
PATIENT CARE PROGRAM

National Program Launch, National Press Club, Washington, D.C.

Steven J. McCormick, President, Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation



Welcome. I am Steve McCormick, President of the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation. It's my pleasure to introduce today's event.

We're here today to announce our new Patient Care Program, and the first grant under that program, \$9 million to Johns Hopkins University.

We've spent the past year working very hard at designing this new program, and preparing it for today's launch; and we are fully aware of the significant challenges and risks. But at the same time, we are also quite inspired by the results we hope to achieve.

So, we're prepared over the next ten years to commit \$500 million to this effort.

We're honored to have so many esteemed guests join us today for this announcement; many of you are leaders and visionaries in the healthcare of and particularly around patient safety and patient care. And it is your vision and dedicated work that inspired us to launch the Patient Care Program and be willing to commit as much as \$500 million.

I also want to acknowledge my colleagues, the staff of the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation and the many guests who are joining them at our offices in Palo Alto to watch the live webcast of this session. And I want to call out Ken Moore, a trustee at the Foundation and an ambassador on behalf of the family.

- In a moment you'll hear from Dr. George Bo-Linn, who will describe in more detail what we intend to accomplish in the new program. the architect of our new Patient Care Program, who will give you an overview of the Program
- George will introduce Dr. Peter Pronovost, who will share what JHU will accomplish with the grant.
- Then we have a remarkable panel, moderated by Mary Naylor, and composed of individuals from a broad spectrum of experiences and perspectives who will share their personal reflections on the issue of patient care.

But let me set the stage by providing some brief background on our Foundation, and how we came to develop the Patient Care Program.

The Foundation was created in 2000 by Gordon and Betty Moore. Gordon as I'm sure all of you know was a founder of the Intel Corporation. Today the Foundation is one of the largest in the US with about \$5.5 billion – billion, it's still fun to say that – in assets.

Gordon and Betty made it clear from the onset, and they've been consistent ever since, that they want the Foundation to focus its significant assets in a way that would result in the most impact. So, they created, at the beginning of the Foundation, three areas of focus, what we call programs. The areas that they intended the Foundation to stick with indefinitely: environmental conservation, science in the form of basic, discovery-driven research, and improving the quality of life in the San Francisco Bay Area, which is the home of the family.

After celebrating our tenth anniversary a couple of years ago, and not wanting to rest on our laurels, and inspired by our founders, we began to think about what we want to do in the next ten years. How could we dial it up significantly to aim for transformational change? We've had really profound, lasting change in each of our program areas and we started looking at what we had already done.

As we examined our Bay Area program we were coming to the fulfillment of a 10-year initiative to improve and enhance nursing in adult acute care facilities in the San Francisco Bay Area, which was of a particular interest of Mrs. Moore.

We fully intended to have that wrap up, but as we looked at what we had learned, we looked at what we had accomplished, and we looked at who we met, we were actually in a great position to move from a limited-duration initiative, to a permanent program of the Foundation.

We realized that we had developed the experience, connections, and insights that enabled us to create what will be the first new Program of the Foundation since its inception.

The Patient Care Program is, therefore, a commitment on behalf of this Foundation for us to engage indefinitely on this really important issue and derive from the emerging evidence and belief that many of you have inspired for us, that the meaningful engagement of patients and their families, coupled with a supportive healthcare system, will significantly increase outcomes and significantly reduce costs.

I don't come from this sector, and it has been shockingly sobering to me to learn that well over 100,000 preventable deaths and harms occur every year. That's extraordinary! As someone said, that's like a 747 going down every day, and if that was happening, this country would take immediate action. And yet, it's invisible. It's sort of off the screen.

While we are prepared to commit half a billion dollars, we also realize that the size of the problem well exceeds that of the ability of us to even at that level, bring about the changes that we would like to see. So, that is positioning the Foundation as a change-maker, not only a grant-maker to deploy our voice, our connections, our ability to bring together diverse groups, and our dedication to working with other funders to engage in collective action and collective impact.

It is a start today, but one that we see as gaining significant momentum in the year ahead. The challenge that we face requires the energy, the wisdom, and the experience of so many different players. We are delighted to have most of you, being significant players in that regard.

It is my great pleasure, therefore, to introduce to you Dr. George Bo-Linn, who is the architect of our Patient Care Program. George has worked tirelessly—he has worked incredibly energetically over the last year. As a consequence we are much farther ahead than I had anticipated. I'm an impatient person; I like to move things along. George makes me look slow.

I am delighted to introduce my colleague, and someone that I have great admiration and respect for – Dr. George Bo-Linn.