough addictionologists being trained to meet demand. An article in the summer 2000 issue of the *American Journal on Addictions* found that 36 programs had offered 84 positions for entering addiction fellows but filled just 61 of them.

The Annenberg Foundation seeks to change that, with \$14 million in grants to find ways to enhance medical students' interests in addictionology. This is a unique initiative aimed at developing educational models for attracting physicians to addiction medicine and addiction psychiatry. Dr. Frank is the research director for the initiative. The project is trying to track participating students over time to determine what interventions succeed in attracting students to specializing in addiction medicine and addiction psychiatry. One piece of the initiative is a summer training program in addiction medicine for medical students at various sites across the country. A small number of medical students have gone through the program over the last three years. They have gained experiences in places like Pueblo, CO and Grand Rapids, MI.

This is the last summer that the pilot project will operate on its own. Medical school partners are being sought. It would be ideal if all medical schools/institutions trained their medical students/residents or a subset in addictive disease. Dr. Frank mentioned that recently she met with staff from the Betty Ford Institute and the Betty Ford Center, and that a partnership had been developed. Dr. Frank concluded by saying that she would be available to discuss the initiative with anyone interested.