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FOUNDATION NEWS

New Energy for the Foundation for Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation

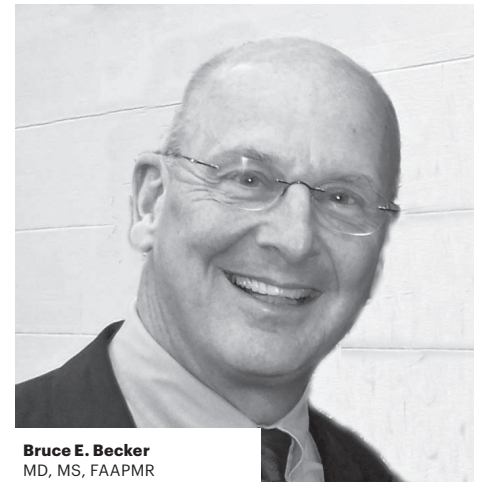
Bruce E. Becker, MD, MS, FAAPMR
President, Foundation for PM&R

This November marked the end of my two-year term in office as President of the Foundation for Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation. Needless to say, it has not been an uneventful two years. The impact of the COVID virus resulted in the ending of face-to-face events, from the Academy Annual Assemblies to semi-annual Foundation Board meetings, and even to our Strategic Planning event which has historically happened every three years. Certainly we have all learned the nuances of Zoom (You are still on mute! You froze during that answer! Where did go?) but it has been a Godsend overall in enabling at least a semblance of life to go forward.

I am so excited to turn over the presidential gavel to Diana Cardenas. I've known Diana since the very first day of my residency at the University of Washington School of Medicine. My respect for her began very soon after that first day. Her brilliance, curiosity and forthrightness posed both a challenge to our mentors as well as an endless source of ideas and approaches. She was one of those frustrating people who in class would ask the question that you were just beginning to formulate. Diana is not very tolerant of fuzzy thinking, and certainly totally intolerant of ethical breaches. I have loved her sardonic sense of humor and her love of our specialty. Her patients always loved her for her integrity, hard work and intellectual honesty. We had a remarkable residency class, producing a number of major leaders within our field, and she was at the top of the group. She will be a real asset to the Foundation for Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation.

Ross Zafonte coming in as Vice President will add major depth to our leadership roster. I've known Ross since my first day at the Rehabilitation Institute of Michigan, when I came in as Vice President of Medical Affairs. The faculty that Bruce Gans had then created in Detroit had real horsepower, but there was no higher-powered faculty member than Ross. Brilliant beyond words and energetic to a degree that I'd never seen, Ross was a true force of nature. He became a good friend and colleague but I felt like a lowly apprentice in a garage when in drove a million-dollar Ferrari for service. A truly gifted clinician and teacher, our residents loved him, worshiped him and were in justifiable awe of his powers. His well-deserved career success has only increased my respect and admiration, and I feel so grateful to have him in the chain of command of your Foundation.

So I end my term of office but not my love of the Foundation, nor my continued involvement in the organization. It remains a deep passion and commitment. You can be totally comfortable knowing that your future donations will advance our field even faster with these new leaders.



Bruce E. Becker
MD, MS, FAAPMR



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