

# COMMENTS

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## Introduction to Editorials on Crises in Academic Medicine: Diagnoses and Treatments (44484A)

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**T**he Society for Experimental Biology and Medicine was founded in 1903 by Samuel J. Meltzer who was both a practicing physician and clinical investigator. The ensuing century has seen an astonishing growth in the biomedical sciences driven in great part by excellent clinical research on the model of Meltzer himself.

Now, at the turn of a new century, it is a surprise to learn that clinical research as we have known it is in decline. New NIH grants for clinical investigation have fallen by 50% in the last several years. Medical students appear to be less interested in conducting and pursuing medical specialty study, or medical research careers, *per se*. Fellowship applicants for research-intensive medical specialties are fewer. The funding of faculty engaged in clinical research is in-

creasingly unstable. Medical specialty journals and national meetings are increasingly filled with innovative clinical research from abroad with fewer contributions from the United States.

It is the purpose of the Society for Experimental Biology and Medicine and the Editorial Board of the PSEBM to initiate a dialog of informed opinion among leaders in American medical research and teaching on the outstanding issues confronting faculty and researchers currently engaged or planning to engage in medical research. No other forum has presented a detailed, extended, and thoughtful discussion of these issues that so trouble current medical school faculty from the basic to the clinical research departments. As the first in this series, we are pleased to present this editorial, by Dr. R. Paul Robertson, on the need for research-based faculty in medical school teaching, especially at the clinical level. We hope this commentary will initiate an informed and enduring examination of the challenges confronting medical science and clinical research.